PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL ALBUM

—OF—

OTOE AND CASS COUNTIES, NEBRASKA,

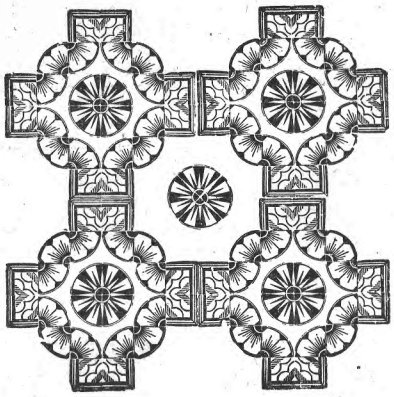
CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE, AND OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:
CHAPMAN BROTHERS.
1889.



PREFACE.

THE greatest of English historians, MACAULEY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the past 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 a 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.

CHICAGO, December, 1888.

CHAPMAN BROS.

PORTRAITS

AND

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PRESIDENTS

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

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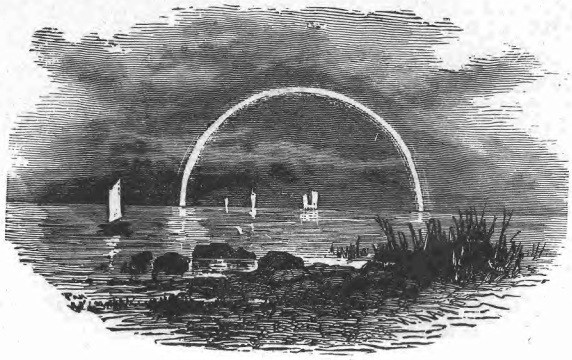
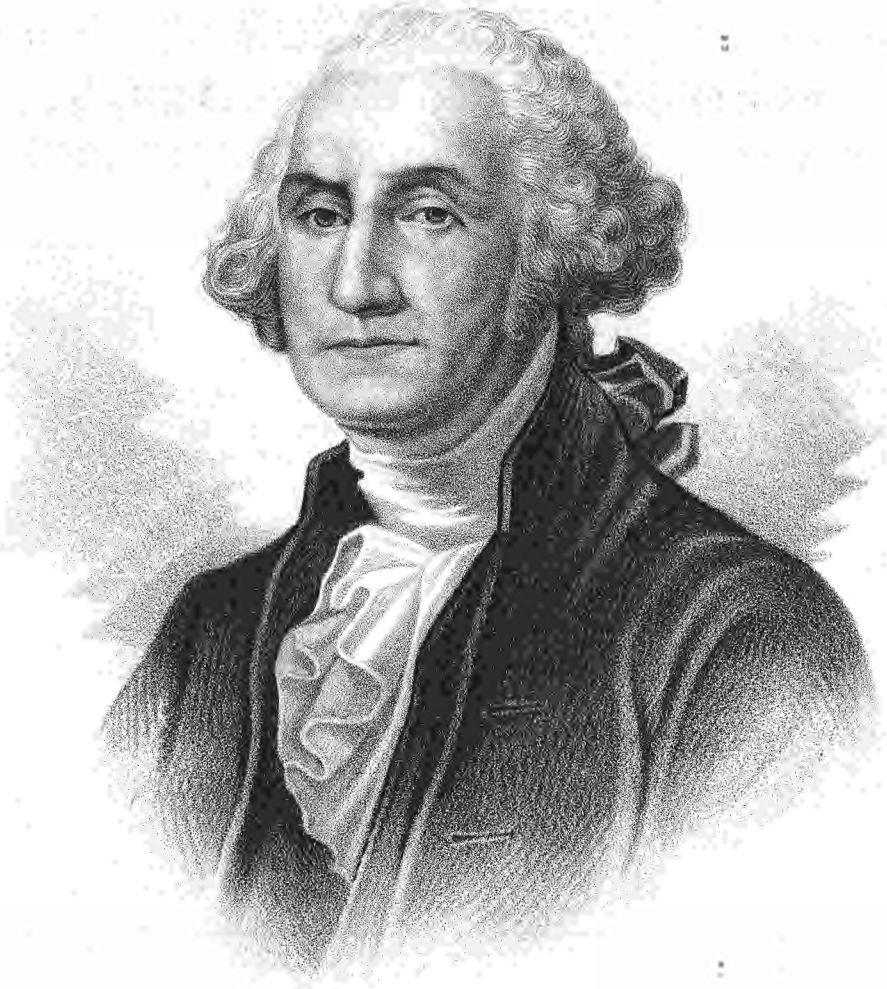
PRESIDENTS.





G. Washington

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

THE 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 Northwestern 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

trip was a perilous one, and several times he came near losing his life, yet he returned in safety and furnished a 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 direct 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 expulsion 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 that "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, peaceably if 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 it on June 19, but upon the express condition that he receive no salary. He would keep an exact account of 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 nation of earth. On Dec. 23, 1783, Washington, in a parting address of surpassing beauty, resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the army to 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 expiraton 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 unusally tall, 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.

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 Calvanistic 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 resolutions 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, shows,

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 Bemjamin 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 Britian, as soon as the British Cabinet might be found willing to listen to such proposels. 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 illustiious 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 abhored 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.

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 accuteness 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

man—what the emotions that swelled his breast—who 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, soverign and independent. It is one of the most remarkable papers ever written; and did no other effort of 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 Jan. 1, 1794. In 1797, he was chosen Vice President, and four years later was elected President over Mr. 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 adminstration 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 to 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 was 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 forty 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. 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.

James Madison

JAMES MADISON.

JAMES 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 imprudent 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 a 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 we 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 queenly, 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 impressment, 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 infant navy 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.

James Monroe

JAMES MONROE.

JAMES MONROE, 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 Britian, 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 Leglislature 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 adminstration. 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.

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 accompained 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 enobling 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 Britian. 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 endownd with that beauty and those accomplishment 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."

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 Philedelphia, 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 adminstration 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 Britian 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 comrfort 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 Fayettesville, 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 suply 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 warrios 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 terriffic 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 won 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.

M Van Buren

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 ruputation 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 adminstration. 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.

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 President 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 adminstration 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 Shawnese 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 accourtrements 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 accompained 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.

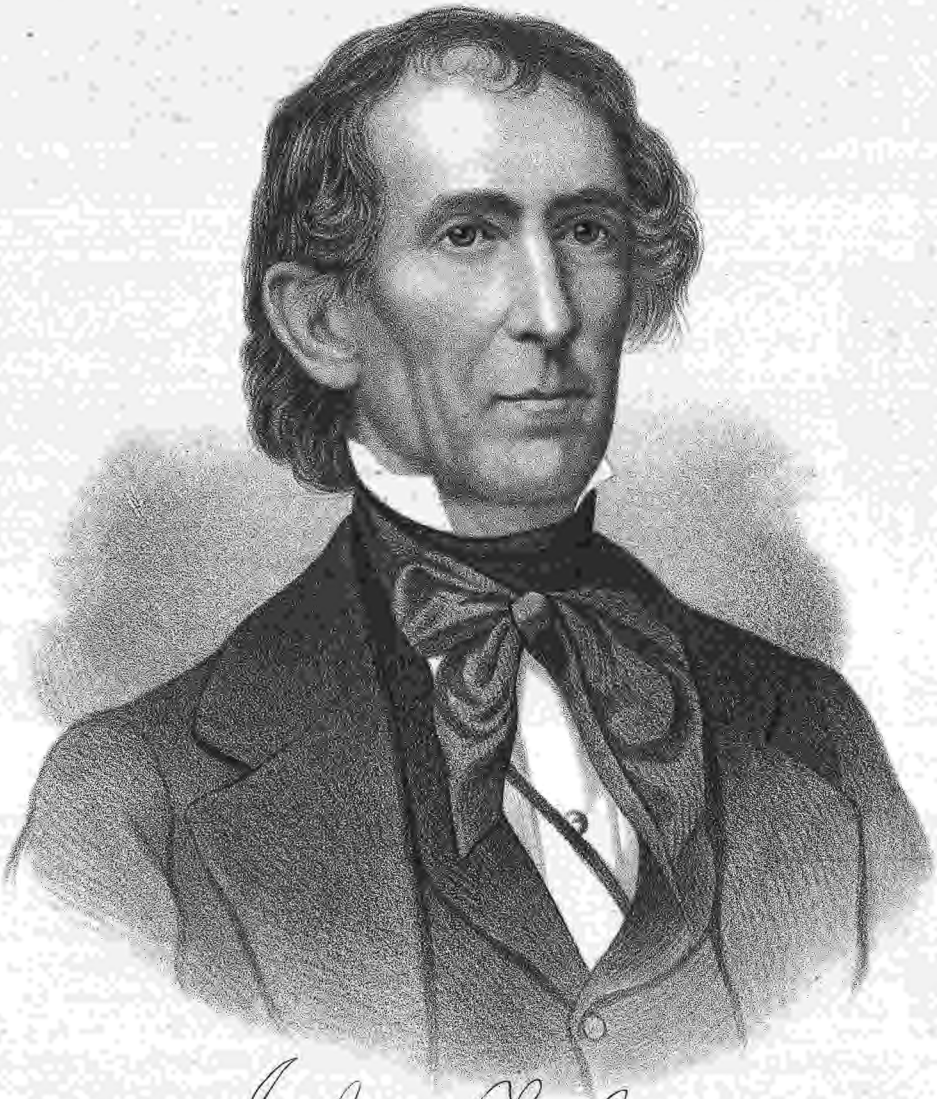
He won the love of his soldiers by always sharing with them their fatigue. His whole baggage, while pursuing the foe up the Thames, was carried in a valise; and his bedding consisted of a single blanket lashed over his saddle. Thirty-five British officers, his prisoners of war, supped with him after 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.



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 not 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 or 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 Government, 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 canstantly 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 occured. 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.

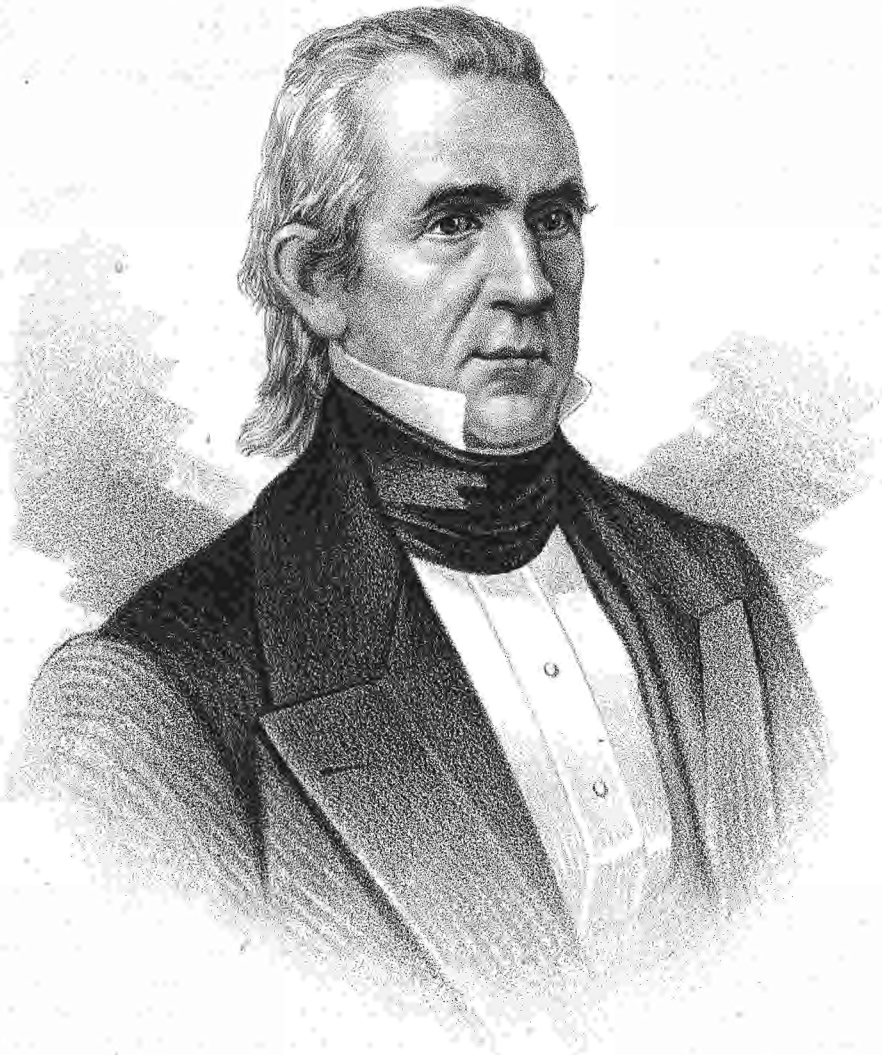
The opposition now exultingly received the President into their arms. The party which elected him denounced him bitterly. All the members of his cabinet, excepting Mr. Webster, resigned. The Whigs of Congress, both the Senate and the House, held a meeting and issued an address to the people of the United 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 Democratie 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.



James K. Polk

JAMES K. POLK.

JAMES 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.

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 immagination 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-

tellectual 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 here 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 Rogue. Here he remained for five years, buried, as it were, from 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 spread the wildest enthusiasm over the country. The name of Gen. Taylor was on every one's lips. The Whig party decided to take advantage of this wonderful popularity in bringing forward the unpolished, unlettered, honest soldier as their candidate for the Presidency. Gen. Taylor was astonished at the announcement, and for a time would not listen to it; declaring 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 coxcomb (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, labor-saving contempt for learning of every kind."

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 villiage, 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 enkindled 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-Peesident. 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 adminstration, 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.

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 woman. 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 facinating 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 associatad.

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 honoied. 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 precariuos 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 townspeople were often gladened by his material bounty.

James Buchanan

JAMES BUCHANAN.

JAMES BUCHANAN, the fifteenth President of the United States, was born in a small frontier town, at the foot of the eastern ridge of the Alleghanies, 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 enabled 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 repri-

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 principles, consistently oppose the State-rights party in their assumptions. As President of the United States, bound by his oath faithfully to administer the laws, 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.

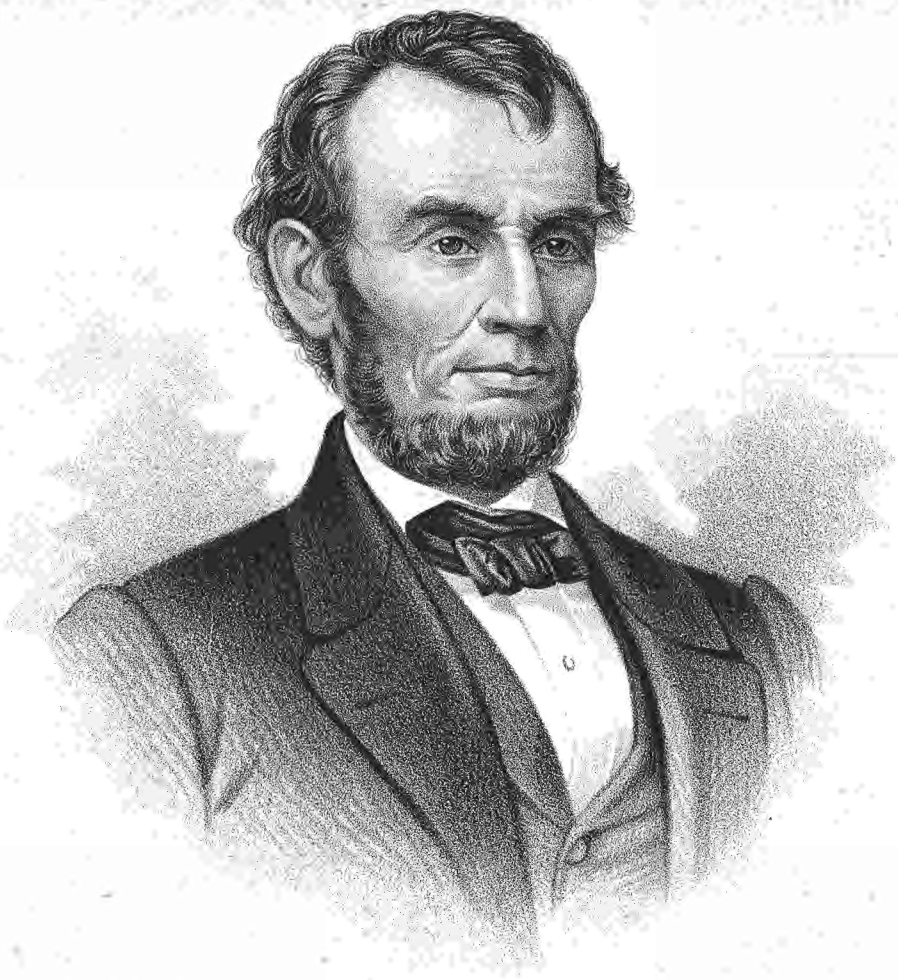
Mr. Buchanan's sympathy with the pro-slavery party was such, that he had been willing to offer them far more than they had ventured to claim. All the South had professed to ask of the North was non-intervention upon the subject of slavery. Mr. Buchanan had been ready to offer them the active co-operation 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; nearly three months before the inauguration of President Lincoln. Mr. Buchanan looked on in listless despair. The rebel flag was raised in Charleston; Fort Sumpter 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 fame, 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's banner should triumph over the flag of the rebellion. He died at his Wheatland retreat, June 1, 1868.



Your friend as ever

A. Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM 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 starving 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 frought 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 Fords' Theater. It was announced that they would be present. Gen. Grant, however, left the city. President Lincoln, feeling, with his characteristic kindliness 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.

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 even the slightest advantages of education upon their child. When Andrew was five years of age, his father accidentally lost his life while herorically 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 abil-

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 Tennesee. 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 impotently, 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 Geenville, on the 3d of August, with every demonstration of respect.

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 lieutenancy, and was brevetted captain at Chapultepec.

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 renomination 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.

Sincerely
R. B. Hayes

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

RUTHERFORD 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. Misfortune 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 famlies 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 marrage with Miss Lucy Ware Webb, daughter of Dr. James Webb, of Chilicothe; 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, reverenced 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 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.

J. A. Garfield

JAMES A. GARFIELD.

JAMES 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 together. 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 Diciples 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 tribunel 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 Elberon, 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.

C. A. Hatton

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'Conor 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.

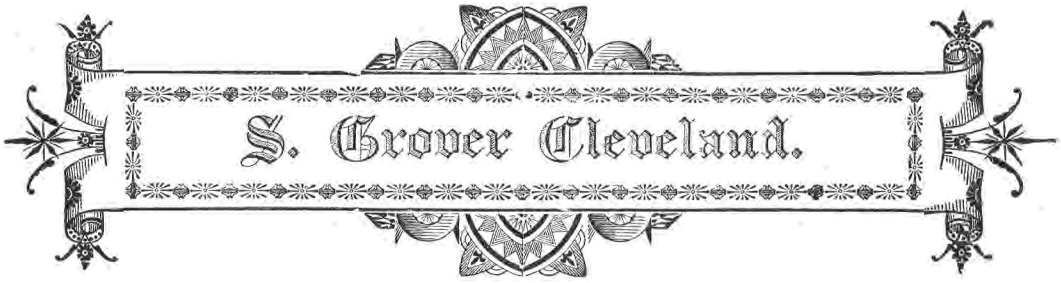
He always took a leading part in State and city politics. He was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Grant, Nov. 21 1872, to succeed Thomas Murphy, and held the office until July, 20, 1878, when he was succeeded by Collector Merritt.

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 nations 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.

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 1881 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 mos' 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 1882, 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, 1884, 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-tried Republican statesman, James G. Blaine. President Cleveland resigned his office as Governor of New York in January, 1885, 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, 1885. 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.

Benj. Harrison

Benjamin Harrison.

BENJAMIN 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, 1833. 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.

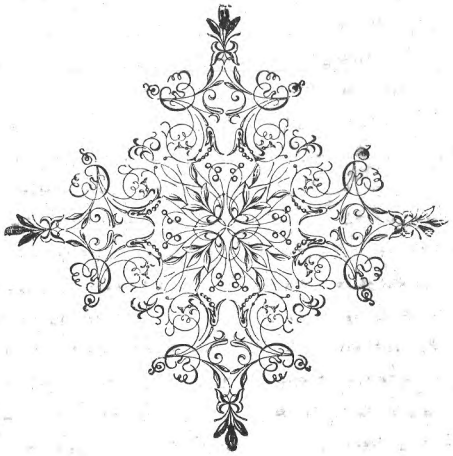
In 1860 Mr. Harrison was nominated for the position of Supreme Court Reporter, and then began his experience as a stump speaker. He canvassed the State thoroughly, and was elected by a handsome majority. In 1862 he raised the 17th Indiana Infantry, and was chosen its Colonel. His regiment was composed of the rawest of material, but 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 a 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 withal faultless in eloquence, he is recognized as the sound statesman and brilliant orator of the day.



GOVERNORS.

David Butter

DAVID BUTLER.

THE HON. DAVID BUTLER. Closely connected with the early history and the development of Nebraska and associated with it at perhaps the most critical period of its history, the gentleman whose biography is here sketched must ever be remembered by the citizens of the State in that association. Chosen by an overwhelming majority in 1866 to be the first to occupy the Governor's chair under the new organization; re-elected with enthusiasm to the same office in 1868, and yet again honored by the confidence of the people in 1870, he has done perhaps as much as any one individual in safely launching the "Ship of State," Nebraska, upon her unparalleled voyage of ever-growing success.

Gov. Butler was born in Greene County, Ind., near the town of Linton, Dec. 15, 1829. He is the eldest son of ten children, of whom six survive. The grandfather of our subject, Thomas Butler, was a native of Virginia, and removed to Indiana and became one of the earliest pioneers of that Territory. As the country developed he was prominently identified with the various enterprises that helped to that end, and enjoyed the greatest confidence and respect of all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Robinson.

The father of our subject was born in the year 1809, was reared upon the pioneer farm of his father, and grew up amid surroundings that would to-day be anything but congenial by reason of the primitive condition. He became an enterprising and prosperous farmer, and also dealt very extensively in cattle. He became the husband of Nancy Christy, the daughter of Joseph Christy, Esq. Like her father, she was born in North Carolina.

The early life and boyhood of our subject were spent amid agricultural surroundings, and such education as he obtained was received first in a private school, where he was prepared for the public institution, in both of which he made rapid progress, and drank as deeply as was permitted at the fountain of knowledge. He remained upon the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, but long before attaining his majority was a thorough, practical farmer, and understood all that was necessary in regard to the management of stock. In his youth he had given promise of powers and intelligence, and though they lay dormant for many years, were bound to make themselves known and felt, as had been the case of the Virginian pioneer in Into whom reference was made above.

Upon attaining his majority Mr. Butler began farming on his own account, supplementing the same by trading in cattle, which he drove through to Wisconsin, where they were at a premium, owing to the fact that the country was just being opened up for settlement. He continued thus engaged until the year 1852, when he embarked in mercantile pursuits, retaining, however, his interest in his cattle trade. These engagements, although somewhat diverse, were not incompatible, and in them he was quite prosperous until the financial

crash of 1857. He was a heavy loser at that time in the failure of the Citizens' Bank at Gosport, Ind., and also through the inability of many of his creditors to meet their payments from a like cause. He, however, struggled manfully against the relentless tide of difficulty that threatened utter ruin, and finally succeeded in paying dollar for dollar of every liability, with interest due. Mr. Butler in early youth took an unusual interest in political questions, and proved that he possessed a grasp of mind and independence of character by forsaking the Democratic traditions of his father's house, and casting his first vote for the Republican party at its birth. In 1856 he was nominated by the Republicans of the Twentieth District in Indiana for the State Senate. Not having had any political experience, and the opposition springing a third candidate, he was persuaded to withdraw before the election, not, however, without having made a spirited canvass, though a partial one.

In the fall of 1859 Mr. Butler removed to Pawnee City, Neb., and there associated himself with the Hon. W. B. Raper, and with that gentleman embarked again in business; but even here he retained his interest in the cattle trade, and was very shortly gratified to see his earnest efforts rewarded, and to be able to fill a larger place than had been possible before his trials in 1857. This partnership lasted until 1861, when Mr. Butler was elected a member of the Territorial Legislature.

In 1863 Mr. Butler was elected State Senator for a term of two years, representing the First District, which comprised the counties of Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage, Clay, Jefferson, and all the unorganized territory lying to the westward. Both in the House and Senate Mr. Butler made his mark, and did good service for his constituents and the State, and it was as a result of the ability then manifested and recognized, the personal worth and high character sustained by him, that he was nominated and by a large majority vote passed by the hand of the people to the highest chair of office within the gift of the people.

Among the services rendered the State by Mr. Butler while in the Legislature may be mentioned the introduction of a bill for the reapportioning of Nebraska, the passage of which he worked very hard to procure, but in Legislative halls as in every other the green-eyed monster of jealousy is bound to find admittance. It was so in this case, and to this was due the failure of our subject in spite of his hard work; but upon renewing the fight in the Senate he was successful, and the bill went through intact.

As above noted Mr. Butler was elected Governor in 1866 of the newly admitted State, and during his term of office managed the affairs of State so wisely and so well as to receive at both the two subsequent elections the expression of a grateful people by re-election to the same high office. While serving his second term as Governor, the Legislature committed to his care the delicate and laborious work of removing the capital from the city of Omaha to a central position in the interior of the State, a part of Nebraska then almost uninhabited. This was successfully accomplished, and a State House, State University and Lunatic Asylum erected without the aid of legislative appropriations. The city of Lincoln with its public buildings is a monument of Gov. Butler's financial sagacity in the management of affairs of State.

After retiring from the Governorship Mr. Butler returned to and continued mercantile life, prosecuting the interest connected therewith even more extensively than before. He continued to make Pawnee City his headquarters until 1868, when he removed to Lincoln, the capital, residing there until 1874, when he located upon his present farm three miles west of Pawnee City. This beautiful property, which is known as the Uplands Stock Farm, comprises 320 acres, which is supplied with admirably arranged and substantially constructed buildings, such as would be needed for his purpose. Besides dealing in cattle, he raises and feeds quite a large number annually, while every winter considerable attention is paid to the fattening of cattle for the market. At one time he was a breeder of Short-horn cattle, and his farm was well stocked with thoroughbreds of the most favored breeds of both cattle and hogs.

The marriage of Mr. Butler was celebrated in January 1860, when he was united with Miss Lydia Storey, of Bloomington, Ind. The family circle of Gov. Butler comprises four children, who bear the names subjoined: Violet E., Seth D., Darias and Paul. At all times our subject has taken a most active interest in the political and general interests of Nebraska, and has been unfailing in his efforts to advance the same. On the 4th of September, 1888, he was nominated for Governor on the Union Labor ticket as their standard bearer, and stumped the State in behalf of the movement. He is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., and is affiliated with Interior Lodge No. 9, at Pawnee City. Gov. Butler is a man of much reserve force, bright, clear intellect, possessing in no small measure the power that is indispensable in directing and managing enterprises of magnitude. He is at all times a true gentleman, strong in friendship, ever genial, affable and courteous, both winning and retaining the admiration, respect and friendship of his fellows.

Robt. W. Furnas

ROBERT W. FURNAS.

HON. ROBERT WILKINSON FURNAS was the second gentleman to receive from the people of the State the high honor of being elected Governor. He was chosen to fill this position in the year 1873, and retired at the close of his term, having earned the good-will, respect and admiration of the whole people by reason of his excellent administration. He was born in Troy, Miami Co., Ohio, on the 5th of May, 1824. His parents were natives of South Carolina, in which State also the grandfather had been born. His great-grandfather was a member of a good old English family, and was born at Standing Stone, in the county of Cumberland, England. He was brought up and educated in his native place, and when a young man was there married, and then started with his wife for the New World. They landed in South Carolina about the year 1762. Thomas Furnas, the third child of John and Mary Furnas, was born in 1768, six years after the settlement of his parents in America, as above noted. William Furnas was the fifth child and only son of Thomas and Esther Furnas. The chosen occupation of this interesting family for several generations has been that of farming. The chief institution, at that time, of the South, in connection with all labor, especially field work, was that of slavery, and the members of the early generations of this family were most conscientious members of the Quaker Church, which looked upon it as an abomination. This was the occasion finally of their removal to Ohio, which they did in 1804, settling in the Miami Valley. It was in the home there established that the subject of this sketch was born. He is the eldest of a family of three children, and the only one now living. His twin brother died in infancy, and his younger sister at the age of fifteen.

In 1832 the parents of our subject were stricken down by the ravages of that dreaded plague, the cholera, which swept over the country at that time, taking in its course, old and young, rich and poor, without distinction. In this trying time the natural guardians of the life of our subject, the directors of his footsteps, the instructors of his life, were removed, and he was left to struggle and battle in the conflict of life unaided by them. Then, when the clouds seemed darkest and thickest, his grandfather stepped forward in order to supply, at least in some measure, the place thus left vacant, and with him he remained until he reached his seventeenth year, working on the farm during the summer, and during the winter attending school. He seized every opportunity afforded for the increase of knowledge, and has ever continued to add to his store, and his reputation is that of a well-read, thoroughly educated gentleman.

As soon as our subject attained the above-mentioned age, he went to Covington, Ky., and there served an apprenticeship to the printing business, in the office of the *Licking Valley Register*, published by Richard C. Langdon. It was at that time one

of the most noted newspapers, and its editor, one of the first newspaper men in the West or South. Young Furnas remained in this office until 1843, and acquired a large store of practical knowledge of trade, general business, and life, as well as considerable information upon all ordinary topics, besides the specific attainment desired in the knowledge of the business. The benefit of this schooling is perhaps clearly traceable even in the present, and the immediate past. Leaving Covington he proceeded to Cincinnati, opened a book and job office, and continued in the printing business at that place for two years with good success.

Near the close of that time, and in the year 1845, our subject was united in marriage with Mary S. McComas, a native of Ohio, and a most excellent lady, one who has the power and ability to assist him in life, and fitted to grace any position in society, however high. There have been born of this union five children.

One of the first public engagements entered into by our subject when he became a voter was when, in company with several other young men, he felt the necessity of education as the means necessary to power in this life in any of its relations. They bound themselves to advocate the building of the school-house in Troy, and a lot was reserved for that purpose. Older citizens, perhaps not so well alive to the progressive spirit of the age, thought it unnecessary, and threw in the way a thousand objections. The young men were defeated at the poles the first year, but nothing daunted continued the contest, and the next year carried their point by a small majority, with the result that a $17,000 school-house was erected, and has stood a monument to the enterprise and foresight of these young men. Upon the success of the above undertaking, Mr. Furnas was elected one of the School Directors, which he continued to be until his removal to Nebraska, when he resigned.

Our subject was only twenty-three years of age when he became proprietor of the Troy *Times*, an organ of the Whig party, of which also he was the editor and publisher, and by his trenchant articles did much service in the Taylor campaign. In 1852 he sold this paper, and was engaged first as Freight and Ticket Agent, afterward as conductor for the Dayton & Michigan Railroad, continuing until 1856. In March of that year he emigrated to this State, established himself at Brownville, and in July of the same year established the Brownville *Advertiser*, and entered the arena of political life. He became a very zealous advocate of the agricultural and educational interests of the State, and in the fall of that year was elected to the Territorial Legislature. Here the masterly qualities that have since distinguished him before the State were made manifest.

During his term of office, as noted in the foregoing paragraph, our subject originated the school system of the Territory, which was modeled in its general features after the system of Ohio. In the year 1858 he was re-elected and again took his seat in the Legislature. In 1861 he was elected Chief Clerk, and early in the spring was commissioned Colonel in the United States Regular Army, and received orders from the Secretary of War to organize the loyal Indians and have them mustered into the service. He was successful in his mission and raised three regiments. These were fully equipped, and Col. Furnas commanded them in the Southern expedition under Gen. Blunt, which took in the borders of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and the Indian Territory. Resigning his commission after having done splendid work with his command, he returned and went to work to recruit, and established the 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and added fresh glories to the already brilliant record of military achievement. With this command he served under Gen. Sully in the now renowned "Sully expedition" against the Sioux Indians, wherein they were pursued to British Columbia.

The next four years our subject was employed as Indian Agent for the Omaha and Winnebago Indians, which he resigned to take his place at the helm of the State as already recorded. Among the many honors worn so gracefully, and in such manly spirit, are: Regent of the State University, President of the State Board of Agriculture, President of the State Agricultural Society, President of the State Soldiers' Union, Vice President of the National Pomological Association, Past Grand Master of the I. O. O. F., Past Grand High Priest, and Past Grand Commander of the Masonic bodies of the State of Nebraska.

Silas Barber

SILAS GARBER.

SILAS GARBER. This distinguished and well-known citizen of Nebraska served the State most acceptably as its Governor for the two terms, from 1874 to 1878. He was born in Logan County, Ohio, Sept. 21, 1833. There he passed his boyhood days, attending the common schools and developing into a sturdy and promising young man. At the early age of seventeen years he was determined to strike out for himself and see what he could do toward making his own living. He was ambitious, yet we very much doubt whether the beardless young man who turned his face Westward in 1850 ever had the remotest idea that he would himself some day be at the head of a great commonwealth, that would be created still further toward the setting sun. At that time he came into Iowa, which was receiving such floods of emigrants from the older settled States. He located in Clayton County and engaged in agricultural pursuits, the occupation which has done so much toward developing some of the best men our Nation has produced. His life for some years was uneventful, yet he was being disciplined and prepared for the honorable and useful positions he was to fill in after years. He took an active interest in all public matters, and was a well-informed, hard-working young man.

When the stars and stripes which had so long floated above Ft. Sumter were fired upon and the little garrison compelled to surrender, the patriotism of the North was aroused as never before in the history of the country. Thousands of the best men of the Nation immediately volunteered their services to aid in suppressing the monstrous rebellion, which had replaced the American banner with the stars and bars. Among this vast army of patriotic men might have been found Silas Garber. He was mustered into the 3d Missouri Infantry, which was known as the famous Lyon Regiment. He served with this regiment for one year, when he was mustered out and returned to Clayton County. He, however, did not long remain in the quiet of that peaceful section, for we soon again find him at the front. Now he is First Lieutenant of Company D, 27th Iowa Infantry, which he raised. His valiant services soon received recognition, and he was promoted to be Captain of the company, which position he faithfully and ably filled until the close of the war. He participated in all the battles of the Red River campaign, and

Pleasant Hill., La., the battles of Old Oaks, Miss., Nashville, Tenn., and others under the command of Gen. A. J. Smith.

Upon being mustered out of military service Capt. Garber returned to Clayton County, but soon thereafter went to California, where he passed the next four years. He came to Nebraska in the early part of 1870, and found a suitable location in Webster County, where he still resides, being the oldest resident in Red Cloud. He was indeed a pioneer of the Great West, for when he located in Webster County there were but two settlers in the county.

Upon locating in Red Cloud and ever since Mr. Garber has taken a most important part in both her business and political affairs. He engaged in farming and merchandising, and is to-day President of the Farmers' & Merchants' Banking Company of that city, and also largely identified with its material interests. He was chosen the first Probate Judge of the county, and also represented his district in the Legislature, and served for one year as Register of the United States Land Office at Lincoln.

Capt. Garber became popular both with the people and the politicians, and was nominated for Governor by the Republican Convention, which assembled at Lincoln Sept. 3, 1874, and was elected by a handsome majority. He served so acceptably that he was renominated by the convention which met Sept. 26, 1876. He was again endorsed at the polls in November, and served until the close of his term in 1878. He then retired to his home at Red Cloud, where he has since resided, a highly respected and useful citizen.

Albinus Franco

ALBINUS NANCE.

HON. ALBINUS NANCE, Fourth Governor of the State of Nebraska, and in that connection the recipient of the confidence, admiration and highest esteem of the people, not simply of Nebraska, but wherever his most excellent administration is known. If, however, it be but borne in mind that Gov. Nance is a descendant of a long line of noble representatives of a certain Huguenot family, whose members were of the stamp and stuff of which martyrs and heroes are made, and therefore persons of thought, conviction and strength of character, it is not surprising that he should possess the same, which under the more happy *regime* of present government and liberality of opinion, should bring him into prominence and enable him in his high station to sustain a reputation most brilliant.

The ancestors of Gov. Nance on his father's side were of that number driven from France by the religious intolerance and persecution that followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. With many others similarly situated they came to the New World and formed what became a very prosperous community in the State of North Carolina, their descendants moving North and Westward, ever in the vanguard of progress, as section after section and district after district were located.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 30th of March, 1848, at Lafayette, Stark Co., Ill., and he is the oldest son of Dr. Hiram Nance, for many years one of the most successful physicians and able surgeons in Central Illinois. His settlement in that State dates back to 1836. It was the Far West of that period, and was filled with far more of danger, difficulty and hardship, and demanded more spirit, bravery and self-denial than is conceivable in these days, when the bands of steel pass by the door of the Western pioneer, and thus bring him into almost immediate contact with the great world of civilization. The ancestry of Gov. Nance upon the maternal side of the family was English. The maiden name of his mother was Sarah R. Smith, who was born in the State of Ohio.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Albinus was but a lad of thirteen, but his patriotic soul was fired with loyal enthusiasm, and he chafed severely at the restraint of years that prevented him taking a more able stand in defense of the Union. At a later period of the struggle and when just sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the 9th Illinois Cavalry. The youthful defender and intrepid young soldier was mustered in contrary to both the wishes and continued earnest protests of his parents and friends. But he could know no restraint in this matter, and was determined to follow the stars and stripes,

and to defend them if so needed until the death.

He continued in the service until the close of the war, and participated as an active combatant in the battles of Guntown, Hurricane Creek, Franklin, Nashville, Tupelo, Spring Hill and Columbia, Tenn. He was one in the line that made one of the most daring and gallant charges at the battle of Nashville, and was slightly wounded in the same.

The necessity for war being passed, Cavalryman Nance returned his saber to its sheath, and when the regiment disbanded returned to his home and became a student at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., where he took part of the classic course. Soon after leaving college he commenced the study of law, and in 1870 was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of Illinois, after passing in the best possible manner a very rigid examination.

Standing upon the threshold of life, the future stretching before him, animated by the grandeur of the prospect supplied by hope and ambition, the subject of our sketch was more fascinated and impressed by the opportunities and inducements held out by the newer country, and pursuant thereto he decided to come to Nebraska, as the most promising of all the States and Territories of that magnificent field. This was in 1871. He secured a homestead in Polk County, devoting part of his time to farming, but the larger part to the practice of his chosen profession; but his experience was such as almost invariably follows—his ability was speedily recognized and his legal work rapidly grew upon his hands, and before long he left his farm to sow and reap in other fields, at once more congenial and lucrative.

In accordance with the decision referred to in the above paragraph, Mr. Nance removed to Osceola, the county seat of Polk County, where before very long he was fully established in legal practice. In 1873 his friends submitted his name to the Republican Convention of the Thirteenth District for Representative in the State Legislature. The counties of Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Platte, Polk and York sent their delegates, and these gentlemen thus representing the interests of a large body of citizens in those counties, comprised the convention to which his name was presented. There were seven candidates in all, and each candidate had his circle of friends; these were diligent in season and out of season to advance the interests of the several candidates. Naturally a long and exciting contest was speedily commenced, and watched with deep interest by all. In order that the reader may appreciate the position occupied by the young lawyer in the estimation of the people, and the impress his character and ability had already made, we would notice that after several ballots had been taken the announcement was made that Albinus Nance had received the nomination, and thus began his political career with a clear sun and a fair sky.

The principal opponent of our subject in the convention, urged by his friends, and spurred on by his own, doubtless, laudable ambition, determined to enter the field as an independent candidate, and the most strenuous efforts were made to defeat the regular candidate of the convention, but without success. The election showed a majority of about 2,000 in favor of the subject of this writing.

In 1876 Mr. Nance was one of the six delegates chosen by the Republican State Convention to represent this State at the National Convention at Cincinnati, and was by his fellows elected Chairman of the delegation. During that year he was renominated for the Legislature, indeed, almost without opposition, and at the opening session of the Legislative body he was elected Speaker of the House. If he had made a reputation and record as a member, he more than established it, and added fresh luster in his more advanced position, thus necessarily bringing himself before the people, who at once recognized in him one worthy of additional honors. In 1878 the Republican State Convention nominated him for Governor, and he was elected by a large majority. In 1880 he was renominated by acclamation and with wild enthusiasm, and reelected by a majority greatly in excess of any other candidate on the State ticket.

One of the happiest steps ever taken by Gov. Nance was that of his union in matrimony in 1875, when he became the husband of Miss Sarah White, daughter of Egbert and Mary White, of Farragut, Iowa, who presented her husband with a bright and beautiful little daughter, who bears the name of Nellie.

James W. Dawes

JAMES W. DAWES.

JAMES W. DAWES. This gentleman was elected Governor in the year 1883, and such was his official deportment that he was renominated with enthusiasm, and re-elected by an appreciative people. He continued to occupy his high position in the service of the State until the year 1887, and during the time gave every evidence that the confidence of those who had elected him in his honor, manhood and ability, was indeed well founded. He was the fifth Governor of the State. Gov. Dawes was born at McConnelsville, Morgan Co., Ohio, on the 8th of January, 1845. He went with his parents when they removed to Wisconsin in 1856. The rudiments and foundation work of his education were received in Ohio, but in the Wisconsin schools the major part of the work was done, and from them our subject was graduated with a good practical English education, such as would serve in the daily affairs of life. As he advanced in years and was capable of doing more service upon the farm, he attended school only in the winters, devoting the summers to husbandry. In October, 1864, he was engaged in clerking for G. J. Hansen & Co., who were engaged as general merchants at Kilbourn City, Wis., where he continued until October, 1868, and in these four years gained invaluable experience of men and business, adding materially to his store of information, and, unknown to himself, but none the less really, preparing for days of larger opportunity and more important engagements.

The next employment taken up by our subject was that of the study of law, which he began and carried on with his cousin, Julius H. Dawes, Esq., of Fox Lake, Wis., a prominent and successful lawyer. Here our subject devoted every attention, and became a careful, persevering and diligent student, so much so that his examination, which determined his admission to the bar, was unusually brilliant, and he was accordingly admitted with congratulations upon the 10th of January, 1871, and began the practice of his chosen profession, which, from its being eminently congenial and peculiarly well adapted to one of his ability and mental cast, was that in which success in life was more completely assured him.

Not long after the admission of our subject to the bar another, and if anything more important, event occurred. It was that of his marriage. Instances are far too common where an error of judgment or a misplaced confidence at such time has been fraught with disastrous results to both contracting parties; results all the more serious because of the nature and faults of the contract. It was the

happiness of Mr. Dawes and the lady of his choice to be mutually compatible in disposition, tastes, desires, and in fact all the varied points where difference of sentiment would in all probability lead, sooner or later, to a breach of confidence or worse. This union, therefore, has brought a more complete happiness, a more perfect felicity, into both lives, and has made the home all that could be desired. This interesting event occurred at Fox Lake, and was celebrated on the 11th of May, 1871.

Our subject located in Crete, of this State, on the 5th of September, 1871, with the intention of engaging for a time in mercantile pursuits. For some years he continued in this line of business with an ever-growing success and enlarging patronage. In March of 1877 he transferred his energies from commercial pursuits to the legal profession, opening a law office at Crete, and has since been one of the leading lights of the Nebraska bar. He became a member of the Nebraska Constitutional Convention of 1875, and the following year was elected State Senator. During his term of office he won from all golden opinions of his ability and power, and his sojourn in Senatorial halls was, if anything, more pleasant than usual, owing to his genial, affable and courteous manner, which won and retained many much valued friendships, and which was the means of affording him larger opportunities than might have otherwise been possible. His record in this connection is upon the books of the session, and is well known, and does not therefore call for detailed mention in such a writing as the present; suffice it here to remark that it was such as to ultimately lead to his election to the highest official chair in the State..

From May, 1876, to September, 1882, inclusive, the subject of this sketch continued to hold the position as Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Nebraska. The long continuance and the number of consecutive terms embraced within the above dates speak more clearly and emphatically his ability and power than anything that might be said in addition. Mr. Dawes was further honored by being elected delegate to the Republican National Convention at Chicago, in June of 1880. This it will be remembered was the convention that nominated the noble, but ill-fated, James A. Garfield. The delegation of which he was a member at this time unanimously named him as a member of the National Republican Committee for Nebraska for a term of four years, which it was his privilege to serve with every satisfaction to all parties concerned for that period.

Few men ever felt more the need of education for a people who governed themselves than Gov. Dawes. The absolute necessity of universal education, wide in scope, complete in curriculum, exhaustive in detail, practical in its aim and general utility, was evident to him, and he was therefore deeply interested in educational matters, and his sympathies were always assured for matters connected therewith. He has served in several offices connected with this department, the most important, perhaps, being those of Trustee and Secretary of the Doane College, which is situated at Crete. The duties of these offices have engaged his attention since the year 1875.

The crowning glory of the official life and public service of the subject of our sketch was that which identified him with the chief office of the State. In the year 1882 he was nominated by the Republican party for Governor. His life was well known, his character thoroughly understood, his past services remembered and appreciated, and accordingly he was received with much favor, and elected amid the plaudits of the whole people. He entered upon the duties of his high office in January, 1883, continuing to discharge the same throughout the usual period of two years. At the expiration thereof he was again nominated by his party and re-elected by the people, and for a second term continued to discharge his duties as before. Is any further proof of his ability, honor, manhood and faithfulness demanded? Can any mere verbose complimentary eulogium express as much as this, especially when it is reinforced by all the accompanying marks of confidence and regard of the people? Gov. Dawes will long be remembered, having won a warm place in the hearts and memories of the people, together with his most excellent administration of affairs, which from first to last materially assisted the onward march and development of Nebraska as a State, and aided in placing her among the very first of all States of the greatest Republic the world has ever known.

John M. Thayer

JOHN M. THAYER.

HON. JOHN M. THAYER. This distinguished gentleman, whom Nebraska delighted to honor by the gift of the highest office in its power to bestow, was elected thereto by an overwhelming majority in the autumn of 1886, and by his wise administration of affairs, his excellent executive ability, has since fully justified this enthusiastic choice. The place of the nativity of our subject is Bellingham, Norfolk Co., Mass.; he is the son of Elias and Ruth (Staples) Thayer. The chosen occupation of the father was farming, and in the physical and moral healthful environment of pastoral life our subject was brought up.

The smallest part of man is the physical, that can be weighed avoirdupois and measured with a tape line; a far greater and nobler is that of stamp divine—the mind, which is the true "standard of the man." Having in mind the importance of proper instruction, in order to the proper use of this most wonderful instrument, our subject, after the usual preparatory instruction, attended the classes at Brown University, from which institution he was graduated in 1847. The law was the chosen profession of our subject, and at it he worked assiduously until the year 1854, still continuing a resident of his native State, and at that time he removed to the State of Nebraska.

Omaha, then a rising young town, with a newly opened and undeveloped terrritory all around it, afforded a good field for a young man of education, enterprise, enthusiasm and energy, to "rise up with the country." In the year 1855 the political arena was entered. Mr. Thayer became one of four candidates for Congressional honors; a splendid run for the office, however, resulted only in defeat, the successful candidate being Fenner Ferguson. The following year was remarkable as that in which the now "grand old party" was organized. The convention was held at Bellevue, and our subject was a candidate for the party nomination, but was defeated by Mr. Daily. This experience was repeated in every particular in June of 1860. He was successful in receiving the nomination to the Territorial Legislature, and served the session of 1860–61.

Our subject entered the service of the United States at the beginning of the Civil War, and received the commission of Colonel of the 1st Nebraska Infantry. In the year 1855 he had been elected by the Territorial Legislature Brigadier General of the Territorial Militia, and afterward promoted to that of Major General of the militia. While in these positions he was frequently led into engagements more or less serious on the frontier, the enemies being the aborigines of that section, who at that time had not entirely ceased their old habits of depredation. The intimate knowledge of our subject concerning the Indians, their surroundings, their attitude, their feelings, and their chiefs, were all of immense value to him. As a case in

point, which we might mention, our subject was appointed by Gov. Izard to act in conjunction with Gov. O. D. Richardson, to inquire into certain outrages by Pawnees, to meet them in council and effect a treaty with them; in this they were fairly successful. But later events proved the lesson was but poorly learned by the Indians. In 1858, with a command of 194 volunteers, our subject went out after the same tribe, certain of their number having murdered, maltreated and robbed the settlers. He captured the entire tribe after a stubbornly contested battle, which was fought on the grounds occupied by the town of Battle Creek, which derives its name from that event.

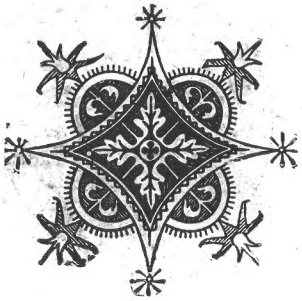
As Colonel of the 1st Nebraska Infantry, our subject did good work in behalf of the Union, and it was not long before his superior military powers attracted attention, and he was promoted to be Brigadier General and breveted Major General. At Ft. Donelson and Shiloh he commanded a brigade in such excellent manner as led to the above honor. Through the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Jackson, Miss., he also commanded a brigade, and for a time a division. The confidence of the commanders in him was such that at the assault at Chickasaw Bayou, one of the storming columns was confided to his care. In this fight he had his horse shot under him, and again while leading a charge at Arkansas Post. All the essential features, characteristics and traits of the successful soldier were possessed by him, and this being recognized resulted in the Army of the Frontier being given him to command. Throughout his service in military life he was a true soldier, a favorite with his men, who were confident that he would lead them to success and victory; respected by his officers, who well knew his sagacity and military genius, largely the result of his long experience on the frontier.

In political matters our subject was a Democrat until the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. He sympathized with the Free-Soil movement, but being in the Territory he could not vote. In the year 1856 he supported Fremont, and since that time has continued a stanch Republican. Upon the admission of Nebraska as a State, Mr. Thayer was elected United States Senator in the election of 1866, and served faithfully until the close of his term. At the expiration thereof he was appointed by Gen. Grant the Governor of Wyoming Territory. In this office the qualities that had made him successful in civil life, that had made him a military leader and commander, the ability that had been developed for the handling of large bodies of men, the harmonizing of heterogeneous elements, combined to make his Governorship one worthy of note, and, doubtless, was the cause of the confidence expressed by the people of Nebraska in after days.

The home of our subject is one that bears in its every-day life and happiness a brightness and completeness that is more to be desired than the amassing of riches, the accumulation of power, or the right to sway the scepter of authority. He was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Mary T. Allen, a lady possessing a disposition, character and intelligence, most beautiful, admirable and clear, one who has been trained to follow closely the Great Exemplar of the true life. She is the daughter of the Rev. John Allen, a clergyman of the Baptist Church, a native of Massachusetts.

Gov. Thayer, though not a member of any special denomination, is a firm believer in the Christian religion, and always has been. His family adhere to the faith of the Baptist Church, of which also his parents were members. In that communion, also, he was trained and brought up, and he has always retained a great desire to help forward every movement of religious nature; whenever it has been possible to elevate the moral standard of the people, his active sympathies were engaged. One feature of his Governorship has been his evident anxiety that a more general and hearty acquiescence to a higher moral and religious standard should obtain, and whatever enterprises, projects, societies or associations, looked to this as their aim and object, were at all times sure of his hearty sympathy and support.

As noted above, our subject stood before the people of Nebraska in the year 1886 as candidate for Governor. He was warmly received, actively and heartily supported, and enthusiastically elected by a majority of 25,000, in which he ran about 2,000 ahead of his ticket. His administration has revealed the wisdom of this choice, and it is not too much to say that the citizens of Nebraska have at no time had occasion to repent of their choice.



OTOE COUNTY,

NEBRASKA.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE 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 perserve 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.

Transportation.

ONE of the most important factors in the business development and prosperity of a city, county or State, is its railroad communications. A retrospection of the history of the South Platte Country since the advent of railroad facilities will convince the careful observer of the immense benefit resulting from the introduction of this essential adjunct of commercial enterprise. The following brief sketches of the leading railroads of this section of the great commonwealth will form an interesting feature of this Album. It may be remarked in this connection that the roads referred to are not only the important corporations of Nebraska, but stand among the first in the Nation.

The Union Pacific Railway.

THIS great national highway is so well known not only throughout the United States, but all over the world, that a mere reference to it would seem sufficient, yet, for the benefit of those who have never had the pleasure of riding over its smooth track, and thus had an opportunity of gazing upon the fine scenery along its route, the following description is given:

It formed a part of the first trans-continental line of railroad from ocean to ocean, and was conceived, and its construction authorized, as a war measure, the needs of the Government during the War of the Rebellion having clearly shown the necessity for it. When first talked of many thought the feat of constructing a line of railroad over the Rocky Mountains an utter impossibility. Many of those who had crossed the plains, deserts and mountains to California, in '49–50, *knew* very well that a railroad could not be built there, for "how could a locomotive ascend a mountain where six yoke of oxen could scarcely haul a wagon." It must be remembered that the line of this road follows almost exactly the old emigrant wagon road, not only on the plains on the north side of the Platte River, through the State of Nebraska, but, in fact, all the way to Ogden, in Utah Territory. In the days of '49–50, when long trains of gold-seekers, after outfitting at Council Bluffs, wended their way over the plains, the country was filled with hostile Indians, herds of wild buffalo, deer and antelope. There was scarcely a house west of the Elkhorn River within twenty miles of Omaha.

Now the traveler sits in a luxurious Pullman car, and is whirled over the smooth railroad at forty miles an hour, past villages, towns and cities filled with active, busy, intelligent people, and as far as the eye can reach on either side of the road farms join each other, and a million and a half of people live in the State of Nebraska, through which the road runs.

This railway is one of the very best on this continent. Its two main stems, the one from Kansas City, the other from Council Bluffs, uniting at Cheyenne and diverging again at Granger, one for Portland and one for San Francisco, are crowded with the commerce of the Orient and the Occident, while people from every nation in the world may be seen on its passenger trains. Every improvement which human ingenuity has invented for the safety or comfort of the traveler is in use on the Union Pacific Railway, and it has been operated so many years, having been finished in 1869, that all weak points at all assailable by the snow have been protected.

For nearly 500 miles west of Council Bluffs, and 700 miles west of Kansas City, there are no heavy grades or curves. The Pacific Hotel Company manage the eating-houses, under the supervision of the Railway Company, and no better meals are to be found on any railroad in the United States.

Crossing the Missouri River from the Transfer Depot, Council Bluffs, over a magnificent steel bridge of eleven spans, seventy-five feet above the water, each span 250 feet long, Omaha is reached, and the trip across the continent to either Portland or San Francisco commences. Leaving Omaha the road follows the Platte River through the thickly-settled and fertile Platte Valley to Cheyenne (516 miles from Omaha), the capital of Wyoming Territory. At this point the Kansas Main Line via Denver connects with the Nebraska Main Line from Council Bluffs.

Leaving Kansas City, one passes through some of the finest farming land of the West, and a succession of thriving cities and towns. First, Lawrence, the scene of many exciting events during the time when it was a question whether Kansas was to be a free-soil or slave State. Topeka is the capital of the State, containing some 35,000 people. The heart of the golden grain belt of Kansas is then traversed for hour after hour. Junction City, next, is so called from the fact that here the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad has a branch reaching to Texas, Arkansas and the Gulf of Mexico. From Ellsworth the road runs through the Harker Hills, where the traveler sees many cairns of stones, mementoes of John C. Fremont, the Pathfinder. From Ellsworth to the boundary line of the State one passes through what a very few years ago appeared on all school geographies as the Great American Desert. Just west of Ellis one of the finest grazing regions in the world is entered. After crossing the Colorado State line comes Cheyenne Wells, where there is a well of the purest water that is found between the Missouri River and Denver. From Cheyenne Wells the road climbs rapidly until First View is reached. This station is so called because here is obtained the first view of the snow-capped mountains of Colorado, with Gray's Peak in the west and Pike's Peak on the south.

The ascent is rapid into Denver, 639 miles from Kansas City, with a population of 85,000, the queen city of the mountains and capital of Colorado. The elevation is 5,203 feet above sea level. The trip from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyo., along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains affords a kaleidoscopic panorama of hills, fields, farms, rivers, running brooks and lofty mountains. Here the Eastern traveler for the first time sees fields of alfalfa of a deep green color, grown by the use of irrigating ditches. The run of 107 miles from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyo., is quickly made.

Cheyenne, 6,038 feet in altitude, with a population of about 10,000, is one of the sprightliest and most prosperous cities in the entire West. It is well and compactly built, and for many years has been the center of the cattle industry of the Northwest.

After leaving Cheyenne the train climbs a grade of 2,000 feet in thirty-three miles to Sherman, 8,247 feet above sea level, and the highest point of the transcontinental ride between the Missouri River and the Pacific coast. From Sherman can be seen Long's Peak, nearly 200 miles away. The scenery is wild and rugged. Just beyond Sherman

is Dale Creek Bridge, one of the most remarkable sights of the overland trip. The structure is of iron, and stretches from bluff to bluff with a 650-foot span. The train passes over it just 127 feet above the creek, which looks like a mere rivulet below. Pike's Peak can be seen away off to the south, not less than 165 miles distant.

Laramie, twenty-three miles west of Sherman, often called the "Gem City of the Rockies," has an elevation of 7,149 feet above sea level, and a population of about 6,000. It is one of the principal towns on the main line of the Union Pacific Railway between Council Bluffs and Ogden. It is situated on Big Laramie River, fifty-seven miles northwest of Cheyenne, and is an important market for wool. Its schools are good, and the University of Wyoming and the United States Penitentiary are located here.

The great Laramie Plains, which stretch away for miles on either side, and which afford pasturage for thousands of cattle and horses, are of great interest. Eighty-three miles west is Carbon, in the coal regions. One hundred and twenty-one miles west of Rawlins is Rock Springs. In this locality there are immense coal beds across the continent to Portland, Ore.

At Green River the trains for Portland, Ore., are made up, although they do not make their departure from the main line over the Oregon Short Line Division until Granger is reached, thirty miles west of Green River, and the trip across the continent is continued over the Oregon Short Line, reaching out, as it does to the great Northwest, until the great Territory of Idaho is entered at Border Station. Then on through Soda Springs and Pocatello—the junction with the Utah & Northern branch, for the Yellowstone National Park, Butte, Garrison and Helena; thence to Shoshone Station, where the junction is made for the great Shoshone Falls.

From Nampa, Idaho, the Oregon Short Line skirts along the boundary line of Idaho and Oregon, following the Snake River. Huntington is the junction of the Oregon Short Line Division with the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, an auxiliary line of the Union Pacific Railway.

Leaving La Grande, and passing over the summit at Meacham, on through the Umatilla Reservation to Pendleton, and over the Cascade Mountains, the tourist reaches "The Dalles" Station, on the Columbia River, the commencement of "The Dalles" of Columbia.

All along the sights have been absorbing in their varied aspects; but it is only when a pause is made at "The Dalles" Station that the true grandeur of the scenery of the Columbia River is impressed upon the mind. There are good accommodations here, and from this point the noble river, surging and whirling to the sea, breaking the image rocks into wave fragments, occupies the mind of the beholder. The Columbia is one of the world's great rivers, affording a waterway that is navigable for traffic for over 200 miles. Upon it, near its mouth, the largest ocean steamers ply with safety. Its largest tributary is the Williamette, draining the valley of the same name, and being navigable for vessels of any size to Portland. There can be nothing more inspiring than the ride along "The Dalles" of the Columbia, with the shining river on one side and the towering battlements of the shore on the other. The scene is one of continued magnificence. Along the Rhine, the Rhone, or the Hudson, there is nothing that will compare with the stately palisades of the Columbia, with their cool recesses kept sunless by the overhanging rocks, and watered by the melting snows of their own summits. A splendid view can be had of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helen's, and the Cascades, where the scenery surpasses anything of the kind in the world.

From Portland magnificent ocean steamers depart for the far distant Orient. Fine steamers also ply from Portland to Alaska.

From Portland to San Francisco the trip can be made in the iron steamships of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, which will compare favorably with the best ocean steamers on the Atlantic for safety, speed and comfort; or by rail over the Mt. Shasta route of the Central Pacific Railroad (the Southern Pacific Company).

Between Cheyenne and Ogden about ten miles of showsheds altogether are passed at different points on the line. These sheds are all in Wyoming. They are quite a feature of the ride across the continent; the Central Pacific Railroad having about thirty

miles altogether on its line between Ogden and Sacramento. Ogden is 1,034 miles from Council Bluffs, 1;260 miles from Kansas City, and 833 miles from San Francisco.

The crowning scenes of the trip across Utah and Nevada to San Francisco are not beheld until after leaving Reno. Cape Horn, Emigrant Gap, the Sierra Nevadas, Donner Lake, and other objects of more than ordinary interest will be found. Nevada is celebrated for her famous mines. The marvelous Carson and Humboldt sinks, in which the waters of all the rivers in the State of Nevada, save one, are swallowed; the Mud Lake, the Borax marshes, and countless numbers of thermal springs, have been the wonder of the scientist and the delight of the tourist. One hundred and fifty-five miles from Reno is Sacramento, a beautiful city, and the capital of California.

From Sacramento the Central Pacific Railroad branches off, via Lathrop, to Los Angeles, from which point the prominent cities and noted resorts of California are readily reached. From Sacramento the Davis cut-off, now the main line of the Central Pacific road, takes the tourist through to Oakland, where a transfer is made across an arm of the bay to San Francisco, and here this part of the trip "Across the Continent" terminates at San Francisco.

NOTES ABOUT THE TRAINS, EQUIPMENT, JUNCTIONS AND CONNECTIONS.

It is worth while knowing that two through trains leave Council Bluffs every day with through cars for Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland. One of these trains, the fast one, called "The Overland Flyer," has Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars only, running through to Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland. The other train, the Overland Express, has Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, Modern Day Coaches and Free Family Sleeping Cars. From Kansas City two fast express trains leave daily with through cars for Denver, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City and Portland. These trains have Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars and Modern Day Coaches. The morning train has the Free Family Sleeping Cars. The equipment of these trains is unsurpassed and all that can be desired. A good road-bed, standard-guage track. steel rails, iron bridges, and stone culverts combined, insure safety and speed.

The Missouri Pacific Railway System.

THIS great system, which now threads its way through several States west of the Mississippi River, has been a potential factor in the development of Missouri and Kansas, and with its accustomed enterprise a short time ago penetrated with its lines into the rich agricultural districts of Nebraska, to compete, in this growing State, with its rapidly accumulating business. It was also among the pioneer roads in Kansas, and its many branches now traverse in different directions the most thickly settled portions of that State. It has contributed in a large measure, by its liberal and aggressive policy, toward the rapid development of the great resources of Kansas. It is interesting to note briefly its history, as it was the first road built west from St. Louis, as early as 1850–51. The preliminary steps to build the road were taken, and it has since gradually extended its lines, like the arteries and veins of the human system, until it has encompassed in its range the best portions of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, and has even reached out and tapped the large commercial centers of Texas and Colorado. In Missouri its several lines and connections pierce the great coal and mineral fields of the State, enabling it to lay down in Kansas City, Topeka, Leavenworth, Atchison, Wichita, Omaha and Lincoln, cheaper than any other roads, these essential adjuncts so necessary in the development of commercial centers; and even the settlers in the outlying districts of Kansas and Nebraska have fuel laid down to them more cheaply on account of this road.

Its splendid and far-reaching management extends to its patrons, both in freight and passenger traffic, the best facilities for reaching the seaboard and the great Eastern marts of trade. The growth and development of the Missouri Pacific System has been rapid and fully abreast of the times. Its local business is enormous and rapidly increasing. In

respect to its through business no other road or system in Nebraska is better equipped than this. Its steel rail tracks, well-ballasted road beds and superior passenger coaches constitute it one of the greatest railroad systems of the West. Its superb fast train between St. Louis and Denver, via Kansas City and Pueblo, is unquestionably the most elegant and best equipped train of any road which enters the peerless City of the Plains.

It runs more passenger trains and finer coaches between St. Louis and Kansas City than any other road, and the volume of its freight traffic between the above mentioned emporiums of the State of Missouri is vastly greater than any other line. It has contributed in a marked and wonderful degree toward the building up of the various cities along its numerous lines. Kansas City has felt its influence more than that of any other road centering there, largely on account of its lines that lead into the heart of the coal, iron and granite fields of Missouri, and the extensive timber districts of Arkansas, and by its connecting lines with the extensive and growing cattle interests of Texas and the Southwest.

It gives to its numerous and rapidly increasing patronage in Nebraska and Kansas unsurpassed facilities for reaching the great health resorts of Arkansas and Texas, over its line from Omaha to St. Louis, about 500 miles in extent. It runs the finest trains between these two cities, passing through Weeping Water, where connection is made with the line from Lincoln, the State capital, thence to Nebraska City and Falls City, in Nebraska, and St. Joseph, Atchison and Leavenworth, before reaching Kansas City. The length of its main line and branches in Nebraska is over 322 miles, its northern terminus being Omaha, where connections are made with all the roads centering in that metropolis.

The line from Omaha to Falls City is 115 miles, the Crete branch 58 miles, Lincoln to Auburn 76 miles, Warwick to Prosser and Hastings 73 miles. Various extensions and diversions are constantly being made in Nebraska.

Thus it will be seen that this road already taps the two leading cities in the State, Omaha and Lincoln, besides Nebraska City, rapidly growing into importance, and likewise Hastings. Its mileage in Kansas is 2,707 miles, in Colorado 151 miles, and the total mileage of the Missouri Pacific System is 4,994 miles.

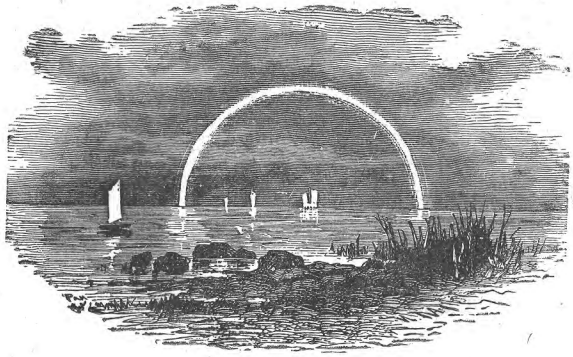
Hence the reader will readily observe that this great railway system is one of the most important which traverses the several important and growing States west of the Mississippi River. On account of its extensive mileage and the ramification of the system, it is destined to promote in a large degree the development of the material interests of the country through which it passes.

The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska.

THIS important road was commenced at Plattsmouth, Neb., where it connected with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad in 1869, and the main line of the road was extended westward to Kearney. Subsequently the Denver extension was finished; this line was shortened by the construction of the line from Kennesaw to Oxford; by the acquirement of the Omaha & Southwestern Railroad, the Atchison & Nebraska Railroad, the building of the short line from Omaha to Ashland, and the extension to Cheyenne, Wyo., which gives the road a short line between the Missouri River points and Denver & Cheyenne. At Omaha connections are made with the roads centering there. The number of miles of road in Nebraska is 2,120.30. The road is ballasted with stone, gravel, cinders and earth. 1,600.08 miles are laid with steel rails, the rest being laid with iron. The total mileage in the Burlington system West of the Missouri River is 2,778.78 miles.

Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific.

THIS is the last important trunk line to enter the South Platte Country. It enters the State of Nebraska at Berwick, and runs in a north and westerly direction to Fairbury and Nelson. At Fairbury the road branches and connects with the main line for Denver, thus giving the Southern part of the State another direct communication with the great lumber and other interests of Chicago and Kansas City, and the great lake and seaboard marts of trade.



D. P. Rolfe

BIOGRAPHICAL.

HON. DEFOREST P. ROLFE, Mayor of Nebraska City, is one of the leading business men of Otoe County, and his portrait is justly entitled to an honorable place in this work. He is a man of unusual ability, energy and forethought, and he has been a great power in advancing the commercial interests and promoting the growth of this city, of which he first became a resident in pioneer days. Mr. Rolfe was born at Cooper's Plains, Steuben Co., N. Y., July 20, 1839. His father, Joseph Rolfe, was a native of Monmouth County, N. J., born May 12, 1800, and was a son of Moses Rolfe, who was born in Virginia, and a descendant of an old English family.

The grandfather of our subject removed to Monmouth, N. J., and later to Ovid, Seneca Co., N. Y., and was one of the early settlers of the county. He subsequently moved from there to Steuben County, where he spent the remainder of his life. The father of DeForest was a mere boy when his parents removed to the State of New York. He was reared and married in that State, Mrs. Eliza (Reed) Manrose, of Dutchess County, becoming his wife. Her father, Gilbert Reed, was born in Kinderhook, N. Y., and, as a boy, remembered many scenes of the Revolution, his father being connected with the Commissary Department of the Continental Army at Valley Forge, and spent large sums of his own money in supplying the patriotic soldiers, and in return received Continental script. Mr. Reed passed his last days at Avoca, N. Y., being upward of ninety at his death.

Joseph Rolfe established himself in the lumber trade in early manhood, and built up a large business, buying extensive tracts of timber land in Western New York, manufacturing lumber and rafting it down the Susquehanna River and its tributaries to tide water, where he sold it. He finally retired to private life, having secured a comfortable competency, and spent his declining years in the home of a son in Lawrenceville, on the Pennsylvania State line, dying there in January, 1878, having survived his wife, who died in Avoca, N. Y., in November, 1866. He was a man of undoubted probity of character, well gifted with mental and physical vigor, and throughout a long and honorable career his course was such as to command the highest respect of his fellowmen. Socially, he was a member of the I. O. O. F.; politically, he was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks, and was ever after a steadfast supporter of its policy.

DeForest P. Rolfe, of whom we write, was reared in his native county, receiving his education in the public schools. At the age of sixteen he entered the office of the *Steuben Farmers' Advocate*, a weekly paper published at Bath, N. Y., and there

learned the art preservative, working in that office for four years. He then went to St. Louis, Mo., where, failing to get employment at his trade, he accepted a position as clerk in the auction and commission house of F. A. Kennon, remaining with that gentleman until February, 1861. He then returned to New York and visited home and friends for a few weeks, when he once more set his face toward the setting sun, and on the 14th of April in that year he arrived in Nebraska City, which was at that time the headquarters of the freighters who teamed goods across the plains, the Government having buildings here in which the goods were stored that were to be distributed to the military posts and to the Indians. The surrounding country was in a very wild condition, there being no settlements in the interior of Nebraska, only a few venturesome settlers had made claims away from the settlements, which were on the Missouri River, and had improved a little of the land; almost the whole of the territory was then owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 per acre. St. Joseph, Mo., was the nearest railway station, and all travel and transportation was by way of the Missouri or overland with teams, the stages making daily trips to St. Joseph during the winter season. Wild game was very plentiful; deer, elks and wolves roamed the prairies, and but a few miles westward the buffaloes still lingered. There were Indians in the vicinity, and members of the Otoe, Omaha and Pawnee tribes were frequent visitors to the place. The old block house, which was a part of old Ft. Kearney, and built by the Government, was standing, and was used by the city as a calaboose.

Shortly after his arrival here our subject engaged in the grocery business with his brother R. M., and they continued together until 1863, when DeForest P. formed a partnership with William Fulton to establish a clothing and outfitting store. In 1867 he sold out his interest in the business and removed to Chicago, where he lived for two years. He then returned to this city and engaged in the lumber business until 1874, when he became interested in the Reed Plow Company. At the end of a year he severed his connection with that company to engage in the sale of agricultural implements, and was appointed general agent for Nebraska and Southern Iowa for the D. M. Osborne & Co. harvesting machinery. He held that agency until 1879, when he again took up the lumber business, which he has continued to the present time with great financial success, and he has built up a large trade, necessitating a branch yard at Julian, Nemaha County.

Mr. Rolfe was married, Dec. 6, 1866, to Miss Susan Gilmore, a native of Bath, Steuben Co., N. Y., and a daughter of Perez and Susan (Towle) Gilmore. Mrs. Rolfe is an intelligent, benevolent, well-informed lady, with easy, pleasant manners, rendering her an important factor in the social circles of this city and county.

Our subject has occupied an influential position in regard to the administration of public affairs in Otoe County almost from the very first, as his fellow-citizens early recognized his superior tact and good executive powers, and that, withal, he is a safe leader, as he is possessed of sound judgment, and his acts are ever controlled by the highest principles. His geniality, ready wit and liberality have won for him hosts of friends and make him very popular with the people. Politically, he has always affiliated with the Democratic party. He was appointed County Treasurer to fill a vacancy in 1863, was a member of the last Territorial Legislature, and was elected to the first State Legislature. He did not, however, take his seat in the latter body, as he differed with his constituents on the question that was to be decided that session as to the best site for the State capital, they preferring that it should be situated on Salt Creek, and he, with his usual tact, foreseeing the fact that another city built up so near Nebraska City on the west would naturally retard the growth of the latter and blight her then bright prospects, would not vote for its location there, and not wishing to misrepresent his constituency in the legislative deliberations he resigned, thus showing that he cared more for principle than for empty honors. The people of this city have since been brought to a realizing sense that he was right, and that it would have been much better for their city if the capital had been located at a greater distance. In 1885 he was elected to the office of Mayor, but he refused to be a candidate in 1886. In 1888 he was again elected on a non-partisan ticket by an overwhelming majority, so great is his

popularity and the confidence of his fellow-citizens in his integrity and capability.

Mr. Rolfe is a prominent member of the Board of Trade, of which organization he was the first Secretary, and afterward President, and also of the Building and Loan Association, of which he is President, and he has been identified with every public enterprise for years, was instrumental in securing the water-works, and in the organization of the company was made its President; he has ever been active in aiding industrial enterprises for the building up of the city. Mr. Rolfe is also a prominent Mason, and has from time to time occupied many of the leading stations, from the Blue Lodge to Consistory.

JOHN H. DAMMA holds a high place among the prominent and successful merchants of Talmage, and is one of the best and most favorably known German-American citizens in this part of the county. He owns and occupies a fine brick building on Main street, which stands 22x80 feet, and carries a full and varied stock of general merchandise, such as is in constant demand in the town and country surrounding. He came to Talmage in the year 1882, to start a timber-yard for the Chicago Lumber Company, and sold the first lumber that was bought here; he came when there was scarcely a house to mark the place where now stands the populous and thriving town of Talmage.

Recognizing the well-nigh inevitable future of State and county, with far-sighted business enterprise Mr. Damma determined to enter into business at this place, and erected a store and put in a stock of goods,which was in charge of a confidential clerk whenever he was compelled to be absent in the interests of the lumber trade.

In 1885 Mr. Damma left the lumber-yard, and then gave his entire attention to mercantile pursuits. He is now by far the leading merchant in his line in the town, and has a business of not less than $25,000 per annum. He came to this place from Nebraska City, where he had been engaged for the previous five years as clerk in a general store. He has been in the State since 1875, and in the beginning worked for two years in Delaware Precinct on the farm of Reuben Whittaker, an old settler and extensive agriculturist.

Our subject was born in Franklin County, Mo., on the 21st of September, 1853. He is of German descent, his father, William Damma, having come from that country when eleven years of age. He located in Franklin County, Mo., and there attained his majority. He was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Holtgrewe. This lady was born in Germany, and accompanied her parents to the United States when she was fifteen years of age. They made their home in Franklin County, and there she was educated and brought up from the time she attained the above-mentioned age.

William Damma, the father of our subject, began life as a farmer, and is now living upon his own property in Franklin County, Mo., operating a tract of 320 acres. This farm his father, Henry Damma, had entered when he first came to the United States with his family, in the year 1840. It was then in an entirely native condition, unbroken and undeveloped. There Henry Damma made his home and spent the remainder of his life, dying when about forty years of age. Mr. and Mrs. William Damma are active members of the German Evangelical Church; he is strongly attached to the Republican party, and almost invariably votes its ticket.

The subject of our sketch is the eldest son of a family that comprises five sons and six daughters, all of whom are living; six of them are married and have homes of their own. He was educated and reared in Franklin County, and there received all needed instruction regarding the operation of a farm. In the year 1874 he crossed the Atlantic and made a visit to the old home in Germany, where he spent several months renewing his acquaintance with kinsfolk and friends of the family, who were for the most part engaged in agricultural pursuits. Upon returning from his trip Mr. Damma went to Franklin County, but shortly afterward removed to this county. In 1884 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Holtgrewe. This lady was born in Lyons Township, Franklin Co., Mo., on the 17th of August,1864, and is the daughter of John H. and Catherina

(Pohlman) Holtgrewe. Of this union there has been born one child, who bears the name John H.. Our subject and wife are earnest members of the Evangelical Church, and both there and in the community generally they are very highly esteemed. Mr. Damma has for three years been President of the Village Board. He is a man of character, energy, and unquestioned reputation, and is an excellent representative of his constituents in any and every matter that is for their interest.

JOSEPH HENDRICKS, one of the earliest settlers of Hendricks Precinct, is numbered among its most enterprising farmers. His homestead, comprising 120 acres of land on section 17, is one of the most desirable in this part of the county, the land being in a fine state of cultivation, and the buildings amply adapted to the purposes of rural life. Both the farm and the dwelling are conspicuous for neatness and good order, evincing that intelligent supervision which is the greatest charm of any home.

Our subject is the brother of George Hendricks, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work, together with the parental history. The family is of substantial ancestry, and have proved excellent citizens wherever they have lived. Joseph was born in Jackson County, Iowa, April 24, 1853, and when a child three years of age came with his parents to this county. Young as he was he still remembers crossing the Missouri River on a flatboat before the days of steam in this section. He continued with his parents until a youth of nineteen years, acquiring his education in the district school. At this age also he was married, and his father having died rented the homestead for a period of two years. Then, purchasing a tract of wild land he began in earnest the development of a homestead of his own. In connection with other labors he planted a large number of maple and cottonwood trees, which have added greatly to the value and beauty of his property. He also has 160 rods of hedge fence, which forms a most pleasing feature of the landscape, dividing the fields at once in the most beautiful and substantial manner. He put up a house and barn, planted an orchard, and gradually brought about the other improvements essential to the comfort of himself and family. He has six acres of native grass.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married March 10, 1871, at her home in Hendricks Precinct, was formerly Miss Sophia, the daughter of Daniel and Jane (Balch) Livingston. The former was a native of British America, his early home being along the Red River Valley, which stream he often crossed by swimming. The mother was a native of Indiana. The parents were married in Jones County, Ohio, where the father carried on farming a period of twenty-five years, and also worked as a carpenter. They came to Nebraska in 1870, and are still living on a farm in Hendricks Precinct. Their nine children were named respectively: John, Sophia, Calvin, Neal, Lincoln, Daniel, Ann, Alex and Archie.

Mrs. Hendricks was born in Jones County, Iowa, May 4, 1851. Of her marriage with our subject there are three children: Oscar Nile, born Feb. 17, 1873; Leona, Oct. 15, 1875; and Dora Nellie, Nov. 9, 1884. Mr. Hendricks is a stanch supporter of Democratic principles, while the sympathies of his estimable wife are with the Republican party. He was Postmaster at Solon in 1883, and until its removal to Hendricks, and is a member of the School Board of his district.

JOHN D. EIS. This gentleman is numbered among the most enterprising young farmers of Russell Precinct, where he owns and operates the southwest quarter of section 31. He comes of an excellent family, being the brother of Walter S. Eis, a sketch of whom, together with that of the parents, will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Eis was born Sept. 4, 1854, in Muscatine, Iowa, where he received a common-school education, and worked with his father until reaching his majority. He then began farming on his own account in Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1884, then determined to go farther West. He came by rail from Muscatine to Unadilla, and in a

short time selected his location, which was then a tract of uncultivated land. He has himself perfected all the improvements which we behold to-day, and which comprise all the appurtenances of a well-regulated homestead, including a good set of farm buildings, an apple orchard, and the smaller fruit trees, and groves of boxwood and maple. His farm is provided with running water, and possesses many natural advantages which have made his labors as a tiller of the soil easy and remunerative. The proprietor has accomplished much in a comparatively short period.

The lady who presides with grace and dignity over the home of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine, daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Eis) Welsh. The parents of Mrs. Eis were of German birth and parentage, their birthplace having been in one of the Provinces of Prussia, whence they emigrated to America before their marriage. They settled first in Ohio, then removed to Muscatine County, Iowa, where they still reside, surrounded by all the comforts of life on a well-improved farm of 155 acres. Their ten children are all living, and were named respectively: Catherine, Fredricka, Charles, John, Mary, Laura, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Lilly and Louisa.

Mrs. Eis, the eldest child of her parents, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1855. She was educated in the common school, and remained under the home roof until her marriage, removing in the meantime with her parents to Iowa. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, one of whom, a son, Charles, died when eight months old. The survivors are Mary, Pearl, Rebecca and Lizzie. They are all at home. Mr. Eis cast his first Presidential vote for Hayes, and is the uniform supporter of Republican principles.

JAMES CUMMINS. The name of this gentleman is familiar among the extensive operators in live stock in this county, he having his headquarters in the village of Talmage. He came to this section of the country during the period of its early settlement, and has proved himself one of its most useful and enterprising pioneers. He was on the spot at the laying out of the village of Talmage, which became the nucleus of his future operations, and with whose interests he has since been continuously identified. Here and at Burr Station he feeds and fattens large numbers of animals each year, having his market mostly at Talmage. In 1882 he laid off twenty acres which is now known as Cummins' Addition, and which comprises sixty-four lots, now all sold and improved. In addition to his town property Mr. Cummins owns a fine farm of 120 acres adjoining the village limits. The land has been brought to a good state of cultivation, and thereon have been erected neat and substantial buildings, in keeping with the spirit of enterprise which has always characterized the proprietor. He has been a resident of McWilliams Precinct since 1866, and the first ten years of his residence here gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He settled upon an unbroken prairie from which he built up his farm, effecting all the improvements which the passer-by observes to-day with admiring interest. Mr. Cummins first came to Nebraska in the fall of 1866, making his way hither from Pennsylvania. A year later, desiring to see something more of the Great West, he migrated to Montana, and subsequently, in 1869, proceeded to Dakota Territory, where he engaged in farming, and continued a resident until the spring of 1871.

While in Dakota Mr. Cummins had been engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Ft. C. F. Smith, Mont., and also operated a stock ranch in Montana, besides speculating in lands. Upon his return to this county the spirit of adventure departed from him and he concluded to settle down, and construct for himself a homestead. He is a descendant of excellent Pennsylvania stock, and was born in Bradford County, that State, Nov. 8, 1844. His father, Caleb Cummins, also a native of the Keystone State, was the son of John Cummins, who was born in the Scottish Highlands, and emigrated to America during his young manhood. Settling in Pennsylvania he married Miss Mary Covell, a native of that State, and they became the parents of nine children. They spent the remainder of their lives upon a farm in Bradford County, where Grandfather Cummins departed this life at

the ripe old age of eighty-two years, and his wife when about two years younger.

Caleb Cummins, the father of our subject, was reared a farmer's boy among his native hills, and upon reaching manhood married a maiden of his own county, Miss Lucy, daughter of Mansor Chamberlain. The latter was a native of Vermont and a member of a well-known old New England family which had been represented for several generations in the Green Mountain State. Mansor Chamberlain died in Bradford County, Pa., of apoplexy, at the age of sixty-six years. He was a farmer by occupation, and possessed all the stern and sturdy traits of a substantial ancestry.

Caleb Cummins and his wife began the journey of life together on a farm in Ridgebury Township, Bradford County, where they lived until the death of the mother in the spring of 1848. The father subsequently married Miss Mary Fuller, and in 1855, leaving Pennsylvania, migrated to Dakota Territory, settling among the earliest pioneers of Union County. After residing there a number of years they moved to Lyonsville, in Buffalo County, where they now live, the father being seventy-four years old and the stepmother fifty-one.

The subject of this sketch was the youngest of two sons and one daughter born to his parents, the latter of whom, Margaret by name, died in DeKalb County, Ill., when an interesting young lady of nineteen summers. Warren, the brother, is married, and a resident of Phillips County, Kan., where he is successfully engaged in farming.

After the death of his mother our subject was taken to the home of his grandfather, where he lived ten years and until the death of the latter. The boy was then thrown upon his own resources, and employed himself at whatever he could find to do. He continued a resident of Bradford County, and lived with one man, George W. Cooper, for a period of four years, beginning at the munificent salary of $4 per month. As his services became more valuable his wages were raised, and in the meantime he acquired a thorough knowledge of farming pursuits. He first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska in 1866, and when ready to establish a home of his own was married, in McWilliams Precinct, this county, to Miss Jennie Nelson. This lady was born in Henry County, Ill., May 12, 1855, and is the daughter of Augustus Nelson, who, with his wife, is a native of Sweden, and now living upon a farm in Johnson County, this State, in the enjoyment of a competence. Mr. Nelson is one of the most successful and skillful agriculturists of his time, and has always been an excellent manager financially. He came to Nebraska in 1868, when his daughter Jennie was a young girl of thirteen years.

Mrs. Cummins received her education in the district schools of Henry County, Ill., and remained under the home roof until her marriage. She is now the mother of two interesting children, daughters, Minnie and Clara. Mr. Cummins, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been a member of the Village Board for a period of four years. He is a man who makes friends wherever he goes, being courteous and companionable, well informed, and a man interesting to converse with.

DR. G. M. BRINKER. For twenty years this gentleman has been recognized as a leader of medical science in Nebraska City, and also as a citizen. He was born in Frederick County, Va., on the 27th of June, 1813. His early years were spent in the Shenandoah Valley. His middle name, Madison, is derived from the President of that name, who was in office at the time of his birth.

The parents of our subject, George and Elizabeth (Kendrick) Brinker, were Virginians by birth. His father followed agricultural pursuits chiefly throughout a life that extended over eighty-two years, while his mother lived to be almost ninety-six. The latter years of her life were spent in the home of her only daughter, Mrs. Ann R. Rhodes, at Denver, Col. Besides this daughter there were four sons in the family. Our subject was the oldest boy and second child.

Dr. Brinker was fortunate in having good educational advantages presented to him in his youth. As he progressed in his studies, and approached the years when the question was presented as to what should be the chosen occupation of his life, he

elected to read medicine, and began to do so under the care of a preceptor, Dr. Anderton Brown, of Middletown, Va., when nineteen years of age. This gentleman was one of the bright lights of the profession, and was an acknowledged able physician and instructor.

When twenty-two years of age the subject of our sketch entered the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing his studies with much care until he was graduated in the year 1837, receiving the usual diploma. His first experience as a practitioner was at Strasburg, Shenandoah Co., Va. There he continued very successfully engaged for seventeen years, and won for himself quite a reputation as a diagnostician and prescriber.

During the above-mentioned period the Doctor was married. This important and deeply interesting event was celebrated at Strasburg, Va., March 7, 1839, the lady of his regard being Mary A. H. Bowman, the excellent daughter of Capt. Isaac Bowman, of Revolutionary War fame. She was born in the vicinity of Strasburg, Va. From childhood up they had been friends and companions, and almost naturally they came to decide that that which had been begun in early years, and which continued so long, should go on till death should separate, and they be bound by strongest ties. There have been born to them eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: George I. is an extensive mine owner in Breckenridge, Col.; Mary E. is the wife of E. Humphrey, the well-known grocer of Denver, Col.; Ella R. remains at home with her parents; Arthur is a partner of E. Humphrey in the grocery business, in Denver, Col.; Lucie is still at home, as is also Annie, who is a widow; James M. died when fourteen years of age, and Joseph is Superintendent of the Utah Western Division of the Rio Grande Railroad, and lives at Ogden, Utah.

In 1854 Dr. Brinker migrated to Missouri with his family, locating at Brunswick, Chariton County, where he continued in the practice of medicine for fully ten years. Then, leaving in 1865 he came to Nebraska City, which from that time has continued to be his place of residence. He bought himself a very comfortable and cozy little home on Eleventh street and First avenue. The Doctor owns a farm of 160 acres about six and one-half miles southeast of this city, which is managed by renters, and is utilized for general purposes.

Being a true and patriotic American citizen the Doctor has always taken the greatest possible interest in the political economy of the district he might be a resident of as well as that of the Nation at large; usually he has voted with the Democratic party, but has always considered it his first duty to consider the person and principles, rather than the policy or party. In spite of the weight of years upon him, and although attending to a very extensive practice, our subject carries himself and effectually attends to all the demands upon him with a brightness and vigor that shame many younger men. It were very hard to find a more esteemed and in every way respected man or citizen, a truer friend, or more uniformly genial and courtly gentleman.

WILLIAM E. INGALLS. If a continued extension of business and solidifying of financial interests mean anything, the case of the gentleman whose life story is herein presented, would show that in his bakery store and restaurant he is an able caterer of gastronomic necessaries and luxuries, and moreover that his efforts are fully appreciated, which is undoubtedly the case. Mr. Ingalls was born in Jacksonville, Morgan Co., Ill. His father, Hart Ingalls, is a native of Niagara County, N. Y., where his father, Darius Ingalls, was for many years a resident and prosperous farmer. He moved from that State to Illinois in 1832, and became a pioneer of the latter State. He took a tract of Government land and improved it, but to-day it is absorbed in the city of Jacksonville. The village of Jacksonville had just been laid out. There was but one store and a blacksmith-shop in the place. The nearest market for many years was at Meredosia on the Illinois River, some twenty-five miles distant, and not infrequently the journey to St. Louis, which was 110 miles away, had to be made for special market purposes. The entire journey was performed always with ox-teams.

The father of our subject was fifteen years old

when his parents moved to Illinois. He was reared amid agricultural pursuits, and from his boyhood was used to farm life. He chose this for his life occupation, and continued to follow the same until his death, which occurred in 1846, when he was but twenty-nine years of age. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth J. Elledge. She was born in Indiana, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Catharine Elledge, of Indiana. She was married a second time, to W. A. Wise, and now lives in Griggsville, Pike Co., Ill.

The subject of our sketch was but an infant when his father died. After his mother's second marriage he went to reside with her. His stepfather was by trade a gunsmith, and almost naturally he was fond of handling the tools, and from the time he left school worked with his father and learned the trade. His education previously obtained was received in the public schools of Griggsville. In 1863, when but seventeen years of age, our subject enlisted, becoming a member of Company B, of the 68th Illinois Infantry, in which he served for one year, and then was discharged with the rest of his regiment. They were first stationed at Camp Butler for about five months, and then did garrison duty at Washington, D. C., for a few weeks. From there they were sent to Alexandria, Va., and from that place to Fairfax Seminary, where he did garrison duty for the remainder of his term of service. After that he went to St. Louis, and was engaged for two years in the United States Arsenal in that city.

Upon leaving that employment Mr. Ingalls engaged in a broom factory and learned the trade, and continued to work in St. Louis for five years, when he returned to Griggsville and commenced to learn the baker's trade. He worked there for one year, and then went to Naples for a short time, and from there to Jacksonville, where he established himself in business, and continued until 1879. Then he went to Atchison, Kan., and worked for Poehler Bros., remaining for seven years. He then came to Nebraska City and embarked in his present business.

The subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Adelaide Ireland, a native of Illinois. She was the daughter of James Ireland, of Massachusetts. She died in the year 1877, leaving three children, whose names are mentioned as follows: Luther Clyde, George L. and Harry. A second alliance was contracted in the year 1879, the name of the lady being Mrs. Anna (Cook) Hulett. This lady was born at Lambertville, N. J., and is the daughter of Phillip and Martha Deltz. Her first husband was Henry Hulett, of Illinois, by whom she became the mother of two children. To our subject there have been given five children, viz: Henry, Lee, Mamie, Parker and Jessie.

GEORGE CONKLIN, an early pioneer of this county, is now numbered among her wealthiest farmers and most extensive land-owners. He has a large farm in Otoe Precinct, where he resides, and he has been more than ordinarily successful in his life work. He was born near Sidney Plains, Delaware Co., N. Y., on the 19th of December, 1831. His parents were Thomas and Clarissa (Smith) Conklin. His father died in Delaware County in 1834, ere he had passed the prime of life.

The mother of our subject married a second time a few years later, and her son went to live with an uncle for a few years. He then returned to live with his mother, but the high-spirited lad found his nature and his stepfather's incompatible, and as they could not agree, he would not live under the same roof with him, and went to work for a farmer by the month, receiving $8 a month for a year. He worked hard and steadily, and saved all of his earnings that year, and after that was employed by the day or month a part of the time on a farm, and a part of the time in rafting lumber down the Susquehanna River, being thus employed until the year 1856. In that year, with four others, he came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by the way of the river from St. Louis, there being no railroad then west of Iowa City. The journey consumed many days, as it took them five days to get to St. Louis, and from there to Nebraska City thirteen days, fare and board being $60. The country around here at that time presented a very wild appearance,

a marked contrast to its well-settled, flourishing condition of to-day. Indians still lingered here, and deer, wild turkeys and other kinds of game were very plentiful. His companions staid but a week, and apparently not liking the prospect, returned to Pennsylvania. Our subject, with more pluck and enterprise, perhaps, decided to try his life here, and see what it held for him, as he was then young and unmarried, and had no strong ties to bind him elsewhere. When he first came here, he and his friends, having heard of Prairie City, started out to find it. Having walked about eight miles from Nebraska City, they stopped at an isolated log cabin to inquire the way to the city they were in search of, and they were very much surprised on being told that they were already in Prairie City. Much disgusted, they passed on up the creek for a few miles, and staying all night at a log cabin, they returned to Nebraska City the next day. Mr. Conklin soon found employment on a farm, prudently saving his earnings, and in the fall of 1856 he took up a claim on the banks of the Nemaha, in Otoe County. He built a log house, in which he staid until his finances were reduced to $2.50, and he then returned to Nebraska City to find employment, whereby he might replenish his purse. All the following winter he was engaged in teaming logs to a sawmill, but owing to the failure of the men who employed him, he lost most of his wages, or rather, did not get them at all. In the summer he worked in another mill, and in the succeeding winter worked by the day and job until spring opened, when he rented a farm in Four Mile Precinct. He engaged in agricultural pursuits there until 1858, when he bought a tract of land in the same precinct. But he could not pay for it, and so traded it for a pair of horses. He continued to rent land for three years, and then bought eighty acres in Four Mile Precinct. He built a house and lived on his land a year, and then sold it, purchased another eighty acres near by, and resided on that two or three years. At the end of that time he also disposed of that at a handsome profit, and soon purchased another 80-acre tract of land in that precinct, but almost immediately sold it. After that he rented a farm until 1870, when he bought the place where he now resides. His first purchase was of eighty acres of wild land, and he has since added to it, until he has 520 acres in one body in Otoe Precinct. It comprises some of the best farming land in the vicinity, and the greater part of it is improved, although eighty acres of it is in fine timber. He has erected suitable buildings, has good machinery, and everthing about bears the mark of a skillful and practical farmer.

Mr. Conklin was married, Jan. 27, 1859, to Miss Martha Shelenbarger, a native of Fayette County, Pa. Her father, Isaac Shelenbarger, who was a farmer, spent his last years in Fayette County, Pa. The maiden name of his wife was Susan Shelenbarger, of the same name though no relative, and she was a native of Fayette County, and is now a resident of Thomas County, Kan. She makes her home with her children, and is eighty years old. The pleasant married life of Mr. and Mrs. Conklin has been blessed to them by the birth of eight children, as follows: Emma, the wife of Charles Hall; John, Frank, Lizzie; Susie, wife of Mason Ricker; Hester, Jacob and O. P.

Mr. Conklin is eminently a self-made man, as from the time when he was a small lad he has had to make his own way in the world unassisted. He has been a hard and constant worker, doing well whatsoever his hand has found to do. Through it all he has preserved the integrity of his character unblemished, and is entitled to the respect of his fellow-citizens. In politics he is a stanch Republican.

FREDERICK W. RODENBROCK. The tourist making his first trip to Germany may pass through the beaten paths of tourist travel, and, when he has finished all, if he will but turn his face toward the historic Province of Westphalia, although but about 8,000 square miles in its area, and therefore small as compared with the ground already covered by him, he will appreciate the fact that in many regards he has left the best until the last. It must suffice here merely to remark that its climate is most excellent, agreeable and heathful; its center and more northern part is

comparatively level, and possesses some stretches of heather that would make the heart of the Scotchman beat wildly with delight. Coming down to the southwestern portion of the Province, the face of the country changes and becomes undulating, but shortly the traveler finds himself surrounded by most beautiful and fertile hills, and not a few grand and towering mountains. Nestled in one of the prettiest and most fertile valleys is the village of Halle, and from its streets, as we look up on either hand, the eye ranges over the hillsides and to the distant mountain tops, and we realize somewhat of the beauty and sublimity of that scene, and are convinced that for scenery it is very difficult to surpass it. The village is about ten miles from Bielefeld, a picturesque, walled Prussian town, and the center of commerce, trade and society of this district.

In this beautiful village of Halle above referred to, and amid the beauties with which nature has endowed that place, there was born upon the 15th of October, 1840, in the home of one of its most honorable and respected citizens, a son, who received the name that stands at the commencement of this sketch. The parents of our subject were Frederick W. and Katrina Rodenbrock, and the father followed the occupation of farming upon property that had been owned by the family for many generations. As their forefathers had done before them for the most part, he and his wife were born, brought up, and ran the entire course of life in their native valley. Our subject and his brother, John Frederick, were the only members of the family who came to the United States.

As soon as our subject was old enough to attend school opportunity was afforded him to do so, and he continued thus engaged until he had reached his fourteenth year. During that time he began to develop those qualities and powers that have, under the congenial influences and amid the favorable surroundings of American life and commerce, made him the success he is. After leaving school our subject was his father's assistant upon the farm, and then, as was customary, he entered the army, and served for three years. During this time the Sleswick-Holstein War took place, during which time he did garrison duty on the Island of Reegan to guard it from the naval forces. At the termination of the required period of military service he received an honorable discharge, and returned home to find that during his absence his father had been removed by death.

Realizing how much more than ever he was required at home, and recognizing that upon him to a large extent his mother would lean, now that her husband's arm could no longer support her, our subject nobly set to work to do everything in his power to make her life bright and restful, and has the pleasurable consciousness of knowing how large his efforts have been. He remained with her until 1865, and then, satisfactory arrangements having been made for her comfort, and with the hope of a larger success in the New World than the old could extend, in the fall of that year set sail from Bremen, and after a comparatively lengthy ocean trip landed at New York, and went on thence to St. Louis.

Life amid the strange and in many regards novel surroundings in this to him new city, was begun by our subject engaging with J. H. Rottman in the wholesale business. After a few months he came to Nebraska City, and accepted a position as clerk in the grocery store of F. W. Rottmann, and there continued for about five years, during which period his energy, integrity, business push and tact, so favorably impressed his employers that at its close he was accepted as a partner in the firm, which arrangement continued for over three years. Then the stock was divided, and Mr. Rodenbrock removed his portion to the store where he is at present located; viz., upon the northwest corner of Central avenue and Twelfth street. From that time until the present success has continued to attend him, and to-day it were, perhaps, not beyond the bounds of truth to say that he is one of, if not the most, solid and successful business men in the city.

There are few better able to appreciate the felicitous pleasures and quiet healthfulness of home, and it was the good fortune of our subject in selecting a partner in life to make such decision as assured him in the companionship of his wife all that could be desired for that sacred relationship. On the 4th of September, 1873, Mr. Rodenbrock and Miss Lena Kregel were united in holy matrimony. This estimable lady was born in Clayton County,

Iowa, and is the daughter of Henry and Mary Kregel, both natives of Germany. There have been born to our subject six children, whose bright vivacity and merriment have made his home more inviting and happy than any other place to him, and, as they are developing traits of character and mental powers that promise much, there is doubtless a bright and happy future yet in store for both them and their parents. The names they have received are Amanda, Minnie, Henry, also Laura and Lewis, twins, and a baby unnamed.

Before closing this compendium mention might be made for the encouragement of those readers who may be beginning life, of some indicators of the success that has crowned the efforts of our subject. In addition to his business house Mr. Rodenbrock has erected a large two-story building on the southeast corner of Central avenue and Twelfth street, upon a site of 50x60 feet; also another, if anything more handsome in its exterior and complete in its internal arrangements; this likewise is a two-story building, upon the southwest corner of Central and Eleventh streets, and having an elegant front on Central avenue of 100 feet.

The early religious connection of our subject was with the Lutheran Church of his native country, and to this he has continued his adherence, and, with his wife and family, is numbered among its most firm adherents and hearty supporters. In questions civic and governmental he is usually found voting with the Republican party, which recognizes in him an oft-tried and stanch friend. As a citizen, he is ever ready to aid and support in every way possible every enterprise, project or plan that will assure the people of the city, precinct or county any improvement, privilege or progress.

FRED DUERSCHNER, the pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of Rock Creek, is a gentleman of fine capabilities, good education, and more than ordinarily intelligent. He assumed charge of this parish in July, 1882, and in the discharge of his duties has acquitted himself in that creditable manner which has secured for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has associated. The parish at this time comprises thirty families, an increase from eighteen since the time the present pastor became connected with it. He also conducts the school in connection with the church, having an average attendance of about forty students.

Mr. Duerschner was born at Galena, Ill., Dec. 27, 1861, and completed his education in the seminary at Mendota. The main secret of his success has been his deep interest in his work, laboring conscientiously and faithfully for the best good of his people. His father, Rev. C. Duerschner, was a native of the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, whence he emigrated to the United States when a young man, and completed his studies in the University of Iowa, soon afterward entering the ministry and devoting the remainder of his life to the service of the church. He, however, only lived to be middle aged, his death occurring about 1878, in Illinois, at the age of forty-five years.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine Hammerand, also a native of Bavaria, and who came to America in her girlhood, settling with her parents in Iowa. She is still living, making her home in Pyrmont, Mo., with her son John, and has about attained her threescore years.

Our subject is one of the younger members of a family of five sons and one daughter born to his parents. His brother John, also a minister of the Lutheran Church, stationed at Pyrmont, and himself, are the only ones living. Frederick H., like his brothers, pursued his studies in the common schools of Galena, Ill., where he prepared himself for his college course. Upon reaching manhood he was married, at Wilton, Iowa, Oct. 13. 1886, to Miss Sophia List, who was born in Madison, Wis., Sept. 14, 1864. Mrs. Duerschner is the daughter of John and Wilhelmina (Hahnen) List, who are now residents of Wilton, Iowa, and the father a minister of the Lutheran Church. They were natives of the German Empire, the father of Bavaria and the mother of Wurtemberg, and came to the United States in early youth, and were married in Des Moines County, Iowa. Mr. List is a minister also warmly devoted to his work, and is the means of doing much good in his community.

Mrs. Duerschner was carefully trained and edu-

cated, and is amply fitted to be the companion and helpmate of her husband. She is a favorite in church and social circles, and the little household has been brightened by the birth of one child, a daughter Tilly. Their home is very pleasantly situated, and is an attractive resort for the many friends they have gathered about them.

GEORGE W. DOANE. The farming and stock-raising interests of Otoe County have a lively representative in the subject of this sketch, who owns 280 acres of fine land on the southeast corner of section 4, South Branch Precinct. He evidently has made the most of his experiences as an agriculturist, and in reward for his thrift and industry is surrounded by all the comforts of life with many of its luxuries, and with an ample competence for his old age.

Our subject is a native of Penobscot County, Me., and the son of Joshua and Rachel (Hayden) Doane, who were also born in the Pine Tree State. The father was a farmer by occupation, but in the fall of 1849 left his own rugged hills for the more productive lands of Dane County, Wis. Near the land upon which he located in the pioneer days the town of Stoughton finally grew up, and he lived to see the country around him developed from its first wild, uncultivated condition to that of a prosperous community of civilized people. He is still living near Stoughton, having now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years, and for a long period has been a devoted member of the Baptist Church. The mother died at the old homestead in the spring of 1886, at the age of seventy-four.

The parental household included ten children, namely: Hiram, Nelson, George W. (our subject), Rozella; Hannah and Charles (deceased); Jeremiah, Ellen, Luke and Louisa (deceased). Hiram, Nelson and Charles during the late war served as Union soldiers, and frequently met the enemy in the smoke of battle. Hiram was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, and Nelson was wounded in the neck at Pittsburg. Both recovered, however, and are now in Wisconsin. The other surviving members of the family are also residents of Wisconsin.

The subject of this sketch was born Dec. 4, 1837, and was a lad twelve years of age when his parents removed to Wisconsin. He attended the common schools, and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, becoming familiar with the various employments of rural life. Upon reaching his majority he began farming for himself not far from the old homestead, and was thus occupied until 1865. Then, crossing the Mississippi he came to this State, making the journey overland with teams, and homesteading 160 acres of land, settled upon it and began the improvements which now reflect in such an admirable manner upon his industry and enterprise. He has brought the entire tract to a productive condition, planted a grove of cottonwood trees, and has an orchard three acres in extent, besides the smaller fruits. The land is watered by a living stream, and stocked with good grades of cattle, horses, etc. He purchased the additional 120 acres in the spring of 1883. He is fond of fine horses, and has an interest in the valuable full-blood Norman "Romulus" imported.

The lady who has presided over the domestic affairs of our subject with wise and prudent forethought for the last twenty-nine years, was in her girlhood Miss Frances Wheeler, and became his wife in Dane County, Wis., Feb. 27, 1859. Mrs. Doane is the daughter of Henry and Sarah (Kelley) Wheeler, natives of New Hampshire, and the father is a shoemaker by trade. They left New England for Wisconsin about 1853, settling in Stoughton, where the father died in 1864. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her daughter in South Branch, Otoe Co., Neb. Mrs. Doane is their only living child, and was born in Sutton, N. H., Feb. 8,1840. She is now the mother of five children—Arthur N., Halsey A., Henry E., Elva and Charles. Arthur married Miss Jane Reed, resides in Knox County, and is the father of one child, a son, Alfred. Halsey married Miss Sylvia Jones, is also farming in Knox County, and is the father of one child, a daughter, Hope. The other children remain at home with their parents.

Mr. Doane cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and is an ardent supporter of Republican principles. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Presby-

Yours truly
Geo. F. Lee

terian Church, attending at Hopewell. Mr. D. has been a member of the School Board since the formation of the district, and Road Supervisor a number of years. He is warmly interested in the success of the temperance cause, and a member of the society in South Branch. He has built up a record of an honest man and a good citizen, one who enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of his community.

GEORGE F. LEE, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is well known in this section of the country, not only as a pioneer of Otoe County, who has been identified with its agricultural interests for many years, but also as a true Christian gentleman, than which no higher praise can be bestowed. By his influence and example he has done much to elevate the moral, social and religious status of the community where he resides. He has borne an honorable part in the public affairs of his adopted county, serving as its representative in the Territorial Legislature of 1858, as County Commissioner for three years, and he was Justice of the Peace for Otoe Precinct for sixteen years. He is now living a somewhat more retired life in one of the pleasantest homes in Otoe Precinct, where he has a valuable farm, from which, under his able and skillful management, he derives an ample income.

Mr. Lee is of New England origin and ancestry, having been born in the town of Guilford, New Haven Co., Conn., Dec. 16, 1830. His father, Eli Lee, and his grandfather, Eber Lee, were both natives of that town, and of English descent. His grandfather was a farmer in his native State, and always followed that pursuit. He spent his last years with his only daughter, in Meriden, Conn., and died at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his native town, Lydia Everts, a native of Killingworth, Conn., becoming his wife. In 1833 Mr. Lee left his old New England home with his family to take up his abode in Ohio. They traveled by water to New York, thence up the Hudson to Troy, from there to Buffalo on the Erie Canal, and from there by lake to Cleveland. Mr. Lee bought a tract of timber land in Twinsburg, Cuyahoga (now Summit) County, built a small frame house to shelter his family, and at once entered upon the task of improving a farm. There were no railways there then, and Cleveland, twenty miles distant, was the nearest market. In 1847 he sold his place there and removed to Hiram, where he invested in village property, and resided there and in his native State many years. In 1862 he came to Nebraska, and made his home with our subject until his death, in 1876. His wife had preceded him to the better world during their residence in Twinsburg, in 1842.

The subject of this sketch was two and one-half years old when his parents moved to Ohio, and he continued to live with his father until his sixteenth year. He then went to reside with a farmer for two and a half years. He was a bright, thoughtful youth, and early evinced a strong thirst for knowledge, which was at the end of that time gratified by his admission to the High School, which he attended for two years. He was an earnest student, and he afterward entered the academy at Brockport, N. Y., where he pursued a course for six months. He thus secured an excellent education, and, returning to his native State, engaged in teaching in the winter and in farming in the summer until 1854. He then turned his attention to the trade of carpenter, which he followed until 1856. In September of that year he came to Nebraska by way of the railway to St. Louis, and thence by boat up the Missouri to Otoe City. Here he soon found employment at his trade, and in the same fall made a claim to the southwest quarter of section 13, Otoe Precinct. He erected a small frame house, and in the spring of 1857 his wife joined him, and they settled on the place and commenced to improve a farm. They resided there until 1872, and in the meantime he had bought the place where he now resides, and in that year built the house he now occupies. It is a tasty, modern frame structure, veneered with brick. He also erected a conveniently arranged frame barn, and other substantial farm buildings. All his buildings are octagon in shape. His farm comprises 160 acres of well-improved land, with a good supply of fruit.

Mr. Lee was married, April 17, 1855, to Miss

Betsey W. Strong, who was born in New Hartford, Conn., in 1835. Her family since early Colonial times had been residents of Connecticut. Her father, Edward W. Strong, was born in the same town as herself, May 18, 1804, being the date of his birth. His father, Elijah Strong, was born in Coventry, Conn., in 1776, and his father, likewise named Elijah, was, it is thought, born near New Coventry, Conn., and spent his last years in New Hartford. Mrs. Lee's grandfather was reared in his native State, and there married to Betsy W. Sadd, a daughter of Noah Sadd. She was, it is thought, born in East Windsor, Conn., and she died in the village of New Hartford, March 4, 1821. Mr. Strong was a carpenter by trade, and later became a farmer. He was a good singer, and during the winter seasons taught a singing-school in the county. He died in New Hartford, Conn., Sept. 1, 1850.

Mrs. Lee's father was reared and married in Connecticut, and removed from there to New York in 1847. He took up his residence in Beekmantown, where he worked at the cabinet-maker's trade for several years. He then moved to Highgate, Vt., and made his home there until 1874, when he came to Nebraska, and spent his last years with Mrs. Lee, dying Jan. 24, 1886. The maiden name of his wife was Sally A. Shepard; she was born in New Hartford, March 19, 1802, and died in the same place March 16, 1842. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Lee was Alvin Shepard, and he was born in New Hartford, Conn., Nov. 30, 1773, a son of Daniel and Jerusha (Ensign) Shepard. He was a wood-turner by trade, but he subsequently became a fur dealer, going as far north as Montreal for his stock. Later in life he settled on a small farm near New Hartford, and died there May 3, 1854. The maiden name of his wife, Mrs. Lee's grandmother, was Sevila Holcomb. She was born in Granby, Hartford Co., Conn., and died on the home farm near New Hartford, in August, 1836.

Mr. Lee has been an interested witness of the growth and progress of Otoe County almost from the very beginning of its settlement by the white men. When he first came here the land had not come into market, and the settlements were confined to the streams. The first settlers had taken up the timber land, thinking that the most valuable, and most of the land was held by squatters who were ready to sell their claims, whenever opportunity occurred, for from two to three times what the Government charged for it. The country round about was in a state of almost primeval wildness. Deer were plentiful, and wild turkeys and prairie chickens furnished many a delicious meal for the pioneers. No railways penetrated the Territory for some years, and steamers were constantly plying on the river. Our subject and his fellow-pioneers may well be proud that they have assisted in the development of such a grand and noble State as the Nebraska of to-day, from the sparsely settled, wild Territory of less than thirty years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee are active and influential members of the Congregational Church, he having joined in Ohio and she in Connecticut. They were charter members of the church in Nebraska City, and were active in securing the establishment of the church in their own neighborhood. They helped to organize the church, and he has been Deacon, Trustee and Treasurer, and Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years. Mr. Lee is a strong temperance man, and so firmly believes that the temperance question is one of the great issues of the day that he carries it into politics like many others of his fellow-countrymen, and, whereas he was formerly for many years a Republican, he is now a Prohibitionist. Mr. Lee is Secretary of the Camp Creek Cemetery Association, and he has been connected with it in some official capacity since its organization in 1866. The cemetery was at that time laid out on a part of his farm. It is beautifully located on the southwest quarter of section 13, on a rise of ground that secures good drainage. It is tastefully laid out, and is indeed a lovely resting-place for the dead, and, with its sad and sacred associations, a hallowed spot for the living.

CAPT. FRED PAHDE. This is one of the best known and respected names in McWilliams Precinct, we had almost said in the county, and the gentleman who bears it is one of the most enterprising and successful farmers in the district, and also one of the most extensive stock-

raisers within the confines of Otoe County. He has lived in that precinct since the year 1863, and bought his land when the settlements made in the precinct might have been almost counted upon the fingers. He is one of the busy workers who seem never to tire of toil, always planning or executing, and here lies the secret of his success, if it be but understood and borne in mind that a bright, keen intelligence has directed him in his efforts.

Capt. Pahde first purchased 320 acres on sections 13 and 24, building his residence on the former section, on the North Branch of Nemaha Creek. He first lived in a log cabin, and continued to live in it for nine years. It is still in good preservation, and stands upon the original site. After that time it gave place to a better and more commodious structure, and he now has one of the best residences in the county, a large two-story brick house, with basement and all other buildings in keeping. His farm and ranch include over 700 acres of excellent land for his purposes, all being splendidly cultivated or otherwise improved. He has already given away to his children some 300 acres, and at one time owned over 1,000 acres in this county alone.

Previous to coming to Talmage our subject had lived in Gasconade County, Mo., for many years, in fact for the greater part of the time since he came to the United States, and also for a short time in the States of Illinois and Iowa. Until he came here he had followed agriculture, and owned 280 acres of land in Gasconade County. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 14th of December, 1808. His father, Zachariah Pahde, was a farmer, and had been from his youth. He died at the age of sixty-six years. The maiden name of his wife was Charlotta Overwertmann; she also attained the same advanced age.

The subject of our sketch was the eldest of four children born to his parents. He came to the United States two years before his brother August, who died later in Franklin County, after he had been married but a few years, leaving two children. When twenty years of age our subject enlisted in the German Army, and continued in the service for three years, and was retained as a militiaman until he came to the United States in the year 1838. He landed upon American soil on New Year's Day, after a voyage in the sailing-vessel "Joanna," under charge of Capt. Minard Master. The trip lasted eight weeks and two days, and entered the port of New Orleans as above mentioned.

Upon starting life in this country our subject first proceeded up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Mo.; the first three years he traveled around the country, working in different places as a farm laborer. At the end of that period he was married, and then settled in Gasconade County, and worked at teaming for about five years, when he bought his first land comprising 120 acres, upon which he lived until he came to this State, but not until after he had, at the outbreak of the war, raised a company of German citizens which was called Company J, and attached to the 54th Missouri Infantry. Of this company he was commissioned Captain on the 25th of August, 1862, and remained in command until the latter part of the year 1863, when, owing to a little difficulty with Col. Jail who was in command, he resigned his commission and left the regiment. Shortly after returning home he received a request from a daughter who was living in this State, which led him hither.

The record of our subject as a military man is that of a careful, but brave and daring soldier. His former experiences in his native country had done much to help him in service here. The principles that have governed his whole life controlled him while in the army. He made many friends, and was held in much respect by his men.

Capt. Pahde was married in Franklin County, Mo., in the year 1842, the lady of his choice being Miss Henrietta Krute. She also was born in Westphalia, and came to the United States alone in 1839. She was brought up and educated in her native country, and throughout her life manifested the results and fruit of her home training. She died at her home in this precinct, in 1888. She was then seventy-three years, four months and ten days old. Nine children had come to call her mother, three of whom are now deceased, viz: Henry, Frederick and Maria H. The surviving children bear the following names: Louisa Charlotte, now the wife of Henry Damma, of McWilliams Precinct; Fredericka W., wife of Henry M. Demme, of Wayne

County, Neb.; Catherina, wife of William Nemann, of Johnson County; John H., one of the prosperous farmers of McWilliams Precinct; Charlotte H., now Mrs. William Hustmann; John F., Jr., who is the husband of Louisa Batters, of this precinct. Each member of this family is strongly attached to the German Evangelical Church, and they have been members of the same from their youth.

Our subject is one of the stanch and doughty supporters of the Republican party, and does not feel right excepting when doing his utmost to advance the interests of the party when active work is required, as in the time of campaigns. He is energetic in such undertakings, and always works in a truly loyal and patriotic spirit.

DWIGHT A. PLYMPTON. This gentleman is a worthy representative of a family that has had every occasion to be proud of its lineage, descent and name. He is a very highly esteemed citizen and prosperous farmer on the southwest quarter of section 17, South Branch Precinct. Frederick Plympton, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, and was one of the prominent citizens in the closing decades of the last century and the early part of the present. His son Frederick, the father of our subject, was born in Sturbridge, Mass., in the year 1790. He served in the War of 1812 on the Canadian frontier. The chosen occupation of his life was that of a shoemaker, which he carried on for several years in Utica, N. Y. He became the husband of Mary Jones, who was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1795, after which they removed to Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where they made their home until 1847. The subsequent four or five years found them in Wood County, W. Va. In 1855 he settled on a piece of land in Clear Lake, Steuben Co., Ind., where the mother of our subject died Sept. 15, 1855; the father came to Nebraska in 1862 to live with his son Dwight, and here he made his home until his death, which occurred Jan. 14, 1875.

The family of which our subject was a member included three children, he being the eldest; Marguerette L. and Benjamin J. He was born in Burton, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., on the 28th of May, 1829. He continued at home with his father until he attained his majority. After leaving school, which he was not privileged to attend for long and the opportunities of which were quite limited, he went with his parents to Ohio. In 1852 the removal was made to Clinton County, Iowa, where 160 acres of land were purchased in 1863. He did not do the farming work himself, but was in the employ of the Sioux Indian Agency, and continued thus for two years. Then he moved to Keokuk County and engaged in farming for about four years.

In 1870 our subject came to this county, filed on forty acres of land near Palmyra, but staid there less than two years. He then went back to Nebraska City, and purchased eighty acres of land in its vicinity. There he continued farming until 1882, and then bought his present property of 160 acres, which he has thoroughly improved by buildings, orchards, shade trees, hedging, fencing, residence, etc. All this work has been done in a very thorough and perfect manner, with a view both to utility, duration, and as far as such was possible the beauty of effect and finish.

The marriage of Mr. Plympton was celebrated in Keokuk County, Iowa, on the 16th of February, 1865. He then received in marriage the hand of Abigal Badger, who was born in Oakland County, Mich., on the 8th of February, 1844, to Lester S. and Saphronia H. (Rockwell) Plympton, both of whom were natives of New York State. The calling of her father was that of farming; his death occurred when he was sixty-nine years of age, in Iowa, in 1864. Her mother, who is still living, and at the age of seventy-four, is now making her home in California with her son Ralph, who is a Methodist minister. She is the mother of thirteen children, whose names are recorded as follows: John, an infant deceased and unnamed, Hulda, David, Juliet, Abigal, Mariett, Rensellaer, Lydia, Armina, Clarrie, Charles and Sherman. David served through the late war in the 18th Iowa Infantry, serving chiefly in Missouri and Arkansas.

Four children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Plympton, who bear the following names: Ethel, Frederick D., Robert M. and Saphro-

nia M. Ethel is happily married to James R. Colon, a farmer in Thomas County, Kan., and is the mother of one child, Elmer R. Mrs. Plympton is at present Postmistress in Burr Oak, and has held the position since 1885.

Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the South Russell Baptist Church. They are held in high esteem by the people of the district, and are much liked by all who know them. Politically, Mr. Plympton is and has always been a stanch friend of Democratic principles, and usually indorses its actions of diplomatic policy, supporting it by his influence and ballot.

FRED DEUTSCH. Among the respected German-American citizens of McWilliams Precinct our subject occupies an honorable position. He is very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser, and operates 160 acres of land on section 34. His land is well improved and provided with the various buildings, etc., necessary for his work. He has lived upon his present farm since the year 1871, and has made the property what it is.

Mr. Deutsch came to this place from Lee County, Iowa, which had been his home for twenty years, and had been engaged in farming for the greater part of the time. He was born in the Rhine Province of Byronne, Germany, in the year 1822. His father, John Deutsch, was a prosperous German farmer. He died at the age of fifty-five years, in his native land, as did his wife, although she attained the riper age of seventy years before her demise. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Lena Bear.

Our subject was one of a large family; he lived with his parents in the old country home until he was about twenty years of age, when he came to this country and located in Lee County, where, May 8, 1851, he was married to Miss Lena Herstein, whose birthplace was almost identical with that of her husband. She was born on the 1st of May, 1821, to Christ and Mary (Gable) Herstein, both of whom died in Germany, about middle life. Mrs. Deutsch was reared by certain members of the Mennonite faith, who also instructed our subject. She came to this country when thirty years old, and with other of her acquaintances settled in Lee County. She has been a true and faithful wife and noble woman, receiving the highest regard of her friends and neighbors and warmest affection of her husband and family. She is the mother of nine children, of whom five are now dead, viz: John, who was married to Minnie Brehmn, who is also deceased; they were the parents of two children—William F. and Lydia. The next child was Katie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Mary, whose demise occurred when she was seventeen months old; Fred, who died when seven months old, and Jacob, when an infant of six weeks. The names of the living members of the family are: Lizzie, now Mrs. Herman Wendel, of Talmage; Mary, wife of Frank Meyer (see sketch of this gentleman); Anna and Fred.

In the year 1843, when about twenty-one years of age, and before his marriage, Mr. Deutsch, with a few companions, started out with an ox-team to explore the country west of the Missouri River, and traveled a considerable distance west of the Platte River, where they met the western explorer, Gen. John C. Fremont. The memory of our subject supplies many pleasing recollections and recalls numerous experiences connected with this trip, one of the happiest being connected with this meeting. They did not stop on their western journey until they reached the Pacific Slope and had gone through Oregon. In the spring of the following year the little band of thirty-six returned to Iowa, taking the journey on horseback. It was then that he determined to secure a home, which he has never regretted doing.

THEODORE R. FRERICHS, Cashier of the Bank of Talmage, which is a State Bank, is, with the President, Peter Berlet, Esq., the successor of James Sweet & Co., who disposed of their interests in this institution in the fall of 1885. It is now successfully operated under a capital of $20,000, with a surplus of $4,000, and is numbered among the leading institutions of its kind in Southern Nebraska. The present management is ac-

credited with honesty and forethought, and the bank is patronized by the best business men and farmers on the southern line of the county.

The subject of this sketch came to Talmage from Nebraska City five years ago, and soon afterward was taken into the employ of James Sweet & Co. In consideration of strict attention to his duties, and the unquestioned honesty which has marked his career, he was chosen cashier under the former management, in which position he has been retained. He commenced his business career as a mercantile clerk in Nebraska City, of which he was a resident two years.

The native place of our subject, however, was in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, where he first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 20, 1859. At the age of twenty-one years he emigrated to America. He was the youngest child of his parents, whose family consisted of five sons and one daughter. The father, Frederick F. Frerichs, followed the trade of a shoemaker successfully, and died in his native Province in 1873, at the age of fifty-six years. In accordance with the laws of his country he had given a service of three years to the German Army before his marriage. His wife, the mother of our subject, was in her girlhood Miss Talka Teten, a native of the same Province as her husband, and of pure German ancestry. She is now a resident of the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, and is sixty-four years of age.

The brothers and sister of our subject are natives mostly of Germany. Theodore R., like them, was given a good education, and at the age of fourteen years commenced learning the confectionery trade, but did not follow it after setting foot upon American soil. He readily acquired American customs and the English language, the latter especially, being now able to read, write and talk with great fluency. After becoming a resident of Talmage he was married, Nov. 28, 1883, to Miss Mary Teten, a native of his own country, also born in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, on the 8th of June, 1865. She was brought to this country by her parents, Herman J. and Talca Mary (Kruse) Teten, when a child two years of age. They located in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, settling upon a tract of prairie land, from which the father built up a good homestead and where the parents lived until the spring of 1879. Thence they removed to Barton County, Kan., and are now living at their ease in the village of Albert.

Mrs. Frerichs was reared to womanhood in this county and was educated in the common schools. Of her union with our subject there have been born two sons and one daughter—Richard T., Herman A. and Pearl A. Mr. and Mrs. F. began the journey of life together in Talmage, where they have lived since their marriage, and have gathered around them many friends. Our subject, politically, is an earnest supporter of Republican principles, and for three years has been Village Treasurer, also Treasurer of the School Board. He takes kindly to the institutions of his adopted country, having become thoroughly Americanized and identified with its interests. He has kept his eyes open to what was going on around him in the world, and is fast attaining to the position of a leading citizen in his community.

EUZENIUS WILHELM, the owner of a farm of 320 acres on section 25, Belmont Precinct, was born in Saxony, Prussia, on the 3d of May, 1817, to Anton and Ephie Wilhelm. Our subject was brought up and educated in his native place, and came to the United States in 1837. Upon arriving at New York he made his way to Philadelphia, where he remained for about one year, and then went to Indiana, and from that State, later, proceeded to New Orleans, where he continued for four years, working at his trade, which was that of a carpenter. Leaving New Orleans our subject went to Atchison County, Mo., in the year 1841, and from there in 1850 to California, where he was mining gold for four years, after which he returned to Missouri, and in the fall of 1855 came to this county, which presented a very different appearance to what it does at present.

On the site of Nebraska City at the time Mr. Wilhelm arrived there was nothing excepting the old empty dismantled fort and a few log cabins, but very shortly after building began and settlers arrived. Our subject has been a very hard worker,

and has been largely connected with the lumber and milling interests. He put up the first steam sawmill in Nebraska City, and was the first to saw lumber by the aid of steam in that city, if not, indeed, in the State. He continued to run the mill for about twenty years, and made a large amount of money there. He settled upon his present farm in 1870, but had owned it since 1862, and gradually improved it as he found opportunity.

The subject of this sketch was married, in January, 1837, to Martha Herget, who, like himself, is a native of Prussia. Six children have been born to them, but only two are now living, viz: Mary and John. Mary married Gust Mitchner, of Rock Creek Precinct, and has five children, whose names are as follows: William, Henry, Rosa, Josephine and Mary. John married Eva Warton, and lives in Four Mile Precinct, and they are the parents of three children.

Mr. Wilhelm and his family are members of the Catholic Church, and attend the services at Nebraska City. He has made whatever has attended his life by simply continuous hard work and excellent thrift, in which he has always been assisted by his excellent wife. Politically, he is a member of the Democratic body, and votes the ticket presented by it. Mr. Wilhelm also has 320 acres of good land in Palmyra Prucinct, this county.

JOSEPH DAVIS, well known among the business men of Nebraska City, has officiated as night watchman around its leading business houses for the past eight years. This fact alone indicates his reliability, and the standing which he occupies in the community. He has a remarkably pleasant home in the northwestern part of the city, a neat dwelling handsomely furnished, and presided over by a very estimable lady, who has for some time carried on a very successful dressmaking establishment, which is patronized by the fashionable ladies of the city.

The subject of this sketch was born on the farm of his father near Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 11, 1833, and was there reared until a youth of seventeen years. He is the son of Joseph and Lucy (Herrin) Davis, the former a native of South Carolina and the latter of Scotland. The mother came with her parents to the United States early in life, and after their marriage Joseph and Lucy Davis settled on a farm in Hopkins County, Ky., where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father, a slave-holder, carried on agriculture successfully, and died in 1869, at the age of seventy-seven years. The mother preceded her husband to the silent land, her death taking place when she was scarcely middle-aged, being forty years old.

Joseph Davis occupied his Kentucky homestead for more than fifty years, and in the meantime drew around him a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The parental household included seven children, namely: John, David, William D., Robert H., Verine, Daniel H. and Joseph. They were given a common-school edueation, and Joseph, upon leaving home, began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade. The father was wealthy, but Joseph realized that riches sometimes take wings, and resolved to secure himself against future want by becoming master of a trade. One spring, however, when work was very pressing, he overheated himself, and at the same time was injured by a horse which he was shoeing, and for a long time afterward suffered a serious illness, which threatened to place him in an early grave.

About this time the California gold fever was raging at its height, and young Davis, more in quest of health than riches, determined to seek the Pacific Slope. He set out in company with nineteen of his acquaintances, and proceeded first to New York City, whence they boarded a steamer, intending to make the trip via the Isthmus of Panama. The steamer became disabled before reaching her destination, and was only able to proceed very slowly, during which time both passengers and crew were almost starved. They, however, finally safely arrived in San Francisco, and in due time the bracing air of California had its desired effect upon our subject, strengthening him to such an extent that he was soon enabled to work in the mines. He purchased a claim in the Placer diggings, which proved very profitable, and became member of a stock company of four, who labored together until late in the season, and then retired into winter quarters,

with the agreement that each should appear promptly on their respective claims April 2d of the following spring.

This compact was, however, very difficult to carry out, as the snowdrifts impeded the passage, so that our subject was delayed a day, not being able to put in an appearance until April 3. He found his claim taken by other parties, and thus lost it. He then turned his attention to mining in other districts of California, where he continued for a period of six years with results quite satisfactory.

Our subject, while a resident of California, made the acquaintance of a charming young lady, Miss Nellie McCallum, who became his wife Jan. 22, 1866, their marriage taking place on Vancouver's Island. Afterward they took an extensive tour on the Pacific Slope, traveling through California, Oregon and Washington Territory, visiting the city of Portland and other important points, and finally started for the old home of our subject in Kentucky. Arriving there, Mr. Davis found his father seriously ill, and he remained with him until his death, which took place in October, 1867.

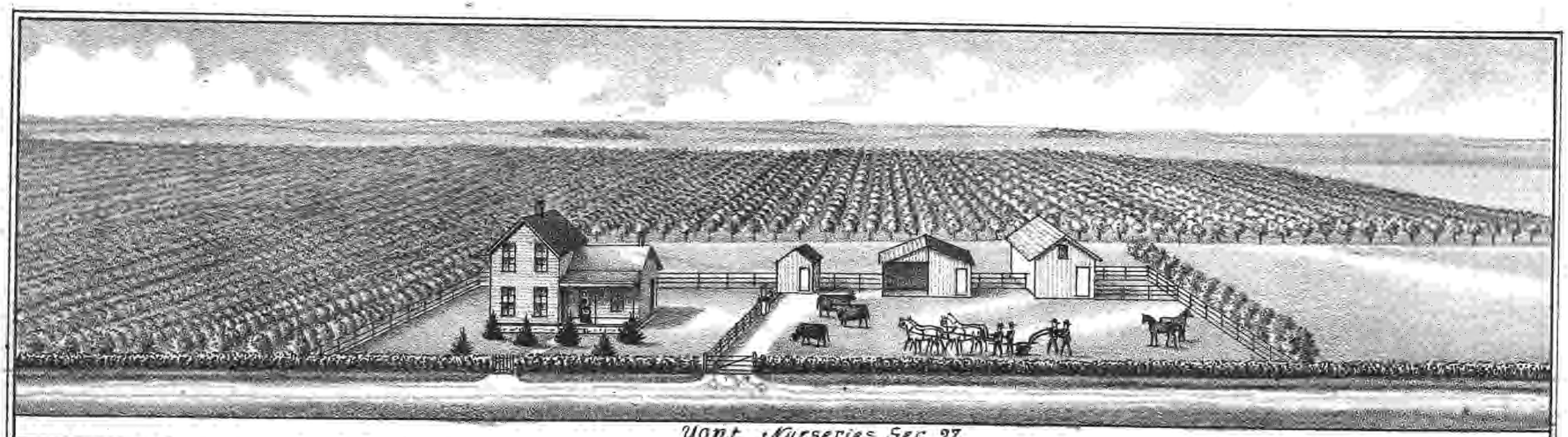
After this sad event Mr. and Mrs. Davis started on the return trip to California, taking in St. Louis and Nebraska City on the way. At this latter point Mr. Davis was taken desperately ill with smallpox, which for days threatened his life, but he finally recovered, about one month from the time of being taken down, and then decided to tarry awhile in this region. He accordingly purchased three lots and a small house in the vicinity of his present residence, and occupied himself as a painter, which trade he had learned in California. He continued at this a number of years with excellent results. By writing he learned that his property had passed out of his hands by default. He, however, resolved to make the best of circumstances, and, by the assistance of his excellent and sensible wife, has an attractive and comfortable home and is surrounded by the good things of life. The family residence, which was put up by our subject in the summer of 1887, is a tasteful and substantial structure in the midst of pleasant surroundings, and is in a choice locality on Second avenue.

Mr. Davis, like all genuine Kentuckians, is a great lover of good horses and cattle, and, although living in the heart of the city, points with pardonable pride to the inmates of his barn, which include some fine Jersey cows and a span of beautiful and valuable horses. Our subject and his excellent wife have no children of their own, but are performing the part of kind parents to an adopted daughter, Dora, who is now thirteen years of age. Mr. Davis has an interest in some of the silver mines of Colorado, from the proceeds of which he realizes sufficiently to pay him for his time and trouble in looking after them. He is a man of decided views, and a stanch supporter of Democratic principles.

JOHN SCHMITZ, who is prominently known throughout Rock Creek Precinct, is one of its most successful and progressive farmers, and the owner of 240 acres of valuable land, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. He has a set of substantial frame buildings, including a dwelling, with barn and outhouses, an orchard of apple trees and the smaller fruits, and everything calculated for his own comfort and those dependent upon him.

Mr. Schmitz came to Nebraska from Lorain County, Ohio, of which he had been a resident for a period of ten years. His native State was Wisconsin, and he was born in Jefferson County, Oct. 14, 1842. While a young child, his parents removed to Fond du Lac County, where he was reared and educated, and whence he emigrated to Ohio after reaching his majority. He came to this county in the spring of 1874, locating on the land which he now owns and occupies, and which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie land to one of the best farms in the precinct.

Our subject is of substantial German ancestry, being the son of Peter and Margret (Schneider) Schmitz, who were natives of Germany, and are now living in Rock Creek Precinct. The parental household consisted of eight children, five of whom are living, and making their homes in Otoe County. John, after laying the foundation for a future home of his own, was united in marriage with Miss Jo-



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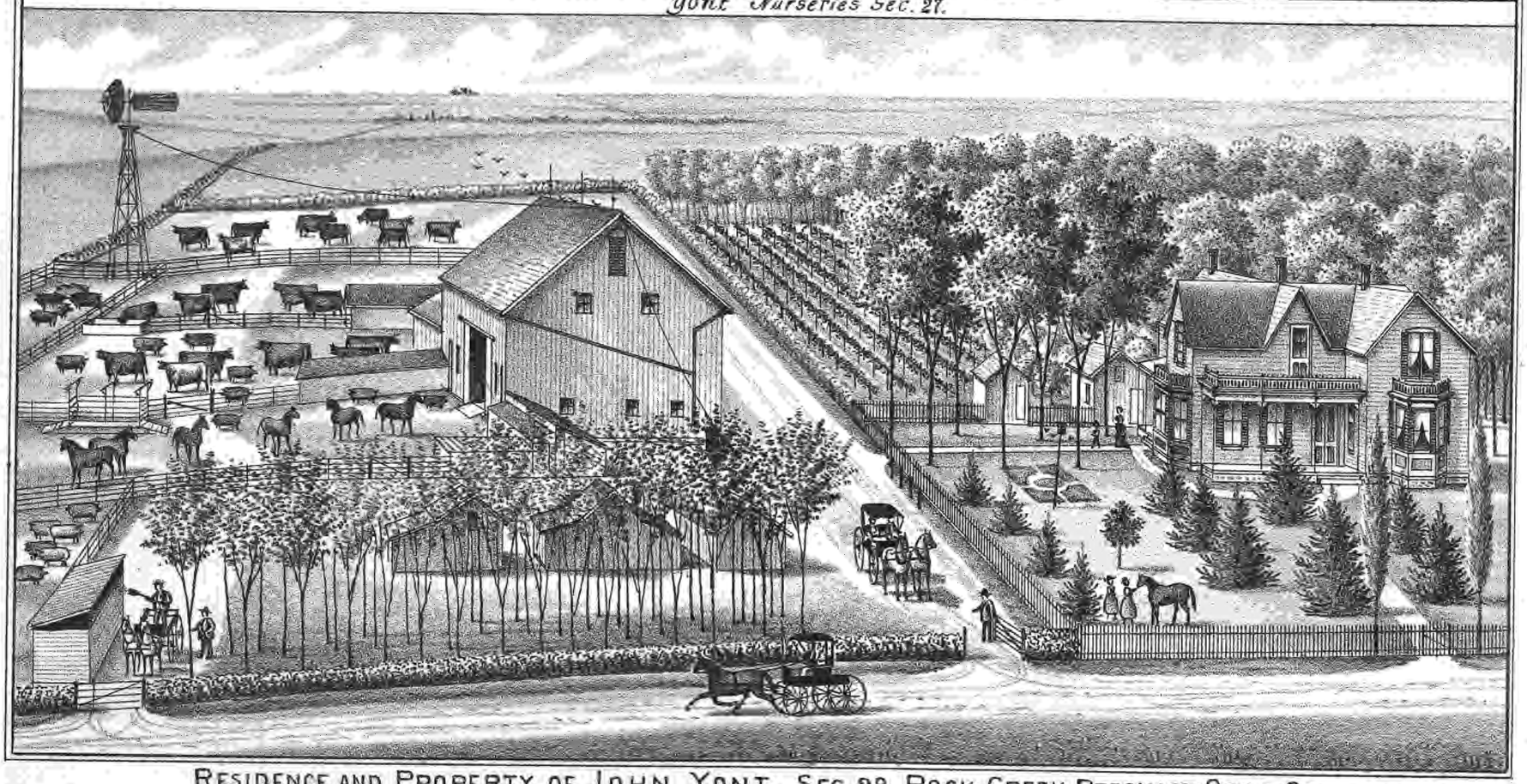


RESIDENCE AND PROPERTY OF JOHN YONT, SEC. 28. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT, OTOE CO.

hanna Seifert, a native of Prussia, who emigrated to America with her parents when a young woman. After setting foot upon American soil they came directly to the West, and located at once in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where they are still living in the enjoyment of a comfortable home, the father successfully carrying on farming.

Mrs. Schmitz received an excellent education in the German tongue, and has been the true helpmate of her husband in all respects. She is a lady possessing many womanly virtues, intelligent as a companion, methodical and careful as a housekeeper. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: Henry, born Dec. 6, 1875, and Emanuel, Dec. 1, 1885. Mr. Schmitz, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the German Catholic Church, attending religious services in Rock Creek Precinct. He is a member of the School Board of his district, and is imbued with the sentiments of his ancestry in regard to the thorough education of the young. As a farmer, he is thorough and skillful, and as a business man, prompt to meet his obligations, thus distinguishing himself as an honest man and a good citizen, and, possessing these qualities, is considered one of the most valued members of his community. His farm is not only a credit to himself but to this county, with whose interests he has been identified now for a period of thirteen years.

JOHN YONT. There are few more intelligent and well-informed men in the farming community of Rock Creek Precinct than the subject of this sketch. In addition to the tilling of the soil he is quite extensively engaged in stock-raising, and has one of the finest homesteads in the precinct. His property embraces 480 acres of land, on sections 27, 28, 33 and 34. The homestead proper comprises the southeast quarter of section 28, his first possession in this county, and is supplied with first-class buildings. The residence is particularly noticeable, being of a pleasing style of architecture, handsomely furnished, and attractive in its surroundings. There is an abundance of fruit and shade trees, and an apple orchard of 700 trees in good bearing condition.

Mr. Yont crossed the Mississippi in the spring of 1857, and lived one year in Des Moines County, Iowa. He came to Nebraska in 1858, and on the 19th of July, 1859, secured his pre-emption claim, although he did not take up his residence here until ten years later. During the first four years of his residence in Nebraska he worked by the month; after that he bought a team and began freighting across the plains from Nebraska City to various points in the West, frequently going as far as Julesburg, Col. This business he followed about eight years. In the meantime he became fully acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of life on the frontier, meeting all sorts of men, and frequently having to use considerable strategy to keep out of trouble. While camping out and keeping bachelor's hall he also learned to be a good cook. He first began the improvement of his farm in the spring of 1871, putting up his first substantial building that year. He had prior to this erected a shanty, and made things as comfortable as possible until he could do better.

Our subject, a native of Pennsylvania, was born near the city of Pittsburgh, April 25, 1838. His parents, John and Agatha (Derterly) Yont, were natives of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, the father born in 1800. They were reared and married in their native Province, and John Yont, Sr., learned the trade of stonemason, which he followed considerably, and also engaged in farming. After coming to the United States the parents settled in Pennsylvania, and the father occupied himself at his trade and at farming near the city of Pittsburgh. He was prospered in his labors, and made many friends among the people of his community.

The mother died there after having nearly attained her threescore years. The father later joined his son, our subject, in Nebraska, and died at the home of the latter, Oct. 19, 1877, at the age of seventy years. Both he and his excellent wife were members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and the father for a time after coming to this country voted with the old Whig party. Later, how-

ever, he identified himself with the Democracy, the principles of which he supported until his death.

John Yont was the seventh child in a family of three sons and seven daughters, of whom himself and three of his sisters are living. Two of these continue residents of Pennsylvania, and one lives in Nemaha County, this State. John remained under the home roof until coming to the West. On the 24th of December, 1865, he was married, in Sidney, Iowa, to Miss Sophia Atkinson, who was born in Pennsylvania near the childhood home of our subject, Nov. 10, 1842. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Miller) Atkinson, were of American birth, but of Irish and Dutch descent respectively. They lived in Pennsylvania after their marriage for a time, and then emigrated with their little family to the West, while Mrs. Yont was a small child. They first took up their residence in Fremont County, Iowa, the father pre-empting land near the embryo town of Sidney, where he improved a good farm, and where the mother died ripe in years, Oct. 15, 1872. The father later joined his children in Nebraska, and now makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Muir, of Rock Creek Precinct, this county, being seventy-eight years old. After coming West one more child was added to the household circle, and the family in all consisted of four sons and three daughters. Five of these are living, one resides in Washington Territory, one in Minneapolis, and the others in Nebraska.

Mrs. Yont received her education in the pioneer schools of Fremont County, Iowa, and remained with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of eight children. The eldest son, Charles A., is a successful teacher in the public schools of this county; Edwin C., Jesse G., Alonzo E., Rose and Lilly (twins), Victor and Etta are all at home with their parents. They are a very intelligent and interesting group, and will be given the advantages in keeping with their station in life. Edwin C. and Jesse are graduates of the Business College at Lincoln; Charles A. attended the Nebraska State University and also the Normal School, and is thoroughly qualified for his chosen profession.

The wife of our subject is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Yont takes a warm interest in the temperance movement, and since 1885 has voted with the Prohibitionists. He is a man in whom his fellow-citizens have abundant confidence, and has held various local offices. The family are widely known and highly respected for their intelligence and sterling worth, and their handsome home, a view of which is shown on another page, is one of the most pleasant and hospitable resorts to be found in the State of Nebraska.

WALTER S. EIS, one of the most energetic and prosperous farmers of Russell Precinct, owns and operates 160 acres of land comprising the southeast quarter of section 31. During the six years of his residence here he has effected good improvements, and distinguished himself as a man of more than ordinary business abilities, besides being a thorough and skillful agriculturist. The home and its surroundings is one of the most attractive in this part of the county. The wife of our subject, a very intelligent and capable lady, presides over his domestic affairs in the most praiseworthy manner, and performs her part in maintaining the reputation of the homestead as a place to which it is very pleasant to repair both for friend and stranger.

Our subject is of German ancestry on the father's side, Jacob Eis having been born in Prussia, whence he emigrated with his father when a youth of sixteen years. They settled first in Ohio, and Jacob, six years later, desiring to see something of the Great West made his way across the Mississippi into Muscatine County, Iowa, where he was employed by the month on a farm until 1861. He had in the meantime with genuine German thrift and prudence saved up a snug sum of money, which he invested in forty acres of land, and began farming on his own account. He made considerable improvement, and as time passed on added to his real estate, so that he is now the owner of 220 acres, all of which he has brought to a good state of cultivation, and now has first-class buildings, all the modern machinery, a fair assortment of live stock, and the general appurtenances of a modern country estate. In short, he has accumulated a competence for his old age.

Jacob Eis in early manhood had married Miss Mary Irwin, who was born near the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. She came with her family to the Hawkeye State, and died in Muscatine County, in April, 1861. Of this union there were born four children—John D., Charles H., Walter S. (our subject) and Boardman A. The three brothers of Walter S. are residents of Nebraska.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Eis was married to her sister Rebecca, who died at her home in Muscatine County, Iowa, May 27, 1884. Of this union there were born eight children, namely: Elry J., Albert N., Abraham L., Gracie E., Jacob M., Rosa, Alice and Arthur G.

Walter S. Eis was born in Muscatine County, Iowa, Jan. 24, 1858, and remained upon the farm with his father until twenty-four years of age. He had in the meantime acquired a common-school education, and became familiar with the various details of farm life. He was now married, and in the spring of 1882 came to this county and located on his present farm in Russell Precinct. The improvements which the passing traveler admires with interest are the result of the industry of the proprietor, and indicate that he has spent very few idle hours. He has considerable wire fencing around his fields, an orchard embracing three acres, and the choicest of apple trees besides the smaller fruits, while the healthy groves form a shelter from the heat of summer and the winds of winter, both to man and beast.

Our subject was first married in his native county Feb. 2, 1882, to Miss Effie M., daughter of Andrew and Mary (Eaton) Baker. Her father farms on eighty acres of land in Muscatine County. The mother died in November, 1880, at the age of forty-nine years. The household circle included four children, three sons and one daughter, the brothers of Mrs. Eis being John, Theodore and Charles. Mrs. E. was born in Muscatine County, June 2, 1862, and by her union with our subject became the mother of two children, sons—Hugh and Boardman. She departed this life at her home in Russell Precinct, Oct. 12, 1885.

Mr. Eis contracted a second matrimonial alliance on the 10th of November, 1886, with Miss Jennie Palmer, who was born near Fowlersville, Mich., June 5, 1863. Mrs. Jennie Eis is the daughter of S. S. and Hattie L. (Evans) Palmer, the former a native of Baltimore, Md., and the latter of Michigan. They are both living, and reside near Davenport, Iowa, where the father is engaged in farming. The family consists of four children, three daughters and one son, namely: Jennie, Clara, Eugene and Eva.

To our subject and his present wife there has been born one child, a son, Guy R. Mrs. Eis is a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has been quite active in local politics, and in the fall of 1887 was sent as a delegate to the Republican County Convention. He has served as School Director in his district for a term of five years.

WALLACE MUNN, a well-to-do farmer of Berlin Precinct, is in possession of one of its best regulated farms and most attractive homes. He owns and operates the northeast quarter of section 12, and his household is presided over by his daughter Laura, a very intelligent and well-educated young lady, formerly a teacher.

Wayne County, Ohio, was the early tramping ground of our subject, and where his birth took place at the modest homestead of his parents, Sept. 12, 1838. The latter were Bethuel and Arvilla (Jones) Munn, natives of New York State. Grandfather Munn was of Scotch descent, and a butcher by trade, which he followed in New York City for a number of years. Bethuel Munn in early life learned millwrighting, which he followed in his native State until his removal to the West. This journey was accomplished about 1829, he locating among the pioneers of Wayne County, Ohio, where he took up 160 acres of timber land, upon which he lived and labored until his death, in 1854, at the age of sixty-two years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land ten years, her death taking place in 1844, when she was but thirty-nine years old. Their family consisted of nine children, who were named respectively: Darwin, deceased; Abijah; Silas, deceased; Mortimer, Eugene; Wallace, our subject, and his twin brother

Warren, who, in the fall of 1888, moved to Florida; Jane and Arvilla. Seven of these are living, making their homes mostly in Nebraska.

Our subject after the death of his father began an apprenticeship at the cabinet trade, in Wooster, Ohio. His education had comprised a period of three years spent in the common school. He continued in his native State until the spring of 1859, then made his way across the Mississippi to Pettis County, Mo., where he spent the following summer, and thence migrated to Des Moines, Iowa. Being seized with a fit of homesickness he started back to Missouri on foot, but at Indianola met a party coming to Nebraska City and joined them, but after reaching this place concluded to move on, and went down the Missouri to Georgetown, Mo., where he resumed his trade, forming a partnership with William Dorsey in the cabinet and undertaking business, and lived there until 1861.

Mr. Munn now decided to revisit Nebraska, but again took in Ft. Des Moines, and remained there until December, 1861, and from there returned to his native State. He farmed on the old homestead thereafter for two years, and in the spring of 1865 went overland to Salt Lake, and from there to Virginia City, Mont., and wintered in Boulder Valley, Mont.; he then began freighting across the plains through Wyoming to Helena, Mont. In the fall of 1866 our subject returned to Ohio, where he was married in 1867, and, settling in Defiance County, was employed in an oar factory until the fall of 1867.

Mr. Munn, in the spring of 1868, came to this county, determined to make permanent settlement, and purchased the land which he now owns and occupies, paying for it the sum of $1,750. He at once commenced the improvement of his purchase, hauling building material from Nebraska City. He set out groves, an orchard of apple and cherry trees, put up a house and barn, and has added those little embellishments from time to time which have so much to do in promoting the comfort and enjoyment of a family. His land possesses many natural advantages, among them one of the finest springs in the county. His fields are divided by hedge and wire fencing, and, besides raising corn and grain in large quantities, Mr. Munn makes a specialty of stock-raising, and feeds annually large numbers of cattle and swine, while he has a number of good horses. Besides his property in this county he has a timber claim in Thomas County, Kan. He has suffered most of the hardships of life in a new county, battling with grasshoppers, drouth, etc., but has come out of it all with flying colors.

Our subject was married in Wayne County, Ohio, Feb. 28, 1867, to Miss Mary Groff, who was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Feb. 2, 1842. This lady became the mother of five children, and departed this life at her home in Berlin Precinct, Dec. 10, 1887. The eldest child of our subject is his only son, Silas. The daughters are Laura, Edith, Iola and Maude; they are all at home with their father. Mr. Munn votes the straight Democratic ticket, has served on the Grand and Petit Juries, and has been an efficient worker in his party, being frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He has also served on the School Board of his precinct several years. His children are bright and intelligent, are being given a thorough education, and trained in the principles of religion and morality. They attend the Good Will Sunday-school. The daughter Laura, who has taken the mother's place in the household, is discharging her filial duties in a most creditable and praiseworthy manner. Mr. Munn has been quite a traveler in his time, his journeyings extending over a large portion of the West.

JOHN F. RENKEN. The career of this old and highly respected resident of Rock Creek Precinct has been that of an industrious and successful farmer, who, having secured a competency, is now living retired from active labor at his fine homestead on section 30. Upon this he has lived for a period of twenty-nine years, having settled upon the land which he had pre-empted from the Government in the spring of 1859. The farm is 146 acres in extent, has been brought to a fine state of cultivation, and is well supplied with good buildings. Stock-raising has formed one of the important features of the place.

In addition to the home farm Mr. Renken owns

other land in this county to the extent of 224 acres, all of which is improved and in a productive condition. He came to this county during the period of its early settlement, and when the small town of Nebraska City was his nearest market. He migrated to Nebraska from Madison County, Ill., of which he had been a resident five years, and where he had settled upon his emigration from his native land. He was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, April 6, 1827, and is the son of Henry Renken, who was of pure German ancestry, and joined his son, John F., in this country in the spring of 1868, when quite well advanced in years. He had been accompanied across the Atlantic by another son, and settled in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where his death took place in 1872, after he had arrived at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He had followed farming all his life, and had presented the example of an honest man and good citizen. He had been trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran religion, and to these adhered faithfully until he passed away. The mother, Mrs. Anna (Engle) Renken, died at the old home in Germany in 1860, at the age of seventy years.

The subject of this sketch was reared at home with his two brothers and one sister, and received a fair education in the schools of his native Kingdom. After leaving school he was employed at farming mostly, and was twenty-seven years of age and unmarried when he came to the United States. Not long after settling in Madison County, Ill., he took unto himself a wife and helpmate, Miss Catherine Tietken, who was born in Germany not far from the childhood home of her husband. Her father died in 1887, and her mother in 1872, in Germany. She joined her brother in the United States in 1856, when she was twenty-five years old. Of her marriage with our subject there have been born eight children, four of whom are deceased, namely: Herman (1st), John, Herman and Anna E. Those surviving are: Henry, who is employed as a clerk in a general store at Talmage; E. Margaret, at home with her parents; John F., Jr., a teacher in a school of the Lutheran Church in Woodford County, Ill., and William, who remains with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Renken not long after their marriage settled upon a farm in Madison County, Ill., but in 1859 crossed the Mississippi. Our subject has given his attention strictly to agricultural pursuits since coming to America. He and his family are connected with the Lutheran Church, in which Mrs. Renken is a Class-Leader and an interested worker, warmly devoted to her religious duties. Politically, our subject votes the straight Republican ticket. He meddles very little with politics and has no aspirations for office. Mr. Renken held the office of School Director for a term of eighteen years.

ENOCH G. KING, the young, competent and enterprising pharmacist at Dunbar, Delaware Precinct, was born on the 27th of June, 1860, in Logan County, Ill., near Atlanta. His father, Cyrus King, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, in the year 1822, and by occupation was a farmer. The maiden name of his mother was Mary George. She was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, in the year 1824. After their marriage his parents made their home in Illinois. Their home circle included four children—our subject, James E., Robert C. and Elnora.

The subject of our sketch was reared upon a farm and received his education in the district schools, after which he attended the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso, Ind. In the year 1884 he came to this State and stopped at Dunbar. Until the following spring he engaged in teaching in that vicinity, and then went to Berlin, in this county. There he continued teaching for six months, which made two years he had been thus engaged. He then entered the store of Mr. Allen as drug clerk, continuing until March of 1886, when he became the partner of Mr. Allen in the drug-store at Dunbar. The following March he purchased the entire business, and has since that time run it alone. He carries a full line of drugs and medicines, which he supplements with such articles as are usually found in similar stores in towns of the same size as Dunbar, including clocks, watches and jewelry, various articles used in house decoration, books, stationery, etc.

On the 20th of September, 1887, our subject was joined in matrimony with Miss Lou Jones, the

daughter of Robert and Mercy Jones, of Dunbar. Her father being deceased, her mother is living with them. Mrs. King is a devout member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and our subject attends the same congregation. Although not a church member, he is a liberal supporter of religious and benevolent institutions.

Mr. King is a stanch Republican, and the fact that, entirely unsought by him, he was appointed Postmaster here on the 25th of September, 1888, testifies abundantly to the esteem in which he is held, and his popularity as a man and citizen. Prior to her marriage the wife of our subject held the office of Postmistress for three years.

FOLKERT FASS, Recorder of Deeds of Otoe County, is performing the duties of his office with honor to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. He is a resident of Nebraska City, and has made his home here for several years. He is an intelligent, well-informed man, has traveled quite extensively in the Western States and Territories, and has seen much of frontier life. He was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, March 26, 1849. His father, Conrad Fass, was born in the same locality, and there spent his entire life, being for many years actively engaged in the general mercantile business. He was an upright, honest man, well worthy of the confidence in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. His estimable wife, whose maiden name was Annie Margaret Falkers, was a native of the same place as himself, and a lifelong resident there. Six of the children born to her and her husband grew to maturity, namely: John B., Mary C., Herman H., Folkert, Annie M. and Gesine Fredericka. The subject of this sketch and his brother Herman are the only members of the family who live in America. The latter is married and lives in Nebraska City.

Folkert Fass, of whom we write, obtained a liberal education in the schools of his native land, which he attended quite steadily until he was sixteen years of age. In 1868, when he was but nineteen years of age, he ambitiously decided to try his fortunes in the New World, and immediately after landing in this country he made his way directly to Missouri. He staid there but a short time, however, and then came to Nebraska City, arriving here in the fall of that year. In December he returned to Missouri, and in the following summer, in company with a number of others, started from that point, with a pair of mules and a wagon, to drive to Dallas, Tex., then a small town. After spending a short time there our subject started on a pedestrian tour to Louisville, Denton County, taking provisions with him and cooking and camping by the way. He lived there nearly a year, and then resumed his journey across the wilds of Texas to the Rio Grande. A part of the journey lay through an uncultivated country, where antelopes, deer and other wild game abounded, and Indians still made their homes there. He soon returned to Louisville, and from there went to the Indian Territory and visited Ft. Smith, from whence he crossed the mountains to Arkansas, and at Marysville, that State, sold his team and took passage in a stage for Missouri. At that time there was a line of railway completed to Indian Territory, and in 1872 Mr. Fass went by rail to that part of the country, whence he went to Ft. Scott, Kan., and from there to Kansas City. In December of that year he again returned to Carrolton, Mo., and once more started with a team from there and came to Nebraska City, of which he has since been a continuous resident.

Thus ended our subject's travels, which had taken him over many hundred miles of this country, and he being an observing, wide-awake man, profited much by his fine opportunities for gaining knowledge of its many and varied resources, laying up a good fund of information, besides having a thorough experience of life on the frontier. We are sorry that the brief limits of this sketch will not permit us to record some of the interesting incidents of his journeyings to and fro, or to describe some of the scenes that he passed through. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Fass was elected to his present office as Recorder of Deeds, and by his faithful and conscientious discharge of his work has shown himself well worthy of the trust reposed in him by his fellow-citizens, and proved himself to be an efficient public official.

Our subject has a pleasant home, rendered cozy

and comfortable by the wife to whom he was united in marriage in May, 1876. Mrs. Fass was formerly Miss Mary Winkler, a native of Germany, who came to America with her mother and grandmother when she was five years of age, and was reared in Chicago, Ill. Of their union three children have been born—Gesine M., George C. F. and Elbe. In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Fass returned to their old home in Germany, and spent a few pleasant weeks amid the scenes of their youth.

HON. DAUVERSE NEFF. This name will bring before the minds of many readers of this volume a face and character well known, and that by no means unfavorably, for the subject of this sketch is one of the most valued citizens of Syracuse. Through years of manhood he has toiled in order to better his position in life, but has always found time and opportunity to give expression to his devotion to the interests of the community of which he is a resident. In the comparative retirement from active affairs which he elects to enjoy he finds the reward of former years of untiring effort and persevering industry. He has been a resident of Otoe County since 1877, and in the years since that time has impressed all who know him with a sense of his high character, large business capacity and sterling worth.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 21st of May, 1834, in New Lisbon, Otsego Co., N. Y., and is the son of Silas and Polly Neff, who were likewise natives of the Empire State, and died in New Lisbon. Our subject was one of four children born to them, one of whom was a daughter. By a former marriage Mr. Neff, Sr., had become the parent of eight other children. By trade he was a carpenter, which he followed with considerable success. He died when our subject was but eleven years of age, leaving his widow to bring up unassisted the children whom it had been his hope to have seen enter their various paths in life and to have helped them in the same.

Until he attained his majority the subject of this sketch continued to work upon a farm, and there laid the foundation, in habits of thought and industry, for future success and prosperity. In December, 1854, he went to LaFayette County, Wis., where he followed the joint occupations of farming and school teaching. Three years later he purchased an interest in a general store at Calamine, Wis., which continued for five years under the firm name of Smith & Neff; later he became the sole proprietor, and so continued until 1877, by which time the business had very largely increased, and he had become interested in the lumber trade, and also in grain. In each of these enterprises fortune favored our subject, and he continued to progress in them year by year. He came to Syracuse, as was noted above, in 1877, and immediately engaged in mercantile pursuits. Somewhat later he associated with a gentleman in business under the firm name of D. Neff & Co., after which he again embarked in the grain trade. This he continued until January, 1887, when he removed from a direct interest in the business, and has since lived a somewhat retired life. Two reasons led up to this step—first, that he had a competency sufficient to warrant the step; secondly, and chiefly, because his hearing failed him very rapidly, leaving him almost without any power in that direction.

Mr. Neff is still the owner of two well-improved and admirably cultivated farms, each of 160 acres in extent; also a half-interest in a store at Hildreth, in this State, which is operated by his brother Franklin, under the firm name of Neff Bros. This was the first store established in that place, and is still one of the leading houses of business. He is also a Director of the First National Bank of Syracuse, the responsibilities of which office, linked with his other business interests, leave him sufficient to do to relieve the tedium of a life that would otherwise be exceedingly dull to one who has been so constantly active as our subject.

Mr. Neff was married, on the 9th of February, 1863, to Harriet A., daughter of Rev. Hewitt and Julia M. (Howell) Fitch. The father of this lady was a native of New Lisbon, N. Y., and a clergyman of the Baptist Church. He served in this sacred office for a period of thirteen years at Edmundton Centre, N. Y. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Neff has been blessed and its felicities much augmented by the birth of four children, of whom

they have been privileged to rear three, viz: Clarence, Homer and Walter. Their daughter Mattie died at the age of ten years.

Mrs. Neff is an earnest, devoted member of the Baptist Church, and is most highly esteemed by reason of the beautiful Christian life which adorns her profession. Our subject, although not a member of the church, is a true friend of good morals and every social virtue. His own character and social status were such as to commend him to his fellow-citizens, so much so that he was called upon to represent them in his district while a resident in the State of Wisconsin, in the Legislature of that State. He also served as Justice of the Peace, and since coming to Nebraska has held several offices and trusts. He is a stanch Republican, and has always been accounted a true friend to the party and a loyal citizen. It is his pleasure to number among his friends all the best citizens of the county, by whom also he is much respected. His life is an instance of what may be accomplished by noble, vigorous, manly effort and endeavor.

REV. THOMAS L. AUSTIN, a resident of Rock Creek Precinct, and Postmaster at Julian, labored for a number of years in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but of late has given his attention largely to agricultural pursuits. He has a fine farm of 240 acres, located on section 36, of which he took possession in May, 1870, when its condition was in wide contrast to that of the present. It was then an unbroken stretch of prairie, undisturbed by the plowshare, but is now one of the most valuable farms in this part of the county. In bringing it to its present condition it is hardly necessary to say there have been employed years of time and labor, and no small outlay of money. The buildings are neat and substantial, the dwelling is admirably adapted to all the comforts of rural life, and the barns and out-buildings conveniently arranged for the storing of grain and the shelter of stock.

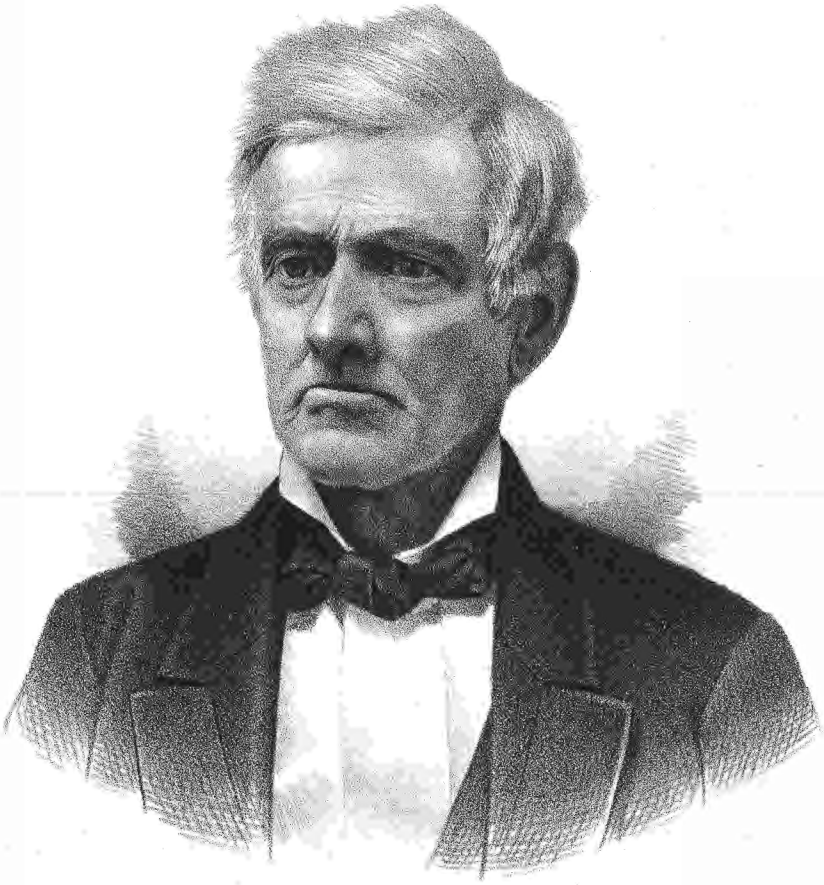
Our subject, a native of Virginia, was born near the city of Lynchburg in Campbell County, Sept. 29, 1822. His father, Alex Austin, was a surveyor by profession, which he followed partially, but also carried on farming. He also was a native of the Old Dominion, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter emigrating to America from the North of Ireland prior to the Revolutionary War.

The father of our subject was reared and educated in his native State, but went over into North Carolina for his bride, being married there to Miss Elizabeth Burgess, a daughter of one of the prominent families of the State. She was of English ancestry, and her paternal grandfather was a preacher under the reign of King George III. The parents after their marriage settled in Virginia, the father carrying on agriculture in Campbell County, and both spending there the remainder of their days. The mother died when about sixty-five years of age. Alex Austin survived his excellent wife many years, his death taking place when ninety-one years old. During the War of 1812 he did gallant service as a Colonel of the 53d Virginia Infantry, and in politics was a member of the old Whig party. Both parents were members of the Episcopal Church. Their family consisted of nine children, eight sons and one daughter, three of whom are living, making their homes mostly in Campbell County, Va.

Our subject received a good education in his native county, and at an early age exhibited unusual thoughtfulness and intelligence. He was ordained a minister of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church about 1844, and since that time has labored more or less in the Master's vineyard. He was married in Campbell County to Miss Mattie Ward, who was born there in 1824, and is the daughter of Seth and Martha (Noble) Ward, the former of English descent, and a farmer by occupation. He died in middle life when his daughter Mattie was a small child. The mother continued a resident of the Old Dominion, and died in Mississippi about 1882.

Mrs. Austin was reared mostly by her paternal grandparents, receiving a common-school education, and being trained carefully to all housewifely duties. She is now the mother of nine children, of whom William A. and Elizabeth are married, and residents of Nebraska. The others, Susan M., Sally

Matilda McMechan



G. M. Meshaw

B., Mary E., Lucy W., George E. and Roberta L., are at home with their parents. Mr. Austin, politically, is a sound Democrat, and in 1887 was appointed to his present office.

JOHN H. McMECHAN is a practical, prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Four Mile Precinct, and he is managing with marked success the old homestead that was once the property of his father, the late John McMechan, a well-known and widely respected pioneer of Otoe County. Our subject was born in Zanesville, Ohio, Feb. 22, 1839, coming of good old stock, his ancestors representing an ancient Scotch family, one of whose members, the great-grandfather of our subject, during the Reformation settled near Belfast, Ireland, and became one of the large landowners of the Kingdom. Later, in the early years of this century, one of the scions of that house, the grandfather of our subject, a brave, high-spirited, energetic man, emigrated to America and cast in his lot with the pioneers of Ohio.

We are pleased to be able to give so much interesting history of the life of John McMechan, the father of our subject:

John McMechan died Nov. 3, 1883, at "Headwood," the family residence in Otoe County, near Nebraska City, of the infirmities incident to old age, being eighty-three years and twenty-three days old. The McMechan family is of Scotch origin, and lived in Ayrshire, but being active and leading members of the "Solemn League and Covenant," was forced by religious persecution to leave Scotland in 1650, and settled in County Antrim in Ireland, near "White Abbey," five miles from the city of Belfast. John McMechan, the father of the subject of our sketch, was a wealthy land-owner, and the family estate in Ayrshire and Antrim County numbered several thousand acres of grazing and tillable land. His wife was a Miss Mary Ballentine, daughter of David Ballentine, of Ayrshire, and grandniece of Lord John Ballentine, a cousin of Mary Queen of Scots. John McMechan was born on the 10th of October, 1800, at the family homestead, "Carmonia," near the "White Abbey," five miles from Belfast. He had four brothers and five sisters. He survived all of his brothers and two of his sisters. In 1810 the family came to America and settled in Belmont County, Ohio, eight miles from Wheeling, Va., and his father in the same year purchased the "Indian Springs" farm, so called from the springs at which the Indians camped previous to attacking Wheeling. His parents being Covenanters, were remarkably reverent in their observances of the teachings of divine truth, and he being early impressed with them grew up with an abiding sense of duty and right, and a strong hostility to false pretenses. He received a good and thorough common-school education, the best to be had in those days in that new and sparsely settled country. He also learned the lessons of a high moral culture and of industrial habits, constituting the basis of integrity and fidelity to duty, which marked his career. At the age of seventeen he engaged in mercantile pursuits, for which he was by nature admirably fitted.

When twenty-one years of age he moved to Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, and engaged in merchandising, where he remained until 1826, when he went to Zanesville, in the same State, and on the 24th of April, 1827, he married Miss Matilda Ballentine, the second daughter of David Ballentine, of that town.

This happy union was blessed with a family of six sons and four daughters, of whom one son and one daughter died in infancy. During his residence in Zanesville he engaged in the flouring-mill and mercantile business. In 1842 he removed from Zanesville to Glasgow, Mo., where he continued merchandising, and at this place he built and conducted the first packing-house on the Missouri River. In 1846 he removed with his family to St. Louis, Mo., where he embarked in the wholesale grocery business, under the firm name of J. S. Thompson & Co., afterward Hammill & McMechan, Worthington & McMechan, and later John McMechan, until the summer of 1853, when he closed out his business in St. Louis.

In September, 1853, he removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, then the principal outfitting and starting point for Utah and California emigrants,

and there he engaged in the wholesale grocery and outfitting business, and in freighting across the plains to Salt Lake City, Utah. His was the first exclusively wholesale grocery store in Council Bluffs, Iowa. When Nebraska was opened for settlement, in 1854, he was offered a portion of the town site of Omaha, but not liking the social element then predominating, on account of the Mormon element, he declined, but purchased several lots on the original town site, and for him was built one of the first business houses erected in Omaha. He closed out his business and sold his real estate at Omaha and Council Bluffs in the autumn of 1854, came to Nebraska, and became one of the original proprietors and one of the founders of Kearney City, which is now part of Nebraska City, Otoe Co., Neb. He surveyed and laid out the town site, and when the land was subject to entry, entered the same in the land-office at Omaha. In the autumn of 1854 he purchased of Hall, Platt & Co. the steam sawmill at Civil Bend, Fremont Co., Iowa, and in the spring of 1855 moved the same to the new town in Nebraska, it being the first steam sawmill erected in that place.

On the 5th of April, 1855, the family removed to Kearney City, where the subject of this sketch built the first frame dwelling-house erected in that town. In 1857 he purchased of Ephraim White a farm two miles south of Nebraska City, in Otoe County, where the family has resided since 1863, and which when purchased was named "Headwood." Soon after buying this farm Mr. McMechan set out a fine orchard, which was one of the first planted in that part of the Territory. Mr. McMechan was a man of indomitable energy, and for him were built the "Planters' House," the first and only hotel in Kearney, now a part of Nebraska City, Neb., the business houses of T. H. & L. C. Winn & Co., Kalkman & Wessells, and the hardware store of D. B. McMechan, the first hardware store in Kearney or Nebraska City, and a large number of dwellings.

In 1820 the elder McMechan united with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (now United Presbyterian) Church, presided over by Rev. Samuel Findley, D. D., in St. Clairsville, Ohio, and was a Ruling Elder and Trustee for seven years in the United Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Mo., during his residence in that city. He was an earnest, energetic, zealous, consistent and generous Christian, exemplary in all the duties of religion, and putting in practice his religious belief, always encouraging churches, religion and charitable societies, and one of his first acts after settling in Nebraska was to establish a Sabbath-school, under the auspices of the church of which he was a working member. This was the first denominational Sabbath-school established in the Territory. At the same time Rev. R. H. Allen, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, came to Nebraska by invitation of Mr. McMechan, and held divine service in Kearney, now one of the wards of Nebraska City, and preached the first sermon delivered in the new town. The subject of this sketch possessed a truly modest, retiring, cheerful, quiet, contented, charitable and unassuming disposition; his mind was clear and his judgment had much weight, and these qualities, together with his Christian life, won for him the highest esteem of all who knew him. He possessed that stability of character which is the distinguishing mark of his countrymen. In business he was active, prompt and punctual. He gave often and lavishly to the poor and needy, and no appeal in behalf of suffering humanity ever passed him unheeded, and although a Presbyterian in his belief and views, he gave liberally to all denominations wherever he lived. The poor of this section never knew a better friend than he who has gone from them forever. Socially, he was agreeable, entertaining and hospitable to a fault. His peculiarly happy temperament continued to the last. His perseverance in active well doing was not ostentatious, but fruitful and unceasing.

As a citizen and town proprietor Mr. McMechan was solid and substantial, just, obliging and honorable, courteous and accommodating, heartily engaging in every movement which seemed calculated to benefit the community or society at large. He gave liberally of his property and means to everything which tended to the advancement of religious or public good, to the encouragement of men struggling in business, and to those starting in life, or to the unfortunate and deserving. In friendship his attachments were sincere, strong and confiding. As a church member he was liberal, ever ready and

cheerful in his contributions for the support of the Gospel. As an Elder and church officer he was careful and diligent, cautious in forming a judgment, but his opinion when formed was the result of careful consideration. Good will was in his heart, and ever found expression in his words and acts of kindly helpfulness. He was a man of sterling worth and uncompromising fidelity to principle. In the simplicity of his manner there was a grandeur and strength of character not to be mistaken, and in the broad and generous sympathies of his heart there was that true sincerity that crowns the greatness of Christian manhood. He was a faithful, fond, loving and tender husband; a good, kind, consistent, indulgent and affectionate father. He was never absorbed with worldly affairs. He was always intent on the life of the mind and of the heart for himself and his family. He spared no pains in the training of his children, and was earnest in the cultivation of piety in his family. He lived to see a large, prosperous and enterprising town grow, aided by his own work, where had been dense woods and a wilderness; fruitful fields and prosperous villages where naught but the bare prairies were to be seen when he came to the then infant Territory. In his old age he could not boast of worldly success, but enjoyed a moderate competence, and he gathered around his Thanksgiving table nearly a score of children and grandchildren, who looked up to him with reverence and affection. By all who knew him, but especially by the inner circle of his own home, will he be ever remembered as a man of unswerving trust, inflexible integrity, of unflinching fidelity in all life's relations, and of tender, ever-deepening affections. No richer heritage could any parent bequeath to a child than the memory of such a character.

As a Christian Mr. McMechan was deeply attached to and interested in the welfare of the church of his choice, devoted, earnest, zealous and faithful, and his religious life was not one of ostentatious profession, but of humility and quiet piety. He made the Bible a study, and could recite whole chapters, which he had committed to memory in his youth. His love for the Psalms was peculiarly strong, and he had memorized the entire metrical version, as sung in the United Presbyterian Church, and taught them to his children. Of his life and its successes let it be written: "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." When his evening came the clouds in his sky were golden. The setting sun of life lighted them up with a radiance that heralded a blessed immortality.

Mrs. Matilda McMechan, relict of John McMechan, died Feb. 5, 1886, from the effect of a fall consequent to paralysis, at "Headwood," the family residence in Otoe County, near Nebraska City, aged seventy-eight years, ten months and twenty-three days. She was the eldest daughter of David Ballentine, and a direct descendant of Lord John Ballentine; she was born March 12, 1807, at "Headwood," the family estate near Belfast, Ireland. In 1814 the family came to the United States and settled in Ogdensburg, N. Y., where she and her only sister, Agnes (Nancy), and her four brothers, William, John, Henry and David, the two latter twins, were educated. When she was seventeen years of age the family removed to Zanesville, Ohio, and there, when eighteen years old, she united with the United Presbyterian Church. She was united in marriage with John McMechan, April 24, 1827, at Zanesville.

The family moved to the West in 1842, living at Glasgow, Mo., until 1846, then removed to St. Louis, living there until 1853, and in the autumn of that year moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in October, 1854, they came to Nebraska Territory, settling in Kearney City, which Mr. McMechan laid out, and which is to-day part of Nebraska City. Mrs. McMechan had ten children, six sons and four daughters. Of these, two walked before her "through the valley of the shadow of death;" John and Rachel died in infancy. The eight living are: Mary Jane, now Mrs. Alexander E. McCormett, in New Orleans, La.; Annie Clarke, residing at "Headwood," the family residence; David Ballentine, in Kansas City, Mo.; John Henry, living at "Headwood," the family residence; Andrew Charles, Lieutenant U. S. N.; Matilda, Mrs. S. H. Calhoun, in Nebraska City, Neb.; William Ballentine and Edwin Elbridge, in Kansas City, Mo. Two of her brothers survive her: William Ballentine, of Kansas City, Mo., and Henry Ballentine, of Mariposa County, Cal. David Mc-

Mechan, in 1857, opened the first hardware store in Nebraska City, and was also the first south of the Platte.

Mrs. McMechan was possessed of an amiable, loving, retiring and charitable disposition, gentle in manners, kind and sympathetic, refined and intelligent to the highest degree, and endowed with excellent judgment, active and efficient in every good work. As a Christian woman, a Christian wife and a Christian mother, she was a model, and truly worthy of imitation. While she "rests from her labors," by her life we may hear her saying to us, in words of inspiration: "Be diligent, that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless." When she went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, there was no Bible Class in the Presbyterian Sabbath-school there, but she soon organized one and taught it during her residence in that place. When the family removed to Nebraska she, with her husband and family, organized in Kearney City the first denominational (United Presbyterian) Sabbath-school in the then infant Territory, and she taught the first Bible Class. In 1877 she and her husband united with the Presbyterian Church at Nebraska City, there being no United Presbyterian Church there.

For three years before her death Mrs. McMechan was unable, because of physical weakness and failing sight, to attend church, but while thus deprived of the privileges of meeting with God's people in His own house, doubtless He made her own home a little sanctuary, where He met with her and blessed her. It was her custom to gather her family together and have them read the Bible, which was read through yearly, and afterward would be read several sermons from the bound volumes of the *Pulpit*, a United Presbyterian periodical. She had very clear views of Gospel truth, being a diligent Bible student all her life until within ten years of her death, when failing sight prevented her searching the Scriptures. In her girlhood she had memorized the Gospels and the metrical version of David's Psalms, as sung in the United Presbyterian Church. These with the catechism she taught her children, and when she could no longer see to read she would repeat entire passages of Scripture and the Psalms from memory; her joy was to sing the twenty-third Psalm.

While rising from her seat in her sitting-room on the afternoon of the 19th of January, 1886, to receive some visitors, she fell, fracturing the right thigh bone, the fall being caused by a paralytic stroke of the lower limbs. She lingered until the afternoon of the 5th of February, bearing her suffering with great fortitude, and with full possession of all her reasoning faculties, and conscious until a few hours of her death, which she, like a good and true Christian, calmly awaited, sleeping quietly and sweetly away without pain or struggle. She needs no eulogy to hallow her memory, no marble monument to keep her in remembrance. She lives in the hearts of all who knew her. Her monument is already built: a noble, intelligent, charitable and consistent Christian character. Upon it in letters of light are inscribed the words for us all to read: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

The subject of this sketch was but an infant when his parents moved to Missouri; he was twelve years of age when they took up their residence in Council Bluffs, and fifteen years old when they moved to Nebraska. The wild, sparsely settled Territory of that day bore but little resemblance to the wealthy and populous State of to-day. The settlements were then mostly confined to the river, and the whole interior of the State was a wild, open prairie inhabited by Indians. Deer were plentiful on the plains only a short distance from the city, and with other wild game often set forth the table of the pioneer. In 1859 Mr. McMechan commenced freighting across the plains, taking corn that he had raised himself on the farm, in two wagons, with a pair of horses to each wagon, and delivering it in Denver at fourteen cents a pound. He made but one trip that year, and during the winter was engaged in teaming flour from Winterset, Iowa. From 1860 until 1863 he had charge of his father's freighting business. In the fall of 1860 he engaged in a wholesale grocery business in Denver, with his brother David. In the spring of 1863 they were burned out there, and then they returned to Nebraska City and established themselves in the hardware business, which they continued together until 1869, when our subject took charge of his father's homestead, and he has ever

since been engaged in general farming with gratifying success. The farm is located two miles south of the court-house in Nebraska City, and contains 160 acres of the richest and most productive land to be found in this locality. The residence is a commodious brick house, pleasantly located on a rise of ground, overlooking a beautiful stretch of country. There is quite a variety of trees in the yard, some of which were planted by the father of our subject, and all of them were planted during his lifetime.

Mr. McMechan's shrewd common sense, and his industrious, methodical habits have been prominent factors in his success in life. He is upright and conscientious in his dealings, and his neighbors find in him a man to respect and esteem.

The portraits of John and Matilda McMechan are presented in connection with this sketch.

CHARLES C. COWLES, prominent and successful as a farmer, intelligent and capable as a business man, and one of the most valued members of his community, is numbered among the old and honored residents of Wyoming Precinct, where he has a fine tract of 320 acres of land, on section 14, and which is familiarly known as "Sunnyside Farm." Some idea of its beauty and value may be obtained from the fact that at one of the State Fairs it was awarded the first prize in point of improvement and natural resources. The residence is a handsome two-story frame structure with basement, finished and furnished in modern style, and with its surroundings forms one of the most complete homes to be seen within the boundaries of the county. The barn and other out-buildings are equipped with all conveniences required for the proper sheltering of stock and storing of grain. Adjacent to these is a fine apple orchard of 1,200 bearing trees, in prime condition and yielding bountifully. There is also an abundance of smaller fruits in their season. The property lies about seven miles northwest of Nebraska City, and forms one of the most attractive pictures in the landscape of this region.

Our subject came to this part of the county in the spring of 1857, ten years before Nebraska was admitted into the Union as a State, and when his youthful companions were little Indian boys of the Otoe tribe. They had their little "set-to's," as youngsters will, and when the battle raged too strong the squaws came out and chased away the white boys. Upon one occasion, when the conflict was a little more serious than usual, our subject was threatened by an old warrior with losing his scalp, and, as may be supposed, hied himself to a place of safety as soon as convenient.

The entire life of Mr. Cowles has mostly been spent on the banks of the Missouri, except the period spent in the mountains, he having been born in Atchison County, Mo., Dec. 18, 1849. His parents were Charles H. and Mary (Martin) Cowles, and he was the second son and child. The father, a farmer by occupation, died at his home in Wyoming Precinct, April 14, 1888, when nearly seventy years old. (See sketch of C. H. Cowles.) He had been a resident of Nebraska for a period of thirty-four years, coming here in the spring of 1854. Until 1857 he lived in Nebraska City, when it was but a hamlet, but finally moved onto a farm in Wyoming Precinct, where he followed agricultural pursuits and became a prominent man in his community. The wife and mother is still living at the old homestead.

Mr. Cowles after leaving the district school entered Tabor College, Iowa, but in the meantime had taken a course in the Normal School at Peru. He was naturally fond of study, and made the most of his opportunities, and at the close of his last school term was well fitted for the future business of life. The first employment to which he turned his attention was in connection with a nursery at Bloomington, Ill., which he operated about five years.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Cowles, desirous of seeing something more of the Great West, crossed the plains by rail, and spending some time in Colorado, returned home in the fall of 1880. He then took a trip East, traveling considerably over the Eastern States, then returning home again, set out for New Mexico, and spent some time in its mining regions, where he invested a portion of his capital, and from which he realized good returns. About 1887 he returned to this county, and took possession of the land which he now owns and occupies.

While residing in New Mexico Mr. Cowles engaged quite largely in stock-raising and ranching. He owns four separate ranches, which he still operates, besides owning a sixth interest in a large company doing an extensive ranch business. His home place was thirty miles west of Socorro, at Magdalena, the terminus of the Magdalena Branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. He also owns some valuable mining property in that district.

Our subject, on the 7th of July, 1885, was united in marriage with Miss Lilly White, at Zanesville, Ohio. This lady was born there Feb. 13, 1859, and is the daughter of Homer and Sarah J. (Cassidy) White, who are still living, and residents of Zanesville. Mr. White is a prominent insurance man, having been connected with some of the best companies in the United States, and being particularly expert in the adjustment of claims.

Mrs. Cowles was carefully educated in her native town, and was graduated from Zanesville High School in the class of '78. Later she became a teacher, and was very successful, occupying a position in the public schools of her native city for a period of seven years before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are two children: Fayzette Mae, who was born Sept. 17, 1886, and Clayton Earl, July 13, 1888. Mrs. C. is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church, and a very estimable lady, who has hosts of friends in this vicinity. Our subject is a sound Republican, politically, but has no aspirations for office, and has very little to do with matters beyond the boundaries of his large estate, which can only be properly managed by close attention and calculation.

GEORGE W. BROWN is one of the prominent farmers in Otoe Precinct, and one of the early pioneers of Nemaha County in 1865. He removed to this county in 1867, and established himself on his present farm, which comprises 160 acres, and is situated on section 17. Upon this he has made excellent improvements, and is one of the well-to-do citizens. He played no mean part in the earlier history of the Territory, which is all the more creditable to him, because whatever has been accomplished in his life has been the result of his own ambition and continued effort, in which he has been supported by his wife, a most excellent lady, devoted to her husband and children.

The parents of our subject were Thomas and Margaret (Phillips) Brown, both natives of Cumberland County, Pa. There they were married and lived until 1856, when they came to this State, bringing with them their two sons, John P. and George, the latter being at that time about twenty years of age. Besides these they had two other children, viz: Mary S. and Eliza Jane, who were born in Pennsylvania. Mary is the wife of Martin L. Smith, of Federalsburg, Md., and Eliza Jane is the wife of Dr. John Cleland, of Davenport, Iowa.

The native place of our subject is Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa., and the date of his birth the 22d of February, 1832. He grew up at Carlisle, Pa., where his father had a farm, upon which, especially after school days had passed, the two brothers assisted their father, and continued until the older brother went to Washington City to learn the carpentry trade.

In 1853 the subject of our sketch joined his brother at Davenport, Iowa, where he was established in business. There he engaged in milling and worked by the month. In 1865 he came to Nemaha County and engaged in farm work, two years later removing to this county, where he rented a farm, but was shortly established upon his present property.

Our subject had not been long in Otoe County before he made the acquaintance of Myra, daughter of J. G. and Julia (Layman) Carmichael (see sketch of Mr. Carmichael). Mrs. Brown was born on the 8th of December, 1844, in Mifflin County, Pa., and was nine years of age when her parents removed West. After passing through the classes of the common school, she took the High School course at Nebraska City, and made exceedingly good progress. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married at the residence of her parents, on the 26th of September, 1861, at Minersville, Otoe Precinct.

There have come to Mr. and Mrs. Brown eleven children, whose names are as follows: Abbie T.,

Mary; Eddie, who died when six months old; Thomas, Jennie; Lora, who died at the age of four years; George Franklin, William, Ida, Maude and Carl. Abbie T. is the wife of Jewett Thomas, one of the successful merchants of Nebraska City, and they are the parents of two children—Minnie and Harry. Mr. and Mrs. Brown may be justly proud of their children, to whom they have been enabled to give a good education, and who appreciate all the care and provision made for them by their parents.

When Mr. Brown looks back to his beginning in Nebraska, it must be with exceeding thankfulness, remembering that he started with but $2.50, and that to-day, with his productive, well-kept farm, his beautiful home, his wife and children, he is among the most prospered and happily situated of the citizens of the county. During the past year (1888) he erected a very fine two-story frame house, very commodious and comfortable. It is supplied with the numerous appliances and conveniences generally considered almost indispensable to the modern home. Beloved by his family, and respected in the community at large, he stands in the front of Otoe's citizens. In politics he is a stanch Republican. The family attend the Southern Methodist Church.

FRED SHRADER, an extensive land-owner of Berlin Precinct, possesses the warrantee deed to 1,000 acres, and operates 200 besides, his home being within two miles of the town. He is a popular and public-spirited citizen, intelligent and liberal, and in all respects a useful member of his community. Of German birth and ancestry, he is the son of Christ and Sophia (Harra) Shrader, who were natives of the Prussian Province of Mecklenburg, the father born in 1795 and the mother in 1805. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Shrader, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying at a ripe old age.

The father of our subject, when a youth of seventeen years, enlisted in the German Army, serving against Napoleon. After the war was over he returned to his native town and became a weaver of custom work, which trade he prosecuted successfully until the year 1862, and became owner of a small farm. On the 15th of October of the year mentioned Christ Shrader started with his family for America, and shortly after landing in New York City proceeded to Cleveland, Ohio, where he settled and lived seven months. Next he moved to Lee County, Ill., and spent his last years with his children near Dixon, his death occurring in September, 1869. The mother survived her husband until 1875, coming to Nebraska and spending her last days with her children; she died when seventy years old. The six children of the parental family were: Sophia, a resident of this county; Mary, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Dora, living in this county; John, in Valparaiso, this State; Fred, our subject, and Henry, in Berlin.

Our subject was born in the Province of Mecklenburg, Prussia, Sept. 20, 1843, and remained with his parents on their little farm until a youth of eighteen years, in the meantime receiving a thorough education in his native town. He came to America with his parents, crossing the Atlantic on the sailing-vessel "Columbus," taking passage at Hamburg, and after a two-months voyage, in which they encountered several severe storms, landed safely in New York City. Fred remained with his parents in Cleveland during their stay there, then accompanied them to Lee County, Ill., and subsequently was employed on a farm two years. He then began operating rented land, and was thus occupied until March, 1869, when he determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Mississippi River.

The first purchase of Mr. Shrader in this county was eighty acres of land in Berlin Precinct, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. There was then not a mile of railroad west of the Missouri River. Mr. Shrader landed in this county with a cash capital of $4.75, and for two years after coming here operated rented land until he could begin the improvement of his purchase. Upon this he built a house, into which he removed in the spring of 1871, and thereafter proceeded vigorously in the task of building up a homestead. The nearest market was Nebraska City, and he battled with drouth, grasshoppers and other difficulties, making considerable headway, notwithstanding. He set out

groves of cottonwood and willow trees, and planted an orchard of 250 apple trees, and in due time the first humble dwelling was replaced by a substantial and modern residence, with barns and the other necessary out-buildings. Later he added to his landed area, buying in 1874 eighty acres adjoining his first purchase at $6.50 per acre; two years later he bought 160 acres adjoining which was improved, and for which he paid $2,000; in 1879 he bought 120 acres for $1,000; in 1880 he added 200 acres to his estate, paying for this the sum of $1,550; in 1882 he secured 160 acres for $2,200; in 1883 he bought the 160 acres adjoining for $1,850, and the year following he added 120 acres of highly improved land, for which he paid $2,800; his last purchase was in the spring of 1887, and comprised a quarter-section under a high state of cultivation, for which he paid $5,000. His land altogether is now placed at an average value of $30 per acre.

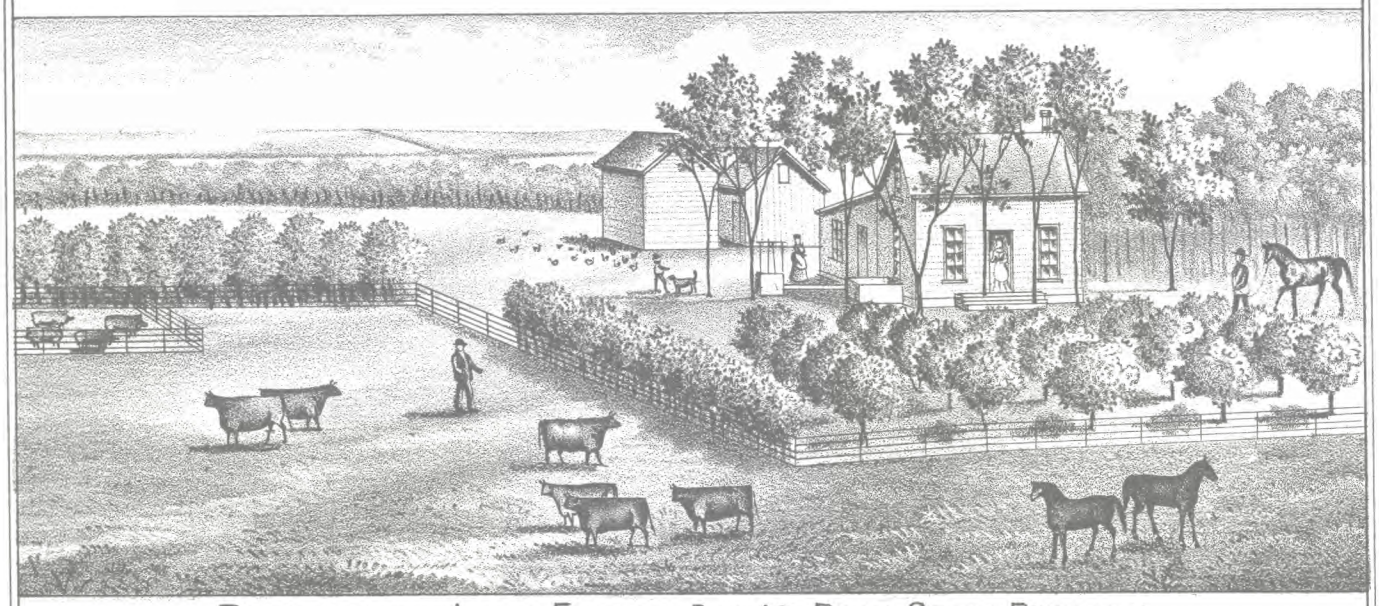
In the spring of 1888 our subject invested a portion of his spare capital in the merchandise store of Shrader Bros., in Berlin, an establishment which now carries $10,000 worth of goods, the largest stock in town, and enjoys a good patronage. In his farming transactions Mr. Shrader makes a specialty of live stock, buying and feeding cattle, and shipping annually about three cars of these, besides two or three cars of swine; he keeps about eighteen head of horses. To this industry is devoted about 480 acres of his land, while he lets the balance to a tenant.

Our subject, while a resident of Lee County, Ill., was married, Feb. 14, 1869, to Miss Katie Albright, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., May 4, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. S. began their wedded life together in this county, and here their seven children were born, four sons and three daughters, namely: Emma, Ella, Albert, Charles, Fred, Sarah and Levi. Ella officiates as clerk in her father's store at Berlin; Charles also spends some of his time there. The other children remain at home with their father.

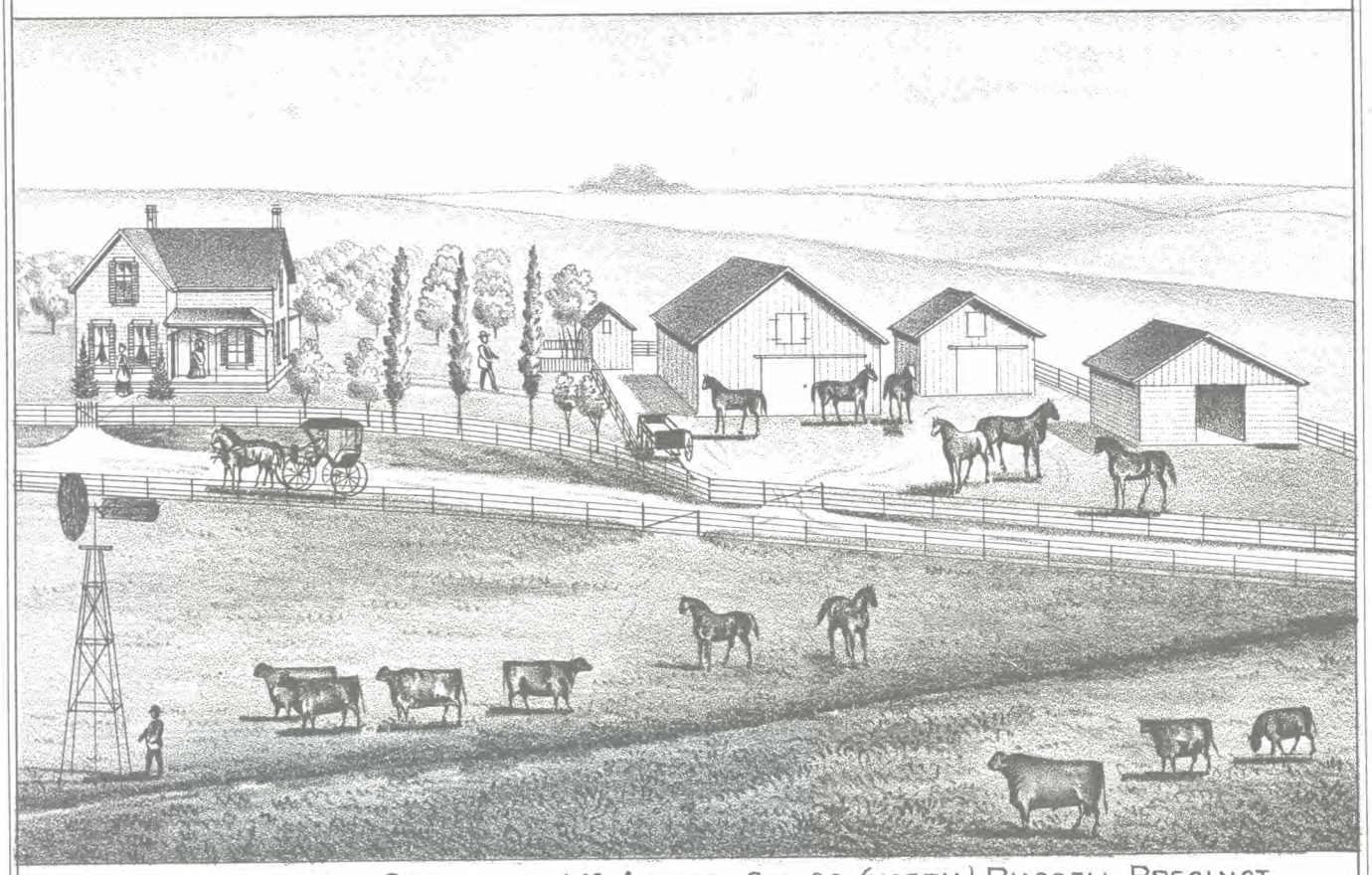
On the 9th of March, 1888, our subject and his family were called to mourn the loss of the devoted wife and mother, a loss which was not only deeply felt by them, but by all who knew her. Mrs. Shrader was a lady possessing all the womanly virtues, fulfilling the duties of wife and mother in the most praiseworthy manner, being kind and gentle in her household and having the welfare of her children deeply at heart. She stood bravely by the side of her husband during his early struggles, being his efficient helpmate, a most kind counselor and wise adviser. She lived to see the country around them developed into a prosperous community, and to enjoy those home comforts which she had so justly earned by her toils and sacrifices, and her name is held in kindly remembrance not only by her family, but hosts of friends and acquaintences.

Mr. Shrader has always kept himself well posted upon current events, and votes the straight Republican ticket. He takes considerable interest in politics, and has done good service for his party in this section, frequently being sent as a delegate to the county and State conventions. He has been a member of the School Board ten years, was Supervisor eight years, and Assessor two years. He was a charter member of the German Lutheran Church at Berlin, with which he is still connected, and gives liberally and cheerfully to its support. He is a Trustee of the church property, and besides contributing largely in the erection of the building, solicited money outside, and has given freely of his time and means in the general welfare and prosperity of the church. Berlin Precinct has within its borders no more useful or praiseworthy citizen.

HON. GEORGE FERGUSON, who is widely known throughout the county in his political relations, and who is at the head of a very successful business as dealer in stock, farm implements and vehicles in Dunbar, was born in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, on the 14th of August, 1845. He is the son of William and Agnes Ferguson, who were natives of the same country and district. His father, who is now deceased, came with his family to New York in 1848, and settled nineteen miles south of Buffalo, removing in the year 1854 to Guernsey County, Ohio.



RESIDENCE OF ISAAC FARLEY, SEC. 19. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. CATHERINE Mc ALEER, SEC. 23. *(NORTH)* RUSSELL PRECINCT.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the schools of Guernsey County, Ohio, and qualified himself for teaching. In the year 1871 he went to Polk County, Iowa, and taught school until the following spring; then he attended the Iowa Agricultural College at Ames, in that State, continuing until the summer of 1873, when he came to this county and engaged in teaching in Wyoming and the vicinity, continuing thus for five terms. Leaving the school-house and teacher's desk, he engaged in farming about six miles north of Syracuse. Here he found every opportunity to put into practice the instruction received both from his father and at Ames. He continued there until April, 1888, and still owns the farm of eighty acres.

Upon the 4th of August, 1881, Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage with Lorinda E. Gale, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Gale, of Sheboygan Falls, Wis. Their marriage has been consummated by the birth of four children, of whom three still live, viz: Maude A., Wallace J. and Helen E.

In former years Mr. Ferguson was active in the ranks of the Republican party, and was elected in the fall of 1878 on the Republican ticket to represent Otoe County, Neb., in the Legislature. He served his term of office with satisfaction. Since that time, however, his political opinions have undergone a change, and he is now a prominent and active worker with the Prohibitionists, and holds the position of Chairman of the Prohibition party in Otoe County. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson are both members of the United Presbyterian Church, of which our subject has been an adherent about twenty years, and his wife about two.

THOMAS F. McALEER. Among the young farmers and citizens of Russell Precinct and Otoe County Mr. McAleer takes a prominent position. He is the owner of 160 acres of splendidly cultivated land on section 23, and operates 640. He is extensively engaged as a horse and cattle dealer, and has been unusually successful in business in that connection. It goes without saying that there is before him a very propitious career.

James McAleer, the father of our subject, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in the year 1810, and his mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Darcy, was born in County Leitrim of the same country. His father was an agriculturist prior to leaving his native country, which he did in 1839, coming to America. The voyage which promised so fair ended disastrously, for the vessel was wrecked on the Island of Nova Scotia, and he only escaped by swimming ashore. Obtaining work as a baker he continued there for two years, and then went to Boston, where he went into the marble business and worked as a polisher, which he had learned as a young man in Ireland. He continued there until 1849, then removed to Providence, continuing in the same business. Thence he went to Princton, Ill., in 1863, and there operated forty acres of land in addition to his polishing, which was not discontinued.

Coming to Nebraska in 1873, Mr. McAleer, Sr., purchased 160 acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, and went to work to improve the same, and at his death in 1888 had 480 acres of splendidly cultivated land. In politics he was a Democrat and faithful to his party. His wife came to America in 1846 alone, and landed in New York. From there she removed to Providence, where she met her husband, to whom she was united on the 17th of July, 1853. She was the mother of seven children, whose names are as follows: Mary E., James, Miles, John, Thomas, Frank and Bernard.

The subject of our sketch was born in Providence, R. I., on the 11th of May, 1863, and was about a year old at the time his parents removed to Illinois. He grew up upon the farm and was early made acquainted with all the various duties and labors connected therewith. His parents saw that he obtained a good practical education in the common school, and was thus in some measure fitted to take up his share of the activities of life. When in 1873 his parents removed to Nebraska, he was ten years of age, and he continued at work upon the home farm until he was about twenty-one, when he entered with zest into the conflict of life

upon his own account, and has been so successful as to become the owner of a quarter-section of very valuable farming land. He usually buys and feeds, preparatory to marketing, two carloads of cattle and five of hogs per annum. He has taken much pains to procure and raise Short-horns and Polled-Angus cattle, and has six very valuable animals of the former variety, but his chief delight so far as stock is concerned is in raising Clydesdale roadsters. He owns forty head of horses and ten fine mules. His property in cattle is quite valuable and worthy of all the care he bestows upon them.

Our subject is a member of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and was prominent in the organization of the society and building of the church. The parents are also of the same religious faith. Politically, Mr. McAleer is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in political affairs. Twice he has been called upon to act as delegate to the County Conventions.

A view of the McAleer homestead is given on an adjoining page.

ISAAC FARLEY, the present Assessor of Rock Creek Precinct, and one of its most successful agriculturists, owns and occupies a fine homestead on section 19, which embraces 160 acres of well-improved land with neat and substantial buildings. He has a goodly assortment of live stock, and all the machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of his chosen calling. He has groves of fruit trees and shrubbery, and has surrounded himself and family with all the other comforts of modern life. A view of his fine farm residence with its environments is presented to our readers.

Mr. Farley settled upon his farm in the fall of 1882, having moved here from another in the same precinct. He came to Otoe County as early as 1869, of which he has since been a resident, and continuously engaged in farming pursuits. His native place is the Province of Ontario, Canada, he having been born in Peterboro, April 1, 1837. There he was reared and educated, making his home with his parents, Patrick and Mary (O'Rielly) Farley. They were natives of Ireland, and spent their last years in the Dominion, both dying at an advanced age, the father having reached ninety-five years. The latter served under the Duke of Wellington during the French War, and was married before coming to America. The parental family included eight children, seven of whom are living. The parents were members of the German Catholic Church.

Our subject was one of the younger members of the large family of children, and grew to manhood in his native Province, receiving a common-school education. He was married there to Miss Mary A. Nolan, who was also a native of the Province of Ontario, and was born in September, 1839. She made her home with her parents until her marriage, acquiring her education in the common schools. Her parents were natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to the Dominion of Canada after their marriage, where they spent the remainder of their lives, and the father followed farming pursuits. They were members in good standing of the Catholic Church, people careful and conscientious in their lives, and respected by their neighbors.

Mrs. Farley has stood bravely by the side of her husband in his efforts to build up a home, laboring equally with him early and late for the comfort and well-being of their little family. They are the parents of six children, namely: Edward, Mary, Josephine, Helen, Joseph and John. Mr. and Mrs. F. are consistent members of the Catholic Church, in the doctrines of which they were reared in early childhood. Our subject, politically, is a sound Democrat, and is serving his seventh term in his present office.

GWASH GILES is well known throughout Wyoming Precinct as proprietor of the "Living Water Stock Farm," and the "Arlington" herd of Poland-China swine, comprising some of the finest specimens of Poland-Chinas to be found in this section of the State. At the head of the herd of Poland-Chinas is Messenger, No. 1884, S. P. C. R., and although only fifteen months old has already made an admirable record. Mr. Giles has six other animals of the Poland-China

breed, and registered as follows: Ett, No. 2822; Grace (1st), No. 2820; Grace (2d), No. 2825; Cala, No. 2821; Arlington Maid, No. 2823, and Topsie G., No. 3171. The herd was established in 1882 with Otoe Prince, No. 2335, at the head. Mr. Giles has competed successfully with breeders all over this section of the country at the State and county fairs, in which many of his animals have come home with blue ribbons.

The farm of our subject is finely adapted to stock-raising, and in this industry he has been remarkably successful during his residence in this county, which dates from the spring of 1860. He was born in Peoria, Ill., April 28, 1854, and is the son of Joseph Giles, a native of the Island of St. Helena. His paternal grandfather, Thomas Giles, was with the exile Napoleon at the time of the latter's death.

Joseph Giles came to the United States when a young man, and located in Peoria, Ill., where he married Miss Susanna Redfern. This lady, like her husband, was of English descent, and came to the United States when a child of thirteen years, locating in Peoria, Ill., with her parents. After marriage Joseph and Susanna Giles lived in Peoria, Ill., until coming to Nebraska, in the spring of 1860. The father purchased a tract of new land on section 11, in Wyoming Precinct, where, with his estimable wife, he labored industriously, and lived until March, 1885, when, retiring from active labor, they moved to Nebraska City, where they are now spending their declining years surrounded by all the comforts of life.

Our subject was the youngest child and only son of a family of six children, one of whom, a daughter, Ann, died when very young. He lived at home until his marriage in Wyoming Precinct, Dec. 14, 1876, to Miss Mary Martin. This lady was born in Utica, Venango Co., Pa., Oct. 4, 1852, and is the daughter of John F. and Maria (Reynolds) Martin, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. They came to Nebraska in 1857, and the education of their daughter Mary was conducted in the common schools at first and completed in the Normal School at Peru. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: J. Roy, Oct. 1, 1877, and Carl M., June 8, 1879. The family residence is a comfortable structure, and the out-buildings all that are desirable for the prosecution of both agriculture and stock-raising. The pens for the swine are equipped with everything that is necessary for their comfort and the success of the industry to which Mr. Giles gives especial attention. He is a man of decided views, keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen, and votes the Republican ticket.

CAPT. BEN S. PINDAR, who is one of the practical farmers of South Branch Precinct, farming 160 acres on the northwest quarter of section 33, and also well and favorably known throughout the county, was born in Washington County, Md., on the 21st of May, 1836. He is the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Small) Pindar. His father was born in Camden County, Del., in 1800, and his mother five years later in Berkeley County, Va. The grandfather of our subject, Edward Pindar, made quite a record as a soldier of the Revolution under Washington, and was a nephew of Charles Lee of Revolutionary fame. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Small, was of English descent but born in Virginia. He also was one of the patriot heroes of 1776.

The parents of our subject were married in Virginia, and there made their home. The father was an overseer of a plantation, and so continued for many years. Afterward they moved to Maryland, where he engaged in farming. In 1847 the family removed to Henry County, Ohio, and eighty acres were purchased in the vicinity of Napoleon. There farming was carried on until 1867, when the property was sold, and the family removed to South Branch Precinct of this county, where in 1886 the father died. He had been bereaved of his wife in 1867, when she had reached the advanced age of sixty-two years. They were the parents of four children, viz: Susan, Annie, Ben S. and Perry, the latter deceased; he was in the war, and served in the same regiment as our subject, was taken with brain fever, and died at Nashville in 1862.

The subject of our sketch staid at home until

he attained his majority, the years of his boyhood being spent in the usual occupations of the common school, after which he attended the full High School course, being graduated therefrom, and afterward becoming his father's assistant upon the farm. He was eleven years of age when the removal was made to Ohio. After that change of residence the chief work of his education was attended to, for his High School course and more preparatory education were supplemented by three years in Heidelberg College at Tiffin. Until he was twenty-five years of age he taught school in various districts, and held a very high certificate of ability.

In 1861, at the time the first call for troops was made by President Lincoln, Mr. Pindar enlisted in the 14th Ohio Infantry, and served in Company F. The enlistment was made for three months, as was the case with nearly all the men, it being supposed that the war would be settled by that time. He was mustered in at Cleveland, Ohio, under Col. Stedman and Gens. Rosecrans and McClellan, and served chiefly in West Virginia. He was in the first battle of the war at Phillippi, then at Laurel Hill, Cheat River and Canick Ford, which ended the campaign in Virginia, and the term having expired, he, with others, was mustered out at Toledo, Ohio, on the 18th of August, 1861.

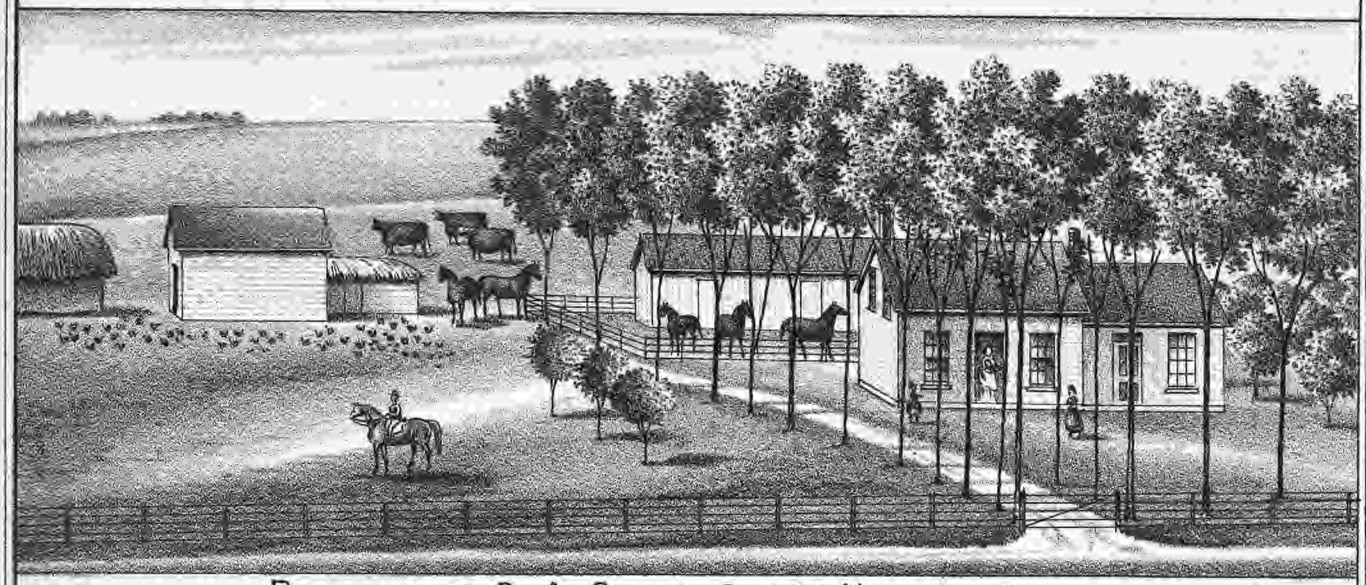
Re-enlisting the following day in the 38th Ohio Infantry, our subject was mustered in at Defiance, received the commission of a Lieutenant, and then went into service in Kentucky under E. D. Bradley. The first of the series of battles of that campaign was the battle of Wildcat, after which they were sent to Mills Springs, and became part of Gen. Thomas' division; then followed the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chattanooga, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. At Nashville he was promoted to be Captain, and served in that capacity from that time. He was with Sherman throughout the Atlanta campaign, en route to the sea, and took part in all the engagements of that campaign. The hardest fighting experienced by the regiment which he served was at Jonesboro. At Chickamauga he was stunned by the explosion of a shell immediately above his head. Although he recovered sufficiently to leave the field, he never fully recovered his hearing, and when at Savannah in February of 1865, his trouble had become so bad that he received an honorable discharge, with congratulations for gallant service. His discharge was procured at his own request, as he felt it impossible for him to do good service, having almost entirely lost the power of hearing.

Leaving the military service, our subject returned to New York by steamer, and from there he went to Ohio. He purchased forty acres of land, and for one year continued farming. In the spring of 1867 he started for this State, going by rail to St. Joseph, and from there by steamer to Nebraska City. Again taking the train at that place he came to this county and to South Branch. Here he entered a homestead claim for the 160 acres of prairie land which he has now made such a beautiful and productive farm. His property is well watered by a branch of the Nemaha River that winds its way through it.

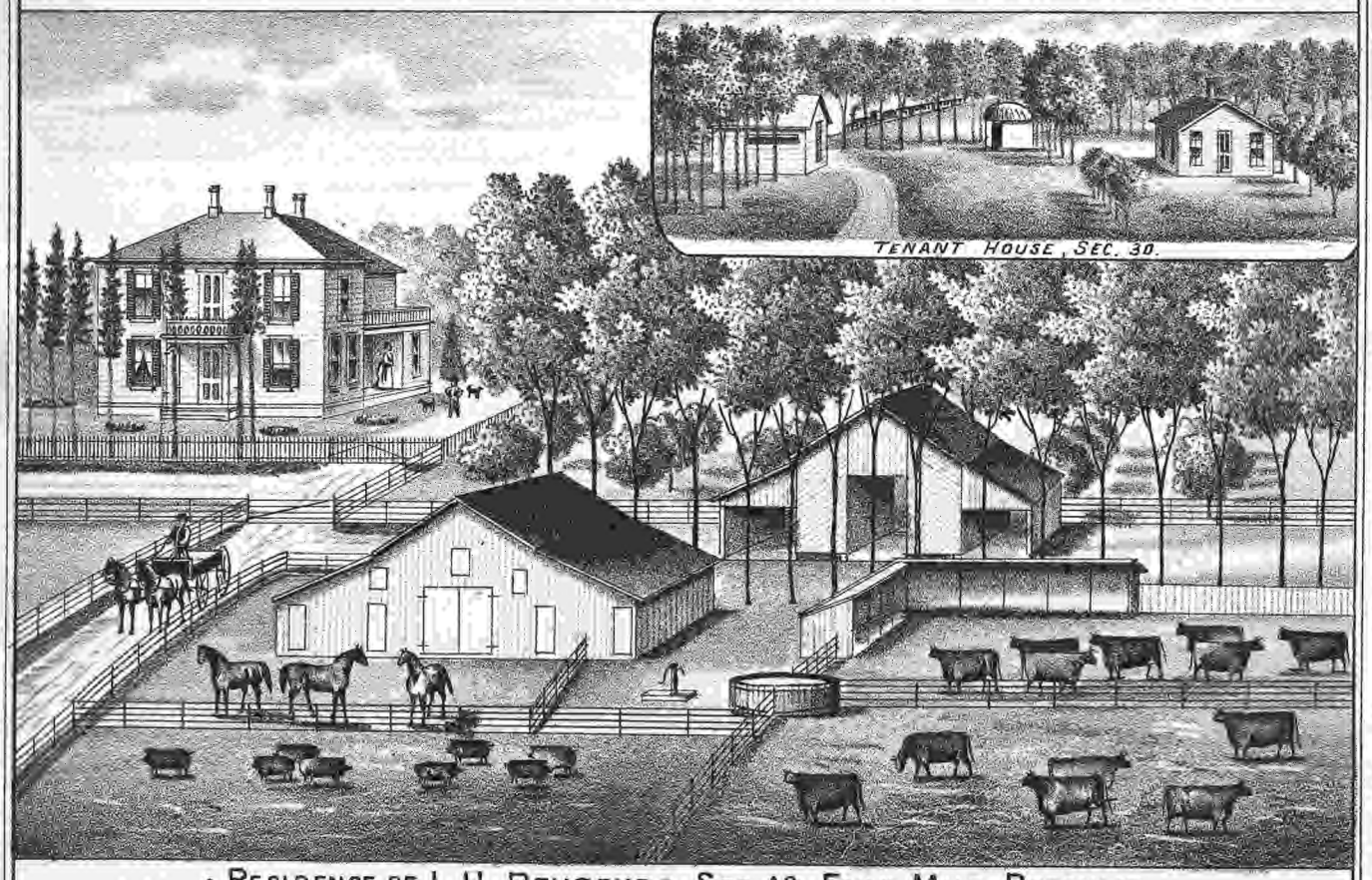
At Napoleon, in February, 1864, in order the better to enjoy his veteran furlough Capt. Pindar was united in marriage with Miss Eva H. Choat, the daughter of Thomas and Louisa (Randall) Choat, both of whom were born in Maine, of English descent. They removed afterward to Seneca County, Ohio, and took eighty acres of land before it was at all settled for many miles around his home. The parents are both dead, but have left three children—William A., Liza J. and Eva H. William A. Choat was Colonel of the 38th Ohio Infantry, and did gallant service. He was shot in the breast upon the 1st of September, 1864, at the battle of Jonesboro, and fell upon the field.

The wife of our subject was born in Thomaston, Me., in January of 1836. She was well educated and carefully nurtured and trained at home. For three years she attended the college at Oberlin, Ohio, of National renown, and afterward served as a teacher; during the war she filled an appointment in the post-office department at Napoleon. There have been born to Capt. and Mrs. Pindar three children—Maud, Hazzard and Maggie. Maud is attending school at Toledo, Ohio, and the rest of the family are at home.

Ever since the School Board District was organized Capt. Pindar has been one of its members; for sixteen years he has been the Assessor of the pre-



RESIDENCE OF C. A. SMITH, SEC. 20. HENDRICS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. H. BEHRENDS, SEC. 19. FOUR MILE PRECINCT.

cinct, and continues to hold the position. In the G. A. R. also he takes a prominent part; he is a member at Sterling of the Wadsworth Post No. 99. His political relations have always been with the Republican party, of which he is a stanch adherent and hearty supporter. Mrs. Pindar has been a member of the Universalist Church in Ohio since the year 1859, and has never united with any organization locally. As a family, as well as individuals, they are much respected by all who know them, and enjoy the hearty esteem of the community at large.

JOHAN H. BEHRENDS is a fine representative of the farmers of Otoe County, and his large and valuable farm in Four Mile Precinct is one of the best managed and most attractive places within a radius of many miles. A view of this the publishers give in connection with this outline history of its respected proprietor. Mr. Behrends was born April 21, 1835, in Hanover, Germany, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Bernhard Behrends, who spent his entire life there engaged in farming. The mother of our subject was also born in Hanover. She also died in Germany. There were but two children, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Albert J., who resides in Nemaha County.

Our subject was reared in his native land, and received the benefits of a sound education in its excellent schools, which he attended quite steadily until he was fourteen years old. He then went to work on a farm, and from that time until 1853 toiled hard to acquire a practical knowledge of agriculture. In that year he came to America to try life in the New World, hoping to be able to lay up a competence and to live in the comfort and ease that would be denied him under the existing state of affairs in the Fatherland. He set sail from Bremerhaven in June, and landed in New Orleans seven weeks and two days later, with but a few dollars in his pocket. He went directly to Madison County, Ill., and there found employment on a farm at $12 a month. He continued to work by the month there and in Sangamon County until 1856, when the alluring accounts of the wonderful fertility of the soil of the wild prairies of Nebraska, its bracing climate, and many other natural advantages, determined him to come here and engage in agriculture, and he was soon voyaging up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to his destination. He landed at Brownville in the month of July of that year, and shortly after selected a desirable location in Nemaha County, and when the land came into the market he entered his claim from the Government, paying $1.25 an acre for the land. He erected a log cabin to shelter him, and proceeded to develop his land. The country around was then mostly in a wild, unsettled state, deer and other kinds of game were plentiful, and Indians were often seen lingering about their old homes. Brownville, fourteen miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Behrends continued to live there for four years, and, at the expiration of that time, he sold his partly improved claim at a good advance on the cost price, and bought 160 acres in Rock Creek Precinct. Thirty acres of this tract were broken, but there were no buildings, and he at once erected a house, and for two years he was actively engaged in agriculture in that precinct. At the end of that time he had a good chance to sell his place and make quite a sum of money, and he took advantage of it. He then bought a tract of wild prairie in the same precinct, built a comfortable house, broke the entire tract of land, and resided thereon until 1877. He then bought his present farm, which comprises 360 acres of land, exceedingly rich in all the elements that go to make it one of the most productive estates in Otoe County. It is finely located in Four Mile Precinct, four miles southwest of Nebraska City, and its nearness to a thriving city and to good markets makes it of additional value. Mr. Behrends is a business-like, skillful agriculturist, and already has his land under good cultivation, and has erected a substantial and conveniently arranged set of farm buildings, and has one of the best and among the finest farmhouses in the precinct.

Mr. Behrends was married, in 1860, to Miss Annie Sophia Arends, a native of Hanover, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of sixteen children, only three now living,

namely: Bernhard B., Maggie and Herman. They have a cozy, attractive home, and friend and stranger alike receive a cordial welcome and enjoy a generous and unstinted hospitality from host and hostess while under its sheltering roof. Mr. and Mrs. Behrends are esteemed members of the Lutheran Church. In his political sentiments Mr. Behrends is decidedly independent. As a man of practical habits, sound principles and genial manners, our subject exerts a good influence in this community, and is greatly respected by his fellow-citizens.

CAMILLUS A. SMITH, Justice of the Peace of Hendricks Precinct, and one of its most prosperous and public-spirited citizens, owns a valuable farm on section 20. He is considerably interested in stock-raising, and ships numbers of cattle and hogs each year to the markets.

The first recollections of our subject are of the modest home of his parents in Spring Township, Crawford Co., Pa., where his birth took place Dec. 11, 1843. He attended the village school, and his father having died when he was a lad, remained with his mother until the outbreak of the Civil War. The family at that time having removed to Wisconsin, he enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry, and in the battle of Perryville, Ky., was wounded in the left fore-arm, by reason of which he was confined in the hospital three months. Anxious, however, to rejoin his regiment, he returned to it while his arm was still in a sling, and participated thereafter in the battles of Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. Then, under command of Gen. Sherman, he marched to the sea, taking part in the meantime in most of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. On the 25th of July, 1864, he was wounded at Atlanta in the right leg, and off duty one month. Upon rejoining his regiment he met the enemy in the fight at Bentonville, and was with Sherman at the time of Johnston's surrender at Raleigh. He continued in the army until the close of the war, and received his honorable discharge at the city of Washington, D. C., then went with his regiment to Milwaukee, where it was disbanded.

Our subject now began farming near Trenton, Dodge Co., Wis., on a small tract of land which he had purchased, and where he continued until coming to this county. He started for Nebraska on the 1st of May, 1867, and made the entire journey overland in a wagon. He crossed the Missouri on the 3d of June, and seven days later homesteaded the land which he now owns and occupies. After providing a shelter for his family he began the improvement of his purchase, setting out groves and an orchard of 150 trees, besides adding from time to time the various conveniences required for the comfort of the family. The land is watered by running streams and is highly productive.

Our subject was married at Beaver Dam, Wis., May 1, 1867, to Miss Anna Robinson, who was born in Dodge County, that State, Sept. 2, 1848. Her father, Ichabod Robinson, a native of England, was born in 1816, and emigrated to America with his brothers when but a lad seventeen years old. They settled first in Ohio, then removed to Kentucky, but after his marriage Mr. Robinson located in Dodge County, Wis., where he carried on farming until his death, in 1885. The wife and mother was in her girlhood Miss Sarah A. Davis, a native of Kentucky. Her death took place in Dodge County, Wis., in 1851. The household circle comprised the following children: Mary, Eliza, Samuel, David, Annie, Mattie and Sarah. The latter died when about thirty-three years old. Samuel and David served as soldiers in the late war, from which they came out uninjured, but upon the return home after receiving his honorable discharge, Samuel fell between the cars of a moving train and was instantly killed.

To our subject and his wife there have been born five children, namely: Mattie, Arthur, Elmer, Anna and Ada. With the exception of Arthur, who is engaged in brickmaking at Lincoln, they are all at home with their parents. Mr. Smith is a true blue Republican, politically, one of the warmest supporters of the principles of his party. Soon after the war he identified himself with the G. A. R., and is a member of Mansfield Post No. 56, at Palmyra. He has served as School Moderator in his district

since the time of its organization, and has officiated as Justice of the Peace since the spring of 1881.

The father of our subject was born in New York, in 1807. He served an apprenticeship at the shoemaker's trade during his early manhood, but later became interested in agricultural pursuits, which he followed in Crawford County, Pa., where his death took place in 1846. The paternal grandfather, Israel Smith, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and subsequently received a pension from the Government. The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Perthina Bail. She was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1815, and after the death of her husband lived in Pennsylvania until 1859. Her death took place in 1879. The parental household included six children, namely: Harriet, Sarah, Americus, Orphilia, Camillus (our subject) and Orion. Americus enlisted in the same regiment in which his brother Camillus served, and was shot through the heart at the battle of Perryville; his remains now fill a soldier's grave at Perryville, Ky.

Mr. Smith commenced at the foot of the ladder in life, and has seen many years of hard labor with drawbacks and privations. Now in the enjoyment of a pleasant and comfortable home, he is simply in possession of what he is honestly entitled to by reason of his industry and perseverance. Mrs. Smith is a lady of many amiable qualities, cultured and hospitable, and their home, one of the most attractive in this region, is the frequent resort of hosts of friends.

The view of Squire Smith's residence is presented in connection with this brief sketch of his life.

TALTON MASSEY, one of the substantial men of Otoe Precinct, enterprising and public-spirited, is essentially a Western man, having been born on this side of the Mississippi, in Gasconade County, Mo., forty miles from Jefferson City, April 15, 1837. His paternal grandfather was one of the first settlers of that State, taking up a tract of wild land and following the pursuit of agriculture. He spent his last years in Missouri.

The subject of this sketch took up his residence in Otoe Precinct in the fall of 1862. His parents, George and Margaret (Branson) Massey, were also natives of Missouri, and there they both spent their entire lives, except a three-years residence in Texas, the father engaged in farming pursuits. Their family consisted of eight children, namely: Charles, Talton; Ann and Elizabeth, both deceased; Thomas, who died young; Nancy, deceased; Sarah is the wife of James Russell, and they live in Idaho; and William.

Mr. Massey, our subject, was the second child of his parents, of whom he was deprived by death when but a boy. The children were then scattered, and our subject was taken into the home of his uncle, Benjamin Simpson, in Barton County, Mo., where he lived until able to do for himself. He now commenced freighting (this was in 1857) across the plains, transporting merchandise from Westport, Mo., in wagons to Santa Fe, N. M. This was an experience in which he saw much of life in the wild West, meeting all kinds of men, and often making his way through difficulties and dangers. He was thus occupied two years, then returned to Barton County, Mo., where he purchased land and resolved to settle down.

The next important event in the life of our subject was his marriage with Miss Martha Ann Lucas, which occurred near the town of Lamar, in February, 1859. Mrs. Massey was born in Sangamon County, Ill., Aug. 10, 1840, and was the only living child of Allison and Louisa (Harper) Lucas Mrs. Lucas died when her daughter, Mrs. Massey, was an infant.

Mr. Lucas, after the death of his wife, moved to Pike County, Ill., where Mrs. Massey was principally reared; then she removed with her father to Barton County, Mo. The Lucas family left Illinois and moved into Gasconade County, Mo., but, becoming discontented, returned later to Illinois. They afterward moved back to Missouri, settling this time in Barton County, where Mr. and Mrs. M. were married.

Our subject and his wife continued residents of Missouri until the fall of 1862, and then, on account of the troubles connected with the Civil War, decided to go farther North. On their way to Illinois Mrs. Massey was taken quite ill at Nebraska City,

and they were obliged to halt. Mr. M. engaged himself as a farm laborer, thinking to stay only until his wife was sufficiently recovered to proceed on their journey. He became pleased with the country and the people, and finally resolved to stay here, although not purchasing land until the spring of 1866. He first secured 160 acres, and has now one of the best cultivated farms in Otoe Precinct. The twenty-two years of his residence upon it have been devoted to its improvement, and, looking over his fields and buildings, the proprietor has abundant reason to congratulate himself upon the result of his labors.

To Mr. and Mrs. Massey there have been born eight children, the two eldest, Mary Jane and William H., in Missouri; the other six, Charles W., Louisa A., Isadora, George W., Sarah E. and Nancy A., were born in Otoe Precinct, this county. The eldest daughter is at home with her parents. William is a resident of Sterling, Jefferson Co., Neb; he married Miss Ina R. Crook, of Nebraska City, and they have three children—Clarence C., Oda Pearl and Viva B. Charles W. is at home; Louisa A. became the wife of T. L. Nipps, and the mother of one child, Mary A., and died on the 6th of March, 1888. Mary A. is now living with her grandparents. Isadora is pursuing her studies in Nebraska City. George W., Sarah E. and Nancy A. are at home with their parents.

Mr. Massey is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He has given especial attention to the education of his children, and they form a bright and interesting group whom the parents regard with pardonable pride.

ELIJAH W. ROSS ranks high among the successful, hard-working and manly citizens of Palmyra Precinct. He is one who does not live for himself alone, but has large interests in every enterprise or plan that will advance the prosperity of the district in which he resides, whether they be of an educational, religious, or merely political character. He successfully farms 160 acres of good land on sections 20 and 29, and other things being equal, sees a large return for every investment of strength or finances that he may make.

Our subject is the son of James and Priscilla (Young) Ross, both of whom were natives of New York State. In this family commingles both Scotch and German blood. His father, who is an agriculturist, is now seventy-two years of age, and his mother seventy-four. Grandfather Ross was in the War of 1812 as a Captain, and merited special mention for gallant service.

The subject of our sketch was the third of six children born to his parents, whose names we mention as follows: Peter, Artemus, Elijah W., Betsey A., Ella and Artemus. The second child and Ella are deceased. Elijah was born on the 12th of March, 1839, in Oswego, N. Y. He was brought up on a farm, and continued at home until 1861, when he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Dunlap, daughter of William Robert Dunlap, whose sketch appears on another page in this volume. Mrs. Ross was born on the 7th of August, 1841.

After their marriage our subject and his wife made their home in New York State until 1871, when they came to this State with their three children. Until that time Mr. Ross had been engaged in sawmill work and in the general lumber trade, but since he came to Nebraska has given his attention almost entirely to stock. The first experience in Nebraska in home life was in a dug-out, which served them for the first year and a half, after which they removed to their more commodious, comfortable and pleasant home. They are the parents of seven children, whose names we mention as follows: Ella, Emerson, Emery, Manly, Ida, William and John. Ella is happily married to Samuel Fullwider, and is a resident of Sharon, Kan.; they are the parents of two children. Emerson is a farmer at Turlington.

Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, of which organization he has been the Treasurer. His political principles are those of the Prohibition party, and he takes a lively and active interest therein. They are both highly esteemed, and are cordially received in the most select circles of local society.

Yours Truly

T. A. Ashton, M.D.

FREDERICK BORCHERDING is the owner of a very fine and productive farm on section 3 of Delaware Precinct, and is one of the most worthy representatives of that usually most desirable class of citizens, viz., those who have emigrated to this country from Germany. He bears the national characteristics of intelligent, earnest, persevering and thrifty labor, and to this, doubtless, is owing the success that has attended his agricultural efforts.

Our subject was born in Hanover, on the 22d of November, 1842. He came to this country with his father in the spring of 1860; a settlement was made in Clayton County, Iowa. The dawn of life in America was shrouded with gloom, overcast by the clouds of trouble and enveloped in the shadows of death, for within two weeks after reaching Iowa Frederick Borcherding, Sr., was taken sick and died.

The subject of our sketch never was privileged to attend the American schools, but at the same time has obtained a fair English education. He came to this county in the fall of 1868, and lived in Berlin Precinct until the fall of 1879, when he came to his present farm, which he has since cultivated with assiduous care, seeing as a result thereof a continuously growing success.

While residing in Clayton County, Iowa, our subject was married, on the 10th of October, 1866, to Eliza Abker. She was born in Clayton County, Iowa, of German parentage, and remained with her parents until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Borcherding have been given seven children, of whom six survive, viz: Maggie, Annie, Eward, Jennie, Alfred and Josie. Alfred had a twin sister, who died at the age of one year and a half; she bore the name Alice.

The total acreage owned by our subject is 480, all well improved and utilized for farming and stock-raising purposes. In starting our subject had practically nothing; what has been obtained is the result of hard work, good management and thrifty care. He now has a good farmhouse and an excellent barn that has recently been put up, standing 40x42 feet and 34 feet high from the basement, which is eight feet from floor to ceiling. The basement walls are all of rock, and stand upon a good foundation. The cost of this building, exclusive of his own work, was $1,400. The quarrying of the stone and the hauling of the same a distance of nine miles, besides other work upon the actual building, he did himself. Our subject and his wife are both members of the Lutheran Church and in good standing. They are well respected in the neighborhood, and enjoy the perfect confidence and esteem of all who know them.

THOMAS H. ASHTON, M. D., an able and popular physician of Syracuse, located in this city in the month of March, 1886. He is a native of Brown County, Ohio, and was born to James and Cassandra (Sly) Ashton, on the 8th of March, 1841. His father was a native of Bucks County, Pa., and his mother of Clermont County, Ohio. The great-grandfather of the Doctor emigrated from Ashton, England, at an early day, and settled in Pennsylvania. There his son Samuel was born, brought up, and in early manhood married. He continued after that interesting event to follow the pursuits of husbandry until the year 1806. He then migrated to Ohio, and three years later settled in Clermont County, making it his home for the remainder of his days.

The father of our subject was four years of age when his parents removed from Bucks County, Pa., and settled in the Buckeye State, where he grew to manhood. Upon leaving school he learned the trade of blacksmith, in connection with which he also followed farming. He removed to Defiance County in the same State in 1851, where he continued to live until 1886, when he died at a very advanced age. The longevity of this family has been perhaps one of the striking features connected with its history, for almost every member has attained more than the usually allotted term of life.

The mother of our subject is of Scotch and Holland-Dutch ancestry, and the family may be traced for several generations in Virginia. The maternal grandfather of Dr. Ashton, Jacob Sly, with several friends and neighbors, migrated in the year 1791 to Cincinnati, Ohio. At the time of the Indian troubles of that region he was with Gen. St. Clair as a wagonmaster, and while thus engaged was in-

jured and left the service. Proceeding to Clermont County, he settled down to farming, and it was at that homestead the mother of our subject was born. There she made her home until her marriage. Her death occurred in the year 1883, in Defiance County, Ohio, when she had reached the age of about eighty years.

The subject of our sketch was the seventh of nine children born to his parents. He was reared on the home farm, and pursued his early studies in the district school. At the age of eighteen he attended school at Defiance, and besides the studies of the prescribed curriculum also received instruction in Latin, the higher mathematics and literature. In 1861 he entered the university at Ann Arbor, Mich., and was graduated from the department of medicine in 1863. Soon after this he received a commission from Gov. Morton, of Indiana, as Special Surgeon to the Army of the Cumberland, and after thirty days of service was tendered a position upon the regular medical staff, serving thereon until the close of the war.

During the time the Doctor was stationed at Nashville, Tenn., he attended the university in that city, from which he was also graduated. Later, and while stationed at Murfreesboro, he was taken with smallpox, and lay for several weeks battling with that dread disease. His splendid constitution now did him good service, and in due time he recovered and returned to duty, when he was given the charge of the pest hospital in that city, which contained usually upward of 100 patients. After holding this position for some time, he was transferred to the United States General Hospital No. 4, at Murfreesboro. This hospital contained 284 beds, and was full nearly the entire time of his service, which continued until November, 1865, when the hospital was closed, and our subject returned to Defiance, Ohio.

Dr. Ashton now began to practice his profession in his native place, where he soon achieved an enviable reputation, and resided until 1882. He then went to Colorado to take charge of a health resort, but that not being a financial success, he came to Nebraska. Upon looking over the city of Syracuse and the surrounding country he was favorably impressed with the outlook, soon opened an office, and speedily had made a reputation, entering upon a lucrative practice.

The Doctor was married in Ohio in 1865, and is the parent of two children—Merrill and Ethel. As a fair exponent of the intelligence and ability of the medical profession in Southern Nebraska, we give his portrait, which, with those of his compeers, will be looked upon in later years with no less interest than that of the present time.

GEORGE B. HENDRICKS, of Hendricks Precinct, enjoys the distinction of being one of its earliest pioneers. He is pleasantly located on section 8, where he has resided for a period of over thirty years. His land, 160 acres in extent, has been carefully and skillfully cultivated, and yields in abundance the choicest crops of Southern Nebraska. Mr. Hendricks served as a soldier of the Union during the Rebellion, and his life has been that of the careful, conscientious and industrious citizen, one who has done good as he has had opportunity, and lived at peace among his neighbors.

Our subject is descended from two excellent Southern families, his father having been Hiram Hendricks, a native of Virginia, and his mother in her girlhood Sicily Thompson, who was born in Kentucky. Later they removed with their parents to Indiana, where their marriage took place. In the fall of 1847 they removed to Iowa, where the father carried on farming until 1856, and during that year cast his lot among the earliest pioneers of Southern Nebraska. Coming to this county he pre-empted 160 acres of land not far from its southwestern lines, and the new precinct then in process of organization was named in his honor. He was chosen Justice of the Peace not long afterward, in which office he served acceptably several years. He assisted in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being one of its charter members, and his house was always open for religious services, and as the home of the itinerant preacher.

This good man passed away in the fall of 1861, at the early age of forty-eight years. The mother is still living, and has remained a widow for a period

of twenty-seven years. She makes her home with her son at the old farm. Their children, eleven in number, were named respectively: Jane M., Louisa, David, Sarah; George B., our subject; Hannah, who died when about thirteen years old; Catherine; John, who died at the age of about one year; Joseph, Maggie and Hiram. Those who survive, with the exception of two, are residents of Hendricks Precinct.

The subject of this sketch was born in Delaware County, Ind., Aug. 7, 1842. He came with his parents to Iowa, and continued on the farm, pursuing his studies in the district school. He was a lad of fourteen years when the family came to this county, and has a clear recollection of the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life. In 1864, during the progress of the Civil War, he enlisted in a company of scouts sent out against the Indians under the command of Gen. Sully, and saw much of border warfare, being among other engagements in the battles of Bad Lands, which continued three days without intermission. At the close of the war he received his honorable disharge, and was mustered out at Sioux City, Iowa.

After returning from the army our subject took up a homestead claim of 160 acres in Hendricks Precinct, but later crossed the plains four times to Denver, and once went as far as New Mexico for the purpose of freighting. Upon his return to Nebraska he confined his attention closely to his farm, and in time effected the improvements which have made his home one of the most desirable in this section. He planted cottonwood, ash and elm trees, an orchard of 100 apple trees besides the smaller fruits, and quite an extent of hedge for fencing. He put up a neat and substantial dwelling, has a good barn and a vineyard. He keeps a goodly assortment of live stock, and has the improved farm machinery necessary for the prosecution of agriculture in a profitable manner.

The lady who has been the close counselor and companion of our subject for a period of nearly twenty years, was in her girlhood Miss Melinda E. Allstot, and they were wedded on the 28th of August, 1870. Mrs. H. was born in Dubuque, Iowa, March 22, 1854, and is the daughter of George and Nancy (Morgan) Allstot, the father a native of Kentucky, and the mother of Virginia. They were married in Indiana. Mr. A. was a wheelwright by trade, which he followed in that State until his removal to Iowa, when he turned his attention to farming. In 1870 he came to Lancaster County, Neb., where he homesteaded 160 acres of land, but on account of failing health was obliged to abandon active labor. He was finally placed in the Insane Asylum at Lincoln, where his death took place in the fall of 1884. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her son in Lancaster County.

The parents of Mrs. Hendricks had a family of ten children, namely: Susan, Kate, Sarah, John, George, James, Hannah, Melinda, Albert and Robert. The latter is now deceased. To our subject and his wife there have been born seven children: Laura, May, Charles, William, Raymond, Nettie and Frank, all of whom are at home with their parents. Both parents and children attend the Methodist Episcopal Church at Solon, and Mr. Hendricks, politically, gives his support to the Democratic party.

FRANK P. HAZELTON, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and pleasantly located on section 16, came to Nebraska in the spring of 1872, and purchased the eighty acres upon which he has since labored and made good improvements. His farm buildings are neat and comfortable. He has a stream of living water, with a good supply of shade trees and an orchard of apples and the smaller fruits, besides the other necessaries for the comfort of his family.

Our subject is of New England ancestry, his parents, Otis and Melissa (Graves) Hazelton, having been born in New Hampshire, the father in Springfield, and the mother in Andover. After marriage they lived upon a farm in the Old Granite State until 1866, then migrated to Iowa, settling near the present town of Farmersburg, in Clayton County, where they remained five years. Thence, in 1871, they removed to Lancaster County, Neb., where the father homesteaded 160 acres of land, and where they now live.

The father of our subject, in 1862, during the

progress of the Civil War, enlisted in the 11th New Hampshire Infantry, being mustered in at Concord, and served until the close, participating in many important battles. These included Fredericksburg, the siege of Vicksburg, and most of the engagements of the Army of the Potomac. He received his honorable discharge at Washington, D. C. He is now a resident of Panama, Lancaster Co., Neb., where he has been Postmaster for some years, and is now arrived at the age of sixty. The mother died when comparatively a young woman, in 1862, aged forty-one years. Their family consisted of three children, all sons: Frank P., our subject; Frederick, a real-estate dealer at Norton, Kan., and Sidney, who lives with his parents.

The subject of this sketch was born in Springfield, N. H., July 11, 1853. His first recollections are of the mountains around his boyhood home, where he remained until a lad of thirteen years, the family then moving to Iowa. There he passed several years, following after the manner of the sons of pioneer farmers, assisting his father and attending the district school. Later he became a student of the Western College, of Iowa, taking the scientific course and remaining two years. He was eighteen years old when the family came to Lancaster County, this State, and continued under the parental roof until twenty. Subsequently he taught school for a period of five years. He was married in Panama, Neb., Oct. 12, 1879, to Miss Dora Brewer, who was born in Missouri, July 3, 1862. The parents of Mrs. Hazelton were Jacob and Susan (Smith) Brewer, the father a native of West Virginia, and the mother of Ohio. Jacob Brewer migrated to the Buckeye State early in life, where he was married, and for a time carried on farming. During the first years of the Rebellion he commenced freighting across the plains. In 1865 he settled in the vicinity of Hendricks, this county, where he engaged in farming, then sold out and removed to Seward County, where he now lives in retirement upon a competence. Mrs. H. was the youngest of the ten children born to her parents. Of her brothers and sisters six are living, and residents of Nebraska.

Otis Hazelton, the elder child of our subject and his wife, was born Nov. 9, 1880, and Clyde, the younger, Oct. 13, 1885. These interesting children complete the household circle. Mr. H. votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been Assessor of Hendricks Precinct three years, serving also as School Director in his district. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., being a member of Nemaha Lodge No. 32, at Bennet, in which he has passed all the Chairs.

JURGEN F. KRAMER. The farm of this gentleman occupies a portion of section 20 in North Branch Precinct, and comprises 840 broad acres. It has for a period of eleven years been subjected to that careful course of cultivation which has made it one of the most valuable tracts of land in this section of Otoe County. It was but a stretch of wild prairie when it came into the possession of its present proprietor, who settled upon it March 1, 1877. That he has made good use of his time is apparent from the fine improvements, including substantial buildings, the fruit and shade trees, the well-kept fences, the machinery and the live stock, the whole of which comprises a picture delightful to the eye.

In viewing the extent and value of this property the reader will not be surprised to learn that it belongs to a native of the German Empire, hundreds of whose sons have assisted so greatly in the development of the great State of Nebraska. Mr. Kramer was born in the Province of Holstein, Oct. 3, 1840, and is the son of Henry and Sophia Kramer, who were natives of the same Province as their son, and who spent their entire lives upon their native soil. Their family included thirteen children, two only of whom are living, who came together to the United States, and Jacob, the brother of our subject, is now living on a portion of the farm of the latter, and possesses much of the industry and enterprise which have distinguished our subject.

Mr. Kramer received a good education in his native tongue, having been, in accordance with the laws and customs of his native country, placed in school at an early age, where he pursued his studies until a lad of fourteen years. The few years intervening between that time and manhood were em-

ployed at farming. At the age of twenty young Kramer determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic, and bidding farewell to the friends and companions of his youth, sailed from Hamburg in the month of May, and after a comparatively brief voyage set foot upon American soil at Castle Garden, New York City.

Our subject from the great metropolis proceeded westward to Chicago, Ill, near which city he worked for a time in a hay-pressing establishment. Thence he migrated across the Mississippi River into Scott County, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm laborer first, and afterward in a steam gristmill about eighteen months. After his departure from the Hawkeye State we next find him working on a farm in Cooper County, Mo., and from there he came to Nebraska City in the spring of 1868.

The first employment of Mr. Kramer in this county was as a farm hand near Nebraska City, but he determined to become his own man as soon as possible. His first step in this direction was the purchase of a team, by which means he engaged in a general transportation business, and later secured part ownership in a threshing-machine. Next he rented a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, upon which he operated as a tenant for a period of seven years. At the expiration of that time, having accumulated a snug sum of money, he purchased the 320 acres included in his present farm. The stimulus of ownership enabled him to make exceedingly good headway, and in the course of a few years he found himself on the highway to prosperity. In 1883 he added a quarter-section to his purchase, which is devoted largely to the growing of grain, while he has no small number of cattle, horses and swine. These he feeds, and has all the facilities for the most profitable prosecution of this industry. He has thus been the means of developing a large area of North Branch Precinct, and in this manner contributed to its growth and prosperity. He has been a man of strict integrity and fair dealing, and enjoys in a marked degree the confidence of his neighbors.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Mary Rodway took place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City, and of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Lizzie, Charles, Isabelle, George, Eugene, Lulu, Maggie, Minnie and Mark. The eldest is sixteen years of age, and the youngest seven. They are all living at home. Mrs. Kramer is the daughter of Samuel and Mariah Rodway, natives of England, and was born May 1, 1853, in England. Her father is now deceased; the mother is a resident of this county. Mr. Kramer cast his first Presidential vote for Seymour, and although meddling very little with politics keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen.

JOHN McGINLEY. In the career of this gentleman is illustrated that of the self-made man, who was thrown early in life upon his own resources, and has by a course of persevering industry attained a good position, socially and financially. He is now the owner of an extensive tract of land, consisting of 680 acres in Hendricks Precinct, and 172 in Delaware. His homestead is provided with handsome and substantial buildings, and all the farm machinery necessary to the carrying on of agriculture after the most approved methods. Mr. McGinley as a citizen is liberal and public-spirited, and uniformly the encourager of those enterprises calculated to advance the welfare of the community, socially, morally and financially.

The subject of our sketch was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1830, and is the son of Patrick and Rosa (Kennie) McGinley, who were natives of the same county as their son, They emigrated to America in 1866, and coming directly to the West, settled in Delaware Precinct, this county, where the father died the year following at the age of fifty-six years. The mother is still living, and a resident of Hendricks. The parental household included nine children, five of whom are living and residents of Nebraska. John was a young man twenty-two years of age when coming to the United States, having preceded the family a number of years. He sailed from Liverpool and landed in New Orleans, and thence proceeded to Cincinnati by steamboat.

In 1878 our subject purchased 680 acres of land in Hendricks Precinct, this county, and has made all the improvements which have constituted his home-

stead one of the most valuable in this part of Otoe County. The land is well watered with running streams, and pleasant groves scattered here and there form a grateful shade in summer and protect both man and beast from the blasts of winter. Ten acres are planted to orchards, and numerous other fine fruits add to the comfort and enjoyment of the family.

Mr. McGinley was married in Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1858, to Miss Mary, daughter of James and Ellen (McKinne) Sheridan, who were also natives of Ireland, born in County Donegal. The family started out for America in July, 1855, and the father died on the ocean. The family settled first in Cincinnati, where Mrs. McGinley was reared to womanhood, and remained with her mother until her marriage. The latter subsequently made her home with this daughter, and died at Dunbar, June 25, 1883, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The parental family included nine children, of whom Mrs. McGinley was the fifth in order of birth. She was born in County Donegal, Ireland, May 12, 1835, and was nineteen years old when she crossed the Atlantic.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. McGinley, ten in number, were named respectively: Rosanna, Ellen, Lizzie, Mary, James, William, George, Francis, Maggie and Jessie. They are all living at home with the exception of Lizzie, who is the wife of Charles Flynn, a well-to-do farmer of Delaware Precinct. They have one child, a daughter, Jessie. Mr. McGinley has been quite prominent in local affairs; he has served as Road Supervisor for a period of ten years, and is still holding the office. He has also operated considerably as a contractor for railroads and county bridges. He fulfilled several contracts during the building of the Missouri Pacific. He and his excellent wife were reared in the faith of the Catholic Church, of which they still remain devoted adherents, and attend services both at Palmyra and Nebraska City. Mr. McGinley, politically, is a stanch Democrat, and a warm supporter of the principles of his party. Mrs. McGinley is a lady greatly esteemed in her community, intelligent, refined, and possessing all the womanly virtues.

When our subject came to this county Nebraska City was a hamlet of a few houses. He was one of the earliest settlers of Delaware Precinct, and has here upon his farm much valuable timber. He is considerably interested in stock, feeding extensively from sixty to 100 head each year, and is breeding mules, having on hand usually about twelve head. A man wide-awake and energetic, he has long been recognized as one of the most important and successful farmers of the county, in whose development and prosperity he has been no unimportant factor. He has watched its growth with the interest which is felt by every intelligent citizen, and in the development of one of its finest farms has added greatly to the value of its landed estate.

JOHN B. HOSTETTER, a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, and a local preacher of the United Brethren Church, is also greatly interested in agricultural pursuits. He owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 9 in Palmyra Precinct, and possesses all the qualities of an honest man and a good citizen, one who has built up for himself a record on which in coming years his children will look with pride.

The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery County, Ind., Aug. 11, 1843, and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons in the pioneer days, conning his lessons during the winter season in the little log school-house, and assisting his father during the seasons of sowing and reaping around the homestead. He is the son of Sherman and Mary A. (Byrd) Hostetter, the father a native of Rockbridge County, Va., and the mother born in Kentucky.

The paternal grandfather, David Hostetter, when quite small took up his residence in Pennsylvania, thence emigrating to Ohio, and later to Montgomery County, Ind., about 1829. He was consequently one of the earliest pioneers of that region, and there he spent his last days. Sherman Hostetter's family consisted of the following children by his two marriages: Mary; two infants who died unnamed; William H.; Aaron B., who died young;

John B., our subject; Armilda, also deceased; Melissa R.; Fronissa C.; Sherman A.; James D.; Louis W.; Margaret E.; Allen H. and Edgar C. Of these nine are living, and residents of Nebraska and Indiana.

Our subject claims that the scenes drawn by Eggleston in the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" frequently resemble those which occurred during his boyhood and youth. He was a bright and observant lad, more than ordinarily mischievous, it is believed, and never losing an opportunity of playing a harmless joke on his parents or comrades. His father was a leading man in the community, foremost in his encouragement of religion and education, and was the Trustee of Scott Township for a number of years. John B. grew to manhood on the farm, and before reaching his majority was married, Jan. 20, 1864, to Miss Clarissa Wall, a native of Putnam County, Ind., and born July 12, 1842. She also was the daughter of a farmer, and had been carefully trained to all housewifely duties, receiving her education in the district school. Our subject after becoming the father of one child was constrained to offer his services as a Union soldier, feeling it his duty to leave home and family, as at that time there seemed little prospect of an immediate termination of the war. He enlisted for a term of one year in Company F, 11th Indiana Infantry, and went with his regiment first to Baltimore. He saw very little of active service, and at the time of Lee's surrender the regiment was stationed upon the outskirts of the city of Baltimore, which city like scores of others in the North was made the scene of general rejoicing. In that city he received his honorable discharge in August, 1865.

Our subject now returned home. His father at that time was a member of the Indiana Legislature, and by his advice, which coincided with the convictions and wishes of our subject, the latter identified himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church as a local preacher, his pious labors engaging the most of his time from that period until he came to Nebraska in the fall of 1881. He had never lost his love for rural pursuits and life in the country, and accordingly sought his home in the agricultural districts, purchasing eighty acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. Upon this there were no buildings and no improvements. Mr. Hostetter proceeded after the manner of the pioneer settler to build up a home for himself and family, in which labor he has met with success. Naturally industrious, and possessing excellent judgment, he has labored with his hands to good advantage, while at the same time, by constant reading and study, he keeps himself well posted upon the various questions of the day. Following in the footsteps of his honored father, who was first a Whig and then a Republican, he has striven to cast his influence in favor of the passage of those laws which should give to the people their highest freedom and most even justice. He has the satisfaction of reflecting upon the fact that his father assisted in the defeat of the Military Bill during his services as a Legislator, and thereby enjoyed the warm friendship of Gov. Morton and other eminent men.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter there have been born nine children, namely: Ida R., Lillian A., Sherman F., Marshall E., Earl J., Eunice C., Mary E., Raymond E. and Addison L. The oldest daughter is now the wife of Samuel Pollett, a well-to-do farmer of Palmyra Precinct; they have one child, Lena I. The other children are at home with their parents. Mr. Hostetter is a strong advocate of temperance, and during the existence of slavery was bitterly opposed to the "peculiar institution," having had his convictions greatly strengthened by the reading of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" when a boy. He is a prominent member of the G. A. R., at Palmyra, in which he has served as Junior Vice and Chaplain.

The father of our subject departed this life at his home in Indiana, Dec. 6, 1868, when about sixty-one years of age. In the Legislature he was the Republican Representative from Boone County, Ind., at a time when the Union members were in the minority. At the time of the introduction of the Military Bill, over which there was so much controversy, the only hope of the Union men lay in "bolting" so as to prevent a quorum. It was agreed by the Democrats that the doors should be closed to prevent the departure of the Republicans. The father of our subject at the risk of his life coolly placed himself at one of the doors, and by main force kept it open. To his great relief and

joy the projected bill was thus defeated, and he received the congratulations of his constituents and brother members. Gov. Morton in person commended him highly, and thereafter remained his earnest and admiring friend.

RODOLPHUS J. VAUGHAN, of Russell Precinct, although a blacksmith and wagon-maker by trade, is also fond of agricultural pursuits, and consequently upon coming to this county established himself on a tract of land comprising the southeast quarter of section 16. Here he has built up a valuable and attractive homestead, and has surrounded himself with all the comforts of life. He has a blacksmith-shop on his place, and in this during the year saves himself a good many dollars, being able to repair his own implements and shoe his own horses, and perform the same offices for his neighbors. His chief characteristics are industry and perseverance, in the exercise of which he has obtained a competency—something for a rainy day and for his declining years.

Greene County, Ill., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place over fifty-one years ago, on the 18th of June, 1837. His father was a farmer by occupation, and the early life of Rodolphus J. was thus spent amid the quiet scenes of country life, where he became thoroughly familiar with farm employments as carried on in times that were comparatively early in the settlement of the Prairie State. At the age of twenty-one years he began farming for himself in Marshall County, Ill., to which he removed with his father in 1885. In the biography of Charles E. Vaughan found elsewhere in this volume appears a sketch of the parental history.

Mr. Vaughan remained a resident of Marshall County, Ill., until after the outbreak of the late Rebellion, and in 1864 enlisted as a Union soldier in Company D, 11th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Camp Butler, Springfield, and was assigned to the Army of the Mississippi, and under the command of Gen. Grant went to the South. Soon afterward they joined the Red River expedition, and our subject participated in the battles of Ft. Blakely, Spanish Fort, and some other minor engagements, obtaining a good idea of the hardships and privations of life in the army. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, La., and later received his honorable discharge in Springfield, Ill.

Returning to his old haunts in Marshall County, Ill., our subject resumed farming there, continuing thus employed until the spring of 1872. He then determined upon a change of location and occupation, and going to Washburn, Ill., purchased a blacksmith-shop, which he conducted until the spring of 1878, then returned to the farm. In the spring of 1881 he came across the Mississippi into this county, and located upon the land which he now owns and occupies. His farm and his shop together are the source of a handsome income.

Our subject found his wife in Marshall County, Ill., Miss Annette Sweet, to whom he was married Dec. 2, 1858. Mrs. Vaughan was born in Sangamon County, Ill., March 10, 1840, and is the daughter of Daniel and Elsie (Sweet) Sweet, who were natives of New York State, the father born at Burlington, Otsego County, in 1809, and the mother in Otsego County, in the year 1816. The maternal grandfather, a native of New York, was of Scotch ancestry and an old Revolutionary soldier. The father of Mrs. Vaughan removed to Illinois in 1820, and eight years later to St. Louis, Mo., where he engaged in brickmaking. He followed this occupation a number of years thereafter, manufacturing brick in the counties of Morgan, Greene, Sangamon and Scott, Ill. In McLean County, Ill., he followed butchering about twenty years, and at one period in his life engaged in farming. He is still living, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Vaughan. His career has been quite eventful, he having when a young man served in the Black Hawk War under Gen. Henry. The mother died in Sangamon County, Ill., when middle aged, in 1849. Their family consisted of the following children: Oscar, Annette, Atheline, Martha L. and William B.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan commenced the journey of life together in Marshall County, Ill. There have been born to them six children, two only of whom are living. The son, Alva B., makes his home in the city of Lincoln, and is in the employ of the

Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. The daughter, Cora L., is the wife of Mr. Frank Hull, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct.

In politics Mr. Vaughan votes the straight Republican ticket. Religiously, both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at South Russell, in the organization of which Mr. V. performed an important part and of which he is a Deacon. He has served as Road Supervisor two years, and socially, belongs to the I. O. O. F. being a member of Lodge No. 447, at Washburn, Ill.

LOUIS DAMME. The subject of this narration became a resident of this county in December, 1864, and has signalized himself as a hard-working and enterprising citizen. This course has not been without its good results, for by it he has become the owner of one of the finest farms in McWilliams Precinct. This property is pleasantly located on section 31, and comprises 273 acres of improved land, with a set of good farm buildings. Mr. Damme located upon his land in the spring of 1868, with little means save his strong muscle and stout heart, and from that very modest beginning has arisen to an enviable position, socially and financially.

Our subject was born April 1, 1843, in Franklin County, Mo., and is of German parentage. His father, Henry Damme, was born in Germany, and married a lady of his own country. After the birth of four children they emigrated to the United States, and soon after setting foot upon American soil made ther way to the southwest, across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. Here the father engaged in farming, and died of the cholera early in the fifties, when about fifty-five years old. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, and Louis when a lad ten years of age was thus left an orphan.

After the death of his parents our subject was taken into the home of his brother, William Damme, who lived in Franklin County, Mo., and with whom he remained until a youth of seventeen. After the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in the 4th Missouri Infantry, Company E, under command of Capt. Montwiler, mostly doing guard duty, and serving a period of eighteen months. Upon leaving the army he returned to his native county and soon afterward came to Nebraska. In Otoe County he was married, Feb. 17, 1870, to Miss Dora Reimers, a native of Germany, and who came to the United States with her parents when a young woman. They first settled in St. Louis, thence came to this county, and afterward moved to Kansas, settling on a farm in Barton County, where the father, Henry Reimers, is yet living. The mother, Mrs. Mary Reimers, died in the spring of 1888, aged about fifty-five years.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born six children, namely: Anna, Alvina, Julius, Bertha, Amy and Louis. The eldest is seventeen years of age and the youngest seventeen months. They all continue under the home roof. Mr. Damme votes the straight Republican ticket, and both he and his wife are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, and takes very little interest in political matters. His chief pride is in being a first-class farmer, and in this respect his career has been one of which he may be proud.

EDWARD F. THORP is one who is familiar with every phase of pioneer life, having always lived upon the frontier. He was born in Cayuga County, Ohio, on the 31st of August, 1834, to Garrett and Loranna Thorp, who were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Benjamin Thorp, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey, and reared in that State upon a farm, but migrated to Pennsylvania, and was one of the pioneers of Washington County, whence he removed to Cayuga County in 1808, and helped to develop that district. He entered a tract of Government land which lay about eight miles from the site of the present city of Cleveland, where he cleared a farm, and made his home until his death.

The father of our subject was eight years of age when the above-mentioned removal to Ohio was made. That supplied the scenes of his early life

and also of his early manhood. In that district he was married, purchased a tract of land near the old homestead, and cleared a farm from the wilderness, and made his residence there until the year 1846, when he went to Allen Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., and there repeated the process. He was in Michigan until 1856, and then again started West with team and wagon, taking his journey through Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, stopping in the latter State at Marshalltown, where he bought a tract of land and started to improve the same. He there made his home until the death of his wife in 1865, then he sold out, and now resides with our subject. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Loranna Scoville. She was born in Medina County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Ansil and Sarah Scoville. She became the mother of eight children. Our subject was twelve years of age when his parents went to Michigan, and attended the schools both of that State and Ohio, and received such instruction as they were capable of affording. As he grew stronger he became his father's assistant on the farm, and continued to live with his parents until 1857. In starting in life for himself he assisted in a sawmill at Eastport, which became a town of about 400 families, but the river having changed its course and taken the town site in its way, Eastport does not now exist. He was in that place for about two years, and then went to Marshalltown and improved a tract of land that he had bought there. In 1860 he returned and worked in the same mill until 1861. From that time until the fall of 1868 he was working in the flouring-mill at the same place.

Leaving the State of Iowa in 1868 our subject came to Nebraska City, where he formed a partnership with N. R. and M. E. Pinney, his former employers, and bought the city mills, which he continued to operate until the 26th of December, 1877. Upon that day the mills were burned and became a total loss. Since that time he refitted and operated a mill at Palmyra and another at Hamburg. In July, 1887, he commenced keeping hotel, and opened the Thorp House, and was abundantly successful. His excellent wife managed the hotel until June, 1888, when our subject received injuries that incapacitated him from working further at his trade, and from that time he has taken charge. It is only due to his wife, however, to say that her admirable management and happy manner secured for the house many friends and customers.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated in the year 1863. He was then united in wedlock with Martha A. Nicholson, of Indiana. To them have been born four children, whose names are as follows: Milton R., Minnie E., Nora and Clyde A. In the Masonic fraternity our subject is quite well and favorably known, being a member of Western Lodge No. 2, the Alpha Council No. 2, Keystone Chapter No. 2 and Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 2.

C. FREDERICK SMALLFOOT, one of the most enterprising German farmers of Berlin Precinct, is pleasantly located on the southeast quarter of section 26, where he has a well-developed farm and an attractive home. He has worked his way upward from an humble position in life and may be properly numbered among the self-made men of Otoe County, whose prosperity has been the result of their own industry and perseverance. Our subject when landing upon American soil was alone and among strangers, with very little money in his pocket, and no friends to assist him to employment. His own honest face, however, soon secured him a position by which he was enabled to make his way comfortably, and since that day he has been climbing upward.

Our subject was the fifth child and only son of C. F., Sr., and Johanna (Miller) Smallfoot, and was born in the Kingdom of Saxony on the 2d of March, 1830. He was reared in the town of Sweckau, where he attended school until he was fourteen years of age, was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church, and later apprenticed to the trade of wagon-maker. At this he was occupied until the year before coming to the United States, and that year he employed in traveling over his native Empire.

In the spring of 1854 our subject, then a young man of twenty-four years, made his way to the port of Bremen, and resolved to emigrate to America. He took passage on a sailing-vessel, which,

after forty-two days, and lying still four or five days in a calm, landed safely in New York City. Thence he made his way to Milwaukee, Wis., where he secured employment at his trade, and later was occupied at this in Madison, Wis., for four years. At the expiration of this time he went onto a farm in Middleton Township, Dane County, where he had purchased forty acres, and where he lived until 1869. In the spring of that year, selling out, he came to this county.

Settling in Delaware Precinct, Mr. Smallfoot operated on rented land for a period of eight years, and in 1877 purchased the land which he now owns and occupies. This was a tract of raw prairie without a fence or building, and Mr. S. therefore commenced at first principles to build up a homestead. He devoted four acres to groves, set out an orchard of 100 apple trees, put up a house and barn, and in due time turned his attention largely to stock-raising. He now has besides his fine draft horses, good grades of cattle and Poland-China swine. His fields are laid off with hedge and wire fencing. He raises large corn crops, and is generally successful.

Our subject found a wife and helpmate in Dane County, Wis., being married there in April, 1866, to Miss Johanna Miller, who was born in the city of Leipsic, Germany, Feb. 28, 1834. Mrs. S. came to America with two brothers in 1853. Of her union with our subject there have been born six children, namely: August, Amelia, Ida, Edward, Augusta and Emma. The eldest son is farming in Delaware Precinct; Amelia is the wife of William Gass, also lives in Delaware Precinct, and is the mother of three children; Ida, Mrs. Robert Buchanan, is the wife of a well-to-do farmer of South Branch Precinct, and the mother of one child; Emma married George Haffner, a farmer of Lancaster County, Neb., residing near Firth. The other children are at home with their parents.

Mr. Smallfoot cast his first Presidential vote for Buchanan, and is one of the most reliable supporters of the Republican party. Coming from a land believing in the thorough education of its children, he is always interested in the maintenance of schools, and has been a member of the School Board in his precinct for a period of six years. He is quite prominent in local affairs, and has served on the Grand Jury. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church in Berlin Precinct, to the support of which he contributes liberally, assisting in the building of the church edifice, and is esteemed as one of the pillars of the society.

GERHART HENRY MEYER is a member of the firm of Noelting & Meyer, the leading hardware merchants of Nebraska City. He was born in Garnavillo, Clayton Co., Iowa, April 11, 1858. His father, Deitrich Meyer, was a native of Germany, where he was reared and educated. When attaining to manhood he decided that the New World held more attractions for him than the old, as he thought that here he could better earn his way to a competence and to a life of ease than in his native land. Accordingly he crossed the waters, and making his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, he found employment there as a stair-builder. He remained in that city until 1857, when he turned his face westward, and set out for Iowa with his family, going by the way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and landing at Guttenberg. He located in the town of Garnavillo, where he engaged in the mercantile business, opening a general store. There were no railways in that section of Iowa at that time, and he received his goods by way of the river. He continued prosperously engaged in business there until his death in 1870. Since that time his wife and one of his sons have managed the business interests successfully. In his death his adopted county lost a valued and useful citizen, one who, as a good financier and a man of probity, was identified with its best interests. His wife, to whom he was greatly indebted for his high standing, was formerly Margaret Kregel, a native of Germany. Her father, Gerhart Kregel, was likewise a German by birth, and he served in the German army during the Russian War. He came to America with his family and lived for a time in Cincinnati, Ohio. From there he went to Clayton County, Iowa, in 1857, going by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He bought a tract of wild prairie land and improved quite a farm. He died in 1886, having attained

the remarkable age of ninety-six years. He had four sons and one daughter. Of the nine children born to the parents of our subject, six grew to maturity: Margaret, wife of William Kregel; John D.; William; Gerhart H.; Emma and Lena, twins. Lena died in 1886.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native town, and received his early education in its public schools. He further advanced his education by attendance at a select private school, where he had the advantage of superior instruction. As soon as he was large enough to be useful he commenced to assist his father in the store, and thus laid the foundation for an excellent mercantile training. When he was sixteen he went to work in a carriage-shop, remaining thus employed for three years. He made his home with his parents until 1878, when he came to Otoe County, Neb., and the ensuing three years was engaged as a clerk in the establishment of William Beckman. He then started in business for himself by opening a clothing and gentleman's furnishing goods store in Syracuse. That he managed very profitably in that town until 1883, when, seizing the fine opportunity offered to him in this city to enter the hardware business, he came here and purchased a half-interest in it, and consummated the present partnership, by which arrangement both parties have been greatly benefited. They are men of enterprise; have a fine establishment, well stocked with the best articles in the line of goods that they carry, and they are extensively patronized, as their moderate charges and honest dealings deserve.

Mr. Meyer was united in marriage with Miss Anna L. Mohrman, Nov. 18, 1881. Mrs. Meyer is a native of Clayton County, Iowa, and a daughter of J. H. and Mary Mohrman. The great sorrow of the married life of our subject and his wife was the death of their only child, their little daughter, Lulu Grace, who was born July 23, 1885, and died April 26, 1887.

"Dear little Lulu, by how tender a tie
She links home upon earth to home in the sky."

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and their influence and cordial co-operation are always extended to aid in any good or charitable work. Mr. Meyer is a young man of decided business talent, keen, prompt and fair in his dealings, and he has already gained an assured place among the solid, reliable merchants of Nebraska City, although he began at the bottom of the ladder, and is an entirely self-made man. He takes an intelligent interest in politics, and stands with the Republican party.

OLIVER H. BUMFORD, one of the older residents of Palmyra Precinct, and a man who has scores of friends in this vicinity, owns and occupies with his estimable wife a pleasant and comfortable home, which comprises a small farm of eighty acres on section 16, Palmyra Precinct. He was born near the town of Pompeii, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 19, 1836, his home being about ten miles from the city of Syracuse. When a lad ten years of age his parents removed to Florence Township, St. Joseph Co., Mich., where the father, a blacksmith by trade, purchased twenty acres of land, and building up a good home, spent the remainder of his life. He retired from business a few years before his death, and passed away on the 29th of August, 1859, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother has since made her home with her son, our subject, and has now reached the advanced age of eighty-five.

The parents of our subject, John and Patty Bumford, were natives of Massachusetts, and the father during his early manhood served as a Lieutenant in the War of 1812. The home circle was completed by the birth of ten children. William is still living, and George died at the age of thirteen. The survivors are: Mary A., William, Paulina, Martha, and Oliver, of our sketch. The latter is the youngest of his parents' living children, and remained with them in St. Joseph County, Mich., until twenty-nine years of age. In 1864 he purchased a half-interest in a sawmill in Ionia County, but four years later removed to Mitchell County, Iowa, and settled upon a farm. Thence he came to Nebraska in 1872, and homesteaded eighty acres in Palmyra Precinct. In 1878, changing his location and occupation, he assumed charge of a hotel at

Bennet, which he conducted one year, then withdrew, and engaged for two years following as clerk in a general store.

We next find our subject engaged in general merchandising at Roca, where he operated successfully two years, then unfortunately admitted a partner to the business, who proved to be a rascal, and who involved our subject in great loss. In 1882, therefore, he returned to his farm, where he has since lived.

Mr, Bumford, on the 13th of September, 1863, was united in marriage with Miss Georgiana Henderson, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Sturgis, Mich. Mrs. Bumford was born in July, 1844, in Constantine, St. Joseph Co., Mich., and is the daughter of Adam and Margaret Henderson, who were natives of Ireland and New York State respectively, and spent their last years in Michigan. The family consisted of four children, namely: John, Oliver, Charles and Georgiana. Of these Mrs. Bumford is the only one living.

Our subject has always taken a warm interest in political matters, and has been a member of the Republican party since its organization. He was elected Assessor in the spring of 1887, and has also served as Justice of the Peace two terms in Bennet. He was appointed a delegate to the Otoe County Republican Convention in 1886. He is at present a School Director in his district. Socially, he belongs to the A. F. & A. M. and I. O. O. F. He is a man who has lived quietly and unostentatiously, pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and a good citizen, his interests centering mostly around his fireside. Mr. and Mrs. B. have no children.

WILLIAM BECKMAN. The mercantile interests of the city of Syracuse find a most worthy and enterprising representative in the subject of this sketch. He has been a resident of this county for a period of twenty years, pitching his tent here in the fall of 1877. He first opened his eyes to the light near the town of Edwardsville, Madison Co., Ill., Oct. 6, 1853. His parents were natives of Berlin, Germany, and the father, Rudolph Beckman, was a farmer by occupation. Our subject was left motherless when an infant, and thus has no remembrance of her who bore him. When but a lad of seven years he was doubly orphaned by the death of his father. He was then given a home among strangers, and knows but little of his own people. He has no brothers, and his only sister, Dinah, Mrs. Frederickson, is a resident of Johnson County, this State.

Young Beckman after the death of his father continued at the homestead two years, then went to the city of St. Louis, Mo., with J. H. Wagoner. His early education had been extremely limited' and he was thrown upon his own resources. He accepted the first position which presented itself as an employe in a coal yard, and was occupied four years. Then coming to this State, he located in Nebraska City, in the fall of 1868 becoming the employe of Buck & Jones, hardware merchants, intending to learn the tinner's trade. The firm, however, soon closed up their business, and our subject was again left without a job.

Mr. Beckman, however, continued his connection with the hardware business with the firm of Mohrensticker & Clober, remaining with them sixty days, and then this firm also closed its doors. About this time he had the misfortune to sprain his ankle, and being unable to work contracted a board bill with M. T. Johnson, and to pay this was employed by Mr. J. in the dining-room of his hotel. Subsequently he occupied the clerk's desk in the office six months, but feeling that he was not adapted to the position of a hotel clerk withdrew, and became a clerk in a grocery store. From this he drifted into a store of general merchandising, where he was employed until 1877.

Realizing most sadly the disadvantages of his neglected education, Mr. Beckman in the winter of 1875 entered the Commercial College at St. Louis, Mo., and after diligent study was graduated from that institution six months later. Then returning to Nebraska City, he entered the employ of the same firm, the gentleman above mentioned, with whom he continued until the 1st of August, 1877. His plan then was to establish himself at Tecumseh, in Johnson County, in business, but failing to secure a desirable location he returned to Syracuse, and be-

came successor of J. S. McConnega, and has since been engaged in general merchandising with marked success. He has a neat and substantial residence in the eastern part of the city, and is the owner of other valuable town property. With the exception of $500 from his father's estate, he has attained his present position, financially, by his own resolution and energy. During the time he was employed as a clerk he saved $1,000, having in the meanwhile lived economically and deprived himself of many of those things which the young man of to-day imagines he cannot do without.

The lady who has presided over the household of our subject for a period of nearly ten years was in her girlhood Miss Minnie E. Risser, to whom he was wedded Jan. 7, 1879. Mrs. Beckman was born in Franklin Center, Lee Co., Iowa, in 1856, and is the daughter of David and Christina (Hubach) Risser, who were natives of Germany, and are now residents of Otoe County, where the father is carrying on farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Beckman there have been born five children, namely: Leona A., Edward D., Frederick W., Grover R. and Amelia C. They are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, and Mr. Beckman, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket. He takes a warm interest in local politics, and is frequently chosen a delegate to the State Conventions.

JASPER A. WARE lives in one of the pleasantest homes in Nebraska City, a commodious brick structure, which is finely located on an eminence, sloping gently back from the street, one mile from the court-house, overlooking a beautiful stretch of country. Mr. Ware was for many years the leading banker of Nebraska City, and was actively identified with its business interests, but he now devotes himself to marketing and gardening.

Mr. Ware was born in Todd County, Ky., March 5, 1831. His father, Edmund Ware, was a native of Virginia, but his grandfather, Lewis Ware, was, it is thought, born in England, emigrating from there to America and settling in Virginia. He subsequently moved from there to Kentucky, and located near Frankfort, where he spent his last years. The father of our subject was a boy when his parents moved to Kentucky, and there he grew to manhood and married, Laura V. Anderson, a native of Virginia, becoming his wife. Her father, Nicholas Anderson, who, so far as known, was of Virginian birth, was of English ancestry, and was a pioneer of Kentucky. After marriage Mr. Ware moved to Todd County, Ky., and there bought a large tract of timber land, eight miles from Elkton and one and a half miles from Trenton. He cleared quite a large farm, and resided there until his death in 1855. When he first settled there he erected a set of log buildings, but before his death he replaced them by a good set of frame buildings. His wife died on the home farm in 1847. They were well known, and greatly beloved by the many who often shared the generous hospitality of their comfortable home. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Sarah J., Charles W., Mary A., Jasper A., Gertude, Susan B., Nicholas M. and Louisa.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and received a good, practical education in its schools. He remained in the home of his parents until he was nineteen, when he entered the mercantile business as a clerk in a general store with his brother in Trenton. He remained with him five years as a clerk, and then bought an interest in the store, but in 1857 he sold out his share in the business and started West, coming directly to the Territory of Nebraska, arriving here on the 8th of May, that year. He bought a squatter's claim to nearly a section of land located in different parts of the county. He was at that time a single man, so did not establish a home, but boarded at the Planters' Hotel in Nebraska City for a time, and dealt in real estate. In 1859 he opened a bank, and was engaged in banking until 1871, doing an extensive business. In 1866 he went to Omaha to make arrangements for opening a bank there in partnership with P. S. Wilson and J. W. Hugus, and operated that bank in connection with the one in Nebraska City until 1870. He invested large sums of money in realty, and at last found himself encumbered with over $10,000 worth of land at the very time when the markets were dull-

est, indeed at a complete standstill. In consequence of this he closed his banking business, and has since devoted his time to farming and gardening, at which he makes large profits.

Mr. Ware was married, Oct. 10, 1861, to Miss Ellen H. Kinney, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of four children; Florence I., the wife of Richard S. Hall, of Omaha; Ellen, Grace L. and Norton. Mr. and Mrs. Ware and their family are devoted members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Ware is a man of easy, dignified presence, and his genial, kindly manners have won him scores of friends. He is exceedingly public-spirited and liberal, and his record in all the relations of life shows him to be a tender husband, a devoted father, an obliging neighbor, a tried and trusty friend, and a loyal citizen. He is a Democrat in his political views, and has done his adopted city good service as Treasurer.

WILLIAM P. REDFIELD. The subject of this sketch, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, was born in Parke County, Ind., Nov. 14, 1838, and is the son of Peleg and Silena (Shewel) Redfield, of Middletown, Conn., and now deceased. The paternal grandfather, William Redfield, was of English ancestry, and served as a soldier first in the Revolutionary War, and later in the War of 1812. His ancestors settled in America about 1640, and his father, Samuel Redfield, was the son of Capt. William Redfield, who was the seventh son of Theophilus, and he the eldest son of James, the name then being Redfin. The latter was a son of William Redfin, also spelled "Redfen," "Redfyn" and "Redfyne." Between 1630 and 1639 members of the family were found on the south side of the Charles River, six miles from the city of Boston, where they owned four acres of land near the foot of what is known now as Normanton Hills, where the renowned Elliott preached his first sermon to the Indians. He was awarded a clear title to this in 1642 by the proprietors of Cambridge, as the records show, and in 1646 he sold to Edward Jackson, and then his name disappeared from the records of Massachusetts, when it is supposed he became identified with the Connecticut family.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, received a common-school education, and became familiar with farming pursuits. He came to this county in 1856, while Nebraska was a Territory, settling on the northeast quarter of section 29, near where his son now lives. The mother passed away in 1858, and the father surviving his wife a period of eighteen years, died in 1876.

Mr. Redfield is the owner of eighty-six acres of well-cultivated land, and makes a specialty of fruit-raising. He is also fond of fine stock, and has a herd of handsome Jersey cattle besides Poland-China swine.

Mr. Redfield was married, Nov. 19, 1862, to Miss Ernestine, daughter of Marshall Pratt, now deceased, who was a native of New York State, and who settled in this county in 1859. Of this union there were born five children, four of whom are living, namely: Marshall, Nellie, Emma and Grace. Marshall married Miss Leota Jackson, is the father of one child, a son William, and lives in Wisner, this State; Nellie is the wife of Mr. Frank Sargent, of Otoe Precinct, and the mother of one child, a daughter, Edna. Emma is attending High School in Nebraska City; Grace, the baby, seven years of age, is at home with her parents.

Mr. Redfield has been a useful man in his community, intelligent and public-spirited, and served as Justice of the Peace a period of four years. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN DEIDRICH STUTT. A fine body of land thoroughly improved, under good management, and embellished with neat and substantial buildings, forms a picture of rural life most delightful to the eye. Such a homestead has the subject of this sketch built up in North Branch Precinct, the residence and main buildings being located on the southeast quarter of section 5. The entire estate of our subject, however, includes 600 broad acres lying on sections 4, 5, 8 and 9. Everything that the hand of industry and taste

could suggest has been utilized for carrying on agriculture in the most thorough and skilled manner. Mr. Stutt makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in the prosecution of this industry has provided himself with all modern conveniences, among the most conspicuous being a series of tanks by which the stock is watered with great ease and with regularity. The pens and sheds are in keeping with the balance of the premises, and comprise ample room for shelter and feeding.

The subject of this sketch is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, having been finely educated in his native tongue, and has also adapted himself to the intricacies of the English language. He is a constant reader, and keeps himself well informed upon topics of general interest. He is a man who has traveled a great deal, seen much of the world, and has the faculty of making the most of his opportunities. He was given a thorough musical education, an art of which he was extremely fond and in which he was very proficient, but was obliged to resign his Professorship on account of an affection of the eyes, which threatened him with great inconvenience, if not total loss of sight.

Mr. Stutt is one of the oldest settlers of North Branch Precinct, and it is possible is its oldest living resident. His native country was the little Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, which during the war between France and Prussia was made a Province. There he first opened his eyes to the light Feb. 21, 1821, in the town of Fredeburg, where he was placed in school at an early age, and received a thorough education in the German tongue. Upon completing his studies he commenced teaching, and was thus occupied a period of ten years, six of these as Principal. His close application to books and music, especially, resulted in a partial loss of sight at times, and there being nothing else desirable at which he could engage in his native land, he resolved in 1847 to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Stutt in the fall of the year mentioned bade adieu to the scenes of his childhood and youth, and embarking on a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen, made an ocean voyage of eight weeks' duration, landing in the city of New Orleans. Thence by steamer he proceeded to St. Louis, Mo., where he employed himself in a furniture factory for six months. We next find him in Sangamon County, Ill., where he was occupied in a hemp mill two and one-half years. Later, in company with his brother Henry, he purchased 320 acres of unimproved land in Scott County, upon which they operated three years, then our subject, leaving the farm to the supervision of his brother, returned to Missouri and purchased 100 acres of land in the vicinity of St. Louis, where he operated successfully three years as a gardener.

At the expiration of this time, Mr. Stutt, selling this property, made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent a winter, and thereafter purchased land in Canton County, Ky., eighteen acres, for the sum of $110 an acre, which he devoted to gardening purposes. During the panic of 1857 business becoming far from being remunerative, he sold out at $60 per acre, and repairing to Chicago, Ill., embarked in the retail grocery trade. One year of this, however, sufficed, and selling out his stock he returned to his Illinois farm, and prosecuted agriculture there until 1862. In the spring of that year he sold out to his brother, and coming to this county homesteaded 160 acres of land in North Branch Precinct, raw prairie on sections 23 and 24. To this he secured a legal title, and then traded with Silas Gray for 120 acres on section 4. Prior to this, however, he had purchased 160 acres on section 5, and to this had moved and already begun improvements.

Nebraska City at this time was but a lumber-yard, with no machinery for dressing building material, and Mr. Stutt accordingly had to have his building material dressed at Kenosha. A part of the first dwelling he erected is still standing, but was deserted for the newer and more modern residence in 1883. This latter is now flanked by a fine barn and an expensive windmill. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, while groves, orchards, and choice shade and other fruit trees stand upon what was once the lonely prairie. Mr. Stutt has twelve acres devoted to an apple orchard and ten acres of native timber. His entire landed possessions aggregated at one time 720 acres, 120 of which he sold in 1886. He superintends the operation of all his land, which is nearly all utilized in

his live-stock operations. Mr. Stutt ships usually every year two cars each of cattle and swine, and keeps about ten high-grade horses. His fields are laid off with neat wire and hedge fencing.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Catherine Aden took place at the home of the bride in Davenport, Iowa, May 15, 1855. Mrs. Stutt, like her husband, is also a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born May 2, 1840. She came to America with her parents in 1846, they settling in St. Louis, where they lived until 1848. Of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Adelia, Adolph, Minnie, Arnold, Clara, Ernest, Otoe, Octavia and Eugene. Adelia is the wife of Gustav Witt, a farmer of North Branch Precinct, and they have two children; Adolph is married, is also farming in North Branch Precinct, and is the father of four children; Minnie is the wife of Charles Bush, a merchant of Ashland; Arnold is farming in North Branch; Clara is the wife of Charles Witt, a farmer of Syracuse Precinct; Ernest continues at home with his parents; Clara was graduated from the Peru Normal School, and has been engaged as a teacher for the last four years.

Mr. Stutt has been a member of the School Board of his district since its organization twenty years ago. Politically, he is a stanch Democrat, and socially, is a member in good standing of the I. O. O. F. He has been Superintendent of a Sunday-school, and, with his estimable wife, belongs to the German Lutheran Church. His example is one from which the young men of to-day may take a useful lesson.

The parents of our subject were Henry and Adelaide (Wieging) Stutt, who were also natives of Hanover. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Stutt, fought against the first Napoleon in the war between France and Germany. Grandfather John Ulick Wieging was blacksmith and farmer combined, and being a very engaging young man, married a wealthy lady, whose estate he afterward managed. Her first name was Elizabeth, but the latter name has not been preserved. The grandparents spent their entire lives in their native Empire. Henry Stutt, the father of our subject, was a very talented man, a professor of music, and for more than ordinary proficiency in his art received a medal from the King. The fiftieth year of his residence and labors at one place was made the occasion of a fine celebration. He followed his profession until the advanced age of eighty-three years, retiring ten years before his death, which occurred in August, 1882, he thus being ninety-three years old. The mother passed away a year previous to the decease of her husband, she also attaining the ripe old age of ninety three years. The four children of the parental family were: Mary, who died when sixty years old; J. Diedrich, our subject; Henry, who is farming in Scott County, Iowa, and John, who died at the age of twenty-nine years.

JOHN WEBER is one of the successful stock-raisers and general farmers of McWilliams Precinct, where he owns 344 acres on section 30, all well-improved and cultivated, fully provided with buildings, miscellaneous machines and implements that are indispensable to the modern farmer. The pasture and stables also are fully stocked with high-grade animals of considerable value.

Mr. Weber has lived upon his present property since the year 1877, although he had obtained it one year previously. Before that time he had been a resident of Lee County, Iowa, and was born in Charleston Township of that county on the 2d of February, 1852, of German parentage.

The father of our subject, John Weber, Sr., was born in Wurtemberg. There he was brought up, and learned the tailoring trade, and as a young man was married to Lizzie Rhode, a native of the same Kingdom. They made their first home in the same district until after the birth of their two first children, then with their little ones came to this country, and settled upon a farm in Lee County, Iowa. There he continued, and was numbered among the prosperous farmers and worthy citizens. Recently he has retired from the active work of the farm, and has reached the good old age of seventy-two years; his wife, who is still living, is sixty-six years of age. They are lifelong members of the Lutheran Church, and have instructed their children in the same faith. Mr. Weber is and has been for many years a mem-

ber of the Democratic party, and was at one time somewhat active in political circles.

The subject of our sketch is one of a large family of children, six only of whom are now living. He was brought up in Lee County, and attended the common schools there, after which he remained upon the farm with his father, whom he assisted until he became of age. He observed the twenty-third anniversary of his birth by celebrating his marriage with Miss Catharine Hopp, who was born in Charleston Township Aug. 31, 1853. She is the daughter of Phillip and Lizzie (Frelk) Hopp, who are now living upon a farm in Osage Precinct of this county, which they obtained in 1877.

The family of our subject and wife includes eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: Charles, William, Bertha, Lewis, John, Edward, Eda and Herman. Mr. and Mrs. Weber are attendants of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, and are well received in religious circles, as they are also in society at large. Our subject espouses the Democracy, and is deeply interested in political matters.

JOSEPH S. GRAY, an old resident of Palmyra Precinct, settled on the western line of this county twenty-seven years ago, and for a time his house was the resort of the weary traveler through this region when public places of rest and refreshment were few and far between. Many were the travelers who sought a grateful shelter under his roof while on their way from Nebraska City to Denver, Col. Of late years he has given his attention strictly to farming, and has the oldest apple orchard in Palmyra Precinct. He has brought his land to a fine state of cultivation, has a fair assortment of live stock, and although not living elegantly by any means is in the enjoyment of the comforts of life.

Our subject, a native of Durham County, England, was born in Pittington Parish, Nov. 18, 1823, and received his education in the common school. His parents, John and Jane (Sheldon) Gray, were natives of the same county, and of pure English descent. His father was deputy foreman of a coal mine, and the parental family included the following children: Joseph S., our subject; Hannah, John and William, all in England; Robert in Iowa, William in Kentucky, Thomas and Isabella in Raymond, Neb. Three died in infancy.

Our subject when twenty-five years old resolved to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, on the 28th of March, 1848, he embarked at Liverpool on the sailing-vessel "Sawatara," and set foot upon American soil in New York City on the 10th of May, 1848. Thence he proceeded directly to Carbon County, Pa., where he engaged in coal mining. He had been accompanied by his wife, to whom he was married in England, April 13, 1846, and who in her girlhood was Miss Isabella Hughes. She was also a native of Durham County, and born May 1, 1826. Her parents were John and Dorothy Hughes, and the father was a coal miner by occupation. They spent their last years in England.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gray were born two children, both of whom died in infancy in England. Our subject and his wife after a two-years residence in the Keystone State, removed to Ohio, and thence to Lawrence County in the same State, Mr. Gray still prosecuting his calling of coal miner. In due time he was promoted to agent and salesman, where he disposed of large quantities of coal, which were shipped by steamboats down the Ohio River, and in which business he was occupied until 1855.

In the spring of the above-mentioned year Mr. Gray crossed the Mississippi and located in Fremont County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming, and continued to reside until after the election of 1860. Then, having become a naturalized citizen, he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He was a warm admirer of the great emancipator who so thoroughly carried out his anti-slavery sentiments. Upon coming to the Hawkeye State he had purchased forty acres of land, and this he sold out at a good profit in 1861. With the proceeds he came to this county, and homesteaded 160 acres, for the cultivation of which he was amply fitted, having brought from Iowa three ox-teams. He also brought six head of other cattle and twenty-five head of hogs, the latter being about the first of their kind brought into the precinct. He was looked upon by the neighbors as

quite wealthy. The nearest of these was Peter Sibert, and continued so for many years thereafter.

To our subject and his estimable wife there were born seven children, namely: Dorothy J., Joseph S., Jr., James. Thomas, Belle, Hannah and Eliza, all of whom are living and are now residents of Nebraska. Mr. Gray during the earlier years of his residence here was quite prominent in local affairs, served as a member of the School Board, and was generally active in the enterprises set on foot for the good of the community. He is a member of the Old Settlers' Association, has served as Road Supervisor, and been sent as a delegate to the County Convention by the Republican party, of whose principles he still continues a warm supporter.

R M. KIRKHAM. Among the early pioneers of Nebraska who have been instrumental in developing her great agricultural resources, and are still active members of her farming community, is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He was an early settler of Nebraska City Precinct, locating on his present farm in the year 1856, and has ever since been numbered among the most industrious and thrifty citizens of this community. He is a native of Corydon, the county seat of Harrison County, Ind., his birth occurring in that city on the 20th of October, 1818. His father, Michael Kirkham, was born in Kentucky, a son of Henry Kirkham, a native of Ireland, and a pioneer of Kentucky, whither he went from his native land in early manhood, and casting in his lot with the early settlers, passed, it is supposed, the remainder of his life there.

The father of our subject, it is thought, was reared in his Kentucky birthplace, but after marriage moved to Indiana, and became a pioneer of Harrison County. He was quite a trader, and used to traffic on the rivers. When our subject was an infant the father went down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and died while away from home. He left a widow and two children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and loving parent. Our subject's mother was thus left in poverty with two small children to care for, but she nobly shouldered her burden, and kept a shelter over their heads and provided them with food and clothing by taking in sewing. She subsequently married again, and continued to live in Harrison County until her death.

The subject of our sketch lived with his mother a part of the time, and with friends some of the time, until he was fourteen years old. Then, being a strong, well-developed lad, ready and willing to work, he chose a guardian, and was bound to learn a trade, that of carpenter and joiner, at which he was employed until he was twenty-one, receiving in return his board and clothes. He then started out in life for himself with two new suits of clothes, $5 worth of tools, $5 in cash, and plenty of pluck and resolution to make his own way in the world very successfully. He began his independent life in Laynesville, Ky., where he found work at his trade, and was busily employed there until 1841. He then returned to Indiana, and was engaged at carpentering in Harrison County until the following year, when he decided to seek work at his trade in some of the new and growing towns beyond the Mississippi River. He proceeded on his journey down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Liberty, Mo., and thence on foot to Union Mills, where he visited a few weeks. He then proceeded by wagon to his destination, the town of Savannah, in Andrew County, which was then a new village, with but few houses. He at once obtained work as a carpenter, and actively pursued his trade there until 1849. In the meantime, in the year 1843, he was united in marriage to Miss Tryphena Holland, who has actively aided him in the establishment of the comfortable, pleasant home in which they are passing their declining years. When Mr. Kirkham left Savannah he located in Kansas City, then only an insignificant hamlet, comprising a few small houses, of which more were built of logs than of sawed timber. He followed his trade there until the spring of 1850, when he caught the gold fever, and started with others for California in the month of May. Making the journey overland, he arrived at Diamond Springs in August, and the ensuing two years was busily engaged in mining. In May, 1852, he abandoned the rough, hard life of the mining camp, and with his savings started for home, going by the way of the

Isthmus of Panama and New York, and thence to Platte County, Mo., where he bought a tract of improved land, and devoted himself to farming. In 1856 Mr. Kirkham rented his farm, and came to the then almost uninhabited Territory of Nebraska, to seek on its fertile soil a location more suited to his purposes. He came with a horse and buggy to Nebraska City, and after examining the country roundabout, he selected the claim now comprising his present farm, and as soon as the Government threw the land on the market he entered it at the land-office at Nebraska City. After buying his land and securing a title to it, he went back to Missouri for his family, and returned with them to their new home in September, 1856, bringing a part of their household goods in the wagon that served as a conveyance. Ever since that time Mr. Kirkham has been an esteemed resident of Nebraska City Precinct. He is a prudent, hard-working man, and by his energetic perseverance has improved the once wild prairie land that he purchased from the Government more than thirty years ago into a valuable farm, comparing favorably with his neighbors in respect to cultivation, neat and substantial buildings, and all else that goes to make up a first-class farm.

Mr. Kirkham is a sober, honest, upright man, and the respect felt for him by his fellow-citizens is but the just reward of a good life. In his religious opinions he is a believer in the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Adventists; in his political sentiments he is a Democrat.

DAVID M. HARP, farmer and carpenter combined, has a fine tract of land located on the southwest quarter of section 6, Hendricks Precinct, and watered by a branch of the Nemaha. He pursues his trade during the summer season, at the same time superintending the operations of his farm. He is a genial and intelligent man and a useful citizen, taking an active interest in church matters, and casting his influence on the side of morality and good order.

The parents of our subject, Daniel and Betsy (Young) Harp, were natives of New York State, where they were married, and where the father pursued his trade of carpenter during his early manhood. In 1840 he emigrated to Henry County, Ill., where he turned his attention to farming, and acquired a good property. In 1860 he changed his residence to Monroe County, Wis., where with his estimable wife he is still living, retired from active labor.

The parental household of our subject included nine children, four of whom are living, and residing mostly in Wisconsin. David M. was the third in order of birth, and was a little lad six years of age when his parents removed to Illinois. He was born in New York, Dec. 16, 1834. He remained under the home roof until attaining his majority, and learned the trade of a carpenter under the instruction of his excellent father. In 1857 he took up his residence in Clayton County, Iowa, where he followed his trade until 1863. From the Hawkeye State he came to the western part of this county, making the trip overland with an ox-team, and homesteaded the land upon which he now resides.

It is hardly necessary to say that our subject has labored most industriously to effect the improvements which the passing traveler now looks upon with admiration. He has two houses on his farm, his residence and a tenement. He planted ten acres of forest trees, making a fine grove, and has two acres of choice apple trees. His farm machinery and live stock are fully in keeping with the demands of the progressive agriculturist. He purposes in due time to retire from active labor, having purchased ground in the city of Hendricks, where he intends building.

Mr. Harp was married in Clayton County, Iowa, Oct. 22, 1859, to Miss Bessie Gould, who was born in Monroe County, Wis., Aug. 15, 1844. Mrs. Harp is the daughter of Solomon and Lucinda (Stanford) Gould, both natives of New York State, and the father engaged in the lumber trade, at the same time carrying on a sawmill. The family came to Nebraska about 1862, and the father died in Johnson County in 1874; the mother died some time before. Mrs. Harp was the youngest of their seven children.

To our subject and his wife there have been born

four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Julia, died at the age of eight. The survivors are Edward, Josephine and Adah. The eldest is twenty-five years of age, and the youngest sixteen. Edward married Miss Lulu Nunn, and is a carpenter by trade, the father of one child, and a resident of Hendricks; Josephine is the wife of William Ratliff, of Hendricks, and the mother of three children —Bessie, Freddie and David.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Harp are members of the United Brethren Church, and usually attend services at Mt. Zion. Mr. Harp has officiated as Class-Leader a number of years, is a Trustee, and Superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is one of the warmest advocates of Prohibition, and a zealous member of this political party. He has served as Constable in Hendricks Precinct for the last three years, and been a member of the School Board for a period of twenty years.

HON. GEORGE W. McKEE. This gentleman is established in business in Syracuse as a dealer in grain and live stock. He is one of the very early pioneers of the county, having settled with his mother, in the year 1857, about two miles west of the site of the city, at that time of course unfounded. He is a native of Delaware County, Ohio, and was born on the 10th of June, 1837. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kellen) McKee. The paternal grandparents of our subject were natives of Scotland, and in 1804 emigrated to this country, crossing the Atlantic in the month of October, in a sailing-vessel, thus obtaining an experience in the realm of Father Neptune not entirely delectable, seeing that the equinoctial gales were in full force, but these moving experiences were banished from their minds by an event more absorbing in interest, for while on the voyage a son was born to them, to whom was given the name Henry.

Henry McKee grew to manhood, receiving his education and first instruction in trade in the State of Delaware. He was apprenticed to that of civil engineer, to which he seemed more attracted than any other. He was a careful and intelligent apprentice, and it was not long before he made his mark in his business. He became the husband of Miss Kellen, who was born in the State of Delaware. Of her family she knew but little, having been left an orphan in early childhood. Her husband removed to New York not long after their marriage, and was one of the surveyors of the first railroad in the United States. This work accomplished, he settled in Ithaca in the State of New York, and later removed to Ohio. In the latter State he died in 1853, having reached the age of forty-eight years. Mrs. McKee came to Nebraska, and died upon the farm near Syracuse.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry McKee were born nine children, eight of whom it was their privilege to bring to mature years. These are as follows: James H., who was murdered in Texas during the war on account of his pro-slavery ideas; Sarah A., now the wife of John Roberts, of Long Beach, Cal.; George W., our subject; John R., of Palmyra, Neb.; Clark Thomas, who died in 1861, in Leadville, Col.; Maria J., who died in Ohio; Belle, happily married to W. W. Lowe, and residing in Long Beach, Cal., and William I., of Syracuse.

The subject of our sketch passed his early life upon a farm, and at the age of twenty came to Nebraska, and helped to bring the farm to a high state of cultivation. In 1860, like many others, he went to Pike's Peak, but returned disappointed. In 1863 he engaged in freighting on the plains, which calling he pursued until the year 1868, when he returned to Syracuse and settled to the pursuit of agriculture. Shortly afterward, in addition to his farm, he purchased an interest in a gristmill, which he operated for about eleven years, also carrying on a grain business, which he still continues. He is, perhaps, at once one of the most extensive and successful dealers in the county. He is the owner of about 500 acres of well-improved farming land in Otoe County, also an elevator in Syracuse, and his farm of 180 acres a little west of town, where he resides. He has spared neither time, trouble nor expense in making this a most desirable residence, and has upon it everything apparently that is necessary for pleasure, comfort and convenience. His property has been acquired by his thrift and assiduous labor, for he received nothing from his

parents, saving, perhaps, 100 acres of land near Palmyra, upon the death of his mother.

Mr. McKee was married in the year 1868, and has become the parent of three children—Cora, Elmer and Blanche B. In all matters, enterprises and projects that have looked toward the advancement of the interest of the community and county his policy has been most liberal. He has always been deeply interested in educational matters, and the welfare generally of the rising generation. He was one of the organizers of the Otoe County Fair and Driving Association, of which he was the President the first two terms. He was also instrumental in organizing the Syracuse Lodge of the Knights of Honor, and is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. In this he has served as Worshipful Master of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57, A. F. & A. M., of Syracuse, and in that office was always an able worker. He has initiated many into the mysteries of the order and brought them into the light of its triluminous altar.

Upon his farm our subject has given special attention to the raising and feeding of beef cattle and hogs for Eastern markets, and usually ships quite a large number annually. So successful has he been in this and his grain business that he is counted among the wealthy citizens of the district. His political aspirations and principles are symphonious with those of the Republican party, and he has frequently been called upon to act as delegate to County, District and State Conventions, his reputation among his fellows being that of a true, honorable, loyal and faithful Republican and citizen. In 1876 and 1877 Mr. McKee was honored by his fellow-citizens, who elected him to represent them in the State Legislature. This he did in a manner that has shown the wisdom of the choice and given all parties concerned every satisfaction.

JOHN MALLAR is one of the prominent and worthy representatives of the genus German-American citizen, and is alike a credit to his native country and also that of his adoption. He is a capable and prosperous stock-raiser in Russell Precinct, and in that connection utilizes 160 acres of some of the best land in the county. His property is situated upon section 34 of that precinct.

The father of our subject, Henry Mallar, was a native of Holstein, Germany, where he was a well-to-do merchant, continuing in his business until death claimed him in the year 1872, when he was but forty-nine years of age. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, who was also born in Holstein, was Anna Runpf. She was but twenty-eight years of age when she departed this life, in the year 1858, leaving to the care of her husband four children, viz.: Geashen; Annie, now of Chicago; Henry, who followed the nautical profession, and was drowned at sea after being shipwrecked; and John.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 12th of April, 1844, in the same district as his parents. Until he was twenty-one years of age he made his home with his father. His time until that period was occupied by the accumulation of knowledge and development of his intellectual faculties, and afterward he assisted his father in business and upon the farm. In beginning life for himself, upon attaining man's estate, he followed agriculture until the fall of 1870, then concluded to try his fortunes upon trans-Atlantic soil. He therefore sailed from Hamburg on the good ship "Simbrog," which landed him safely in New York after about fourteen days.

Leaving New York our subject went to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked upon a farm for nine months, then went to DuPage County, Iowa, and there worked on a farm for two years, and for the next six years rented land; 1880 witnessed his removal and his settlement in McWilliams Precinct, where for three years he continued to rent land. At the end of that period he purchased 160 acres of prairie land still in all the wild picturesqueness of its virgin state, which he has transformed by the subtle alchemy of persevering, intelligent labor until it has become one of the finest farms in the district. Many points would present themselves for detailed mention, the difficulty would be in the selection. His property is made beautiful by shady groves of well-developed and valuable forest trees, covering perhaps three acres, and no less so by the well-kept hedges and other fencing. The orchard, which con-

tains over 150 trees, would invite more careful and close attention, while his barn and other farm buildings would be found fully to meet the varied requirements for the storage of grain and feed, and shelter for stock.

The special efforts of our subject are in the direction of raising high-grade cattle and horses, although large numbers of the best breeds of hogs are always on hand. Of horses he is perhaps more inclined to favor the Clydesdales, and is the owner of several magnificent creatures of that breed.

The beautiful home of Mr. Mallar, splendidly located upon a fine, grassy slope, has its chief attraction in the most excellent wife and happy children of our subject. The maiden name of his companion in life was Emma Hostick, one of Nebraska City's fair daughters. She has presented her husband with three children, whose names are as follows: Annie, Andalia and Bertie.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallar are members of the German Lutheran Church in Syracuse, and our subject holds the position of Trustee of the property. Ever since his naturalization in the year 1880 he has elected to vote the Democratic ticket, and is now accounted one of the stanch friends of that party in this county.

JOHN L. HARRIS, one of the intelligent thinkers and capable citizens of Palmyra Precinct, is a descendant of one of the good old families of Virginia, in which State he figured somewhat conspicuously in other years. He now resides on section 22, where he operates eighty acres of good farming land. He is the son of James N. and Elizabeth W. (Allen) Harris, who were born in Orange and Fluvanna Counties, Va.

The great-grandfather of our subject, Samuel Harris, was a Government appointee in the Colonial days, and was of English family. He came from England in the eighteenth century, in order to fill the position assigned to him, and has left a record of faithful service. His son Samuel D., the grandfather of John L. Harris, was of Virginian birth. He followed the occupation of civil engineer, and was on his way to the Territory of Kentucky for the purpose of engaging in land surveying, and died; this occurred in 1816. The father of our subject was an agriculturist, and resided upon the old Harris homestead, cultivating the broad acres of the old home farm. He died there in the year 1872, being then sixty-nine years of age. His wife departed this life in the year 1880, at the advanced age of sixty-eight years. They were the parents of six children, who bore the following names: John L.; Mary E., who died in infancy; Sarah J., Emily M., Brown and Letiza D.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 7th of September, 1829, near Lexington, Rockbridge Co., Va. He grew up on a farm and assisted his father at blacksmithing, learning the business. The common school provided him with an education. Until he was twenty-two years of age he resided at home, and about that time was united in marriage with Miss Mary E., daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Camden) Eskew, who were also Virginians.

The wife of our subject was born in February, 1831, and was therefore twenty years of age when she was married. The young couple settled in their new home, which was at Lexington, where Mr. Harris continued his blacksmithing business, which was quite extensive and kept him fully employed. After two years he was induced to go to Southwestern Virginia in company with two partners, with the intention of manufacturing agricultural implements, including not simply plows and harrows, but those more complicated, such as feed-cutters, feed-mills, etc., under the firm name of W. J. Keller & Co. They erected factories at Wytheville in 1854, and made excellent progress until the crash of 1857, caused by Buchanan's free trade policy; then, being unable to collect from the farmers, the firm became financially embarrassed.

Not long afterward the wave of secessional feeling and agitation ran high, and in due course was followed by the war. Therefore Mr. Harris emigrated to Missouri and settled in Pike County. Although a Virginian, and therefore presumably a Southern sympathizer, he never for one moment wavered in his loyalty to the Union. His business interests being established in Missouri, he was in haste to return to his wife and children, whom he had left at the old home with the promise of returning within three or four weeks. Being a first-class me-

chanic he was exempt from service in the Confederate Army, but he was kept in Virginia by first one thing and then another, and was finally prevented from returning to Missouri.

In 1869 Mr. Harris engaged quite extensively and successfully in the lumber business in Rockbridge County, Va., where he continued until 1874. The following five years he occupied himself in agricultural pursuits, linking, however, with that such work as might come to him in the line of his trade, which grew to be very extensive, and in time included the manufacture of carriages and wagons. When he went into the lumber business he involved himself in debt to the amount of several thousand dollars, but entering with heart and soul into every circumstance connected therewith, he came out very successfully. In the fall of 1880 he left Virginia for Nebraska, coming to this county and to his present farm.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Harris includes seven children, three of whom, however, died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Sandy, Adison V., Louis E. and Jessie. Sandy was united in marriage with Miss Moxley, of Virginia, who has presented him with one son, John M.; Adison V. resides in Dawes County, this State, and is married to Miss Mary Meecham; they are the parents of two children, viz: Lelia and Albert V.; he is engaged in the hardware and agricultural implement business at Whitney in this State. Louis E. is the owner of 320 acres of land, and proprietor of the White Clay Ranch in Dawes County; the maiden name of his wife was Miss Nannia Oliver. Jessie is still at home.

The subject of our sketch has always been a strict Republican and a doughty defender of the principles of his party. At the same time he has never sought political preferment. He was appointed Judge of Elections of the Buffalo district of his native county for ten consecutive years, from 1870 to 1880, accepting the position out of loyalty and earnest desire to promote fair play. For several years he has given the labor problem careful study, and is the recipient of communications from the Bureau of Industrial Statistics for the State of Nebraska, indicating that his labor has not been in vain, and that his views, sound and practical, are calculated to nearly meet the demands of the case.

Religiously, Mr. Harris is allied to the Presbyterian Church, although he was reared in the doctrines of the Methodist Church, and has always respected its teachings. He has had to contend with the common difficulties of life, financial and otherwise, but in spite of all he may be pronounced a success.

JACOB PENN, who has farmed successfully in Delaware Precinct for a number of years, is the regular type of the honest Pennsylvanian, and was born in Washington County, that State, on the 3d of August, 1825. His father, William Penn, was a native of Maryland, and is still living in Washington County, Pa., being now ninety years of age. The mother of our subject, who in her girlhood was Miss Phebe Bane, was also a native of Washington County, that State, and is still living, having arrived at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Jacob was educated in the common school, and spent much of his early life assisting in a flouring-mill, and operating a carding-machine. Soon after reaching his majority he was married, Nov. 19, 1846, to Miss Emeline, daughter of William and Maria (Clawson) McClory. Of this union there have been born five children, all of whom, with one exception, died when young. The survivor is a son, William H. The others were named respectively: Ann E., Mary E., Abner B. and John N.

Mr. Penn came to this county in the fall of 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory, purchased a tract of land, and was joined by his family in the following spring. The country was wild and new, and, like most of the people around them, Mr. and Mrs. Penn had little save their courageous hearts with which to begin the struggle of life in a new country. Their goods unfortunately were destroyed by fire in a warehouse in Nebraska City, and this at that time was indeed a calamity. They endured many hardships and privations during the first few years, at a time when their neighbors were few and far between, and Indians and wild animals were numerous. Deer and wolves roamed unrestrained

Yours Truly
E. R. Stedman

over the prairies, and it was necessary, both on account of wolves and Indians, for the family to be safely housed at night. Our subject had selected a home on the North Branch of the Little Nemaha, also called Wilson Creek, and in the course of a few years there grew up around them a population of intelligent people. The pioneeers all assisted each other, and were hospitable and kind, far beyond the people of the present day.

The pioneers amid their hardships and trials sought to train their children in the ways of morality and religion, and preaching was held at the private houses, conducted first by a United Presbyterian minister and later by a Baptist. A Baptist society was first organized in the valley, and services were often held in the house of Mr. Penn, he and his excellent wife being prominently identified with the organization of the church of which they have now been members for a period of thirty-six years. They have watched the growth and development of Nebraska with warm interest, and during the course of well-spent lives have gathered around them hosts of friends.

CHARLES R. STEDMAN, a leading merchant of Unadilla, commands a lucrative patronage, keeping a stock of general merchandise, including about everything necessary to the village or country household. He is a native of Tioga County, N. Y., where his birth took place April 4, 1843. When a lad of twelve years he removed with his parents to Lee County, Ill., where he acquired a common-school education and continued on the farm until a youth of nineteen.

The Civil War being then in progress, our subject in the summer of 1862 enlisted in Company D, 75th Illinois Infantry, the regiment being under command of Col. John E. Bennett. He also served under Gens. Buell. Rosecrans and Thomas, and participated in many of the important battles of the war, namely: Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold. The privations and hardships incident to army life had the effect to undermine his health, and for a period of six months, during the year 1864, he was confined in the hospital at New Albany, Ind. Later he returned home on a three-weeks furlough, then rejoined his regiment, remaining in the service until the close of the war, and being mustered out at Chicago, in June, 1865.

Our subject, upon returning to civil life, began farming in partnership with his father, in Lee County, Ill., where he lived until 1875. In the spring of that year, with a desire to see the land west of the Mississippi, he came to this county, and in company with his father purchased 320 acres of land in Russell Precinct. Here they effected fine improvements, putting up good buildings, setting out groves and an orchard, and gathering about them all the conveniences and comforts of modern rural life. In the fall of 1886 our subject, desirous once more of a change, traded his farm for a stock of general merchandise, and established in his present business at Unadilla, of which he has since been a resident. He has had a good trade from the start, being a man straightforward in his business transactions and prompt to meet his obligations.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Clara M. Wells was celebrated at the home of the bride in South Branch, Nov. 30, 1876. Mrs. Stedman is the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Kelley) Wells, old and highly respected citizens of this county, and a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. She was born near Warner, N. H., June 29, 1856, and after perfecting her studies in the Peru Normal School, developed into a teacher, which profession she followed for a time before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are two daughters, Nellie and Alma, who are at home. Mr. Stedman cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and since becoming a voter has kept himself well posted upon matters of State and National interest. For a number of years he supported the principles of the Republican party, but his warm interest in the temperance movement led him, in 1888, to identify himself with the Prohibitionists. He has been a member of the School Board of his district three years, was Deputy County Treasurer two years, and has twice been sent as a delegate to the Nebraska State Convention. In all the offices which he has been called to fill he has discharged his duties in a most praiseworthy and con-

scientious manner. During the existence of the G. A. R. Post in Unadilla he was identified with it, and is also a member of the I. O. G. T., at Unadilla.

The parents of our subject, Enos C. and Malina D. (Wall) Stedman, like their son, were also natives of Tioga County, N. Y. The paternal grandfather was of English descent, and a native of Vermont. The great-grandfather served under Washington in the Revolutionary War. Enos Stedman was a farmer by occupation, and also operated a sawmill on the Susquehanna River. He was greatly prospered, accumulating a snug fortune. In 1855, leaving the Empire State, he emigrated to Illinois, and purchased land in Lee County near the then embryo town of Dixon. He remained a resident of that section for a period of eighteen years, then, selling out, took up his residence in Freeport, but two years later, in 1875, crossed the Mississippi, and coming into this county located in Russell Precinct, taking the east half of section 32. He improved the raw prairie into a well-cultivated farm, set out groves, an apple orchard and the smaller fruit trees, and effected all the improvements necessary for the comfort of the modern and progressive agriculturist. After a well-spent life he departed hence Aug. 1, 1886, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. The mother is still living on the old homestead, being now seventy years old.

Enos Stedman was a strong Republican, and a member in good standing of the Baptist Church. The mother of our subject was his second wife, he having been first married to Miss Eliza Wolverton, who became the mother of five children. These were named respectively: Ann, Alma, Elizabeth, Mary and Clinton. The latter, during the late war, did efficient service for the Union cause as a spy. He experienced many hairbreadth escapes unharmed, and is now a resident of Texas. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he was a resident of the Lone Star State, and was pressed into the rebel service. He deserted, however, and as soon as possible joined the Union forces. In the discharge of his duties he was captured several times by the rebels, but succeeded each time in making his escape. Of the marriage of Enos Stedman with the mother of our subject there were born eight children, of whom Charles R. was the eldest. The others were named respectively: Enos J., Ezra F., Eva F., Minnie E., Herbert E., Carrie A. (deceased) and Wallace E. In this connection we present a portrait of Mr. Stedman.

IRA D. CHATFIELD is one of the capable and much esteemed citizens of Palmyra Precinct, and is the owner of an admirably cultivated fertile farm of 160 acres on section 10. His parents, Abraham and Jerusha (Cotton) Chatfield, were born in Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. Both were taken by their parents to the State of New York when they were children. They were married in Greene County of that State. His father died in 1864, aged sixty-four years, while his mother survived until 1885, and then passed to her long home after a life of eighty-eight years. They were the parents of five children, viz: Ira D., Caroline, Samuel W., Emma and John H.

It will be observed that Ira was the eldest child in the family of which he was a member. He was born in Delaware County, N. Y., on the 15th of February, 1821. Upon leaving school he engaged in the glove and mitten business, and the manufacture of tanned goods, After getting fairly started in business, he was taken sick with bilious fever, and after an illness of three months he recovered, but only to find that his partner had in the interim swindled him out of all his property.

Starting afresh, our subject accepted the agency for Gen. H. Sampson and George W. Pratt, wholesale tanners and leather dealers, becoming their head clerk, and remained with them for twelve years. He was also connected for some years with the Whitney Chair Manufacturing Company, and served them in the capacity of chief clerk.

Mr. Chatfield has been twice married. By his first wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Case, he became the parent of two children, Eli P., and Eliza, who died when she was three months old. Upon the 1st of January, 1849, he was united in wedlock with Lydia Patterson, who was born at Greenwich, Washington Co., N. Y., March 12, 1826. This marriage has been fruitful in the birth of six children, viz: George H., who was drowned when

thirteen years old; Clara A., Julia E., Emma J., Irene P. and William N. Julia E. is happily married to Morris Dennis, of Syracuse, and is the mother of two children—Margaret and Emma; Emma J. is the wife of Mr. Page, of Syracuse, and is the mother of one child, John; Irene P., now Mrs. Michael McFall, of Cass County, has one little daughter, Anna Laura; Eli P. is at Washburn, Bayfield Co,. Wis., where he is a successful merchant; he married Miss Idia Parker, and their home circle includes three little ones—Eli P., Jr., Anna and John M. William N. is a teacher in the public schools of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield are members of the Episcopal Church in this precinct, and in that circle are highly esteemed, as they are indeed in eyery other relation. Our subject has served the county as a Justice of the Peace, Assessor, Overseer of Highways and School Director, and in every instance has done good work. In political matters he espouses the Republican cause, and is looked up to somewhat as a leader. He enjoys the heartiest confidence and esteem of his fellows, and is much valued as a citizen in the community.

HORACE W. MAXAM. Among the prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies no unimportant position, being a wide-awake, intelligent citizen, and having as the result of years of industry and good management accumulated a fine property. The greater part of this represents a fine farm on section 20, where he has a commodious and tasteful residence, good barn and other out-buildings, a fair assortment of live stock, modern machinery, and all the other appurtenances of the well-regulated country home. At the head of his household is one of the most estimable and intelligent of ladies, who, from a ripe experience in life, which has not been unmixed with many hardships and difficulties, has emerged an admirable specimen of womanhood, and in possession of those qualities of mind and heart which have secured her the homage and respect of all who know her.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, being the son of William T. and Hannah (Howland) Maxam, who were natives respectively of Jefferson and Herkimer Counties, N. Y. Grandfather Maxam, a native of Massachusetts, was of Welsh ancestry, and carried a musket in the War of 1812, doing good service with his regiment at Sackett's Harbor. The mother's family also was of Welsh ancestry, and Grandfather Howland, also a soldier in the War of 1812, yielded up his life on the battle-field at Greenbush.

The father of our subject left the Empire State in 1833 and emigrated to Ohio, locating in Summit County, where he has since lived. During the years of his active life he followed the occupation of a farmer, but is now retired, having reached the advanced age of seventy-seven years. The mother died at the homestead there in 1873, when sixty-eight years old. They were the parents of four sons: Horace W., our subject, Alonzo A., who continues a resident of the Buckeye State; Samuel H., in Van Buren County, Mich., and Lewis L., who is engaged in farming, and resides near the city of Lincoln, in this State.

The subject of this sketch was born in Adams Township, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 31, 1832. He was an infant of eleven months when his parents removed to Ohio, where his earliest recollections center, and which embrace some events which occurred when he was but two years old. He was reared to farm pursuits in Summit County, and was the typical boy, being mischievous, agile as a squirrel, and giving his parents no end of harmless trouble and annoyance. He studied his first lessons in the district school, and later spent five terms at Twinsburg Academy. Subsequently he officiated as a pedagogue two terms.

Upon reaching his majority, young Maxam, leaving the home roof, migrated to Van Buren County, Mich., where he still followed farming, and met his fate in the person of Miss Mary E. McKay, to whom he was married Sept. 10, 1855. He continued a resident of the Wolverine State until after the outbreak of the Civil War. He had now a little family upon his hands, and for this reason watched the conflict without participating in it until February, 1865. He could then rest easy no longer, and leaving his wife and three children in

good hands, enlisted in the 1st Mchigan Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He was not called upon to engage in active fighting, and the close of the war found him at Remount Camp, near Harper's Ferry, where he was mustered out, and later received his honorable discharge at Cumberland, Md.

Mr. Maxam now returned to his home and family in Van Buren County, Mich., where not long afterward occurred the death of his wife, who left four children, namely: Frank W., John N., George H. and Mary E. The latter died when six months old. The bereaved husband and father, taking his motherless children, now returned to Ohio, and lived with his father one year. In the spring of 1868 he came to Nebraska, bringing his two eldest children with him, and for two years thereafter presided over his household affairs himself, and homesteaded eighty acres of land which is now included in his present farm.

In the meantime Mr. Maxam formed the acquaintance of Mrs. Hannah E. (Howard) Robey, to whom he was married Nov. 1, 1870, and who since that time has continued his faithful and affectionate partner, steadily alive to his best interests and those of their family. Mrs. Maxam was born in Boston, Mass., on July 29, 1828, and is the daughter of Sylvester and Betsey (Hayden) Howard, the former a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., and the latter of Hopkinton, Mass. Sylvester Howard was a farmer by occupation, and served as a minute man at Sackett's Harbor during the War of 1812. The Howards were of English ancestry, and the first representatives in this country—three brothers—crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. To the parents of Mrs. Maxam there were born ten children, namely: Maynard, who died young; Charles A., Mary W., Amasa, Emery, Eda, Hannah E., Sylvester, Elizabeth and Abel T.

Sylvester Howard, when his daughter Hannah E. was a child four years of age, removed to Penobscot County, Me., and thence, in 1845, to Rock County, Wis. The now flourishing city of Janesville was then a hamlet of two or three houses, although the primitive court-house had been erected. Hannah E., in 1847, was married to C. K. Robey, and they took up their residence near the embryo town of Stoughton, where there were born to them four children, namely: Jerome A., Mary F., John and Melvin. After the death of her husband Mrs. Robey in the spring of 1868, came to this county, bringing with her two of her children, and homesteaded a claim on section 20, having for one of her nearest neighbors Mr. H. W. Maxam. The lonely condition of each, one with his two motherless children, and the other with her two fatherless little ones, suggested at not a very late date in the period of their acquaintance that the households might be combined with both pleasurable and beneficial results, and their marriage accordingly followed in due time. Mr. Maxam in the summer of 1883 put up their present commodious dwelling, and has from time to time added those comforts and conveniences naturally suggested to himself and his excellent wife. He has now eighty acres of good land, and a homestead which invariably attracts the attention of the passing traveler as one combining all the elements of comfort and plenty.

Mr. Maxam remembers distinctly the campaign of 1840, when he shouted for "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." He has been a member of the Republican party since its organization, is a strict temperance man, and has held the various school offices of his district. He has been greatly interested in the veterinary science, to which he has given considerable study, and practices quite successfully among the equines of his precinct. He has also a good knowledge of human ailments, and is often called upon to prescribe for his neighbors. His treatment is always very simple, he being strongly in favor of the homeopathic system of medicine.

ROBERT STAFFORD, one of the early settlers of Nebraska City, was born in Burton Caggles, Lincolnshire, England, Oct. 26, 1818. His parents were Robert and Christina (Wilkinson) Stafford, both also natives of England, where they spent their entire lives. Our subject was the youngest of ten children, and the only one coming to the United States. His father died when he was a little lad eight years of age, and as soon as old enough Robert commenced to

work out and assist his mother in the maintenance of the family.

For a time after the death of his father our subject made his home with an Episcopal clergyman, where he received his board and clothes in repayment for the light labor he was enabled to perform. Next he went onto a farm, living with one man four years, and later was employed in a flouring-mill until twenty years of age. He then entered the employ of a very wealthy gentleman, who owned a large number of horses, and of these young Stafford was given charge. He was thus occupied until 1853, when, resolving to seek his fortunes in America, he resigned his position, and, accompanied by his bride, set sail for the United States, leaving Liverpool the last of March on the good ship "Plantagenet," and landing in New York City after a voyage of seven weeks and three days.

Our subject now proceeded to the State of Ohio, and purchased a farm in Richland County, three miles from Shelby. This he sold in 1857, and started for the Territory of Nebraska, making the journey by rail to Davenport, Iowa, and thence by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Nebraska City, where he arrived on the 29th of April. This place was then but a hamlet, and the land a few miles west still owned by the Government. Deer, antelopes and wolves roamed over the prairies, but the young town was the headquarters for many emigrants and freighters, and business was already beginning to assume a lively aspect.

Mr. Stafford took up a claim of Government land about ten miles west of the embryo town, and upon it erected a small house, but lived there, however, only about two months. He then moved to Nebraska City, renting a log house on what is now North street, and purchasing a team, engaged in teaming and freighting. In 1858 he began the cultivation of his land, putting in first a crop of corn. Although the season was late, he realized handsome returns.

During his residence in the Buckeye State Mr. Stafford had visited Iowa and entered 320 acres of land in Benton County. This he now traded for eight acres of land with a good frame house, near Nebraska City, and into this moved his family. In 1859 he traded that property for his present home, at the corner of Sixteenth street and First avenue. Three years later he sold the land he had pre-empted, and with the proceeds erected a building on Main street, where he engaged in business for a period of fourteen or fifteen years. He had for years previously practiced considerably as a veterinary surgeon, and to this still gives considerable attention, meeting with good success.

Our subject was married in his native Lincolnshire in March, 1853, to Miss Louisa Pepper, who was born there, and is, like himself, of pure English ancestry. Of this union there are four children living, namely: Annis; Ida, the wife of Rev. A. R. Lemon; Frederick and Nellie. A little girl named Florence died at the age of six years.

T. K. BRADLEY, who is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, is classed among the most active and enterprising of the citizens of Nebraska City who are taking a prominent part in promoting its growth. He is a native of Lexington, Ky., his birth occurring in that city April 13, 1827. His father, James F. Bradley, was born in Franklin County, Ky., but his grandfather, Thomas Bradley, was a native of Virginia, the date of his birth being March 5, 1761. The great-grandfather of our subject, Robert Bradley, was, it is thought, also born in Virginia. He was a descendant of an ancient English family, who were among the early settlers of Virginia, coming to this country with the Botetourt Colony, which located at Fincastle, Botetourt County, and were the founders of that town. The grandfather of our subject was reared in Virginia, and moved from there to Kentucky, and was a pioneer in Franklin County. He took up a tract of land near the capital of the State, and cleared a farm from the wilderness, which he made his home until death. His wife also died on the home farm; her maiden name was Philadelphia Ficklin, and she was born Dec. 15, 1768.

The father of our subject was reared amid the pioneer scenes of Franklin County, and, although but a boy, he served in the War of 1812. After he had grown to manhood he went to Lexington, and

was clerk in the post-office there for many years. In 1836 he gathered together his family and his household effects, and with two wagons and six horses journeyed to Indiana, where he had decided to locate, and they cooked and camped by the wayside until they had reached their destination in Rush County. The family lived there four years, during which time Mr. Bradley taught school. In 1840 they again started westward, traveling by the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to a point in Platte County, Mo. There Mr. Bradley cast in his lot with the other pioneers, and buying a tract of timber land, built a log cabin, and commenced the arduous task of clearing a farm. There were no railways in the West at that time, and all transportation was done on rivers. Hemp and tobacco were the principal products of the country. Mr. Bradley improved a fine farm, and spent his remaining years in the State of his adoption, dying in 1878, at an advanced age. He was a man of much intelligence, well educated, of a strictly upright character, and was an influence for much good. He lived to see the wild, sparsely settled country, of which he was a pioneer, become populous and prosperous through the efforts of such men as he. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Nancy Keller, and she was a native of Fayette County, Ky. Her father, Jacob Keller, a Pennsylvanian by birth, became an early settler of Fayette County, where he was quite extensively engaged in the distillery business. He was of German ancestry, and spent his last years in Fayette County. The mother of our subject survived her husband but a few months. She was in many respects a notable woman of marked character; she worked hard during her early life, and many weary hours found her cooking over the old-fashioned fireplace, or at the spinning wheel and weaving loom, that her family might be made comfortable. No sacrifice was too great for her to make for her household, which comprised, besides her husband and herself, their twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of this sketch was the second child of his parents, and he was but nine years old when they moved to Indiana, and thirteen years old when they went to Missouri to make their home in that State for the remainder of their lives. He was educated in the country schools, which were conducted on the subscription plan. He assisted his father on the farm, and remained an inmate of the parental home until he was seventeen years old. He then went back to Lexington, Ky., to live with his uncle, Joseph Ficklin, who was then Postmaster of that city, and he clerked in the post-office until 1849. Then, in the opening years of early manhood, full of desires, ambitions, and energy of youth and health, he determined to try life amid the exciting scenes of California. He went by the overland route, starting from Liberty, Mo., in the month of August, with about 100 others and nearly thirty teams, and arriving in San Diego, Cal., the last of the following December. From there he proceeded on a steamer to San Francisco, and thence to Placerville, then called Hangtown, and in that place he engaged in the mercantile business until 1851. He then disposed of his interests in the Golden State and returned to his old home and friends in Missouri, going by the Nicaragua route to New Orleans, and thence up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. He engaged in the mercantile business at Liberty, Mo., and later in Plattsburg, Mo., until 1864, when he came to Nebraska City, where he opened a general store. This city was at that time, before the introduction of railways in the State, the headquarters of the freighters across the plains to the mountains, and the greater part of his trade was with them. He continued in that business several years, and later engaged in buying and shipping grain until 1884, when he established himself in his present business as a real-estate dealer and an insurance agent. He has been prospered in his various business ventures, and is now one of the moneyed men of the city.

Mr. Bradley was married, June 5, 1853, to Miss Lucy Lincoln, a native of Liberty, Mo. Her father, George Lincoln, a native of Kentucky, in 1820 removed from that State to Clay County, Mo., of which he was one of the first settlers. He improved a farm there, on which he made his home until death. The maiden name of his wife was Julia Ann Gatewood, and she is a native of Fayette County, Ky.; she is now living with a daughter in Plattsburg, Mo. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs.

Bradley has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, namely: Eugene K., Graham L., George, Marshall and Julia. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are members of the Christian Church, and their standing in the community is of the highest. Mr. Bradley is a Democrat in his political beliefs, and is a strong advocate of the policy of his party.

OTHNIEL HORNE, Cashier of the Bank of Syracuse, owns one-third of the stock in this institution, the balance being divided among nine others. It was organized as a private bank in 1880, by Messrs. Louis Hoeble and W. T. Peet, who conducted it until July, 1882. Mr. Horne then purchased the interest of Mr. Peet, and in June, 1886, the bank was incorporated under the State law of Nebraska, with a paid-up capital of $30,000. Louis Hoeble was chosen President, and Mr. Horne Cashier, but as the former is absent most of the time Mr. Horne has full charge of the business, which, under his skillful management, is now in the enjoyment of a large patronage from the leading business men of the county. It has paid its regular dividends, and has a good surplus. The building is owned by the bank, and the offices devoted to the transaction of business connected therewith are fitted up with modern furnishings and all the necessary appliances.

The subject of this sketch began life at the modest homestead of his parents in Ontario County, N. Y., March 5, 1841. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Niece) Horne, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York State. The family is supposed to be of German and English ancestry, but having pursued their lives quietly and unostentatiously, and not being exceedingly prolific, little has been preserved of the family records. John Horne was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life in the Empire State, passing away at the homestead in Ontario County about 1852. The mother after the death of her husband removed to Illinois, and died at her home in Lockport, Will County, about 1858. The parental household included four children, the eldest of whom, a son, Richmond, was a wagon and carriage maker by trade, and died in Medina, Ohio, in 1886; Mary E. is the wife of William Samson, of Lockport, Ill.; Othniel, of our sketch, was the third child; Addie F. is the widow of George Hall, and resides in Chicago.

At the time of the death of his father our subject was a lad of eleven years, and two years later the family removed to Medina, Ohio. They lived there until 1856, then took up their residence in Lockport, Ill. Othniel, in common with his brothers and sisters, acquired a common-school education, and began his business career in Lockport, Ill., in 1856, as clerk in a general store. He was thus occupied until the summer of 1862, and in June of that year, the Civil War being in progress, he enlisted as a Union soldier in Company G, 100th Illinois Infantry, and prepared to fight the enemies of his country.

The regiment to which our subject was assigned was ordered first to Louisville, Ky., where it was made a portion of the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Horne participated with his comrades in many of the important battles of the war, being at Stone River and in all the battles of that campaign. The 100th Illinois was first a part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division and 21st Army Corps, and afterward a part of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division and 4th Army Corps. Mr. Horne at an early date was promoted to Sergeant, and immediately after the battle of Stone River in January, 1863, was commissioned as Sergeant Major. On the 15th of December, 1863, he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and on the 3d of August, 1864, commissioned Adjutant, with which rank he was mustered out in July, 1865, the war having then terminated.

Mr. Horne was in all the battles of the Atlanta campaign with the exception of the first engagement at Atlanta, in which the brave Gen. McPherson was killed. From Lovejoy Station, in the vicinity of the beleaguered city, the 100th Illinois Infantry with the balance of the command returned to look after the army of the rebel General, Hood, and for this reason did not participate in the famous march to the sea. Mr. Horne was at the battles of Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, and by his brave and faithful service secured not only the approval of his superior officers, but the friendship and good-will of his subordinates.

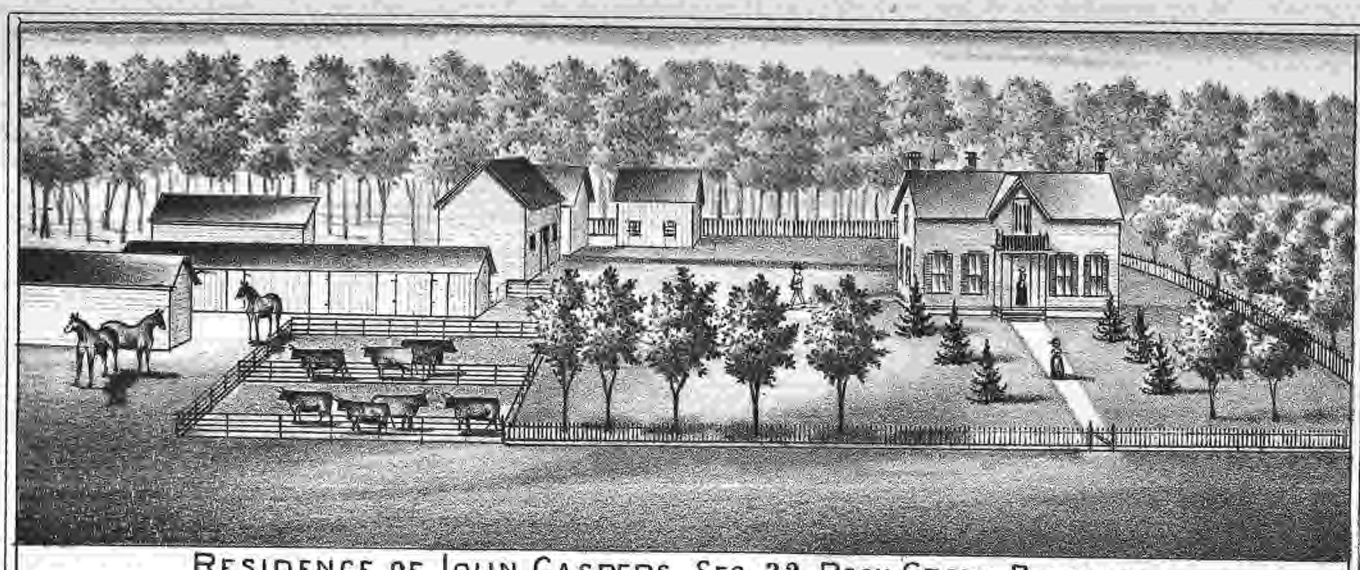
After his retirement from the service Lieut. Horne returned to Lockport, Ill., and resumed his old position as clerk in the store which he left previous to his enlistment. A year later he went from there to the Union stockyards, Chicago, as book-keeper for a commission firm, but in the fall of 1866 crossed the Mississippi into Blairstown, Iowa, where he was engaged in merchandising and the milling trade until January, 1874. The reason of the subsequent change was that he had been elected Treasurer of Benton County in the fall of 1873, and at the date above mentioned assumed charge of his office, now taking up his residence in Vinton, Iowa. The duties of this he discharged until the 1st of January, 1877, then resigned, and became partner of a banking firm in Blairstown, where he continued to live and do business until coming to this State.

Mr. Horne devotes his whole time and attention to the business of the Syracuse Bank, and is the owner of a good property, including a pleasant home within the city limits, and land outside. All that he possesses he has accumulated through his own industry, having at an early age been thrown upon his own resources, and is thus a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. His early experiences, however, instead of being a drawback, only developed within him those qualities which have formed the basis of a most successful career, and have been the means of enabling him to take a position among the liberal-minded and progressive men of the day. He has always taken considerable interest in politics, and is an industrious worker in support of the Republican party, whose principles he believes to be those which shall sustain the Nation in its onward career to fame and glory. He has held various offices of responsibility and trust in connection with local affairs, and at the convention which assembled in September, 1888, was nominated by his party as their candidate for the State Legislature, and was elected in the November following.

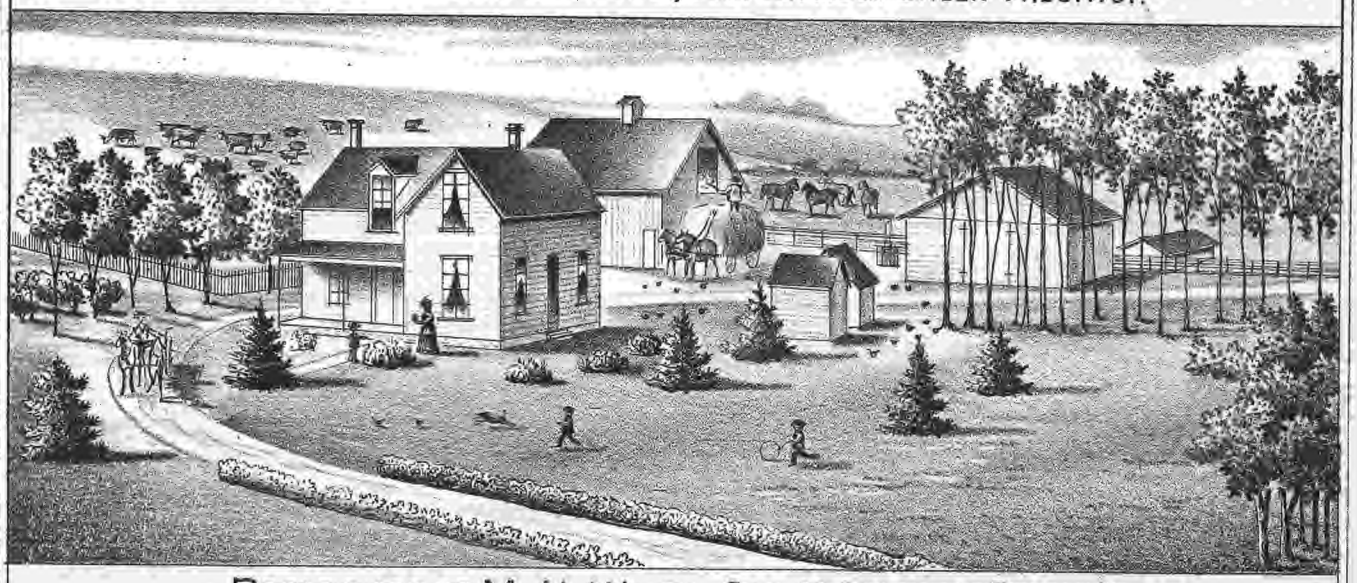
Miss Nellie Heidy, of LaFayette County, Wis., became the wife of our subject Sept. 15, 1870. She was born April 3, 1850, received a fair education, and remained a member of the parental household until her marriage with our subject. Of this union there have been born three children, one of whom died in infancy. The survivors are sons, Frank and Othniel, the former born July 25, 1872, and the latter Aug. 13, 1879. The family residence is very pleasantly situated in the eastern part of the city, and forms one of its pleasantest and most attractive homes. Mr. Horne, socially, belongs to the G. A. R., being Past Commander of Wadsworth Post No. 21, in Syracuse, is a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion, a Knight Templar, and Past Master of the Masonic lodges at Blairstown, Iowa, and Syracuse, Neb., and a member of the A. O. U. W., with which he has been identified since 1873, at which time he obtained membership in Lodge No. 21, at Blairstown, Iowa. He is a favorite both in social and business circles, and a man always destined to be of note in his community.

THOMAS THOMAS, who is prosperously engaged in the transfer business, is one of Nebraska City's solid, reliable citizens. He was born July 11, 1830, in Champaign County, Ohio, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Daniel Thomas. His grandfather, Thomas Thomas, was born either in Scotland or Wales, and, coming to America, he became one of the first settlers of Champaign County, Ohio. He kept a tavern in the town of Urbana for some years until his removal to Illinois, where he identified himself with the early pioneers of the State, and there passed the remainder of his life.

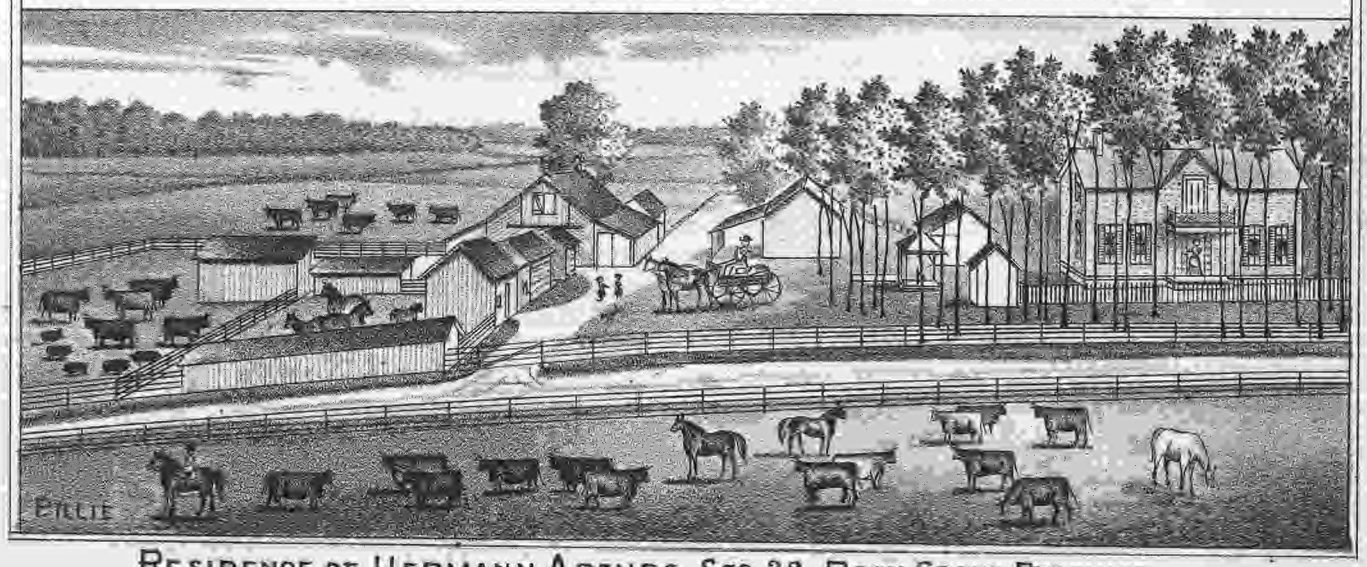
The father of our subject grew to manhood in his native county, and after his marriage with Elizabeth Traverse, he moved to Hancock County, and became one of its pioneers. The country was for the most part a sparsely settled wilderness, with Indians still lingering about their old homes, and bears, wolves and other animals lurking in the swamps and woods. He bought a tract of timber land, and during his residence there of nearly twenty years was busily engaged in improving a farm in the primeval forests of Ohio. He finally removed to Toledo, and resided there until about 1860, when he came to Nebraska City. While the war was in progress he enlisted in an independent com-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN CASPERS, SEC. 32. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF M. H. WILES, SEC. 14. DELAWARE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF HERMANN ARENDS, SEC. 32. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

pany, and went forth to defend the frontier. At the close of the Rebellion he took up his residence in St. Joseph, Mo., and there his last years were passed. His good wife had preceded him many years before, dying in 1841. There were six children born of their marriage, five of whom grew to maturity, but our subject is the only one now living.

The latter was in his eleventh year when he was deprived of the care and instruction of a kind, wise mother, and shortly after that sad occurrence his father broke up housekeeping, and the little lad was thrown on his own resources. But the plucky, self-reliant boy soon found employment as a driver of horses on the towpath of the Miami Canal. He subsequently engaged in boating on Lake Erie one season, and two seasons on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He worked on the canal until the railway came, and continued his residence in Ohio until the fall of 1857, when he came to Nebraska City, by way of the canal from Toledo to Terre Haute, Ind., from there to Alton, Ill., by rail, and thence by team to this State across Missouri and a corner of Iowa.

During his residence in Ohio Mr. Thomas had married, in 1851, Miss Louisa Newhouse, a native of Switzerland. Her father, William Newhouse, was likewise of Swiss birth, and passed his entire life in his native land. After his death his widow, with the seven of the eight children born to her, came to America, the other child coming later. She located in Madison County, Ill., and bought a tract of land, which her children farmed for her, and she resided there until her death. The pleasant wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas has been blessed to them by the birth of three children, as follows: George H.; Ada, the wife of John Myers, and Solomon J., all of whom reside in Nebraska City.

The first winter of his stay in this part of the country Mr. Thomas was employed in a sawmill on the Iowa side of the boundary line. In the spring of 1858 he rented a farm five miles from Nebraska City. He had taken up a homestead claim the first winter that he was here, and broke a few acres and built a small house thereon, but early in 1860 he went to the mountains to drive a team with a load of powder for the mines, and while he was gone some rascal jumped his claim. After that he employed his time wholly in teaming in Nebraska City for three or four years. Subsequently he engaged in a wholesale grocery house shipping goods for about two years. After that he was employed in the store of Hawke Brothers for some time, and was then elected City Marshal. He served in that responsible office for eight years, and during that time the city was greatly indebted to him for the preservation of peace, and for its general prosperity, as he was a faithful and efficient officer. Since retiring from office he has confined his attention strictly to the transfer business, from which he derives a good income. He is a man of much force and energy, of sound principles, and is trusted by all who know him.

JOHN PETERSON. This gentleman, a resident of Russell Precinct, hails from Denmark and was born at Le Mark on the Place Moen, Feb. 20, 1830. He was the eldest of nine children born to Peter and Christine Peterson; the former died in 1876, being seventy-one years of age, and the latter, whose years told the same number, in 1879. The names of their children are as follows: John, Lors, Peter, Frederick, Hans P., Mary C., Sophia, Karn C. and Christian.

The subject of our sketch remained upon the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age, and then had to serve four years in the regular army, after which he returned to the farm, remaining until 1862, when he determined to emigrate to America, and set sail from Hamburg for New York City. The voyage lasted eight weeks and four days. The tiresome and not altogether pleasant journey over, he found work in a brickyard at Perth Amboy, N. J., where he worked three months. He next went to Buffalo to work upon the railroad, at which he continued throughout the summer. From Buffalo he emigrated to Bedford County, Pa., and before long found work there also.

On the 22d of September, 1864, the Civil War being in progress, Mr. Peterson enlisted in Company B, 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry, which became

part of the army under Sheridan. He was mustered in at Chambersburg, and from there went to Washington and took part in nearly every one of the larger battles of the campaign, besides doing duty in reconnoitering and skirmishing. He was mustered out and discharged at Alexandria, June 9, 1865, after a service of nine months, in which time he had fought in many of the important battles of the war. Upon leaving the military service our subject went back to Pennsylvania, and worked in a foundry until 1867; he then repaired to Chicago, Ill., and thence to Iowa City, continuing at work in various foundries in these places until 1877, when he came to this State and settled in Russell Precinct, purchasing eighty acres of land on section 12. This he at once began to improve, and succeeded in his labors beyond his expectations.

Finally, in 1884, receiving what he believed to be an advantageous offer for his farm, our subject traded it for his present property, and moved onto it. The house, barns, groves, orchard, and in fact all the improvements, have been made since that time, Mr. Peterson having prospered greatly. He is an esteemed member of the community, a consistent adherent of the Lutheran Church, and active in the ranks of the Democratic party, the principles of which he has defended since becoming a citizen of this Republic.

It is gratifying to note the results of a persistent industry, and the view which is shown of the Peterson homestead, perhaps, is the most forcible illustration of this which could be presented. It forms a reminder which will stand for years to come and do him honor.

THOMAS DEWEY, the owner of 240 acres of fine farming land on section 32 in Palmyra Precinct, is a very intelligent English gentleman of good education, who seldom meets his equal in matters of history and general practical information. Among his many excellent qualities is the careful attention which he gives to the education of his children and his strong advocacy of temperance, he being a pronounced Prohibitionist.

A native of Dorsetshire, England, our subject was born March 25, 1819, and is a son of George and Margaret (White) Dewey, who were also of English birth and parentage, and the father a local politician of considerable note, holding the office of High Constable, Court Bailiff, etc. He lived to be seventy years of age, and, with his excellent wife spent his entire life upon his native soil. The father survived his wife, she being seventy-three years old at the time of her death. Their family consisted of two sons only, Charles W., and Thomas, our subject. The former is now deceased.

Young Dewey grew up amid the quiet scenes of country life, and at the age of twenty years commenced to learn the trades of carpenter and wheelright. These he pursued in the cities of Lynn, Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton, Sussex, Seaford and other places. He developed rare genius as a machinist, and in due time was given a position in the civil engineering department of the Government.

Mr. Dewey when twenty-nine years of age was married, March 4, 1848, to Miss Mary Ann Howell, who was born in Sussex, Sept 17, 1830, and whose grandfather was a native of Wales. She was the eldest of four children and the daughter of Richard and Mary (Elphick) Howell, who were natives of England, and spent their last years there. Their family consisted of seven children, four now living.

Our subject and his wife began the journey of life together in the city of Lewis, England, where they lived until after the birth of four children. Mr. Dewey then decided to seek his fortune on another continent, and with his little family set sail from Liverpool on the 1st of May, 1867. Soon after landing upon American soil he made his way directly across the Mississippi to the newly admitted State of Nebraska, and bought 160 acres of land in Hendricks Township. Two years later he homesteaded eighty acres of his present farm, upon which he has lived now for a period of nineteen years. The household circle after the emigration to America was enlarged by the birth of one more child. George, the eldest son, when about twenty-eight years old, went to Montana, and was murdered by the Indians; Margaret is married; Charles died in England at the age of six years; Annie is married; Thomas, a bright and promising youth, is a

student at the seminary in Bennet, from which he expects to graduate in the class of '91. William, born in America, died at the age of nineteen years. Miss Margaret Dewey became the wife of Hiram Pound, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and is now the mother of three daughters—Clara, Mary and Bertha. Miss Annie Dewey married Ora Woods, another farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and is the mother of one child, Charles Albert.

THOMAS H. ASHTON, of Syracuse Precinct, settled upon the land which he now occupies in the winter of 1870. It embraces 160 acres on section 33, and presents to the admiring eye of the passing traveler an admirably regulated homestead, indicating on all sides the supervision of a man of more than ordinary good taste and business capacities. As a tiller of the soil Mr. Ashton has long been recognized as a success, and now, while passing down the sunset hill of life, is in the enjoyment of those comforts and luxuries which are the legitimate reward of industry, perseverance and a well-ordered life. As a pioneer of the county, one who looked upon it in its primitive days, and whose labors have contributed in a large measure toward its present wealth and prosperity, he is regarded with that tacit reverence and respect which can only be accorded men of his worth and standing.

The childhood home of our subject was in Monmouth County, N. J., where his birth took place Nov. 30, 1797. His father, Samuel, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, Mrs. Hannah (Johnson) Ashton, was, like her son, born in New Jersey. Both the Ashtons and Johnsons are of English extraction. Thomas H. was but a year old when his parents removed from New Jersey to Fayette County, Pa., and the father was obliged to pay $7 per 100 pounds for the transportation of his family and goods over the mountains.

In the spring of 1807 the Ashton family decided upon another removal, and this time took up their line of march to the vicinity of Marietta, Washington Co., Ohio. The mother only lived three years afterward, her death taking place in the fall of 1810, by which calamity eight children, six sons and two daughters, were deprived of her affectionate care. Of these Thomas H. is now the only survivor. The family after the death of the mother removed to Clermont County before its division, by which a part of it became Brown County.

The subject of this sketch pursued his first studies at New Haven, Fayette Co., Pa., in 1806. He attained his majority in Brown County, Ohio, and soon afterward purchased a tract of land at $1.50 per acre, which he declared he would retain possession of until offered $20 per acre for it. The people around him made fun of this asseveration, but in the fall of 1851 he proudly disposed of his quarter-section of land for the snug sum of $3,000, an amount very near his expectations, which would have been fully realized probably had he waited a year or two longer.

Mr. Ashton, now desirous of a change of occupation, repaired to the town of Fayetteville, Ohio, where he put up a large brick residence, purchased a stock of goods, and engaged in general merchandising. In 1854 he removed to the northern part of the State, settling on a farm in Defiance County, which he had purchased for $2,000, and where he lived until the fall of 1870. Then, selling out for the snug advance of $5,000, he made his way across the Mississippi to this State, and invested a portion of his capital in the land which he now owns and occupies. This purchase, however, was for the most part accidental, as he came to this State simply to visit his son in Nebraska City, and was persuaded by the latter to this step. The 160 acres for which he paid $2,000 is now considered worth twice that sum. The money which Mr. Ashton at that time had left after paying for his land, he divided among his children, in true fatherly fashion.

Our subject while a resident of the Buckeye State was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Cramer, Dec. 31, 1818. This lady, like her husband, was also a native of New Jersey, and was born in June, 1801. A kindly Providence smiled upon their union in the birth of nine children, but five of these were taken away before reaching mature years. Rachel, Mrs. Blue, is living with her son in Defiance County, Ohio; Benjamin D. is a practicing physician of Traverse City, Mich.; William died in this county, Jan. 5, 1886; Elizabeth F. is

the wife of George Brechbill, who operates the homestead. Mrs. Elizabeth Ashton departed this life at her home, Oct. 16, 1876.

Mr. Ashton cast his first Presidential vote for Monroe, when one of the political parties of the country was known by the name of old-line Whig. Upon its abandonment he allied himself with the Republicans. He has voted for every Republican President from the fall of 1818 until 1884, when he was unable to attend the polls. Since 1819 he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he served as Class-Leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and held various other positions of trust and responsibility in connection therewith for many years. In his prime he was strong and athletic, seldom knowing a day's illness. He reverts proudly to the fact that he never quarreled with a man in all his life, and never was a party to a suit in court. In 1883 he was stricken with paralysis, and has never fully recovered from the effects of this. He knows all about the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life. His land in Ohio was originally covered with timber, which he cleared and brought to a good state of cultivation. He had at first but fifty acres, and in the course of time added to it by 100. He was thrown upon his own resources at an early age, but this, instead of proving a detriment, only stirred him on to renewed labor, and was in fact probably that which contributed largely to his success. He is a self-made man in every sense of the word.

George Brechbill, a son-in-law of our subject, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., July 12, 1831, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Lose) Brechbill, who left the Keystone State about 1835, and took up their residence in Defiance County, Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation, and both parents died while scarcely middle-aged, leaving four children, namely: Sarah, John, George and Abraham. George grew to manhood in Defiance County, Ohio, and at the same place, in 1856, was married to Miss Ashton; they came to Nebraska in 1871, and have since lived with our subject.

Mr. Brechbill is an ex-soldier of the Union, having enlisted in the fall of 1863, in Company I, 9th Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and went with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. Mr. B. was an active participant in some of the most important battles of the war, and after a brave and faithful service received his honorable discharge in North Carolina. He is a stanch Republican, politically, and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Of his union with Miss Ashton there have been born five children, three of whom died young, and Mary E. died when an interesting maiden of eighteen years. There is thus left them only one child, a daughter, Gertrude, who was born June 27, 1870. William Ashton, the sixth son of our subject, also served during the Civil War, in Company G, 38th Ohio Infantry, from 1861 until its close.

GEORGE WRIGHT, one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Otoe County, residing in Otoe Precinct, was an early pioneer of this section of the country, and has witnessed almost its entire growth, of which he has been an important factor. While actively assisting in the development of the great agricultural resources of this region his labors have been well rewarded, as he is now the possessor of a handsome property, his farms comprising 700 acres.

Mr. Wright was born in Germany in 1835, a son of Michael and Rosina (Atlee) Wright, natives of Germany. They were reared and married in their native country and resided there until 1843, when they came to America with their family, and located for awhile in Upper Canada. In 1844 they came to the "States" and settled in Nauvoo, Ill., where Mr. Wright invested in town property. He enlisted from there to take part in the Mexican War, and served until the close of the war. He did not return to Illinois, but went to California, and never went back to his home. The mother of our subject died in Nauvoo, leaving five children: George; John, who lives in Rockport, Mo.; Susan, who married Lewis Lewis, and lives in Otoe Precinct; Joseph and Mabel, who are now dead.

The subject of this sketch was but eight years old when he came to America with his parents. He commenced attending school in his native land when he was six years old, and the remainder of

his education he secured in the American public schools. He was ten years old when he had the sad misfortune to lose a good mother, and his father going soon after to serve in the Mexican War, the children were separated, being taken by different friends, and our subject went to live for awhile with a man in Nauvoo. In a short time he was taken by another man, who soon after moved to Dallas, and later to Olena, where he engaged in the mercantile business. Our subject was a bright, active lad, ambitious to obtain an education, so he attended school in both of the towns mentioned, and when not engaged in studying he assisted in the store. In 1855 he concluded to come West to seek a home, and came directly to the Territory of Nebraska and to Nebraska City, arriving here on the 1st of October. He found this place then but a village, with only one brick building completed, and the greater part of the business was done in the part called Kearney. He soon secured a situation as clerk in a store at Stephens, Richardson County, which was then no village, only a trading-post for the Indians. In the following spring he gave up his clerkship and returned to Otoe County, where he found work on a farm at $20 a month, and he continued to work by the month or job until 1857. He then made claim to the northeast quarter of section 24, Otoe Precinct, and entered it from the Government in the land-office at Omaha. He first built a log cabin on his land, but as he was then single, he continued to work out until after his marriage in 1861, with Miss Susan Hanks. The year following his marriage he settled on his place, which has ever since been his home. By hard work, wise economy and judicious expenditure, he has acquired one of the largest and most valuable estates in Otoe County. He has increased the area of his land to 700 acres, all in Otoe Precinct, and nearly all improved. He engages in general farming and stock-raising with marked success, as is attested by his abundant harvests, and the fine, well-kept stock of good grades that roam over his rich pastures.

Mrs. Wright has contributed her share in bringing about this prosperity, and their home is made cheerful and cozy by her skillful hands and ready tact. Three children complete the family circle: Laura received her education at Mt. St. Scholastica, at Atchison, Kan.; Mary is attending the common schools; Martha is now a student of the State Normal School at Peru, Neb.; all are single and at home.

Mr. Wright is a stirring, energetic man, and that he has been very successful in life he owes to his indomitable persistence in overcoming obstacles, and to his habits of industry, for he is an entirely self-made man. That through all the conflicts of life he has not fought and wrought for self entirely is proved by his liberality and generosity to others. He is a Democrat in his political sentiments, and he takes a lively interest in all that pertains to his adopted country. Mrs. Wright and her eldest daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

LHORRUM, a leading hardware merchant of Talmage, carries a full stock of the merchandise pertaining to his line of trade, and has also added farm implements, wagons, buggies and other road vehicles. He is a man of means and standing, the owner of a handsome and comfortable home on Main street, and in all respects a prominent and well-to-do citizen.

Mr. Horrum established his present business in Talmage in 1886, and is rapidly building up a controlling trade. Previous to this he had been identified with the brick manufactory of L. T. Spicknall, which was established in 1881 near the village limits, and of which the output was as many as 500,000 annually. From this factory came nearly all the brick used in the principal buildings built of this material in Talmage. In 1886 Mr. Horrum withdrew, disposing of his interests to his partner, and invested his capital in his present business.

Our subject came to Nebraska in the spring of 1870, locating on a tract of land in the vicinity of the present village of Talmage, which, however, at that time had not been laid out. He engaged in farming, and became widely and favorably known to the people of this section. Previously he had been a resident of Cass County, Mo., to which he had removed from Dearborn County, Ind., landing on the other side of the Mississippi in 1869.

Dearborn County, Ind., was the early home of our subject, and where his birth took place July 6, 1853. His father, William Horrum, was also a native of that county, to which the parents of the latter had come in the pioneer days, settling not far from the present site of Lawrenceburg. Grandfather Daniel Horrum was a native of New Hampshire, where he was reared, and married to Miss Polly Blodgett, and after the birth of a part of their family they emigrated from the Old Granite State to Indiana, locating in Dearborn County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Polly Horrum passed away about twelve years before the decease of her husband, at the age of seventy-six, being ten years younger than he. The latter was eighty-six years old at the time of his death. During his early manhood, for three years, he did good service in the War of 1812, and participated in some of the most important battles of that war. He was a Universalist in religion, and a man careful and conscientious in his dealings with his neighbors, possessing a strict sense of justice, which insured him the esteem and confidence of all who knew him.

William Horrum, the father of our subject, was reared and educated in his native county, and otherwise spent his time after the manner of most farmers' sons. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Miss Polly Huston, a native also of Dearborn County, Ind., her childhood home being not far from that of her husband. Her parents had emigrated to Indiana from one of the New England States, becoming residents of Dearborn County during its early settlement, and at a time when the country was inhabited principally by wild animals and Indians. The father of our subject, after his marriage, began the development of a farm from a tract of wild land, upon which he labored until the fall of 1869. He then crossed the Father of Waters, and secured a tract of land in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County, this State, upon which he lived a number of years, building up a good farm, but which he left in the spring of 1887, and, retiring from active labor, took up his residence in the village of Talmage, where, with his excellent wife, he is spending his declining years in ease and comfort. Both the parents have been members of the Christian Church for many years, and liberally contributed to its support. Mr. Horrum gave the ground for the church edifice, which was built on a part of his farm. He was a charter member of the society, and it was largely through his encouragement and assistance that it was maintained during its first struggling years. Mr. H. in early life voted the old Whig ticket, but later identified himself with the Republicans.

Leman Horrum was the eldest of the three children born to his parents, all sons, the other two being named Omer and Stephen W. His early education was conducted in the schools of Dearborn County, Ind., and later he was a student in the Normal at Peru, this State. He is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest. Like his parents, he belongs to the Christian Church, and like his father, he is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He has with one exception fulfilled all the obligations of a good citizen, but still remains a bachelor, having, it is supposed, so much business upon his hands that he has not yet found time to attend to this most important matter.

SAMUEL SWANK. Longfellow has most truly remarked in one of his exquisitely realistic poems, that "Into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary," but the problem that has stirred many hearts is, why so much more rain falls into some lives than into others. The subject of our sketch is one whose life has been constantly overshadowed by clouds of trouble and trial, and the sunlight and brightness have been fitful and intermittent, but at the same time his constant struggle and manful conflict have resulted in the building up of an exceptionally fine character, and beautifying a most appreciable spirit.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Joseph and Littas (Van Metri) Swank, who were married in Kentucky, and from that State removed to Indiana. They were the parents of eleven children, and our subject, who was born on the 10th of January, 1827,

was their seventh child. The place of his nativity was Harrison County, Ind. When about eleven months old, his parents removed to Montgomery County, where the father died when our subject was about four and a half years old; being left thus early without paternal care and wealth, it is not surprising that his education was limited by circumstances and for the same reason much curtailed. When twenty-one years of age, he went to Rock Island County, Ill.

In 1847 Mr. Swank was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Walker, the daughter of Samuel A. and Nancy A. Walker, who was born in Madison County, Ill., in the year 1830. He became the owner of sixty acres of land at Rock Island, Ill., and there remained until 1858, when he removed with his wife and child to Marshall County, Kan., where he settled. Later they became pioneers of Richardson County, Neb., and were there throughout the Nebraska and Kansas troubles that necessarily aroused so much strong feeling among the advocates of either side of the question.

Leaving Kansas, our subject removed to Missouri, and lived in that State at the time of the Civil War. July 3, 1863, he enlisted in the 13th Kansas Infantry, and served in the Southwestern Division of the army. His military career, while it did not bring him prominently before the people as a great soldier, was one of honor, devotion and patriotism, and, like so many others, he during that period performed every duty for home and native land in the best possible manner, and earned the reward that always comes to those who are swayed by high principles, and who faithfully follow the dictates thereof. At the conclusion of the war, with health impaired, Mr. Swank returned to Missouri and again took up the more ordinary avocations of life, remaining there with his family until 1868, when he came to this State and took up his present homestead of eighty acres, which he succeeded in bringing to a very high state of cultivation by the help and assistance of others. From the time of his military service, and as a result thereof, his sight had begun to fail and he became almost blind, but in that affliction has been supported and sustained by his own patient spirits, and the affection of his family.

The home circle of our subject included four children, viz: William E., Cora J., Caroline A. and Arthur E. William E. is married to Miss Tucker, of Nebraska, and resides in California; they are the parents of one beautiful little daughter, Lena. Cora J. is the wife of L. H. Bertz, and resides at Bennet; they too have a daughter, who is named Hattie J. Caroline A. is happily married to James Malcomb, and has presented her husband with two children, who are named McCoy E. and George Samuel.

Our subject is in political affairs a stanch Republican, but has been prevented taking the active part he would have desired by reason of his blindness. Religiously, he is connected with the Latter-Day Saints, and is one of the consistent and devout members of that community. He is one of the capable and much esteemed citizens of his district.

NATHAN D. FOSTER. The subject of this sketch, a very capable and intelligent man, is by occupation a general farmer, mechanic and millwright. In the knowledge of these industries he is practically independent, for though he should lose every cent of his property, he has that which money cannot buy. He occupies a finely improved farm of 120 acres on section 3, in McWilliams Precinct, and is pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and a good citizen.

Mr. Foster came to Nebraska on the 1st of April, 1880, from Davis County, Iowa, and soon afterward settled upon his present farm. He had been a resident of the Hawkeye State for a period of ten years, carrying on farming, and employing himself when opportunity presented as a mechanic. His early home lies on the other side of the Mississippi, in Washington County, Ill., where he was born Oct. 9, 1828. His father, Andrew Foster, a native of Campbell County, Ky., was a well-educated man, and for years engaged as a teacher. The paternal grandfather of our subject was an old Revolutionary soldier, who after the independence of the Colonists had been established, settled in the Blue Grass regions, and engaging in farming, there spent the remainder of his life, dying at a ripe old age. Andrew Foster was cut down in his prime, his death

taking place at the home of the family in Washington County, Ill., when Nathan D., our subject, was a little lad of seven years. The mother, Mrs. Nancy (Cox) Foster, subsequently became the wife of James Hall, of Alabama, and only lived to be middle-aged, her death taking place when she was forty-five years old.

Young Foster continued to live with his mother until her death, when he was a youth of eighteen years. At the age of sixteen he had commenced an apprenticeship at the carpenter and millwright trades, at which he was employed until a man of thirty-two years, living mostly in the Middle States. In the spring of 1860 he started across the plains, and for two years thereafter hunted for gold in the Nevada Gulch mines. He met with moderate success, and thence migrated to Virginia City, Mont., during the opening of the mines there.

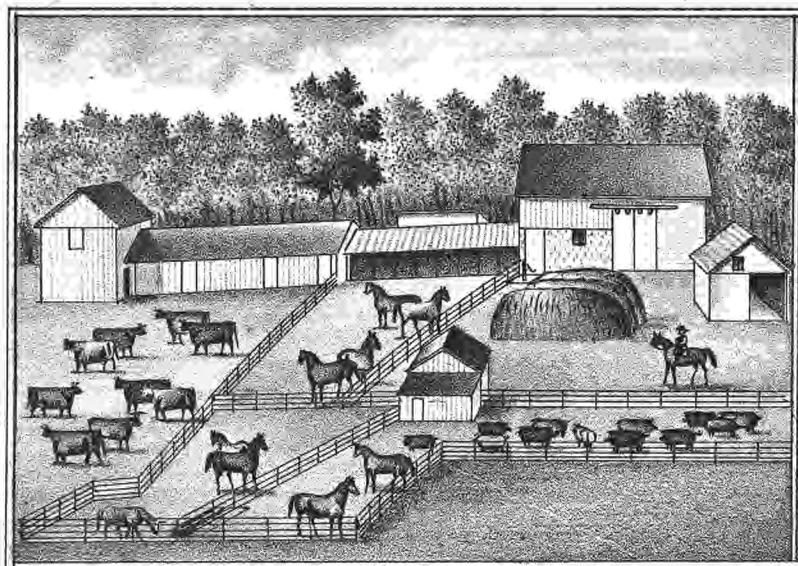
At this period the country was over-run by what were termed "road agents," and it became necessary for the citizens to organize themselves for their protection. Mr. Foster was chosen Lieutenant of a company for the suppression of these outrages, and by his bravery and fidelity to duty was largely instrumental in effecting the desired result, not, however, until thirty-three desperate men had been executed by hanging. In the discharge of his duties he passed through many thrilling experiences and hairbreadth escapes, and has to this day a revolver captured from one of the most desperate of the outlaws, and one of the first to be hanged. It is a Colt's Navy, and Mr. Foster subsequently carried it for some time for the protection of his person. While in the mountains he became an expert hunter, having a reputation second to none in that region, and many were the buffalos, deer and antelopes which were brought down by his unerring rifle. He also occasionally successfully attacked a mountain lion. He thus employed his time two or three months during the winter season.

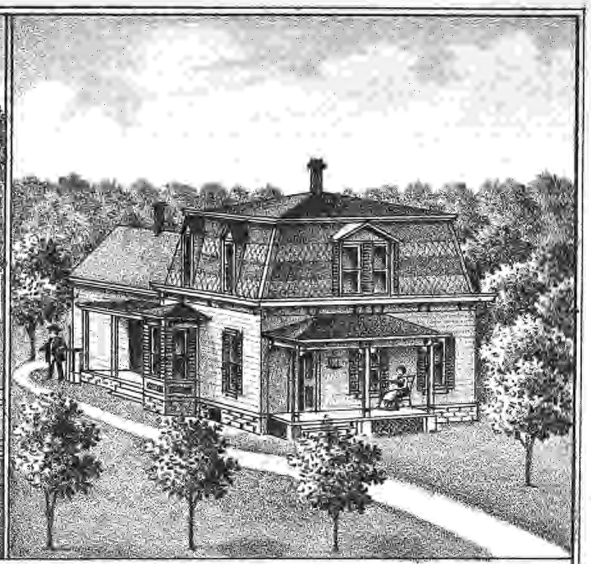
Mr. Foster, in the spring of 1867, set his face eastward, crossing the Yellowstone River and the Missouri, and on his way back to his old haunts spent four years at Council Bluffs, Iowa. In this city occurred the death of his wife, Mrs. Marion (Cook) Foster, to whom he had been married at Council Bluffs in 1865. She was born in Grant County, Mich., and came to Nebraska with her parents when a young woman. She was a lady of many estimable qualities, and greatly mourned by our subject. There was one child born to them, Jennie, Nov. 1, 1867; she has married beneath her station, and our subject does not recognize her.

In March, 1870, Mr. Foster was married a second time at Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Miss Jane Sober, who was born in Ontario County, N. Y., and reared on the Western Reserve in Ohio. She came to the farther West alone; her parents were the descendants of old New England families. She is the foster-mother of one child, Christian Robert, a smart little lad of seven years. Mr. Foster, politically, is a reformer, and liberal in his religious views. He has endeavored to follow the precepts of the Golden Rule, and, with his estimable wife, is a favorite in social circles.

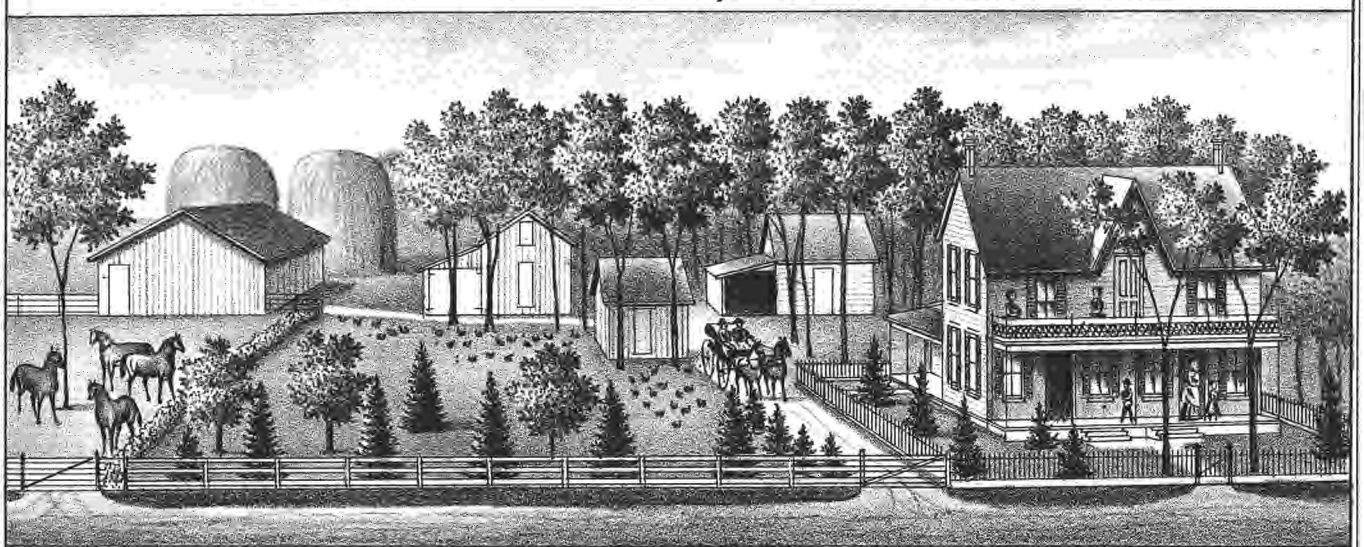
NOAH EMBREE purchased the land which he now owns in Russell Precinct during the period of its early settlement, and here he has since remained, watching the growth and development of one of the most prosperous States west of the Mississippi. His career has been one filled in with industry, as is evinced in his possession of one of the finest farms in this county. It includes 160 acres of land, which yields in abundance the choicest crops of Nebraska, and upon it are the buildings of modern style of architecture, amply adapted to the convenience of the proprietor, all the purposes of living, the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. Personally, the proprietor is one of the leading men of his county, one who enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

Our subject is the offspring of excellent Quaker stock, and was born in Vermilion County, Ill., Feb. 22, 1833. His father, Jesse Embree, was a native of Preble County, Ohio, whence he emigrated early in life to Illinois, and in Vermilion County married Miss Mary Hollingsworth, also of Quaker parentage, and a native of that county. The paternal grandfather of our subject was of French descent, but his parents probably were na-

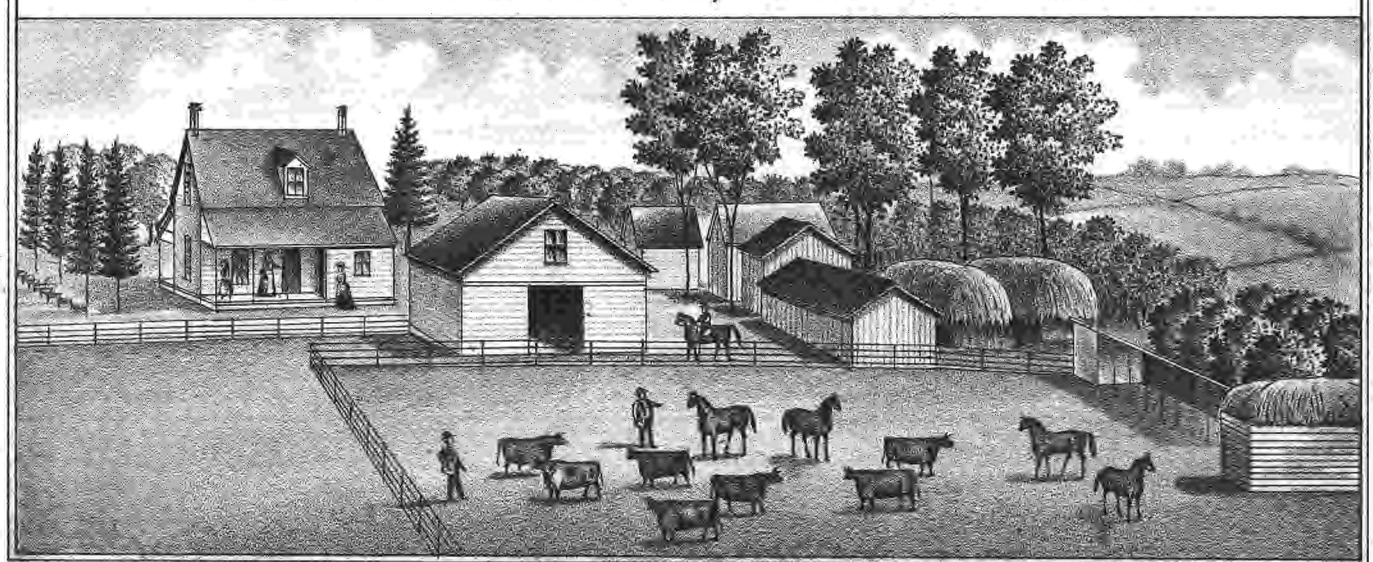




RESIDENCE OF WM D ASHLEY, SEC. 31. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF G. W. BROWN, SEC. 17. OTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF TALTON MASSEY, SEC. 22. OTOE PRECINCT.

tives of England, whence, it is supposed, they crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. They settled in one of the New England States, and the grandfather upon reaching manhood carried a musket in the War of 1812. On the mother's side Grandfather Hollingsworth was of English descent, and also served in the above-mentioned war.

Jesse Embree carried on farming in Vermilion County, Ill., until 1840, and then moved across the Mississippi River into Washington County, Iowa. There in due time he became the owner of 500 broad acres, purchasing first a half-section, and adding gradually to his landed estate. He was greatly prospered, and died in possession of a competency in 1858, at the age of fifty-one years. The mother had passed away seven years before, in 1851, aged thirty-five. Their six children were named respectively: Noah; Martha A., who died when twenty-two years old; Jehu H., Anna M., Sarah J. and Elmina. The survivors are residents mostly of Nebraska.

Our subject remained under the home roof until the death of his father, having acquired a common-school education, and became intimately acquainted with the details of country life. He then rented the homestead for a number of years, and finally became owner of part of it, continuing there until the spring of 1870. Then, with a longing to see something more of the West, and believing that he could do better elsewhere, he sold his interests in Iowa, and gathering together his personal effects, started overland with a team for Nemaha County, Kan. Upon his arrival there, however, not being pleased with the outlook, he went north into Nebraska, and soon afterward settled on the land in Russell Precinct which he now owns and occupies. It was then a quarter-section of raw prairie, upon which there was not even a shelter for his head. He began operations in true pioneer style, and labored for a number of years under the disadvantages of a distant market, and the various other difficulties which beset the pioneer farmer. The perseverance, however, which he had inherited from his substantial English ancestry, served him well in this emergency, and in due time prosperity began to smile upon his labors. He brought his land to a good state of cultivation, set out five acres in a grove of cottonwood, maple and walnut trees, divided his fields with four miles of hedge fencing, planted an apple and peach orchard, and in the midst of these erected a substantial and convenient set of farm buildings. His land is amply supplied with running water, and possesses many natural advantages, which, combined with those which he has added, make it one of the most desirable estates of this part of Otoe County.

Mr. Embree was married in Keokuk, Iowa, on the 17th of June, 1858, to Miss Margaretta, daughter of Rev. F. F. and Rachael (Harris) Lyon, the father a native of Wayne County, N. Y., and the mother of Macoupin County, Ky. The paternal great-grandfather was of French birth and ancestry, and his son, Grandfather Lyon, a native of New York, spent his last years in that State. The maternal great-grandfather was a native of England, and married Miss McVey. He settled in Tennessee, and there was born his son, who became the grandfather of Mrs. Embree.

F. F. Lyon was born in Scotland, whence he removed first to Ireland, and then crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Tennessee, where he became the owner of 600 acres of land, upon which stands the present city of Nashville. From this property he never received any benefit, however, as he had entrusted his papers to a lawyer who died, and the important documents were lost. Mr. Lyon then emigrated to Iowa, locating in Keokuk County, where for a number of years he officiated as minister of the United Brethren Church. In 1878 he retired from the ministry, and now lives upon a farm in Jefferson County, Iowa, which is mostly devoted to stock-raising. He is also the owner of 200 acres of land in Rawlins County, Kan. Mr. Lyon is quite healthy and active, although seventy-two years of age; the mother is sixty-three. They are the parents of thirteen children, one of whom, Rachel J., died when three years old. The survivors are Nancy A., Margaretta, Samuel T., William A., Clarissa, Frederick L., Mary E., John S., Demarcus N., Susan I., Nathaniel B. and Ulysses W.

Mrs. Embree was the second child of her parents, and was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, July 25, 1841. She received a common-school education,

and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in all the housewifely duties. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, two of whom, Ezra and Rachel N., died in infancy. The survivors are Allen L., Oliver H., Frederick C., Jehu W., Noah M. and Mary E. Allen, Frederick and Jehu are located in Custer County, this State. Jehu was graduated from the Union School, at Gibbon, in Buffalo County, and is a young man of more than average ability, having a license to preach; he is also a successful teacher. Oliver is in Oregon; Noah is attending school at Gibbon. Both Mr. and Mrs. Embree are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, at Unadilla, which Mr. E. assisted in organizing, therefore being a charter member, and is also a Trustee. He has officiated as Sunday-school Superintendent four years, and contributed liberally to its support and maintenance. His warm interest in the temperance cause led him in 1888 to identify himself with the Prohibition party. He has been connected with the School Board of his district for the last three years, and always gives a hearty support to the enterprises having for their object the general welfare of the community.

ALLEN BIGGS is one of the early settlers of McWilliams Precinct, and indeed of Otoe County. He has lived on his present farm since the year 1864. The property, which includes 240 acres of improved and carefully cultivated, arable land, is situated on section 1. He has a very fine residence, which is of recent construction, and admirably situated amid surroundings that indicate an appreciation of the picturesque as well as the more substantial profit.

For four years previous to making his home as above Mr. Biggs resided in the vicinity of Nebraska City, although he owned and was improving his farm on McWilliams Precinct during that time. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs started life hand in hand, having at the first practically nothing. By mutual help and incitement they began to make their way in the world. Our subject had lived in Gentry County, Mo., for two years before coming to this State, but did not feel anxious to make it his adopted State and permanent home for the reason that throughout the entire period of his residence there he had suffered from chills and ague. He was brought up in Jefferson and Campbell Counties, Tenn., where his parents had removed from their home in Indiana, where he was born in December, 1822, making the change when he was about three years of age.

The father of our subject, James Biggs, was a native of Tennessee, and married his wife, Mary Gwinn, in the same State. They had lived but a few years in the Hoosier State when they returned, as above noted, to Tennessee, where, after attaining a good old age, they died. They were the parents of ten sons and three daughters; of these our subject was the fourth child. He continued to make his home with his parents until he came of age, when he was married and began life for himself.

The subject of our sketch celebrated his first marriage in Jefferson County, Tenn., the lady of his choice being Mary A. Flatford, who was there born and brought up. With her husband she removed to Campbell County, and there died in the prime of life, leaving four daughters and one son. The names of the daughters are as follows: Margaret J., Mary A., Sarah E. and Eliza A. All of them are married and living in Nebraska. The son, William, is now deceased.

The second marriage of our subject took place in Campbell County, Tenn. He then became the husband of Ruth Miller, a native of that county. After four years of happy wedded life this lady died. She had become the mother of two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Biggs was once again married while still a resident of Campbell County, being joined in wedlock with Catharine Thomas, who was born in that county on the 3d of April, 1836. This lady is the daughter of Joseph T. and Mary (Bloodsaw) Thomas, both of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Biggs was educated in the schools of her native county, and lived with her parents until her marriage. She has presented her husband with eleven children, of whom four are deceased, viz: Matilda, George W., Lydia A. and an infant unnamed. The

living children are: James F., now married to Miss Lina Adams; Martha E., the wife of Mr. Timothy Paine; George W., Isaac N., Ella C., Elsie M. and John A.

Mr. and Mrs. Biggs have for many years been numbered with the membership of the Baptist Church, which they joined in Tennessee. Although not prominent in political circles, our subject is interested in all such matters, as a good and true citizen. He is numbered with the Republican party, and as a rule votes the ticket presented by the convention.

JOHN E. CASSELMAN, brother of Franklin T. Casselman, is one of the wealthy citizens of the county, which has been his home since the early days of settlement. He settled in Otoe County in the spring of 1859. His farm is situated on section 20, Otoe Precinct, and comprises 400 acres. His parents, Henry H. and Mary (Frymire) Casselman, were both of German extraction, although natives of Canada, where the family has been for several generations. His father was engaged as an agriculturist, and was quite well-to-do. He died at his Canadian home in February, 1871, aged seventy-three years. There also the mother died the following year, being seventy-eight years of age. Their family circle included seven children, viz: Michael H., Phillip A., Charles N., George H., Franklin T., John E. and Abram B. All but the latter still survive. Charles N. lives in Broome County, N. Y., the other three in Canada.

The birth of John E. occurred on the 20th of September, 1835, in Dundas County, Canada, where he lived until he was nineteen, engaged chiefly in farm work, educational facilities being exceedingly limited. Leaving home in 1855, he went to Jefferson County, N. Y., where he worked on a farm for two years; then he joined his brother Franklin T., in Atchison County, Kan. In 1858 he started for California, but was taken sick at Ft. Kearney, and was sent back to Nebraska City, where he arrived in the fall of that year. There being much sickness there he went to Fremont, Iowa, and passed the winter. In the spring of 1859 he returned to Nebraska City, working for two years upon the farms one year with Mr. Davis, the latter year being spent with Mr. Pendleton.

At the time of his return to Nebraska City our subject had only $3. This practically is the beginning of his present prosperity and wealth. All his earnings he put into land, and was able to purchase his present property of 160 acres in the year 1868. The following year he was united in wedlock with Lucy A. Emery, the estimable daughter of George and Sarah Emery, also natives of Canada, but residents of Nebraska since September, 1865. They first settled in Nemaha County, and after two years went to Johnson County, removing to their present home at Crab Orchard in 1884, where they live a retired life, as is congenial to those of such advanced age as they, being sixty-eight and sixty-six respectively. Their six children are mentioned as follows: Susan, Sarah, Lucy A., Frances A., Elva O. and Robert G. Mrs. Casselman was born on the 6th of March, 1848, about twelve miles west of Brockville, Canada, and until her marriage made her home with her parents. She has presented her husband with five children, viz: Etta M., Burton E., Carrie M., Sadie (deceased) and Lucy Mabel; all make their home with their parents. Mr. Casselman is giving his children the benefits of a good education.

In September, 1861, our subject enlisted in Company C, in the 1st Battalion of cavalry of Nebraska Territory. They left for St. Louis in October, 1861. The regiment was commanded by Col. Lowe, and with other independent companies from Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri, formed the Curtiss Horse Regiment, afterward the 5th Iowa. He fought in many battles, among them Chickamauga, Pittsburg Landing, Sugar Creek, Pulaski and Atlanta. He was discharged honorably at Nashville in 1864, after serving three years and thirty-seven days, with the record of a good, true and gallant soldier. He is a member of the William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R., Nebraska City.

For seven years our subject has held various school offices, for two terms was Justice of the Peace, and has at all times been as a politician in the Republican ranks. He is a man very highly respected, a careful thinker, and of finest character.

His wife also is abundantly worthy of every good and kindly word that could be spoken, and has been true in the most perfect manner to every obligation that has come to her as the result of her relation to our subject and their children, and is eminently admired and respected in the community.

JAMES HALL. A gentleman in the prime of life, intelligent, enterprising and well-to-do, the subject of this biography is one of the most valued citizens of Delaware Precinct, where he settled in the spring of 1881. He is now the owner of 200 acres of valuable land, finely located on section 10, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. His fields are laid off with neat and substantial fences of osage orange, and his farm stock and machinery are what would naturally be expected of the skillful and thorough agriculturist. The residence and its surroundings indicate the existence of cultivated tastes and ample means. Adjacent is a flourishing apple orchard and groves of elm and cottonwood, while other fruit and shade trees add their embellishments to the general appearance of the premises. It is without question the home of the prosperous and well-to-do citizen.

Our subject was born amid the Lowlands of Scotland, in Roxburyshire, on the 3d of July, 1848. His parents, William and Mary (Murray) Hall, natives of the same county, were well-to-do and intelligent people, and the father now resides in Chicago, Ill., but the mother is deceased. The household circle consisted of five sons and one daughter, all of whom are living mostly in the United States.

Mr. Hall received the advantages of the common schools in his native shire, and lived there until a man of twenty-five years. During his youth and early manhood he was occupied in farming. He had been a lad thoughtful beyond his years, ambitious of doing well in the world, and being a man among his fellowmen. He believed that he could do better for himself in all respects on the other side of the Atlantic, and accordingly in the spring of 1872 embarked on board an ocean steamer at Liverpool, and fifteen or sixteen days later set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. He remained in the Dominion two years, then made his way to Marshall County, Ill. He was employed there as a farm laborer until 1881, then resolved to invest his capital west of the Mississippi.

In the spring of 1881 Mr. Hall purchased 200 acres of his present farm. There had been little attempt at improvement, and he set himself industriously at work to cultivate the soil and build up a homestead which would reflect credit upon him and those who should enjoy it with him. His labors have met with their legitimate reward, as all will acknowledge who have seen it. For a man who landed in America with a capital of $2.50, it cannot be denied that he has done well, and that nature endowed him with more than an ordinary share of common sense and the faculty of good management. On the 3d of February, 1881, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Scoon, who was born in Roxburyshire, Scotland, Aug. 1, 1850. Her parents, Robert and Mary (Nichol) Scoon, were also of Scotch birth and parentage, and are now deceased.

Their family included ten children, who are now mostly in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Hall there have been born a son and daughter, William and Mary, who are now six and one years of age respectively. Mr. Hall, politically, gives his support to the Republican party. He is at present School Treasurer of his district and Road Supervisor, and, with his estimable wife, a member in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church. Public spirited and liberal, kind and courteous, as a neighbor and friend, he fulfills the ideal of the honored citizen and useful member of society.

FRED NEU, Assessor of Berlin Precinct, and one of its most prosperous farmers, has in his homestead 240 acres of fine land, besides 120 acres in another body. The former lies on the southeastern portion of section 12, and the whole is finely adapted to stock-raising, with which industry the proprietor has successfully occupied himself for a number of years. He has discharged the duties of his present office since 1876, and is an

old army veteran, having served as a Union soldier from the outbreak of the Rebellion until its close. He was first promoted to Corporal, later to Sergeant, and officiated in the latter capacity until receiving his honorable discharge.

The childhood home of our subject was in Prussia, where his birth took place Oct. 19, 1832. He attended the common schools of his native town until the age of thirteen years, and at that age also was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church. That same year, 1846, his parents came to America, he accompanying them.

The father of our subject, John George F. Neu, was born in the Rhine Province, Prussia, in the year 1801, and married Miss Elizabeth Boeler, a native of Saxony, and who was born in 1802. The paternal grandfather, Mathias Neu, also of German birth and ancestry, was a shoemaker by trade, and spent his entire life upon his native soil. Grandfather Boeler was chief engineer in a large coal mine near Schwalbach, and died within the confines of his native Empire.

John G. F. Neu learned shoemaking in his early manhood, at which he was occupied in his native Province until crossing the Atlantic. After his arrival in the United States he settled with his family in Dearborn County, Ind., where he followed shoemaking and farming combined. From Dearborn he removed into Ripley County, where he purchased forty acres of land, from which he improved a good farm, and where his death took place in January, 1853. The mother died in July, 1882, at the home of her son Valentine, in Indianapolis, Ind. The four surviving children of the parental family are: Catherine; Fred, our subject; Louisa and John P. Valentine is deceased. The husbands of Catherine and Louisa, after the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the same regiment as our subject, and Louisa's husband died in St. Louis in 1865. The sisters and brothers are now residents of Nebraska.

Mr. Neu remembers considerable of his native Province and many of the incidents of preparation for the long journey to America. The parents and children journeyed from Rotterdam to London by rail, and at Liverpool embarked on board the sailing-vessel "Queen of the West," upon which they were tossed about for thirty-two days, encountering some storms, but finally landing in safety at New York Harbor. Young Neu remained with his parents until reaching his majority, and learned shoemaking under the instruction of his father, but did not work at the trade after reaching the age of twenty-one. His first independent farming operations were begun on a tract of land in Ripley County, Ind., and in 1855, when twenty-four years of age, he was married, and purchased forty acres in Ripley County. Upon this he labored until entering the army, and his wife subsequently carried on the farm until his return home.

Our subject enlisted Aug. 17, 1862, in Company G, 83d Indiana Infantry, with his two brothers and two brothers-in-law, they being mustered in at Lawrenceburg. Their regiment was assigned to the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 15th Army Corps, Army of the Tennessee, under command of Gen. Sherman. Mr. Neu with his comrades participated thereafter in many of the important battles of the war, was in the fight at Chickasaw Bayou, near Vicksburg, at Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, Big Black River, in both charges on the 18th and 22d of May, at Vicksburg, and all through the siege following. After its surrender he met the enemy at Jackson, Miss., later at Tuscumbia, Ala., Missionary Ridge and at Chattanooga, where his regiment was at the front, and Mr. Neu was in the very front ranks. Later he fought at Resaca, Ga., Dallas and Kenesaw Mountain, and was near Atlanta on the 22d of July, when the brave Gen. McPherson was killed. After the surrender of Atlanta they moved back to the vicinity of Chattanooga, following up Hood's retreat, then returned to Atlanta, and soon thereafter entered upon the famous march to the sea. Our subject was in all the battles of that campaign, and later marched with his regiment up through the Carolinas and to Washington, participating in the grand review, and soon afterward receiving his honorable discharge. Although enduring the hardships and privations common to the lot of the soldier, he was never wounded or captured, and returned with a fair degree of his old-time strength and good health.

After being transformed from a soldier to a civilian Mr. Neu returned to his home and his family

in Ripley County, Ind., but soon afterward sold his property there and spent the winter following in Southeastern Missouri. Thence in the spring he journeyed by steamer to Nebraska City, and two days later proceeded by team to section 25, town 9, range 12, purchasing in May, 1866, eighty acres of improved land, upon which he occupied himself for a term of seven years. In the meantime he greatly improved the value of the property, bringing the soil to a state of cultivation and putting up buildings with material hauled from Nebraska City.

May 24, 1872, Mr. Neu sold his farm above mentioned, and changed his residence to his present place, which he had previously purchased. After his settlement here he had the usual conflicts attendant upon the pioneer of those days, together with grasshoppers and drouth, and he estimates that the labor of five years thereafter was required to place him where he started. Those days are past, however, and he now looks around him on a fine estate, embracing a farm of 240 acres, with handsome and substantial modern buildings, groves and orchards, and all other appurtenances of the well-regulated farm. His land is well watered by Jordan and Spring Grove Creeks, and he has 100 acres of native timber. Ten acres adjacent to the residence are devoted to groves of hickory, walnut, oak and wild cherry trees, and his orchard comprises 350 apple trees, while he has the smaller fruits in abundance. His live-stock operations include cattle and swine mostly, of which he ships of the former usually a carload annually and of the latter two carloads. His stock is mostly graded and his horses are particularly fine, including Cleveland Bays and Morgans. Large amounts of corn and grain are required to feed all this stock.

Our subject was married near Brookville, in Franklin County, Ind., Oct. 4, 1855, to Miss Charlotte S. Schwertfeger, who was born in Ripley County, that State, Aug. 30, 1836, Mrs. Neu has proved a most worthy helpmate and assistant of her husband, and of their union there have been born nine children, namely: Amiela L., Frederick S., Lizzie, Lena; George W., who died when five weeks old; John; Bertha, who died when thirteen months old; Henry F., and William J., who died at the age of seven years. The eldest daughter is the wife of Henry Anderson, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and they have five children; Frederick married Ida Vener, and is farming in the vicinity of Hartwell, Kearney County; Lizzie is the wife of Eugene Patterson, who is farming in Dawes County, and they have two children; Lena married Mr. A. Dillon, who is farming near Lowell, in Kearney County, and they have two children; John is farming in Dawes County, and Henry is at home with his parents.

Mr. Neu has held the position of Assessor about nine years and has been School Treasurer of his district six years. Socially, he belongs to Western Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Nebraska City, is also a Knight of Pythias, belonging to Eureka Lodge No. 7, and is identified with the G. A. R., both these lodges at Nebraska City. He is an ardent supporter of Republican principles, laboring manfully for the support of these in his own county, and being frequently sent as a delegate to the County and State Conventions. A useful man in his community, he is public-spirited and enterprising, one having hosts of friends, both in business and social circles.

GEORGE H. BURGERT is one of the leading citizens of Nebraska City, and has for several years filled one of its most responsible offices, that of City Treasurer. He was born in New Bedford, Coshocton Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1830. His father, David Burgert, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Nov. 20, 1795, and his father is thought to have been a native of Germany, who, coming to America some time during the last century, settled in Pennsylvania, and spent his last years in Lancaster County. The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and when a young man started for the then Far West, and located in Stark County, Ohio, where he bought a tract of timber land and cleared a farm from the wilderness. He then sold and moved to Coshocton County, and again attempted the task of clearing a farm from the depths of the primeval forest. He first erected a log house, which was afterward

the birthplace of our subject, and with the aid of his sons he developed his land into a fine farm. While a resident of Stark County he had engaged in the mercantile business, and when he moved to Coshocton County he took with him his stock of goods and opened a store at West Bedford. He continued in business as a merchant about forty-five years, and then, having acquired a handsome competence, he sold out, moved to Cuyahoga County, and bought a farm near Cleveland, where he lived two or three years. He then removed to Toledo and built a home in that city, and lived retired from the active duties of life until his death, March 30, 1876. He was a man of enterprise and considerable business talent, whose reputation for honor and integrity was second to none. The maiden name of his wife was Eleanor Huett, and she was born in County Armagh, Ireland, July 2, 1797, being of English ancestry. She died in New Bedford, Nov. 30, 1840. There were twelve children born to her and her husband, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: Elizabeth, Sarah, Daniel, Levi, Adam, Catherine, George H., James H., Mary A., Lucinda, Amos and Amanda. Nine of these are now living, Sarah, Daniel and Levi being deceased.

The subject of this sketch was the seventh child and fourth son of his parents. He grew to manhood in his native county, receiving the preliminaries of his education in the district school, which was further supplemented by a term's attendance at the academy at West Bedford. He assisted on the farm and clerked in his father's store, and continued to be an inmate of his parents' home until 1852. In 1850 he formed a partnership with Jacob Hocksteter, and engaged in the mercantile business with him in Bedford for two years. He then went to Indiana and spent a few months in Worthington. He returned to his native State after that, and in Cleveland engaged as a clerk in the boot and shoe store of Huett & Buyett for one year. The next year found him again in Worthington, Ind., where he sold goods for Langworthy & Blount. Two years later, in the fall of 1857, he came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by rail to Jefferson City, and thence on a boat on the Missouri River to Weston, and there, the boat not being able to stem the current, he and the other passengers took the stage to St. Joseph, and came from there on a boat to Nebraska City. Here he first found employment as a clerk for the Burnham Bros., remaining with them for a year and a half. Then he and others established themselves in the boot and shoe business. He associated with his partners for two years, and then bought their interest, and conducted the business alone until 1865. At that time he was appointed Assistant Postmaster, an office which he held for nine years, discharging its onerous duties with characteristic ability and fidelity. In 1877 Mr. Burgert's fellow-citizens showed their high appreciation of his great worth by electing him to the office of City Treasurer, and he was re-elected in April, 1878. So satisfactory has his administration of the affairs of this important and responsible office been that he was re-elected each year until 1886, when he was re-elected for two years.

Mr. Burgert was married, Sept. 13, 1860, to Mara Louisa Haskell, and their happy wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of the following children: Minnie E., wife of J. K. Bickel; Celia M., Xida E., George, Susie, Harriet and Amy. Mrs. Burgert comes of old and well-known New England ancestry, and she was born June 6, 1841, in Princeton, Bureau Co., Ill. Her father, Jonathan Haskell, was a native of Newburyport, Mass., and a son of Noah H. and Judith (Stickney) Haskell, natives of Massachusetts. His parents moved from their New England home to Ohio in the early years of the settlement of that State. The mother died there soon after their arrival. In his early life Noah Haskell had been a seafaring man, and was for many years Captain of a vessel. He remained in Ohio but a few years, and then went to California, where he died. Mrs. Burgert's father grew to manhood in Ohio, and from there he went to Illinois, where, in Canton, Fulton County, he was married, April 9, 1840, to Harriet N. Loomis. She was born in Hinckley, Medina Co., Ohio, June 7, 1823. Her father, Job Loomis, was a native of Massachusetts, removed from there to New York about 1805, and in 1819 went to Ohio and was one of the first settlers of Medina County, the removal in both cases being made with teams. He bought a tract of timbered land in Hinckley Precinct, and made

that his home the rest of his days, until his death in 1828.

Mrs. Haskell's mother, Mrs. Burgert's grandmother, spent her last years in Georgia, where she died in 1854. Her maiden name was Zilpha Hannum, and she was born in Southampton, Mass. Her father, Mrs. Burgert's great-grandfather, was, so far as known, a native of Massachusetts. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and at one time was captured by the Indians. He was given the chance to run the gauntlet, and was successful and made his escape. He spent his last years in Massachusetts. Mrs. Burgert's parents moved to Illinois in 1839, and settled in Fulton County. Her father was a man of more than ordinary mental capacity, and was accounted a genius by his friends. He was quite an extensive traveler, and visited many parts of the country. He died in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 19, 1883. His widow now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Burgert.

Mr. Burgert is a very capable man, of irreproachable habits, and both in public and in private life bears a stainless character. He is honesty itself, and his word is as good as another man's bond. He regards his office as a sacred trust, and discharges its duties with an eye single to the best interests of the community. He and his wife are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Burgert is a Republican in politics, and socially, he is a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.

CHARLES E. VAUGHAN, a farmer in good circumstances, widely and favorably known throughout Russell Precinct, owns and occupies 180 acres of land on section 22. He purchased in the spring of 1883 eighty acres, the next year twenty acres, later doubled the first amount, and has brought the whole to a fine state of cultivation. The fertility of the land is augmented by streams of running water, and his buildings, of modern style of architecture, convenient and comfortable, are all that are required to meet the ideas of the intelligent and progressive agriculturist. He has groves, fruit trees, and all the other appurtenances of a well-regulated farm. It is hardly necessary to say that his time has been industriously employed since he has become a resident of this county, with results that should be eminently satisfactory.

The subject of this sketch, a native of Marshall County, Ill., was born Nov. 20, 1853, and remained with his parents until reaching his majority. The latter were by name Thomas H. and Sarah J. (Cory) Vaughan, the father a native of Rutland, Vt., and the mother born in the vicinity of Lake Champlain, N. Y. Thomas H. Vaughan was left an orphan at a very early age, and made his home in Vermont with an aunt until reaching manhood. He then cast his lot with the early settlers of Greene County, Ill., where he pursued first his trade of shoemaker, but later changed his occupation to farming.

The father of our subject in 1850 left Greene County, and purchased 160 acres of land in Marshall County, upon which he settled and spent the remainder of his life. He distinguished himself as an active and useful citizen, as one of the pillars of the Baptist Church at Washburn, and departed this life at the old homestead in April, 1871. The mother after the death of her husband joined her son C. E. in Nebraska, and is still living, being now seventy-one years old.

The six children of the parental family were named respectively: Rodolphus J., Russell W., Amy E., Julia A. (who died when thirty-four years old), Charles F. (our subject) and Sumner T. Rodolphus during the late war enlisted as a Union soldier in an Illinois regiment, and is now in Otoe County; Charles E. upon reaching his majority began farming on the old homestead for himself and was thus occupied five years. Then, desiring to see something of the farther West, he crossed the Mississippi into this county, first locating on section 27 in Russell Precinct, in the spring of 1880. Three years later he removed to section 21, and in 1883 purchased eighty acres of his present farm.

The marriage of our subject took place in Berrien County, Mich., Dec. 19, 1876, the maiden of his choice being Miss Lillie M., daughter of Joseph A. and Elizabeth (Peck) Becker. The parents of Mrs. V. were both natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to the Wolverine State after marriage, where they still reside in comfortable circumstances.

H P Farnsworth

Their family consisted of eleven children, namely: Jacob J., John J., William H., Annie E., Lilly M., Adeline I., Mary A., Martin L., Sarah E., Ona M. and Oliver A.

Mrs. Vaughan was born in the city of Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 24, 1854. She was reared to womanhood in Michigan, and remained with her parents until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are four children: Thomas Henry, born Oct. 29, 1878; Sadie S., Aug. 6, 1882; Elsie M., Oct. 26, 1885, and Russell J., July 17, 1888. Both Mr. and Mrs. V. are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at South Russell, our subject being instrumental in its organization and since that time officiating as Clerk. Politically, he is a straight Republican, has served as Assessor two years, and was a member of the School Board three years. Both he and his estimable wife take a warm interest in Sunday-school work, Mr. V. officiating as Superintendent. Their house is the frequent resort of the many friends whom they have gathered about them by their kindly courtesies and cordial hospitality.

HENRY P. FARNSWORTH. The subject of this sketch, whose portrait is given upon the opposite page, and who is one of the very first settlers of Russell Precinct, is further distinguished as being the oldest pioneer of this section, and also a veteran of the Republican party. He is an active politician, a strong and clear-headed thinker, and a man who exerts much influence among his fellow-citizens. During the Civil War he indicated his sentiments in the most practical manner by serving as a soldier in the Union Army, and his entire career has been that of an honest man, a good citizen and a useful member of the community.

Our subject was born on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Muscatine County, Iowa, Oct. 22, 1845, and spent many hours of his boyhood sporting along the Father of Waters. He remained a member of the parental household until a young man of twenty-two years, acquiring his education in the district school. He was but a youth of sixteen years at the time of the outbreak of the Rebellion, and was obliged to restrain his patriotic sentiments until later in the conflict. After he was eighteen, however, he enlisted, on the 4th of May, 1864, in the 44th Iowa Infantry, being mustered in at Davenport. He went South with his regiment under the command of A. J. Smith, doing guard duty mostly along the M. P. & C. R. R., and meeting the rebels in several skirmishes, during one of which he received a slight wound in the arm. Much as he desired he did not participate in any active battle, and received his honorable discharge on the 19th of September, 1864.

After the war Mr. Farnsworth staid at home until the spring of 1869, and then, gathering together his personal effects, started overland with a team for the young State of Nebraska. He was accompanied by his wife, and they crossed the Missouri River on the 20th of March, making their way directly to Russell Precinct, in this county, where our subject had already secured 240 acres of uncultivated prairie land. Upon it there were no buildings, and the first business of Mr. Farnsworth was to put up a house. He then set himself industriously to the task of improving his property, and in due time began to realize the reward of his labors. He has now one of the most valuable farms in this part of the county, with running water, native timber, and the soil brought to a good state of cultivation. He has planted groves and an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. That he has worked industriously cannot be questioned when we note the various items which form a most complete whole. For the construction of his buildings the timber had to be hauled from Nebraska City, and to enumerate the many other difficulties and hardships under which he labored would take more time and space than afforded within the limits of a brief biography.

Our subject was married Feb. 20, 1868, at the home of the bride on the banks of the river near which he had played in his boyhood, to Miss Helen Burdett. This lady was born in the same county as her husband, Sept. 11, 1851, and is the daughter of Humphrey and Esther (Benefill) Burdett, the father a native of Kentucky and the mother of Indiana. They were married in Iowa, in 1838, to

which State the father had emigrated during its pioneer days. He became the owner of considerable land, but in 1873 left the Hawkeye State and came to this county, locating in Palmyra Precinct, where he lived until 1885. He then changed his residence to Cheyenne County, Kan., and now makes his home with his children. He has arrived at the advanced age of eighty years. The wife and mother died at her home in Palmyra Precinct, this county, in the spring of 1874, aged fifty years. Their five children were named respectively: Mary, William, Isabelle, Helen and Eliza. The latter is deceased. The others are residents mostly of Nebraska and Kansas.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born eight children, namely: Humphrey M., who died when six years old; Alonzo T.; Della, deceased; Ruth A., Frank, William, Sumner G. and Algia. The survivors are all at home with their parents, and form an interesting group, of more than ordinary intelligence. Mr. Farnsworth cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and is an ardent supporter of Republican principles. No man takes a warmer interest in the growth and development of his adopted country. He drew up the petition to the County Superintendent for the organization of the school district in which he now lives, and a similar document in connection with the organization of Russell Precinct. He is the only original settler living who was here at the time of the organization of the district. He taught school during his younger years in his native State, two years later in Unadilla, and also in Russell Precinct, District No. 6. He has served as Assessor and been a member of the School Board for a period of eight years. He is at present Moderator in his district. He was strongly urged by his fellow-citizens, in the spring of 1875, to become a Republican candidate for Justice of the Peace, but declined. He has been frequently sent as a delegate to the various conventions of his party, and as an ex-soldier belongs to the G. A. R., being a member of the Chickamauga Post No. 119. In religious matters he has been a member in good standing of the Christian Church since 1874.

Marshall Farnsworth, the father of our subject, was born in Williamstown, Vt., in 1815, and married Miss Rebecca Daniels, a native of North Carolina. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas Farnsworth by name, emigrated from his native Highlands in Scotland during his early manhood to the United States, where he was married and became the father of a family of ten children. The youngest of these was Marshall. The latter left New England as early as 1837, emigrating across the Mississippi into Muscatine County, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land and began farming in pioneer style. He was greatly prospered, and after the lapse of years became the owner of 500 broad acres. After a residence of forty years in the Hawkeye State, he sold out in 1881, and still pushing westward, took up his abode in Los Angeles, Cal., where he is now engaged in real-estate business. He is still active and in possession of his faculties, although having reached the advanced age of seventy-two years. The mother died at the homestead in Muscatine County, Iowa, in the fall of 1869, at the age of forty-five years. Henry P., our subject, was the eldest of their family of children. The others were named respectively: Eric D., Eliza E., John M.; George A., who died when an infant; Thomas E., when thirty years old, and Norah E., when five years old.

WILLIAM BALFOUR, of Wyoming Precinct, owns one of the prettiest farms within its limits, and which, with its tasteful modern buildings, forms one of the most attractive pictures of section 6, of which it embraces eighty acres. On either side of the dwelling are beautifully trimmed evergreens, while other choice shrubbery protects the homestead from the storms of winter and the heat of summer. There are fruit trees in abundance, an orchard of apples adds the finer varieties, which yield abundantly in their season, providing the family with delicacies, and that which they do not use finds a ready market. Mr. Balfour has distinguished himself as a thorough and skillful farmer, and his stock-raising operations especially yield him a handsome income.

Our subject took possession of the land which he now occupies in the fall of 1869, and the improve-

ments which we behold to-day are the result of his industry, as at the time of purchase there were no fences or buildings, in fact no attempt whatever at improvement. Mr. B. arrived in Nebraska in the spring of 1868, from Lake County, Ill., of which he had been a resident since 1850. There also he was occupied as a farmer, although laboring for others, but in the meantime kept an eye out for the future, and saved something with which to cross the Mississippi.

Mr. Balfour was born near the shores of the Baltic Sea, in the city of Duyzt, Prussia, April 5, 1845, and on his father's side was of Scotch ancestry. His paternal grandfather, James Balfour, was born in the "land of the thistle," whence he emigrated to Prussia, and was there married to a lady of German birth and ancestry, and there both spent their entire lives. His son James, the father of our subject, was thus the offspring of two of the best nationalities on the face of the earth. James, Jr., who was one of three children born to his parents, was subjected to careful home training, and given a thorough education in the Fatherland, and when reaching manhood was married to a most estimable lady, by whom he likewise became the father of three children, of whom our subject, William, was the youngest. The mother died while a young woman, and after her decease James Balfour brought his three children to America, and located on a tract of land in Lake County, Ill., where soon afterward he was again married, to Miss Louisa M. Hinman. This lady was of American birth, and outlived her husband, James Balfour having died when fifty-five years of age.

The father of our subject after the outbreak of the Civil War hastened to the defense of his adopted country, and such was the nature of his services that he was promoted to the First Lieutenancy in Company I, 45th Illinois Infantry. He served, however, a period of only seven months, his military career being cut short by a gunshot wound at the battle of Shiloh, which ultimately caused his death, the ball going through the right arm near the shoulder, necessitating amputation. Prior to this, at Ft. Donelson, he was shot through the same right arm, and the second wound naturally aggravated the first. He had served as Captain in the standing army of Germany, and was thus admirably fitted for the duties devolving upon him as a soldier of the Union. Mrs. Louisa Balfour is still living, a resident of Lake County, Ill., and has now passed beyond her threescore years. She receives a pension from the Government.

Our subject was but a lad when coming with his father to the United States, and completed his education at the Old Soldiers' College in Fulton, Ill. So well did he improve his time with his books that he was given the position of teacher in the schools of Otoe County, Neb., where he was thus occupied several winters after coming to Nebraska. He was married in Wyoming Precinct, Nov. 15, 1876, to Miss Ella Hughes. This lady was born in this county, Feb. 16, 1858, and is the daughter of George H. and Catherine (Rousch) Hughes, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Her parents were reared and married in the Keystone State, and came to the West about 1856, locating in Wyoming Precinct, this county, where the mother died when a little past middle life. The father, a practicing physician, then returned east as far as Indiana, and is now living in that State, being now well advanced in years.

Mrs. Balfour was quite a young girl at the time of her mother's death, and was taken into the home of Mr. Bassett, of Otoe County, where she was reared and educated, and became proficient in all household duties. She is now the mother of six children—Myrtle E., Cyrus L., W. Marvin, George S., Carl A. and a babe named Max E. She is a lady of much intelligence, and highly esteemed among her neighbors. Mr. Balfour, politically, is a sound Republican, although having no desire for the responsibilities of office. He takes pride in his farm and home, while at the same time giving his support and encouragement to the enterprises calculated to advance the interests of the people around him.

Our subject soon after the outbreak of the late Rebellion, inspired by the patriotism of his honored father, enlisted as a Union soldier, Dec. 5, 1861, in Company I, 45th Illinois Infantry, under command of Capt. O. A. Bridgeford and Col. John E. Smith, the latter of whom is now Maj. Gen. Smith, of Chicago. He was with his regiment at Fts. Henry

and Donelson, but on account of the extreme exposure and hardship endured on the march he was taken ill, and obliged to accept his honorable discharge for disability, returning home July 30, 1862. He was then only a little past seventeen years of age.

GEORGE BROWNLEE. This worthy and capable citizen, whose home is situated upon his farm that comprises one-half of section 33 of Palmyra Precinct, is a descendant of a long and distinguished line of Scottish ancestry of noble birth and family. The first member of the family to come to this country was William Brownlee, the grandfather of our subject. He came to the country as a young man, and settled in Washington County, Pa., and took up agriculture. There he met and married the lady who became the mother of Ebenezer Brownlee, the father of our subject. He became the husband of Miss Carson, and engaged in husbandry and cattle raising. Both still reside in Washington County, Mr. Brownlee, Sr., being sixty-three and his wife sixty-four years old. They are the parents of six children, to whom the appended names were given: Robert, George, James C., John S., Samuel and Jennie E.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 16th of August, 1851, in Donegal Township, Washington Co., Pa., and was there brought up and educated in the schools of the district. He began to work upon the farm at a tender age, and is in every regard a thorough, practical farmer. His education was limited to the advantages afforded by the common school, but he drew largely from the expensive and well-selected library that had originally been in the possession of his grandfather, so that he is a well-informed man.

After several years of work upon the farm, when our subject was about twenty years of age, feeling the need of further study, he entered the West Alexandria Academy, and continued to attend the classes of that institution for two years. His father was the owner of certain Nebraska lands, and upon leaving the academy he came out to this State to take charge of them. He came to Palmyra Precinct in 1872, and went to farming and stock-raising.

The first Merino sheep brought into Otoe County were brought by Mr. Brownlee, who imported them from Pennsylvania. The first consignment comprised one carload, the second, which was made in 1876, was of two double-decked carloads. He continued the breeding and raising of sheep, and was exceedingly prosperous, and at one time had over 1,000 head. In addition to the sheep he has been quite extensively engaged with cattle and hogs.

Mr. Brownlee was united in marriage, in 1876, to Miss Mary E. Craig, a former schoolmate, who was born in the vicinity of his own home on the 20th of August, 1852. She is the daughter of James and Elizabeth Mary (Dickey) Craig. They attended school and academy together for some time. Five children have been born to them, who bear the following names: Lemuel M., Ebenezer L., James C., Cora L., and Eliza, who died when seven months old.

Although of Eastern birth, parentage, education and sympathies, Mr. Brownlee has become a typical Western man in all that appertains to the welfare of his adopted State, and the interests of the citizens there. He usually votes with the Republican party, and takes the deepest interest in matters where political economy is concerned. He and his family are most highly esteemed by the community at large.

WILLIAM H. LOWE, of Four Mile Precinct, is well known as one of the early pioneers of Otoe County, with whose agricultural interests he is to-day so extensively identified, and it has been his privilege not only to witness almost its entire growth, but to contribute largely to its material prosperity. Mr. Lowe may be said to have been a pioneer from his birth, as he is the son of a pioneer, and was born amid the primeval forests of Southern Michigan, in the very earliest years of its settlement, and was thus reared amid pioneer scenes in that and other States, and many years of his life were thus passed on the frontier of civilization.

Mr. Lowe was born Jan. 1, 1829, at Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., Mich. His father, Peter Lowe, was born in New Jersey, and was there reared and

married, Charity Lamberson, likewise a native of New Jersey, and of French descent, becoming his wife. After marriage Mr. Lowe moved to Onondaga County, N. Y., and then began his life as a pioneer, which did not cease until he had been an early settler in five States, and had assisted in the development of each. He bought timber land in Onondaga County, and improved three different farms in New York, and then, seeking "fresh fields and pastures new," he removed to the Territory of Michigan about 1825, and located in that part of Monroe County now included in Lenawee County. He bought wild land, erected a log house in which our subject was born, and lived there for some years, busily engaged in removing the tall, centuries old trees that he might clear a farm. In his humble home in that wilderness the saddest misfortune of his life overtook him in the death of his devoted wife in 1829. In 1832 Mr. Lowe sold his land in Michigan, and buying a tract of part prairie and part timber land in LaPorte County, Ind., he identified himself with the early settlers of that State. But he was evidently not satisfied with his surroundings there, for in 1833 he sold his land, and we next hear of him in Illinois, the removal having been made with teams, and he passed in his journey through Chicago, then a small place. He staid in Rock Island County one year, and then shook the dust of the Prairie State from his feet, and pushed westward across the Mississippi to Missouri, and located in Cooper County, of which he thus became an early settler. He entered a tract of prairie land from the Government, built a hewed log house, and improved quite a good farm. There were no railways there, and the only near market was Boonesville, on the river. In 1842 Mr. Lowe sold his farm in Cooper County and bought a large tract of wild land from the Government, in Atchison County, the same State, and he there made his final home. He improved two good farms, and at his death in 1861 was quite well off in this world's goods. He was a man of marked energy of character, of much shrewdness and ability, and his genuine worth commanded the respect of those who knew him.

The subject of our sketch was but an infant when his mother died, and an elder sister took charge of him. In the various moves that his father made to the frontier, he kept ahead of the primitive log school in which the children of pioneers often obtained their education, so that our subject never attended school until his father settled in Cooper County, Mo. Fortunately for him his sister had received a good education for those days, and she instructed her brothers and sisters at home. At the age of sixteen our subject left the paternal roof to make his own way in the world, and the first year was employed as a farm laborer at $7 a month. In 1847, during the Mexican War, he enlisted in the United States Army, with the expectation of going to Mexico. His regiment, which was known as the Oregon Battalion, was, however, sent to the Northwest Territory to guard the frontier, and was stationed at old Ft. Kearney, now Nebraska City. Nebraska was then an unorganized Territory in possession of the Indians. Mr. Lowe remained at the garrison one month, was then discharged from the service, and engaged with Maj. Dougherty, who at the time had charge of the Government cattle which were herded on the river bottoms. In November of that year (1847) Mr. Lowe returned to Missouri and bought a tract of Government land in Atchison County, paying for it with money he had earned while in the service of the Government. The land was timber, and he rented other land for awhile until he could get enough of his own cleared for cultivation. In 1852 he entered a tract of prairie land, settled on it, and improved a part of it. In 1854 he sold that, and in 1855, March 12, came to Otoe County and made a claim on the land on which he now resides. It had not been surveyed at the time, but when it came in the market he entered it at the land-office in Nebraska City. He has been a continuous resident here since that time, and has witnessed almost the entire growth of Nebraska, Kansas, Western Missouri and Iowa. He now has a valuable farm comprising 637½ acres under fine tillage, well supplied with suitable buildings and all the necessary farm machinery, so that in every respect his estate may be considered a model one.

To the wife whose help and encouragement made his success possible, and who shares his prosperity, Mr. Lowe was united in marriage March 16, 1848.

She was formerly Mary A. Welsh, and was born April 18, 1828, in Jackson County, Mo. Her father, James Welsh, was a native of North Carolina, and his father, Thomas Welsh, was born in Ireland. He came to America accompanied by his wife, and settled in North Carolina, buying a tract of land in Haywood County, and resided there until his death. Mrs. Lowe's father grew to manhood in North Carolina, and after his marriage with Mary Gross, a native of Tennessee, he moved to Missouri, several families going at the same time, and the removal being made with teams and pack horses. He settled in Howard County as one of its pioneers. He bought timber land and built a log house, but he afterward removed to Jackson County, and was one of its very first settlers. He bought a tract of timber land there, on which he erected a log house, in which Mrs. Lowe was born. He continued to be a resident of that county until his death in 1847. His wife had preceded him to the better world in 1844. Mrs. Lowe was carefully trained, and being sixteen years old when her mother died, many of the household cares fell on her young shoulders. She was strong and self-reliant, and became a notable housekeeper. She early learned to spin, weave and knit, and to her skillful hands the family owed their clothes. She became an excellent cook, and many an appetizing meal has she cooked before the old-fashioned fireplace, as it was not until 1853 that she had her first stove. The following is the record of the nine children, six of whom are living, who have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lowe: James lives at Oberlin, Kan.; Francis M. lives in Ft. Calgory, Northwest Territory; Richard lives at Red Mountain, Col.; Lee is at home; Mary married Henry Winton, of Nebraska City; Nancy Alice is the wife of Edward Lowe, of Nebraska City; Sarah L. M. was born June 2, 1858, and died Feb. 22, 1887; John Nicholas was born Sept. 28, 1849, and died Oct. 9, 1855; William Edward was born May 16, 1856, and died at the age of three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowe are faithful members of the Christian Church, and their religion shines through all their works. In the forty years that they have traveled life's road together they have been true in all the relations of life to each other, and to those about them; as parents, their children have found in them their best friends; as neighbors, others have found in them safe and wise counselors and willing helpers; those in trouble have often found balm in their kindly expressed sympathy, and in their prosperity they have not been unmindful of the unfortunate and needy, but have generously extended a helping hand. It is such people as these who raise the standard of morality and goodness in a community. In politics Mr. Lowe is a Democrat.

MILTON F. MEEK is one of the younger but successful agriculturists of Otoe Precinct, in this county, and operates ninety-five acres of fine farming land on section 28. He was born on the 12th of January, 1856, in Schuyler County, Mo. His father, Jefferson R. Meek, was born in Henry County, Ky., and brought up in Indiana, obtaining his education in the schools of that State. His mother's maiden name was Sophia Webster. Shortly after the marriage of his parents they settled in Missouri, being among the early pioneers of that State. There the mother died in 1858, leaving ten children. Those who bore the subjoined names alone grew to mature years, viz.: Alfred, Susan, William, Frank, John, Nannie and Milton F. By a second union the father of our subject became the parent of four other children.

Until he was nine years of age Milton F. Meek lived in Schuyler County, but owing to constant depredations by lawless guerrilla bands, the family removed to Shelby County, where he attended the district school and was brought up on the farm. In the summer of 1878 he came to Nebraska to pay a visit to his brother John, who had settled in this precinct in about the year 1873. He took a great liking to the country, and was especially pleased at having the acquaintance of the lady whom he subsequently married.

September 13, 1881, our subject was very happily married to Miss Grace Winyard, the amiable and accomplished daughter of John and Ann (Hodges) Winyard, the latter now Mrs. Ann Martin (see

her sketch for further items of interest). Miss Winyard was born Dec. 3, 1862, upon the farm of her parents in this precinct. Her union has been blessed by the birth of one child, whose name is Carlton L. Meek.

Our subject and his wife are both earnest members of the Camp Creek Congregational Church, of which he has been a Trustee for several years. Mrs. Meek is the Secretary and Treasurer of the local W. C. T. U., which is in a flourishing condition, while her husband is no less active as a Prohibitionist. They are highly esteemed in the community of which they are residents.

BERNHARD HENRY NOELTING, a young man of enterprise, energy and recognized ability, is one of the foremost business men of Nebraska City. He is head of the firm of Noelting & Meyer, hardware merchants; he belongs to the Great Western Fur Company, of which he has been Secretary for some years; he is a Director in the Building and Loan Association, and is a member of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Noelting is a native of Westphalia, Germany, born in the village of Wallenbrueck, county of Herford, twelve miles from the city of Bielefeld. His father, Herman Henry Noelting, was a lifelong resident of the same place, making farming his occupation until his death, while yet in the prime of life. There were two children born to him and his wife, our subject and his sister Catherine, who married Frederic Strunk, and now lives in the town of Berne, County Bockum, Westphalia. The parents of the subject of this sketch were Herman Henry and Catharine M. E. (Wessling) Noelting, natives of Germany; the father is deceased. The mother of our subject was born in the town of Werther, County Halle, Germany, and is a daughter of Bernhard Henry and Katherine Ilsabeir (Pohlman) Wessling. She was married a second time, to Peter Henry Schwentker, and they have four daughters. She still lives in the old country.

Bernhard Noelting obtained a sound education in the schools of his native land, which he attended quite constantly until 1871, when he came to America. He was quite young when he lost his father, but he was carefully trained by a good mother, and went forth into the world well fortified against its manifold temptations by the inculcation of good principles. After reaching the hospitable shores of this country, he proceeded immediately to Nebraska City, and soon found employment on a farm in Otoe County. He worked by the month there for two and a half years, and then returned to Nebraska City. Here he became a clerk in the establishment of F. W. Rottman, and in the five and a half years that he remained with him he obtained a thorough practical knowledge of the ins and outs of trade. In the year 1880 Mr. Noelting started in business for himself, forming a partnership, and opening a hardware store under the firm name of Noelting, Kregel & Co. He has been in the business continuously since with a change of partners. The first change was to Noelting & Rector in 1882, and in 1884, after the death of Mr. Rector, Mr. Meyer became his partner, under the firm name of Noelting & Meyer. This is the leading hardware firm in Nebraska City, has a well-stocked and well-appointed establishment, does a large business, and gives general satisfaction to its many patrons. The firm keeps a large supply of stoves, and they manufacture their own tinware, pumps and windmills, and do a general gasfitting business. The present firm has a branch house at Union, Neb., which is well supplied with the same line of goods carried here, together with farm implements.

Mr. Noelting has a keen, resolute, uncompromising nature, and in his business and social relations his energetic character and practical sagacity find ample field for exercise. He is an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a teacher in the Sunday-school. He is "strong in the faith, and seeks for the good and cherishes it."

REV. HIRAM HURST. After a long and active life of ministerial labor, this gentleman has since 1884 lived retired, although no less interested than formerly, before he attained the honor of the veteran in Gospel soldiery. He now resides on section 1 of McWilliams

Precinct, in the vicinity of Delta, where he has made his home since 1878, and of Nebraska since 1855. He has always operated a farm in connection with his preaching engagements, but gave the preference to the latter. His home was in Wyoming Precinct from 1855 to 1878, when he took up his residence as at present.

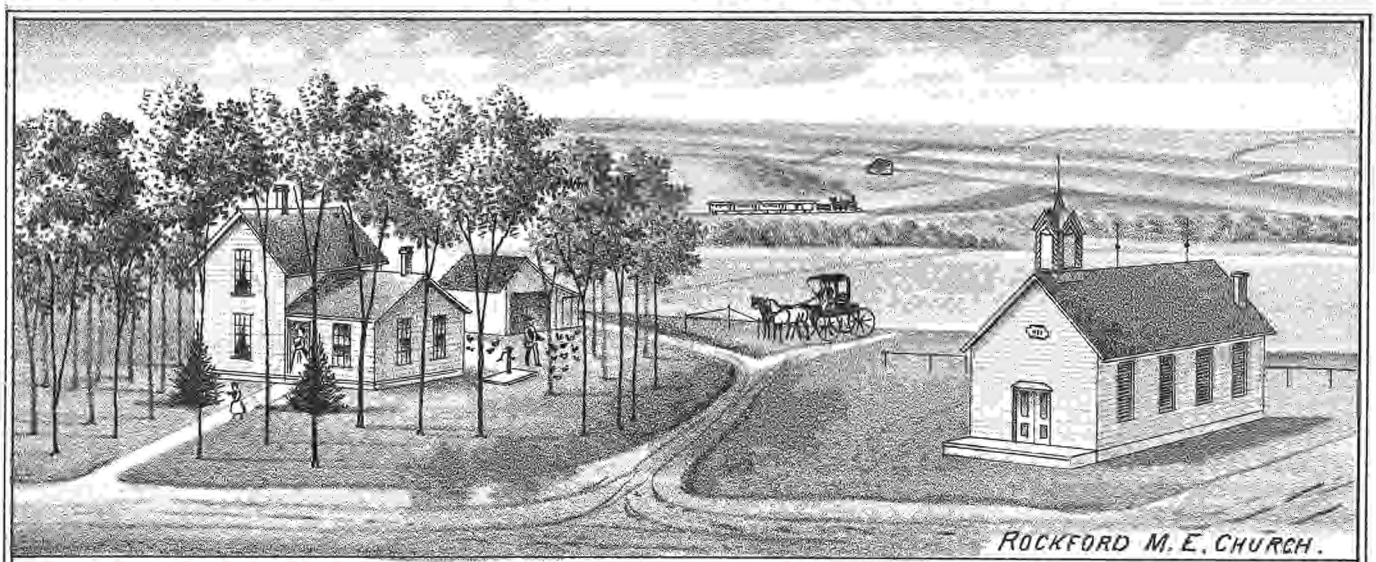
Our subject was ordained a minister of the Regular Baptist Church some years after coming to the State, and has carried on that department of his life work with energy, spirit and effectiveness. He has been associated with the Baptist Church of this and Mills County, Iowa, and has built up several new churches, strengthening and reviving weak and semi-defunct organizations. The church at Delta in its organization and efficiency, and also the house of worship, are the result of his work, but only one of many instances that might be cited. The only reason for his leaving the pulpit and pastoral work was the failure of his health, which demanded that it be transferred to younger and stouter, even though less able and experienced men.

Mr. Hurst entered land upon coming to the State in 1855. He settled on and entered the same in Wyoming Precinct, and was one of the first in the county to do so. There he made his home, and brought up and educated a large family. He is a native of East Tennessee, and was born in Claiborne County on the 1st of March, 1821. His parents were West Virginians, and in that State his father, Joseph Hurst, was reared, married, and for several years carried on farming. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Rhoda McNew. After the birth of several children Joseph Hurst and his wife moved to Claiborne County, Tenn., and there made a home for their little ones, but when their family had grown up, came to this State, where the father died aged seventy-eight years, and the mother about forty-eight years. They were for many years members of the Baptist Church, and were among the first to be baptized in Andrew County, Mo., whither they had gone from Tennessee, and for a number of years had lived upon a farm.

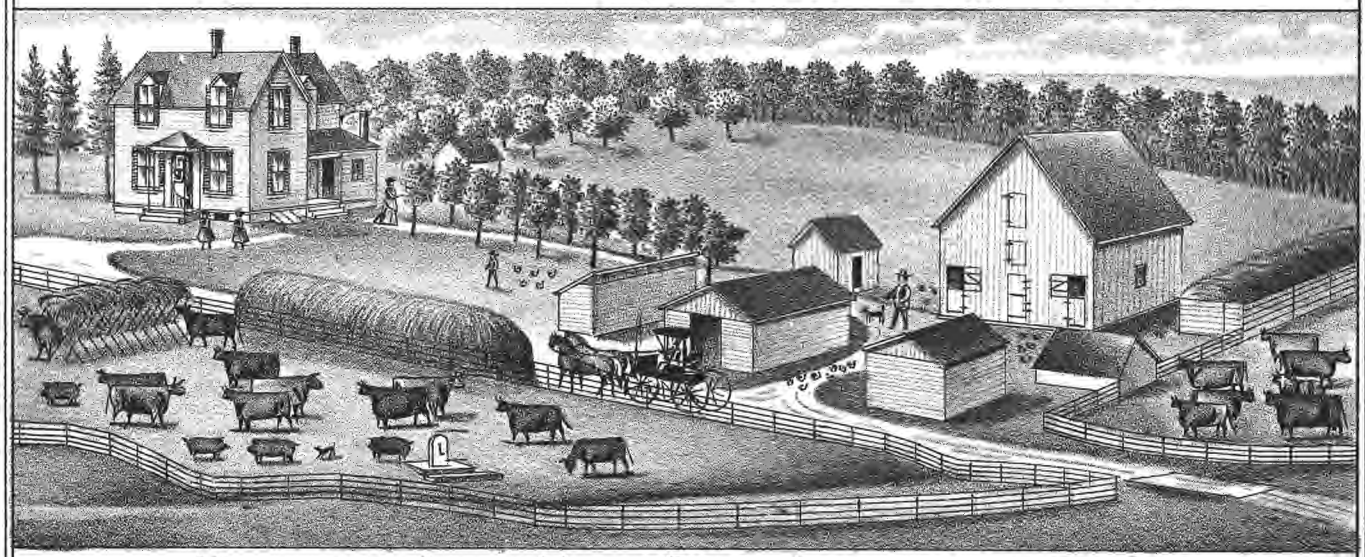
Our subject has been three times married. First in Andrew County, to Elizabeth Todd, who, although born in Indiana, had accompanied her parents to Missouri in her childhood. They were neighbors to the family of Mr. Hurst, and fellow-members of the church. For some years after his marriage our subject continued farming in Missouri, moving later to Iowa, where he took a claim in Madison County in 1845, being perhaps the first to enter a claim in that county. After ten years spent in that district he removed as above mentioned in the year 1855 to Nebraska, where the old pioneer life was lived over again. Mrs. Hurst died in Wyoming Precinct, this county, when about fifty years of age, leaving eight children, viz: John M., who is now the husband of Hester Webb, and one of the successful farmers of the county; James H., who married Mollie Gray, and is one of the well-to-do farmers of Norton County, Kan.; William H., residing in the same county; Sarah, the wife of John Whetstone; Thomas Jefferson, at Edgar, and married to Josie Smith, of Cass County, Neb.; Isaac N., who was married to Mollie Webb; Isabell, the wife of John Hughes, of this county, and Martha M., who is married to Steve Bales, of Talmage.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated at Wyoming, the lady being Elizabeth Lewis, who was born in Indiana, but Mr. Hurst was not long to enjoy her companionship, as she died about one year after her marriage. Upon another occasion also our subject stood before the nuptial altar, and was united in marriage with Mrs. Ellen E. Wood, relict of Fred W. Wood. That gentleman was born in France. When but a little lad he accompanied his parents to the United States, but subsequently was taken to England, where he was educated, and where he remained until he was of age. He then came to this country, and before long to Nebraska, locating in the western part of the State, where he met and married Miss E. E. Knox, now Mrs. Hurst.

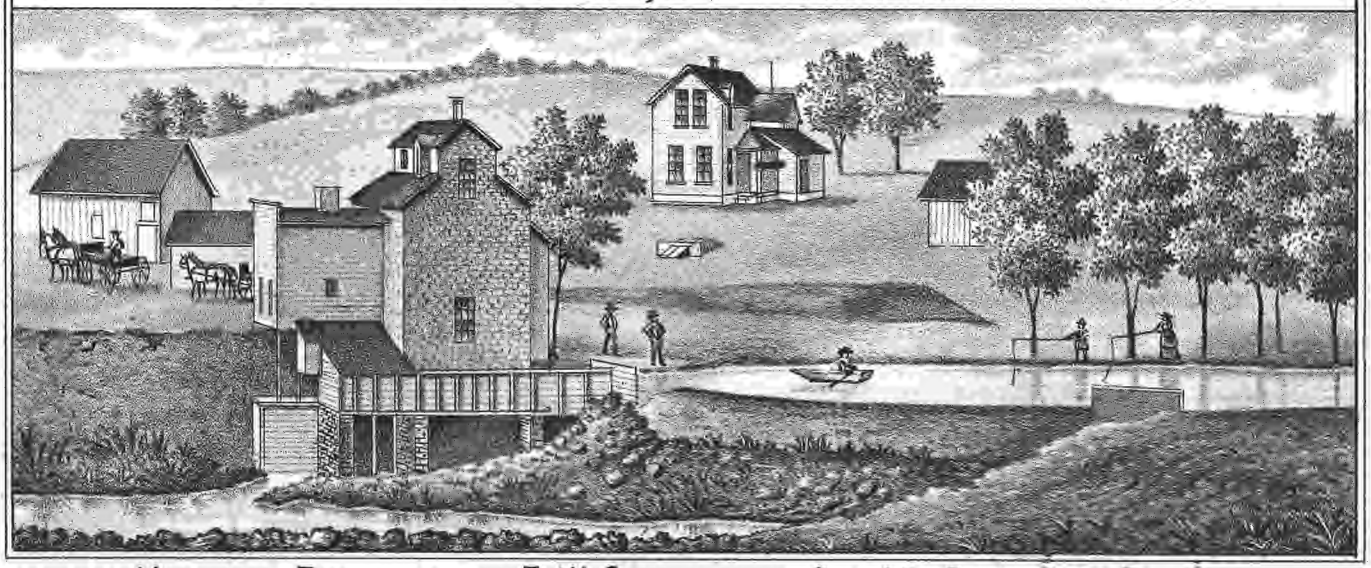
Miss Knox was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1844, and is the daughter of John and Agnes (Douglas) Knox. After the death of her mother she came with her father in the year 1856 to Nebraska City, after tarrying in the State of Iowa for about four years. Soon after coming to this State Mr. Knox pre-empted land in West Otoe County, later in Thayer County, where he operates



RESIDENCE OF A. J. REYNOLDS, SEC 29. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES HUNT, SEC. 7. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.



MILL AND RESIDENCE OF F. W. SCHROEDER, SEC. 17. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.

his farm. Mrs. Hurst made her home with her father until her marriage with Mr. Wood, and has all her life been associated with agricultural life. She owns 160 acres of land, well improved and stocked, which her late husband obtained when a young man. He was by trade a mechanic in the line of carpenter. He died at his home in this county on the 8th of February, 1846, at the age of forty-seven years. He was the father of seven children; two daughters, Katie A. and Katie E. are both deceased. The surviving children are named as follows: Charles W., May B., Kate A., Lizzie G. and Sylvester H. By her second marriage there are four children, one, George H., being deceased. The remaining children are named as follows: Mary C., Edwin K. and Frederick H.

Mr. Hurst still retains his membership in the Baptist Church, and is pleased to have his wife, two daughters and sons with him in that relation. Upon two occasions Mr. Hurst has been nominated for Representative of the county, but was defeated. For twenty years he held the office of Justice of the Peace. Two sons of our subject were in the Rebellion, and represented the family in its patriotic devotion. One was wounded at Nashville, and the other honorably discharged, owing to physical disability. Politically, our subject is a Democrat, and a stanch adherent of the party.

HON. FRANCIS SIM, a well-known and wealthy citizen of Otoe County, was in former days prominently identified with its pioneers, and is now one of its most prosperous farmers. Since coming here thirty-two years ago he has accumulated a large and valuable property, and the home that he has built for himself and family is one of the pleasantest in all Otoe Precinct. He was born in County Cornwall, England, May 9, 1821, and his father and grandfather, both named Philip Sim, were natives of the same county. The latter was a farmer and a miller, and spent his entire life in the place of his birth.

The father of our subject early learned the trade of wool-comber, but did not engage in that long, but went to butchering, and later was employed in farming and milling. He remained a resident of Cornwall until 1850, and then came to America to live with his son, our subject, remaining with him in his home in Middletown, Conn., until 1856, when the son came to Nebraska, and he went to visit a nephew in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1857 he came to Nebraska to make his home with his son, and died here in 1863. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Rowe, and she was a daughter of William and Jane (Dorrington) Rowe. She died about 1855 in her native town, in the county of Cornwall, England. There were four children born to her and her husband, three of whom grew to maturity. Our subject and his father were the only members of the family who came to the United States.

Francis Sim was reared in his native town, and as soon as large enough he commenced to work in his father's mill, and learned from him the trade of miller. He was a very capable and spirited young man, and being ambitious to try life in the United States, where he thought his labor would be better remunerated, and that he would thus be enabled to gain a competence and establish a comfortable home, he set sail from Falmouth, April 19, 1848, and after a voyage of six weeks landed in New York City the following June. He made his way to Middletown, Conn., where he found employment in a factory for the manufacture of locks, hinges, etc. For three years and ten months he was thus employed by one man. He then went to work in another factory, where squares, bevels and rules were made. At the end of a year he went to work in a pump factory for a year, owned by W. and B. Douglass. After that he opened a corporation boarding-house for the Russell Manufacturing Company, and was thus employed by that company until 1856, when he concluded to start West and try to secure a home where lands were cheap.

During his residence in Connecticut Mr. Sim had married, in 1849, Miss Sarah M. Clark becoming his wife, and to her devoted assistance he is greatly indebted for his after success. She was born in Haddam, Conn., a daughter of Daniel and Wealthy (Burr) Clark, natives of Connecticut. There were ten children born of that marriage, four of whom are now living—Philip, William, John and Charles.

Mrs. Sim departed this life April 11, 1880, leaving many friends to pay tribute to her worth.

Mr. Sim's marriage to his present estimable wife took place Dec. 3, 1880. She was formerly Miss Eliza Manery, a native of County Down, Ireland. Her father, John Manery, was born in the same county, and her grandfather, James Manery, was born in County Armagh, Ireland, but he spent his last years in County Down. Mrs. Sim's father came to America in 1874, and settled in Thayer County, Neb., where he still resides. The maiden name of his wife was Eliza Kilpatrick, and she was likewise of County Down. Mrs. Sim came to America in 1861, and resided in Quebec, Canada, until 1873, when she came to Nebraska, and has lived here ever since. To them has been born a daughter, Elizabeth.

When Mr. Sim came to Nebraska, in 1856, he went by steamer through Long Island Sound and up the Hudson River to Troy, N. Y., thence by rail to Buffalo, where he embarked on the lake for Detroit, from there to Chicago and St. Louis by rail, and from the latter point on a steamer to Nebraska City, where he landed September 19. He bought a squatter's claim to a tract of land on section 23 of Otoe Precinct, and he moved with his family into a log cabin standing on the place, and when the land came into the market he entered it from the Government at the land-office in Nebraska City. Since then he has been very successful, and has added to his landed estate until he now owns 575 acres of as rich and productive land as lies under the sunny skies of Nebraska. He has his land divided up into three fine farms, two of which are managed by his sons. Each of his farms is supplied with excellent and substantial frame buildings, and with all the appurtenances for conducting agriculture in the most approved manner.

In the thirty-two years that have passed since Mr. Sim came here to seek a home, he has witnessed the wonderful growth of Nebraska from an almost absolutely wild condition, with but few inhabitants, and with deer, wild turkeys, wolves and other wild animals roaming across the boundless, uncultivated prairies, to a rich and powerful State, with magnificent farms, thriving cities, busy towns and countless beautiful homes, with scarcely a trace of its former wildness, excepting, perhaps, in the more remote portions of the State. As a man of sound wisdom, ability and honesty, Mr. Sim became conspicuous among the early settlers of this State in Territorial days, and took an active part in public affairs. In 1863 he was elected as Representative to the Territorial Council, or Legislature. In politics he is a stanch Republican.

FREDERICK A. STUKENHOLTZ. Prosperous and enterprising as a farmer, highly esteemed in the community, and one of the most earnest supporters of educational and religious institutions, this gentleman is eminently worthy a place in a history of Otoe County. Moreover, he is one of its pioneers, and has done what has lain in his power to assist its onward and upward progress. He now owns 404 acres of splendid farming land, situated as follows: On section 29, sixty acres, on section 32, 160 acres, on section 31, 160 acres, and on section 35, twenty-four acres.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Frederick G. Stukenholtz, and was born near the city of Herford, Prussia, on the 2d of October, 1831. It was his misfortune to lose his mother when he was about four years of age, her death occurring in the year 1835. She left seven children, who bore the names here appended: Harmon H., Henny, Annie, Mary, Casper H., Frederick A. and Sophia.

For the first thirty-six years of his life our subject lived in Prussia, receiving a splendid home and good religious training, though his educational opportunities were very limited. His large enterprise and love of liberty could not brook the restraints of imperialism, and resulted in his coming to the "Land of the Free." He sailed from Bremen Sept. 14, 1851, in company with his sister Sophia, and arrived in New York on the 4th of November, 1851. His first efforts to obtain work were made in Buffalo, where, beginning at the very bottom of the ladder, he began by cutting wood. After one year in that city he went to Lockport, Niagara County, and for two years worked upon a farm.

While at Lockport our subject made the acquaintance of Anna M. E. Hauptman, the daughter of

Harmon and Catherine (Ilaabine) Hauptman, who also looked to the Fatherland as the land of their birth. Their daughter Anna was the second of seven children born to them in their native land, and accompanied them to this county, she being at the time about twenty years of age.

In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Stukenholtz migrated to Jefferson County, Wis., but the following year came to this State, settling on the unbroken prairie, which was at that time entirely destitute of houses, homes, churches, schools, government or law, and almost of settlers. Life was held very cheap, and a shooting caused little or no remark. He took up a claim of eighty acres, and went to work with the splendid result that is apparent to all by a glance at his admirably cultivated and fertile, productive farm.

The family circle of our subject included eight children, viz: An infant stillborn; Annie P., Harman H. (both deceased), Mary E., John F., Charles H., Ida (deceased) and Carrie. Mary P. is married to John Wellberger, of Otoe Precinct, and they have three little ones, whose names are Addie S., Nelson and Charles E. Carrie is the wife of John Maag, of this precinct, and is the mother of one child, Ethel M.

The religious home of our subject and his wife is within the pale of the German Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska City, of which organization they were charter members, and our subject has been a Trustee from its commencement. He is not a leader in politics, but is a student and lover of the institutions and government of his adopted country, and always votes with the Republican party on National questions.

MRS. ANN MARTIN has been for many years identified with the various interests of Otoe County, and is a lady of intelligence and culture, an earnest temperance advocate, and very highly esteemed member of society. Her home is situated upon section 28 of Otoe Precinct. Her parents, Richard and Grace (Balch) Hodges, were natives of England, and were the parents of six children, five of whom came to this country with their parents. Their first home in the New World was in Tompkins County, or, as it is now called, Schuyler County, N. Y. The names of their children are as follows: Elizabeth, Janes; Palmice, who died in infancy; Ann, Maria and John R.

The nativity of Mrs. Martin dates from the 7th of July, 1832, and her place of birth was near the city of Bath, Somerset County, England. When she came to America she was about eight years of age, and received her education in the common schools of this county, attending also at Peach Orchard Academy, Schuyler County. Her mother died in the year 1847, at the age of fifty-nine years. The subject of our sketch began teaching in Schuyler County upon being graduated from the academy, and afterward taught in Chemung County, and continued to follow this profession in all about three years.

In 1853, while upon a visit to her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Jaquish, who resided at Barrington, in Cook County, Ill., our subject met Mr. John Winyard, to whom she was afterward married. This gentleman was born in England on the 21st of December, 1827. He came to this country from England in 1849, and was farming in Cook County at the time the acquaintance began.

Mr. and Mrs. Winyard came to this State with their two children in 1858. They did intend to settle in Kansas, but becoming disgusted with the State after a short acquaintance, it being right in the midst of the Kansas and Nebraska troubles, they departed from their original intention and located three miles northwest of Palmyra Village, and Mrs. Winyard's husband died July 18, 1871. The father of Mrs. Winyard accompanied them to Nebraska; he died at the residence of his daughter in 1858. They were the parents of the following children: Amelia M.; Carrie E., who died when five years old; Libbie E., who died when two months old; Hettie J., Grace E. and May A.

Of the above-named children Amelia is now the wife of John Meek, a resident of Otoe Precinct; she had previously been married to John Carr, by whom she became the mother of two children—Ole F. and Preston W.; Hettie J. was the wife of Clarence B. Casselman, the well-known hardware merchant of Hendricks; she died in 1886, leaving two

children—Winnie M. and Frank W. Grace E. is now Mrs. Milton Meek, and lives on the old homestead; she has presented her husband with one bright, beautiful child, who bears the name Carlton L. May A., who still makes her home with her mother, is single.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in 1873, when she became the wife of Mr. Hiram Martin. He was a native of Oneida County, N. Y. Of this marriage one child was born, whose name is Maude L. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Congregational Church at Camp Creek, and is one of the prominent workers of the W. C. T. U., which has been in running order in this place for over two years. In this she is joined by her daughters, who are all actively engaged in the temperance cause, and are recognized leaders therein.

CHRISTOPHER OELKE. Among the German-American citizens of Otoe Precinct, few are more loyal to the institutions and government of their adopted country, of higher character or more successful in business undertakings, than he whose life is herein sketched succinctly. His home and farm are upon section 7 of the above precinct. His property comprises 134 acres.

The subject of our sketch is the youngest of twelve children born to John and Catharine (Myer) Oelke. He was born on the 24th of February, 1843. When his parents came to this country he was nine years of age. Their home was made in Clayton County, Iowa, where, about seven years later, his father died. After that event our subject began to work out upon the neighboring farms by the month. The following year he accompanied his brother-in-law, Henry Hyer, and came to this State, where he followed the same course. The next year he went to Pike's Peak, but not being so successful as he anticipated he went to Virginia City, Mont., and worked in the silver mines for two years in the employ of a company.

Leaving Montana Mr. Oelke went prospecting for himself, and developed a gulch mine on Silver Creek, and is reputed to have been the first to discover silver on that creek, which was named by him on account of that event. Being desirous of making a change he sold his mine and bought stock in the Virginia City mines, but this was not a successful move.

In 1865 the subject of our sketch returned to Nebraska and embarked in farming. In 1873 he celebrated his marriage with Miss Catharine Theile, the daughter of Frank and Margaret (Walder) Theile. She was born near Hamburg, and did not come to this country until 1870, when she was twenty years of age, and came to Nebraska City. Her sister Lydia accompanied her in this long journey, and both lived for a time in Nebraska City. There have been born nine children of this union, whose names are recorded as follows: Mary, Carl, Maggie, Chris Henry, Louis, Taylor, Arthur, Frank and Harry (twins).

Mr. Oelke purchased 160 acres in 1880, and when the Missouri Pacific railroad was built he sold twenty-six acres to that railroad for a town site, at $75 per acre, on which is located the station and village of Paul. This left him his present property of 134 acres, and since that time, by patient, persevering industry, he has brought it from an unimproved condition to its present productive, fertile state. His last improvement was the erection of a very pleasant and commodious one and a half story frame dwelling, which is designed to meet every requirement of home life, so far as such is possible. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and has so been for many years, although not taking a very prominent place in political affairs. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Oelke are members of the German Lutheran Church, where they are much esteemed, as they are indeed wherever they are known.

BRUNE BRUNS. The property of this well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct comprises 160 acres of fertile land, embracing the northwest quarter of section 20. Of late years he has been giving especial attention to stock-raising, and keeps some excellent breeds of cattle and hogs. He has been a resident of this county for a period of twenty-six years, coming to Nebraska with his parents during its Territorial

days. He located on his present farm in March, 1884, and during a comparatively brief residence upon it has effected some fine improvements.

The parents of our subject, Ocke and Fanny (Wallmann) Bruns, were born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, which was also the birthplace of their son Brune, where he first opened his eyes to the light Nov. 15, 1853, and was the eldest son of a family of five children. They set out for the United States in the summer of 1862, when our subject was a lad of nine years, embarking on a sailing-vessel, landing seven weeks later in the city of New York. They made their way directly to Nebraska, the father selecting a tract of land on section 19 of McWilliams Precinct, this county, where he became owner of 170 acres, from which he has built up a comfortable homestead, and where, with his estimable wife, he still lives. The father is sixty-six years old and the mother fifty-six. Both are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and people greatly respected in their community

The first lessons of our subject were conducted in the schools of his native Province, but his education was completed in McWilliams Precinct, this county. Here also he was reared to manhood, and married Miss Gesine Varenhorst, who was born near the town of Etzel, Hanover, June 20, 1854. Her parents were Phillip and Gesine (Wall) Varenhorst. They were of pure German ancestry, and still continue residents of their native Empire, the father pursuing his calling of agriculturist, and being now quite well advanced in years.

Mrs. Bruns was reared to womanhood in her native Province, and came alone to America when twenty years of age. She also proceeded directly westward across the Mississippi to this county, and lived with her husband's parents in McWilliams Precinct until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there were born five children, the second of whom, a son, Rudolph, died when a bright and interesting lad of nine years. The survivors are three daughters and one son, and named respectively: Fanny, Lena, Anna and Ocke. Mr. and Mrs. Bruns, like their parents before them, are connected with the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is independent, aiming to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office. He is a quiet and unassuming citizen, having no desire for official honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his home and his family. He has fulfilled all the obligations of an honest man and a good citizen, being prompt in his business transactions, and a member of the community whose word is considered as good as his bond.

HON. LOUIS HOEBEL, President of the Bank of Syracuse, and widely known throughout the county as one of the large grain dealers, having his headquarters at Hildreth and Upland, was born in Freeport, Stephenson Co., Ill., on the 17th of December, 1842. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Hoebel, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they grew to years of maturity and were married. In the year 1842 they determined to emigrate to the New World, and upon effecting their purpose settled upon a farm near Freeport. Mr. Hoebel, Sr., became the owner of 140 acres of good farming land, which he was enabled to bring to an almost perfect condition for agricultural purposes. He erected first-class buildings for the various requirements of the farm, and also a comfortable farm residence.

The father of our subject died in the year 1882, after an active, and upon the whole, prosperous life of eighty-two years, having survived his wife, the mother of our subject, since the year 1857. They were the parents of six children, all of whom attained to years of maturity, but of whom two, Peter and John, are now deceased. The surviving members of the family are: Jacob, whose home is in Stephenson County, Ill.; Phillips, who resides in Benton County, Iowa; Catherine, now Mrs. Spratler, and Louis, the subject of this sketch.

The early years of the youth and manhood of our subject were spent in his native county. He was brought up on his father's farm, and attended the public school near by. Between the two the work of his education went on, and when he was fifteen years of age he started to learn the trade of a tinner. This he followed at Freeport until he attained his majority, when he went to Benton County, Iowa,

and engaged in the hardware business with his brother, and continued therein until the 1st of January, 1880. Our subject then came to Syracuse, and associated himself with Walter Peet as a partner in a banking-house, which they established, and which has become an incorporated bank, and is that over which our subject now presides. In 1886 he embarked in the grain trade at Hildreth and Upland, to which he has since given much of his time and attention. To say that he is successful is almost unnecessary, for the record of his life is that whatever he has undertaken he has conducted to a desirable finish.

Mr. Hoebel became the husband of Katie Sauer, at Freeport, in June, 1865. This lady, who is the daughter of Ambrose and Terisa Sauer, was born at Baden-Baden, April 30, 1845. When her parents came to this country she was twelve years of age. They first settled at Freeport, Ill., and engaged in farming. There have been born to our subject four children, whose names are as follows: Carrie, Ida, Fred and Edwin.

The political relations of our subject are with the Democratic party. He was enthusiastically elected to represent his district in the Lower House of the State Legislature. He has also served one term in the State Senate. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and is well received in it by his fellows. In addition to his other business interests he is President of the Upland Banking Company, at Upland. He resides upon his farm, which is pleasantly situated near Syracuse, and is an extensive land-owner in other parts of this State and Kansas. He is a man of character, of business qualities, shrewd, of large intelligence, and one respected and esteemed by all.

RHADAMANTHUS H. SCOFIELD, Principal of the public schools at Syracuse, traces his ancestry back to England, whence the first representatives of the family in this country emigrated to America during its Colonial days. History records the fact that some time between 1594 and 1600 a boy was born in England, among whose descendants are now found noted Generals, eminent divines, and bright lights in nearly every calling or profession in which man is engaged. The name of this boy was Daniel Scofield, and he must have been a venturesome lad, as it is believed he took passage in the "Mayflower," which landed on Plymouth Rock in December, 1620. There have now elapsed 268 years, and the Scofield family is scattered over the whole length and breadth of the land, having reached the tenth generation, of which our subject is a representative, and who probably aggregate 500 souls. Some time ago they formed an association for the purpose of holding annual reunions and preserving their records. The first meeting was held in 1866, at which time eighty-five members were present. The year following the meeting included 151 members, and the third session was attended by 212. The next meeting, appointed for Aug. 16, 1889, is to be held at the home of Levi Loomis, in Ashville, N. Y.

Seymour Scofield, the father of our subject, was born in the town of Greenfield, Saratoga Co., N. Y., in 1805, and enjoys the distinction of being the oldest living member of his race, although they are noted for longevity. He grew to manhood, becoming familiar with agricultural pursuits, and married Miss Eliza Scofield, a distant relative. During the year 1844 they took up their residence in Jefferson County, N. Y., where the father eliminated a good farm from the heavy timber. In 1856 he changed his residence to Chautauqua County, where he now resides, and though crippled in his lower limbs, possesses all his mental faculties in a high degree, and is a fine, handsome, intelligent and high-spirited old gentleman. The faithful and affectionate wife and mother, who has journeyed with him for a period of fifty-seven years, is also living, and although seventy-seven years of age, looks as young as a lady of sixty.

This aged and honored pair became the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, and residents mostly of New York and Pennsylvania. Rhadamanthus H., our subject, was their fourth child, and was born at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1839. He was but a boy when the family removed to Chautauqua County, and there secured his education in the common schools and academies. His

parents being in limited circumstances, he made his own living from early youth, employing himself at whatever he could find to do, and paying his way through school. He finally developed into a teacher, and having a thirst for learning, succeeded finally in entering the State Normal School, of Edinboro, Pa., where he was nearly prepared for graduation at the outbreak of the Rebellion. This crisis in the nation's history aroused the patriotism of the students generally, and our subject, with others, enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment of infantry, but on account of physical disability was in a short time discharged.

Young Scofield now resumed teaching in his native State for a time, and then visited Whiteside County, Ill., where he taught one term. The excitement of the oil discovery in Pennsylvania being now at its height, he visited the region where wells were being developed, but after experimenting there for a time, concluded there was nothing for him in that region, and returning to Illinois, taught school during the winter seasons, and spent his vacations in traveling over different States. While residing in Morrison, Ill., he made the acquaintance of Miss Lottie McDearmon, to whom he was married in September, 1868. Mrs. Scofield was born in Aurora, N. Y., on the 22d of March, 1840, and early in life removed with her parents to Chicago, Ill., and later to Whiteside County, that State, where she was graduated from Mt. Carroll Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Scofield after their marriage settled in Chautauqua, N. Y., and our subject devoted himself to teaching. Later he assumed charge of the public schools at Blairstown, Iowa, and subsequently held the same position at Iowa Falls and Sidney, that State. In 1883 he invested in land in Madison County, Neb., and had then made up his mind to become a tiller of the soil. He was obliged to abandon this project on account of the failing health of his wife. He then took charge of the schools at Madison, but was soon compelled to resign his position. Mrs. Lottie Scofield departed this life at her home in Madison, April 2, 1885, leaving four small children—Ralph, Ernest, Hattie and Bertha. The home of our subject was then broken up, and his little girls were sent to Portland, Ore., to live with an aunt, while Ralph remained in Madison and Ernest was taken into the home of an uncle living in Missouri. For some time after Mr. Scofield was unable to confine himself to any one place, but in 1886 was called to take charge of the schools at Syracuse, which he arranged according to the graded system, and in 1888 graduated a class of four members.

On the 7th of June, 1887, Mr. Scofield contracted a second marriage, with Mrs. Juana L. Sanderson, who was born in Lincolnshire, England, but came to the United States with her parents when quite young. She is a lady of excellent education, and has followed teaching for some years. She has been since her marriage associated with her husband as assistant teacher in the schools of Syracuse.

The Scofields, from father to son, through many generations, have been stanch supporters of Democratic doctrines, and our subject is no exception to the rule. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and a social, genial, intelligent gentleman, who numbers his friends by scores, and whose home is a most attractive resort for the cultivated element of society.

THOMAS ANDREWS, of Russell Precinct, owns and operates a snug farm of 101 acres on section 30. His homestead is one illustrative of peace and contentment, and his domestic affairs are presided over by a lady of more than ordinary abilities, both as a helpmate and housekeeper, the dwelling within being a picture of taste, cleanliness and beauty. St. Paul, during his journeyings and philosophizings, once remarked that "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and the intelligent individual will heartily coincide with him in this sentiment. Mrs. Andrews evidently believes entirely in the truth of it, and carries it out in her daily life.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews are approaching the afternoon of lives which have been well spent, during which they have lived at peace among their neighbors, and shed a good influence around them. Our subject is the eldest of twelve children, the offspring of Bartholomew and Philamela (Merriam) Andrews, who were natives of Litchfield, Conn., the father born in 1790, and the mother five years

later, in 1795. The paternal grandfather, Lyman Andrews, was of English ancestry, but born in Connecticut, and the maternal grandfather, Thomas Merriam, was also a native of Connecticut, where it is supposed he spent his entire life.

Bartholomew Andrews when a young man twenty-two years of age was drafted into the army during the War of 1812, but on account of illness was unable to serve. He had in the meantime with his parents taken up his residence in Saratoga County, N. Y., to which they had migrated when he was a little lad four years of age. There the parents of our subject were married. In 1815 they moved to Onondaga County, N. Y., where the father purchased sixty acres of heavily timbered land, from which he cleared a farm, where he erected a sawmill, and by means of the two together accumulated a fine property. There he spent the remainder of his days, his death taking place Oct. 12, 1867. The mother survived her husband a period of eighteen years, remaining a widow, and died on the 13th of April, 1885, at the advanced age of ninety.

The twelve children of the parental family were as follows: Thomas, our subject; Gamsey; Hannah, deceased; Noah; Caroline and Lavina, deceased; Edwin, Titus; Curtis, deceased; Solomon, Clarissa and Almira, the two latter also deceased. Solomon during the Civil War enlisted in the 3d Iowa Battery, which was stationed most of the time around Little Rock, Ark., and after the expiration of his first term of enlistment volunteered the second time. He is now in Iowa. The surviving members of the family are mostly residents of Nebraska and New York.

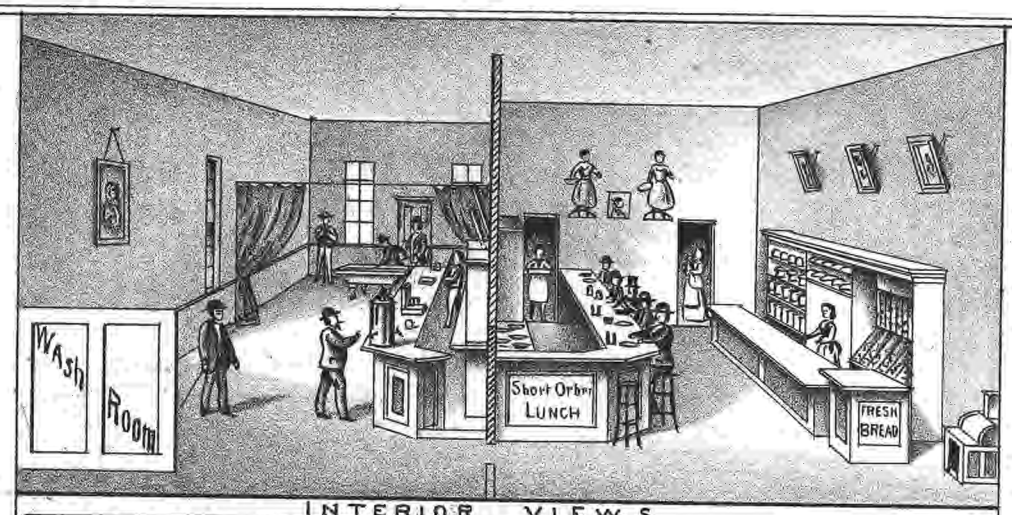
Thomas Andrews, our subject, the eldest child of his parents, was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., April 14, 1817. He made his home with his parents until reaching his majority, in the meantime receiving a common-school education. He then learned the cooper's trade, which he followed for a period of ten years. He was married while a resident of New York State, after which he followed farming two years, then going to Walworth County, Wis., resumed his trade and lived there also two years, at the same time carrying on farming in a modest way.

In 1853 our subject, seized with the gold fever, made his way to California, and in company with his brother staking a claim in Sacramento County, was engaged most of the time thereafter for a period of ten years in hunting for the yellow ore. Notwithstanding his perseverance he met with indifferent success, and 1863 found him on his way to his old home in Onondaga County, N. Y. He lived there three years, then moved to Wisconsin.

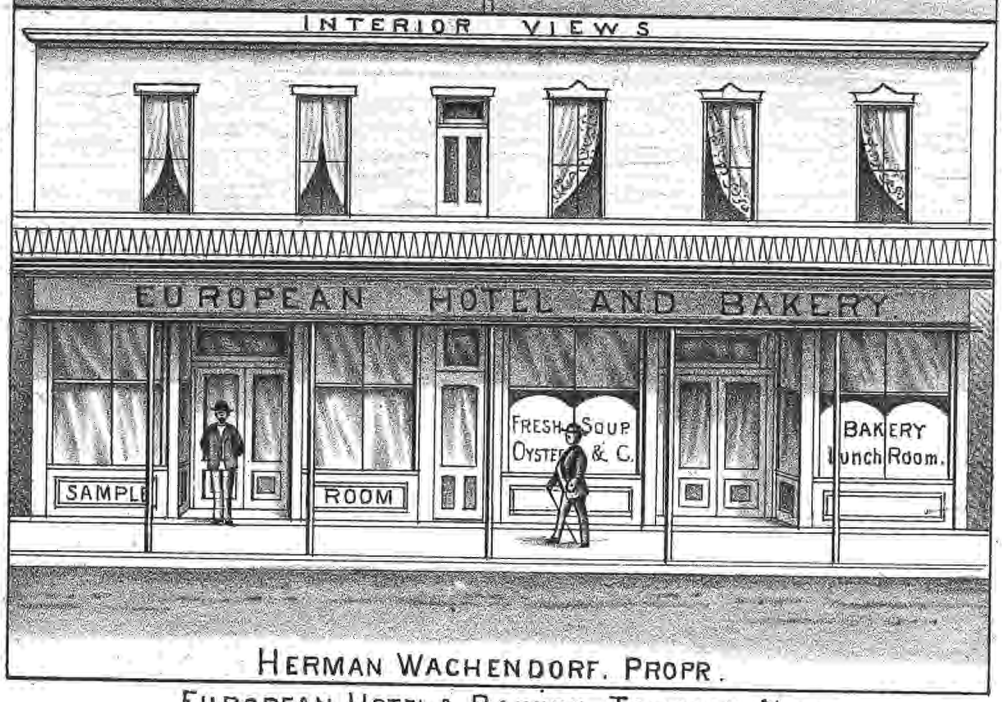
In 1875, once more crossing the Mississippi, Mr. Andrews purchased 240 acres of land in Keokuk County, Iowa, in partnership with his brother, which they operated together until 1877, and then Thomas disposed of his interest in the property to his brother. With the proceeds he purchased 160 acres in Jefferson, Iowa, which he sold in 1884, and determined to experiment upon the soil of Nebraska. The result was his purchase of the homestead which he now owns and occupies. Upon this he has made great improvements, setting out groves and an orchard and hedge, and otherwise gathering together the appliances forming the complete rural home. He has of late years given his attention largely to stock-raising, dealing in cattle, hogs and horses, the latter embracing the celebrated Hambletonians and Clydesdales.

Mr. Andrews was first married in Onondaga, N. Y., Feb. 28, 1847, to Miss Julia A., daughter of Oliver and Clarissa F. Hill, who was born in that county Jan. 10, 1824. Her parents were natives respectively of Vermont and New York State, and the father a cabinet-maker by trade. They spent their last years in New York. Of this marriage there was born one child only, Julia A., who is now the wife of John McGonogel, and resides in Onondaga County. N. Y; they have two children. Mrs. Julia A. Andrews departed this life at her home in New York, in 1848.

Our subject and his present wife, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary A. Rush, were united in marriage in Keokuk County, Iowa, May 9, 1869. Mrs. Mary Andrews was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., Jan. 10, 1844, and is the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Auttman) Rush, who were also natives of that county. They moved to Iowa in 1858, where the father followed farming, and where he is still living, being now seventy years of age. The mother died Aug. 28, 1888. Of this union of

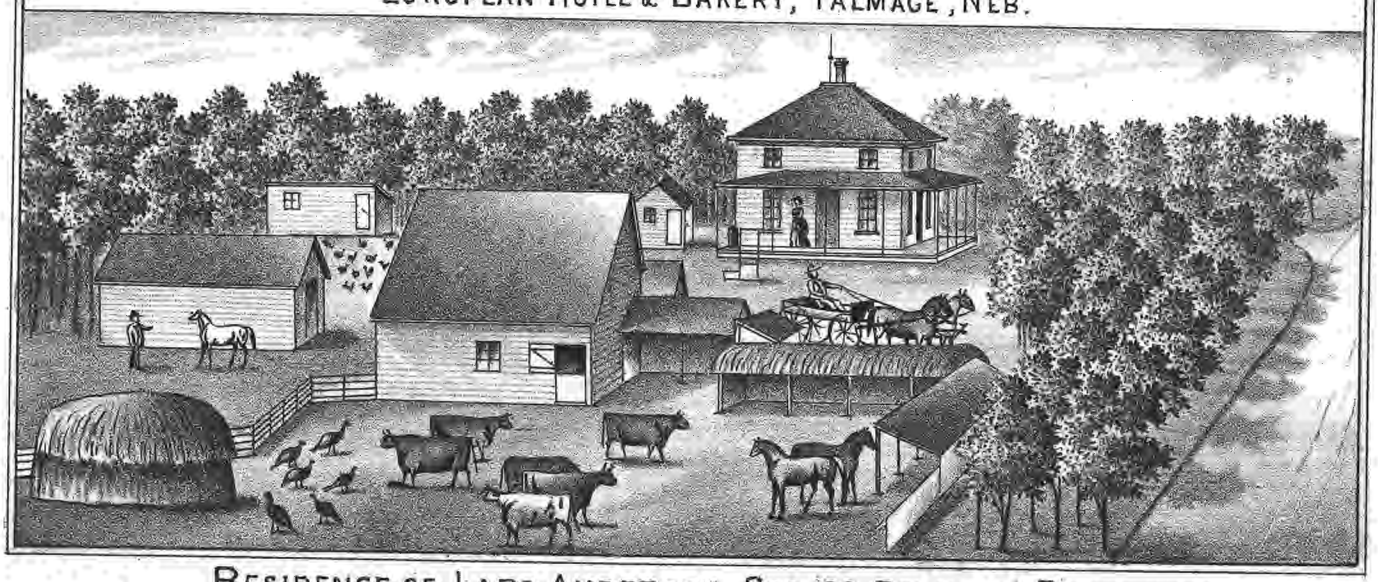


INTERIOR VIEWS



HERMAN WACHENDORF. PROPR.

EUROPEAN HOTEL & BAKERY, TALMAGE, NEB.



RESIDENCE OF LARS ANDERSEN, SEC. 30. DELAWARE PRECINCT.

our subject there have been born five children, namely: Lovina; A. B., deceased; Cora, May and Rosa. The survivors are all at home with their parents. Mr. Andrews cast his first Presidential vote for Harrison, and is a stanch Republican "dyed in the wool." He has been a member of the School Board of his district for the past three years, and in religious matters belongs to the Baptist Church at Eden school-house, in which he officiates as Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

To Joseph and Catherine Rush, the parents of Mrs. Andrews, there were born eight children, one son and seven daughters, namely: Mary A., John, Lizzie; Susan, who died when about eighteen years old; Tracy; Frances, deceased; Maggie, and Lucy, deceased. The last two were twins. Five of the children are surviving, and mostly residents of Iowa.

LARS ANDERSEN. The Old World has given thousands of the best of her sons to the development of the Western Continent, and among these the subject of this sketch forms a worthy example. He is one of the most prosperous farmers of Delaware Precinct, where he owns 160 acres of good land on section 30. By a process of careful cultivation he has brought it to a very fertile condition, and upon it has erected good buildings, including one of the handsomest residences in this locality, a view of which appears on the adjoining page. He has done much of his own carpenter work, being a natural mechanic, and thus has saved an outlay of hundreds of dollars. Our subject has an orchard comprising about 400 various fruit trees, and had last year over 100 bushels of fine peaches.

Our subject presents most forcibly the illustration of the self-made man, as he began in life dependent upon his own resources. His earliest recollections are of a modest home in the Kingdom of Denmark, where his birth took place Feb. 23, 1847. His parents were Anders Madsen and Else C. (Sorensen) Andersen, natives of the same Province as their son, and whose household consisted of eleven children. Of these latter nine are living, and are residents of Denmark.

Mr. Andersen received a common-school education, and during his youth and early manhood employed himself at farming. He continued upon his native soil until a man twenty-five years of age, and then, desirous of something better than the prospect held out to him there, set sail in the spring of 1872 for the United States. He made his way at once to Nebraska, and for several years was employed as a laborer in Nebraska City and vicinity. In the meantime he saved what he could of his earnings, and finally rented a tract of land and commenced farming. He was thus employed until taking possession of his present land.

Mr. Andersen was married in the month of October, 1879, to Miss Christina Christensen, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City. Mrs. Andersen is the daughter of Christian Nelson and Meren (Jensen) Christensen, natives of Denmark, and was born Sept. 21, 1852, in Denmark. Of her union with our subject there is only one child living, a son, Charles, although they have been the parents of five.

Mr. Andersen upon becoming a naturalized citizen identified himself with the Republican party, the principles of which he is still a warm supporter. He, however, meddles very little with politics, and has no desire for office. He commenced from first principles in the building up of his farm, there having been very little attempt at improvement on his land at the time of its purchase. He certainly deserves great credit for his achievements, which cannot otherwise than have been the result of persistent industry and the wisest management. He is esteemed among his neighbors as an honest man and first-class citizen, and one eminently worthy of representation in this work.

HERMAN WACHENDORF, "mine host" of the European House and Restaurant, at Talmage, is numbered among the energetic business men of the place, and one who is contributing his full quota to its importance as a

growing town. He came to the place in the spring of 1882, and put up a building, within which he established the first permanent restaurant and saloon in the place, and which he has since conducted in a highly successful manner. This being the beginning of his business career, his success has been a little beyond the ordinary, his good sense in a large measure supplying the lack of experience. Among the many views presented in this volume is one of the business place of this enterprising gentleman.

A native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, our subject was born Feb. 10, 1854, and crossed the Atlantic when a youth of eighteen years. Soon after setting foot upon American soil he proceeded to Lafayette County, Wis., where he engaged in farming, and in March, 1875, was married to Miss Addie Koppamann. This lady was also a native of Germany, and came to the United States when a young woman. She only survived her marriage a few years, her decease taking place in Belmont Precinct, Otoe County, this State, in the fall of 1880. Her death was caused by eating meat affected by trichina—the flesh of a pet pig which she had raised herself. Mr. W. and a daughter were also taken seriously ill from the same.

Of this marriage of our subject there had been born two children, daughters, of whom Lizzie, the elder, is now living with an aunt in Burlington, Iowa, and Anna, with an uncle in Colsburg, Iowa. Mr. Wachendorf contracted a second marriage, Nov. 9, 1881, in Belmont Precinct, with Miss Celia Strochmann, also a native of Germany, who came to America when a young lady. Her father, Frederick Strochmann, is a resident of Nebraska City. Of this union there have been born four children, one of whom, John, died in infancy. The survivors are Celia, Lena and Dora T.

John Wachendorf, the father of our subject, spent his entire life in his native Province of Hanover, Germany. He married a lady of his own nationality, Miss Anna Robbins, who died when her son Herman was a lad nine years of age. The latter came to this State after his marriage, and located first in Belmont Precinct, this county, where he established a little country store in the winter of 1879. He is developing into a thorough business man, is becoming fully identified with the interests of his adopted country, and uniformly votes the straight Democratic ticket.

JOHN SCHARP, of Wyoming Precinct, is the owner of a fine farm of 320 acres, pleasantly located on section 16. Upon this he has labored industriously since the spring of 1857, when he secured ownership to 160 acres, and began the building up of the homestead which is now looked upon with an admiring eye by all who pass by it. The buildings, tasteful and substantial, are eminently creditable to the proprietor, and possess all the conveniences required by the modern agriculturist. The fences are kept in good order, the live stock is well fed and sheltered, and the machinery for the prosecution of agriculture is of the latest improved pattern. Mr. Scharp occupies a prominent position in social and business circles, and has been no unimportant factor in the development of the best interests of this part of the county.

Our subject looked upon Nebraska during its Territorial days, having come to this county as early as 1857, ten years before it was admitted into the Union as a State. He settled then in Wyoming Precinct, of which he has since been a resident. A native of Denmark, he was born Feb. 9, 1843, and when a lad of fourteen years emigrated to America with his father, with whom he lived until reaching his majority. The father was accidentally killed by a runaway team in June, 1885. He was a farmer by occupation, and was married in his native country to Miss Mattie Houschildt, by whom he became the father of six children, five living, and all in Otoe, Neb.

Our subject, when prepared to establish a home and domestic ties of his own, was united in marriage with Miss Katie Gruber, who was a native of one of the Rhine Provinces, Germany. She was born May 1, 1858, and came to America with her parents when a child nine years of age. The latter were Jacob and Maggie (Young) Gruber, and after coming to the United States they crossed the Mississippi, settling in Cass County, Neb., where they are still living. Their family consisted of two

sons and six daughters, and Mrs. S. remained a member of the parental household until her marriage.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born six children, one of whom, a son, Herbert, died in infancy. The survivors are Mattie, Henry, Trinn, Herman and Melanie Rose. The eldest is twelve years of age and the youngest fifteen months, and they are all at home with their parents, forming an interesting group of which the latter may well be proud. Mr. Scharp has been a prominent man in his community, looked up to by his neighbors, and respected by all who know him. He votes the straight Republican ticket, but has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his farming interests. From a modest beginning he has accumulated a good property, the result of his own industry and perseverance, he being from the first dependent upon his own resources.

G. W. GILMAN, engaged in a prosperous drug business in Talmage, also deals in all kinds of stationery, silverware, jewelry, etc., and by his straightforward methods of doing business is in the enjoyment of a good patronage. He established in business here in June, 1885, and carries a full line of the articles pertaining thereto. He is one of the younger business men of the community, and bids fair to occupy a prominent position in the near future.

Mr. Gilman is a true Westerner, having been born on the sunset side of the Mississippi, on the Platte River, at Cottonwood Springs, Oct. 27, 1862. He was one of the first white children claiming their nativity in Nebraska, his early home being only fifteen miles from Ft. McPherson, where the great conflict with the Sioux Indians took place in 1865. His father, J. K. Gilman, operated a ranch and a freight line from Nebraska City to Ft. McPherson, and lost during the Indian raids several thousand dollars' worth of cattle and mules. In addition to his other interests he was for a time in the employ of the Government, and also filled a contract of getting out ties for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He dealt largely with the Indians, and his intercourse with them was tempered with such good judgment that they became very friendly to him, and he acquired a perfect knowledge of their language, as also did his family, being able to speak it fluently. This was a great advantage to him, and after the general raids spoken of, the Indians never molested him or his family.

The father of our subject, with his estimable wife, was on the plains a period of four years, during which time their son G. W. was born. He wore for his first suit a pretty buckskin outfit, which was made for him by an Indian squaw, and which he preserves to this day. It is hardly necessary to say that it is looked upon by his children and friends with a great deal of interest. The elder Gilman finally decided to return to the bounds of civilization with his family, and placing them in safety in Nebraska City, he again went to the frontier with S. F. Nuckolls, one of the prominent pioneers of the State, and they began mining in the Wahsatch Mountains, in Utah Territory, remaining in that region for a period of eight years. Instead of getting rich, however, Mr. Gilman lost largely, like many others at that time. In 1876, in company with Robert Hauke of Nebraska City, he went to Dakota, and became the owner of thirteen acres of land, upon which is located the city of Deadwood. For some years he also owned two of the principal stores there, and the property was the subject of an extended litigation in which Mr. Gilman and his friend, Mr. Hauke, as plaintiffs, won their case each time, although necessarily at great expense.

The father of our subject this time met with some success as a miner, then returned to Nebraska City, and not long afterward was seized with the fatal illness which terminated his life, Jan. 21, 1887. His was a very checkered career, and one in which he saw much of the world and men. He was born at the foot of Mt. Washington, in New Hampshire, July 3, 1829, and came of an old and highly respected New England family. During his younger years he frequently served as a guide for visitors to Mt. Washington, which then as now was a popular summer resort. At the age of fifteen years he was given a Government position as engineer on the dry docks, at Pensacola, Fla., and thus early in

life gained a good knowledge of general business. He was driven from Florida on account of the yellow fever, taking passage on a lumber vessel, which was wrecked a few days later off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and he, with one of his companions, floated for three days on a piece of the wreck, and were picked up half starved and nearly exhausted. During this time they had saved a little flour, which they wet, and dried in the sun, and ate to keep life within them. Upon being rescued young Gilman sought his old home in New Hampshire, and remained there until reaching his majority, when he came to Nebraska.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Martha Fitchie, a notice of whose family will be found in the sketch of William Campbell, on another page in this volume. She survives her husband, and is now a resident of Nebraska City. She was a true pioneer wife and mother, a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and force of character, and amply fitted to battle with the difficulties of the varied career which she shared with her husband.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Nebraska City, and entered upon his business career as clerk in the drug-store of Sloan & Baker, with whom he remained three years, and subsequently was with James Reed for the same length of time. His wife was formerly Miss Grace E. Gregory, and a sketch of her family will be found in the biography of S. C. Gregory, elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Gilman, as a citizen, is public-spirited and liberal, and politically, votes with the Democratic party.

BASIL E. NEWTON, who is filling the honorable and responsible position of editor of the Palmyra *Pilot*, and in that relation is widely known throughout the county and even beyond its borders, is the worthy son of Benjamin H. and Amanda C. (Edmundson) Newton, who were natives of Ft. Smith, Ark., and Dalton, Ga., respectively. The Newton family is not altogether unknown in history; the early representatives of this family came from France and settled in Louisiana in Colonial days. The father of our subject was a General and served on Wheeler's staff, in the Confederate Army, also under Longstreet at Chickamauga, and under Joe Johnston at the surrender of that General after the war was practically closed by the action of Gen. Lee. The maternal side of the family represented the Unionists, and their sentiments and feelings were very strong in that direction. Upon the announcement of the secession every house in Spring Place, except James Edmundson's, was brilliantly illuminated, and nothing but his high position and vast wealth prevented his being invited to take hasty leave. This gentleman, who was the grandfather of our subject, served as a State Senator for a number of terms, and was eighty-seven years of age when he died.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 3d of January, 1865, at Ft. Valley, Ga. He attended the public schools of Arkansas, whither the family had removed, beginning to attend the classes when about five years of age. At the time of the death of his father the family were in good circumstances, thanks to his business enterprise and forethought, but in order to give her son every advantage and benefit in the line of education the mother began to teach school. At the age of thirteen years our subject entered Hiwassee College, East Tennessee, and by diligent study was advanced to the head of his class, which position he retained almost until he was graduated, which he did with the class of '80, upon which occasion he filled admirably the position of valedictorian. He engaged as a news agent on the Southern railroads, continuing for about a year, then, in 1881, he came to Nebraska, and settled at Salem, in Richardson County.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated at Salem, the lady of his choice being Miss Nora White, the daughter of George W. and Katie (Meyers) White. In spite of some opposition at first on the part of the parents incidental chiefly to the age of their daughter, the earnest desire of the young people was carried into effect, and they became one at Salem, Jan. 19, 1886, and with his beautiful young bride of fourteen years of age he came to Palmyra, and bought out Benjamin Saunders, the owner of the *Pilot*, which paper he has since edited

in an able manner. That his efforts are appreciated by the community is unquestioned, seeing that the circulation has largely increased, and the general business of the office is a thorough financial success. The political sentiments of our subject are strongly Republican.

JOB W. CASSEL. Among the practical, prosperous farmers of Otoe County who are active in sustaining her great agricultural interests, and who were numbered among her pioneers in the early days of her settlement, the subject of this sketch is worthy of more than passing notice. His farm on section 29, Four Mile Precinct, with its well-tilled acres, its commodious, substantial buildings, and many other valuable improvements, is classed among the best in this part of the county.

Mr. Cassel was born Dec. 7, 1835, in Warren County, Ind., and is a son of the Hon. John Cassel, a noted pioneer of Nebraska. His father was born in Newberry District, S. C., Aug. 14, 1801, his father, the grandfather of our subject, being a native of the same district. The Cassels were of English ancestry, and settled in South Carolina in Colonial times. The grandfather of our subject moved to Kentucky about 1805, and after to Ohio, where he became a pioneer of Warren County. He cleared a farm and resided there until about 1835, when he went to Indiana and settled in Fountain County, of which he remained a resident until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Huffman, and she was also a native of South Carolina.

The father of our subject was but a boy when his parents moved to Ohio; there he was reared and married, Sarah Thomas becoming his wife in 1827. She was born in Wayne Township, Warren Co., Ohio, her father, Edward Thomas, a native of Pennsylvania, being a pioneer of that county. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of subject, was Parmelia Wright. After marriage Mr. Cassel continued to live in Ohio until 1833 or 1834, and then started West with teams and located in Warren County, Ind., as one of its pioneers. He bought a tract of timber land, and in the home that he built up there the subject of this sketch was born. The nearest market for some years was Chicago, 125 miles distance, a small place at that time, and it used to take from ten days to two weeks to make the round trip. On one of these trips he was offered in exchange for his team forty acres of land now included in the city. He did not trade, as the low, swampy land was anything but desirable for agricultural purposes, and the town at that time gave no promise of its present greatness. He cleared his land in Warren County and resided there until 1856, when he sold his farm with the intention of making his future home in the Territory of Nebraska. Gathering together a part of his household effects, he and his wife and their eight children started on the long journey with four wagons and ten horses. Wherever night overtook them they camped and cooked their meals, and in the month of July arrived at Nebraska City. Mr. Cassel bought a claim from a squatter on section 32 of what is now Four Mile Precinct. Ten acres of the land were broken, and with the small frame house, into which the family immediately moved, constituted the improvements on the place. Deer, wild turkeys and other wild animals still lingered in this section, but in the winter following the deer became easy victims in the deep snow that was not crusted hard enough to bear them, and they were nearly exterminated. Mr. Cassel improved a fine farm and was a resident here until his death, which was a great loss to the community, as he was a man of sterling worth and strong character, who identified himself with the best interests of the county. He took part in public affairs, and in 1858 was elected to the Territorial Legislature. He was a firm supporter of the Union cause in the trying times that preceded the war. Mrs. Cassel, who was in every respect worthy of such a husband, now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Thaler, in Palmyra, Neb. She has eight children living, namely: Joseph M., Job W., Parmelia (now the wife of William Thaler), Nancy, William H. H., James, Elijah T. and Edwin W.

The subject of this sketch was the third child born to his parents, and he was reared in his native county, gaining his education in the pioneer schools of the time, the primitive school-house where some

of his youthful days were passed being built of logs, with rude slab benches for the pupils to sit upon. When not in school he assisted in the farm work, and when his parents removed to Nebraska he went with them, and in the same year took up a claim in the Missouri River bottom and entered it from the Government at the land-office at Nebraska City in 1857. In 1858 he traded that land for his present homestead on section 29, Four Mile Precinct, adjoining the old homestead. It was a tract of wild prairie land at the time, and the next year he commenced its improvement by breaking quite a tract and planting a grove and orchard. In 1859 he went to the mountains, crossing the plains, and in the fall of 1859 returned and sold his farm, staying here until the spring of 1860, when he again went to the mountains, and the following three years was engaged in mining in different places in Colorado. He subsequently took up the business of freighting from Nebraska City to the mountains, but at the end of a year he again turned his attention to mining, and for nearly two years was thus employed in Virginia City, Mont. After that he returned to Nebraska City, and bought his old place back again with the capital gained in the Rockies, and has been a continuous resident here since. His farm comprises 240 acres of rich, alluvial soil, whose fertility and productiveness are practically inexhaustible.

Mr. Cassel was married, in 1865, to Miss Mary Harmon, and their pleasant household circle is completed by the presence of the four children who have been born of their union, namely: Luna, Walter N., Albert and John. Mrs. Cassel comes from good old New England stock, and is herself a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of New Marlboro, to Oliver and Luna Melissa (Norton) Harmon. Her father, who was a pioneer of Nebraska, was born in the town of Suffield, Conn., where his father, Alexander Harmon, was engaged in farming for many years; he died in New Marlboro, Mass. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of Mrs. Cassel, was Mary Hanchett, and she died in Rockford, Ill., at her daughter's. Mrs. Cassel's father was reared on a farm, and after marriage located in New Marlboro, Mass., and later moved to Canaan, Conn., where he bought a farm, which he managed successfully until 1855. In that year he sold all his property in Connecticut and bought a farm in Aurora, Ill., which was one mile south of and is now included within the city limits. He resided there until 1862, and then started with his wife and three children for the Territory of Nebraska, with two wagons and one carriage, bringing a small part of his household goods. After traveling twenty-one days they arrived at Nebraska City, and Mr. Harmon bought the southwest quarter of section 27, Four Mile Precinct. The improvements consisted of sixty acres of broken land and a log house, and on that place he made his home until his death, Dec. 19, 1874. In the meantime he had added to his landed estates until he possessed 320 acres, besides a tract of 160 acres in Palmyra. Mr. Harmon was a well-educated man, and used to teach in his younger days. He was an extensive reader, and at one time edited the agricultural department of the Nebraska City *Press*. He was twice married; his first wife, the mother of Mrs. Cassel, died in Massachusetts, her native State, in 1850. His second wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Aldrich, died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a few years after her husband's death. There were two children by the first marriage and one child by the second.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassel are conscientious members of the Baptist Church. They are true Christians, happy in their family relations, kind and helpful toward their neighbors, and those who have been unfortunate, or are in need, never appeal in vain to them for sympathy and assistance. Mr. Cassel takes a lively interest in the political questions of the day, and uses his influence to promote the interests of the Republican party, of which he is a stanch advocate.

HENRY VOLLMANN, a farmer of Otoe Precinct, in good circumstances, first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska July 26, 1856, eleven years before its admittance into the Union as a State. He consequently ranks among its earliest pioneers, and has contributed his quota toward the development of one of its most prosper-

ous counties. His property embraces 140 acres on the southwest quarter of section 6, where he has instituted fair improvements, and brought his land to a good state of cultivation. He is a self-made man in the broadest sense of the term. In his youth he had the advantage of a common-school education, and by his own efforts has improved himself mentally by a course of general reading, and as a penman he is especially fine. He has been a close observer of men and things, and has embraced every opportunity to keep himself posted upon matters of general interest to the thinking man. Among the industries our subject is both carpenter and farmer, receiving his early instructions from his excellent father, who was a mechanic and a builder of good repute.

Our subject was born on the 4th of February, 1830, near the city of Frankfort, in the Province of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and was the elder of a family of two children only, the younger being his sister Elizabeth, who is now the wife of John Schmidt, and they live in Louisville, Ky. Our subject was named after his father and his sister after his mother. They also were of German birth and ancestry, and the latter died when her son Henry was about six years old. The father was married a second time, and of this union there were born four children, two of whom are deceased; the others emigrated to America, and are now residents of Indiana and Louisville, Ky., respectively.

In the spring of 1855 the family emigrated to America, settling in Louisville, Ky., to which city Henry, our subject, had preceded them in the year 1853. There the father followed his trade, and lived to the advanced age of seventy-three years, his death taking place in 1873. Henry, Jr., served an apprenticeship of four years at the carpenter's trade, and was a young man twenty-three years old when he came to America. He left Louisville in 1855, and crossing the Mississippi, took up his residence in St. Joseph, Mo., where he followed his trade of carpenter, and from there went to Savannah, Mo., where he learned cabinet-making, and where he lived until coming to the Territory of Nebraska.

Our subject, upon crossing the Missouri, in July, 1856, located in the embryo town of Nebraska City, still pursuing his trade of carpenter, and invested his surplus capital in 140 acres of Government land, for which he paid $1.25 per acre. Here he was married two years later to Miss Ursula Schindler, who was born in the canton of Glarus, Switzerland, and is the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Zwecke) Schindler, who were natives of the same canton. (For her parents' history see biography of her brother, Deitrich Schindler.) Mrs. V. came to America in 1857, with her father and two stepbrothers. Her father's family consisted of six children, three of whom are now living. Of her union with our subject there have been born four sons and three daughters, namely: Henry; Anna, who died when twenty-five years old; Edward W., Emil, Henrietta, August and Maggie. Henry is at home with his parents; Anna married Emil Bourlier, and became the mother of one child, a daughter, Ida Anna, who is now living with her grandparents, the mother having died May 25, 1885. The remaining children are single and living at home.

The Vollmann residence is a neat and tasteful structure, one and one-half stories in height, and adjacent is a well-built barn and other accessories of a well-ordered homestead. Mr. V. has planted fruit and shade trees, and gathered about himself and his family many comforts. He votes the straight Republican ticket, but has never sought the responsibilities of office. His residence is situated within a stone's throw of the station of Paul, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the road passing through a portion of his farm. Its close proximity to the railroad renders his farm more valuable.

LOUIS SCHACHT. This very prominent German farmer and wealthy citizen of Osage Precinct is, perhaps, the most widely and favorably known of any man along the southern line of Otoe County. He is the owner of 760 acres of valuable land, and is extensively engaged in stock-raising, breeding cattle, horses, mules and swine. Notwithstanding his extensive personal interests, he is more than ordinarily public-spirited and liberal, warmly interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools and churches, and all

the institutions which will tend to elevate the people. He gives liberally to religious organizations, and deeded two acres of land to one of the districts for a school building and grounds. This is only one example of his generosity, as he is the man to whom the citizens first apply for assistance when any enterprise is set on foot calculated to be of general good to the community.

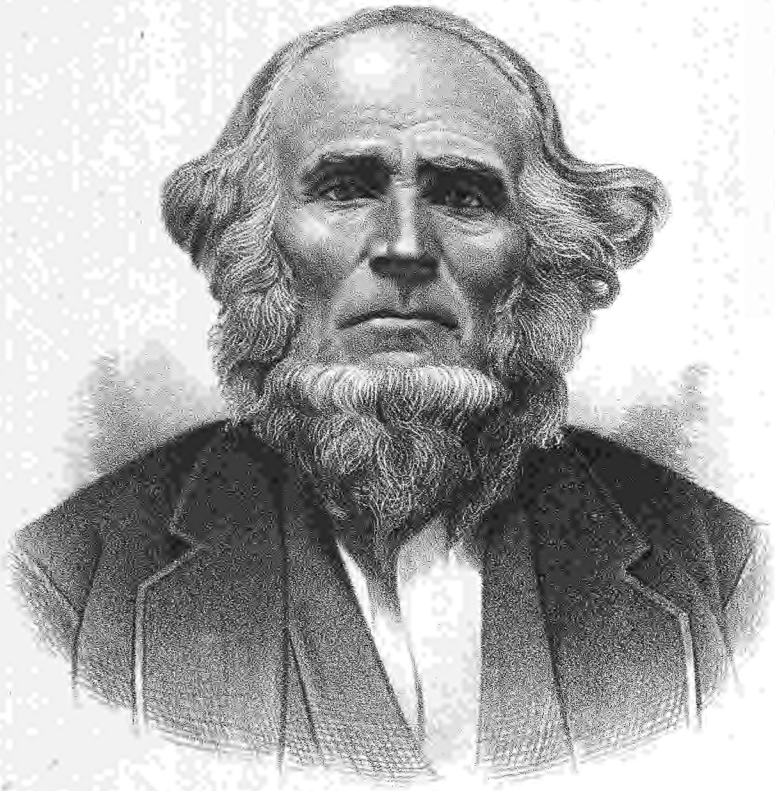
Equal in goodness with her husband, and blessed with an abundance of sound common sense, is the wife of our subject, who presides with grace and dignity over his domestic affairs, and encourages him to every worthy ambition. Mrs. Schacht, although not having been a resident of the United States a very long period, has learned the English language very readily, and adapted herself rapidly to the customs of the people around her. Their home is one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of this region. The residence is tasteful and commodious, and the barns and out-buildings fully in keeping with the requirements of the progressive agriculturist. The premises are well kept, good order and cleanliness seeming to be the paramount objects. The well-fed stock ranging over the broad fields forms a most pleasing picture, and the air of comfort and abundant means at once strikes the beholder with admiration.

The subject of this sketch was born in the Province of Westphalia, Prussia, on the 4th of June, 1846, and is one of the younger sons of Christof and Wilhelmina (Brune) Schacht, who were natives of the same locality, and of pure German ancestry. The father was born in 1797, and when a youth of eighteen years entered the German army and fought under Frederick William III against the first Napoleon. At the close of the war he returned to the occupations of farm life, became an extensive land-owner, and spent the remainder of his days in his native Province. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-five years, and died in March, 1882. He had survived his estimable wife a period of fourteen years, her death having taken place in 1868, when she was fifty-five years old. A more extended notice of the family will be found in the sketch of William Schacht, a brother of our subject, on another page in this ALBUM.

The boyhood and youth of Mr. Schacht were spent under the parental roof, and in common with the youth of Germany he was given an excellent education. He was bright and ambitious to learn, and later attended the evening schools. At the age of eighteen years, desirous of something better than the prospect held out to him in his native land, and also believing a change of climate would be beneficial to his somewhat impaired health, he resolved to emigrate to the New World. Setting sail from the port of Bremen on the steamer "Maine," in the spring of 1864, he landed in New York City three weeks later, after a very stormy passage. Thence by rail he made his way to Franklin County, Mo., and a year later came by steamer to Nebraska City. Thence migrating to the southwestern part of the county, and being pleased with the face of the country, he purchased 200 acres of land, which is now included in his present homestead. It was then a tract of wild prairie, not a foot of which had been disturbed by the plowshare. Mr. Schacht at once set about the improvement of his property, devoting ten acres to the planting of groves, set out an orchard of 600 apple trees, together with the smaller fruit trees, and gradually erected the buildings required for his comfort and convenience. In due time he invested his surplus capital in additional land, 240 acres of which is in McWilliams Precinct. The balance is in Osage and Johnson Counties, Neb. He superintends the operations of the home farm and leases his other land.

In the winter of 1872 Mr. Schacht, desirous of seeing his aged father, crossed the Atlantic, and spent twenty-six weeks among the friends of his boyhood and youth. This visit was the means of bringing about 100 of his German fellow-citizens to America, who settled mostly in Nebraska. Mr. Schacht has never regretted the day that he set foot upon American soil, and Otoe County has reason to congratulate herself that he located within her borders.

Mr. Schacht was married in his native Province, June 4, 1878, to Miss Louisa Wellmann, who was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, July 24, 1856. Mrs. Schacht is the daughter of Henry and Louisa (Heitmma) Wellmann, who were natives also of Hanover, and the father a farmer in good circumstances. He, however, was cut down



David Beasley

Elizabeth M. Beasley

in his prime, dying in 1860, when but forty years of age. The mother survived her husband a period of twenty-six years, remaining a widow, and died in the spring of 1886, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were the parents of four children—Caroline, Louisa, Carl and August. The latter died when about twenty years old. The others all survive. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Schacht served in the German army during the wars against the first Napoleon, and spent his last days upon his native soil.

To our subject and his wife there have been born five children, one of whom, a son, Henry, died when two years old. The survivors, all daughters, Minnie, Louisa, Matilda and Emma, are at home with their parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. S. are members in good standing of the Evangelical Church, of Osage, in the organization of which our subject assisted, as also in the erection of the church building. He has continuously been one of its chief pillars, officiating as a member of the Board of Trustees and as Treasurer. Politically, he votes the straight Republican ticket. He has officiated in his district as School Moderator for the last three years, and Road Supervisor for two years.

Mr. Schacht keeps from 150 to 300 head of cattle on his land, and ships by the carload. He usually keeps a herd of 500 head of swine, shipping about 200 yearly. Of horses and mules he has usually about twenty-five head. These animals are all sleek and well-fed, and form one of the attractive features of the farm. The passing traveler gazes long at this homestead with its evidences of thrift and prosperity, and carries away with him a picture of it in his mind for many a day afterward.

DAVID BEASLEY. Otoe County has within its borders many who are engaged in the raising of stock, and by reason of their success therein have every right to be justly proud of their success. Among these may be mentioned the subject of this writing, whose stock farm is upon section 1 of Belmont Precinct, where he gives almost his entire attention to the raising of Short-horn cattle and full-blooded Poland-China hogs, with magnificent results.

Our subject was born in Greenfield, Ohio, on the 29th of December, 1817, to Isaac and Susana Beasley, natives of Kentucky. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812, and served with distinction; subsequently he became one of the first pioneers of Ohio. In 1819, with his family, he removed to Rush County, Ind., settling there in the midst of the primeval forest, surrounded by the original denizens and Indians. In 1827 the family emigrated to Illinois, but the following year returned to Indiana, making their home in Montgomery County. In June of that year the death of the father occurred.

The surroundings of our subject in the days of his boyhood and youth were of somewhat primitive order, but quite in keeping with the pioneer life of that period. The school-house where his early education was obtained was rough, and as we would suppose, inadequate to meet the case. It was just such a log cabin as was usually found at that time, although now it has become an unknown quantity, or almost so.

The settlement of Mr. Beasley upon his present property dates from August of the year 1864. He is the owner of 179 acres of splendid land, where, however, as mentioned above, his chief attention is given to his stock, although some general farming also receives attention. His Short-horns are all of high grade, and many of them almost pure, and his herd numbers twenty-five. His hogs are, perhaps, the best in the country, some of them weighing as much as 500 pounds, and he could easily obtain the premium if it were his desire to enter them in an exhibition of stock.

On the 22d of March, 1839, the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Elizabeth Johnson, who was the daughter of Thomas Johnson, and was born in Maryland, near Harper's Ferry. She received a careful home training and manifested a most beautiful disposition, and noble, womanly character, and after a happy married life of thirty-eight years, died on the 5th of February, 1877. There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beasley sixteen children; the sexes were equally represented in the family, but only the following members of it are

now living: Harriet, Richard J., Mary E., Amanda, Eliza Ann, Thomas, William, Susan C., Margaret and John (twins), Lewis and Mollie, all of whom are married. Mr. Beasley has thirty-eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Beasley united with the Methodist Church in their early years. Mrs. Beasley was a consistent and devout member of that communion for over forty years, and our subject still retains his connection therewith. He is ever ready to take up any responsibility that comes to him as a citizen, and usually deposits his ballot in favor of the Republican party. His first vote was for William H. Harrison.

Among the portraits of leading citizens given in this volume may be found that of Mr. Beasley, and as a fitting companion picture we present that of his estimable wife.

REV. JOSIAH RITTER, a minister of the Lutheran Church, and a farmer of ripe experience, is now living retired from active labor upon the homestead where he settled in April, 1868. This is pleasantly located on section 25, in McWilliams Precinct, and forms one of the most desirable homesteads along the southern line of Otoe County. This, when coming into the possession of our subject, was an uncultivated tract of land, but now presents a fine illustration of the results of resolute industry and good management. It comprises 260 acres, which have been brought to a careful state of cultivation, and upon which has been erected a set of substantial frame buildings, including a roomy and comfortable residence, a good-sized barn, and the other structures required for the proper care of stock and the storing of grain. Mr. Ritter raises good grades of cattle and other stock, and has always taken pride in the appearance of his homestead, keeping everything up in good shape and not permitting more than necessary waste or loss.

The early home of our subject was in the little Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, March 8, 1823. His father, Gottlieb Ritter, was a vineyard keeper and wine-maker, and spent his entire life in his native land, passing away at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. The mother, Mrs. Doretha Ritter, also of German birth and ancestry, died about 1875, prior to the death of her husband. Josiah, of our sketch, was the elder of their two sons, the other being Gottlieb, Jr., who still remains in his native country.

Our subject, in common with the children of Germany, received a thorough education and lived in his native town until 1849, being then a man of twenty-six years. In the fall of that year he crossed the Atlantic, and taking up his residence in Toledo, Ohio, engaged in the ministry. There, also, Nov. 12, 1851, he was married to Miss Christiana D. Swartz, also a native of Wurtemberg, and the playmate of his younger years. They were betrothed before Mr. Ritter came to America, and she passed from earth after having been the faithful and affectionate companion of her husband for a period of eleven years. In the meantime Mr. Ritter had taken up his residence in Bureau County, Ill., and he and his estimable wife had become the parents of three children, one of whom, a daughter, was taken away after the death of the mother. The two living are sons, Frederick and Adolph, the former a resident of California, and the latter married, and a farmer of Rock Creek Precinct.

Mr. Ritter, Oct. 24, 1862, contracted a second matrimonial alliance, at Caledonia, Racine Co., Wis., with Mrs. Charlotte (Strangman) Weinmann. This lady is a native of Westphalia, Germany, and born May 24, 1828. She came to the United States in the summer of 1845, and was married in Racine, Wis., in 1852, to Rev. John Weinmann, a minister of the Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Weinmann settled in Baltimore after their marriage. Mr. Weinmann in 1858 crossed the Atlantic to his native home in Germany, and when ready to return home took passage on the ill-fated ship "Austria," which when two days' journey from New York City was destroyed by fire, September 13, and all on board perished. Mrs. Weinmann, in her widowhood, was left with one daughter, Lydia, who is now the wife of August Engfer, and lives in Red Wing, Minn.

After their marriage our subject and his present wife took up their residence in Bureau County, Ill., and Mr. Ritter had charge of the German Lutheran

Church at Hollowayville for a period of seven years. Thence they removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he preached two and one-half years, and from there came to this county, in which he has labored as a minister for a period of fourteen years. In the meantime he purchased land, and has built up the homestead which he now occupies. He retired from the ministry in the year 1842. While a laborer in the Master's vineyard he did good service. He organized the society, and was also instrumental in building the church edifice of the Lutheran denomination in this precinct, and in his labors has been largely assisted by his worthy wife. They are the parents of three children—John, Mary and William. The daughter is the wife of John Frerich, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. The sons are at home with their parents.

Mr. Ritter has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and is an earnest supporter of Republican principles. During the Civil War he was greatly desirous of joining the ranks of those who were fighting for union and freedom, but with the care of a young wife and child his duties seemed to lie at home. He, however, paid for a substitute, and felt that he had done what he could in the good cause.

HON. JAMES C. BOYD, a gentleman of good education and formerly Superintendent of the county schools, came to this section in March, 1864, and was a resident of Nebraska City and vicinity until the spring of 1867. He then secured a tract of raw prairie land, eighty acres of which was broken, but aside from this there had been no attempt at improvement, no fences and no buildings. He has now a farm of 240 acres on section 2 in Delaware Precinct, all enclosed with good buildings, and one of the finest residences in his precinct. The latter is two stories in height, and the main part covers an area of 16x36 feet, while there is an "L" of one and one-half stories, 16x24 feet, and still an addition to the "L" 16x12, one story. A veranda runs the whole length of the main building in front and across the "L" on one side. The buildings adjacent are in keeping with the dwelling, and indicate in a marked manner the cultivated tastes of the proprietor.

Our subject was born twenty miles from the city of Knoxville, in Blount County, E. Tenn., June 10, 1837, and is the son of William Boyd, a native of the same place, and who is long since deceased. James C. was carefully reared, and completed his education at Maryville College in his native county. He subsequently taught school three or four terms in Tennessee, and then set his face toward the West. Mr. Boyd upon coming to this county was at once recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, warmly interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools. He was elected County Superintendent in the fall of 1879, and re-elected twice in succession, discharging the duties of this office for a period of six years in a most praiseworthy manner. He would have been reinstated again but desired to withdraw, and forbid his name being used again as a nominee. He has always been quite prominent in local affairs, and served as Assessor three or four terms.

On the 26th of July, 1860, Mr. Boyd was united in marriage with Miss Sibby T. McCulloch, and of this union there were born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Laura L., Emily E., John W., Charles F., Edward C., Mary E. and Albert L. Laura is the wife of Malcom Brown, of Papillion, this State; Emily married Herbert G. Stillwell, and they live near Palmyra, being the parents of one child, a daughter, Macy B.; John married Miss Julia Martin, and lives in Berlin Precinct.

Besides the homestead Mr. Boyd owns 160 acres of good land on section 10 in Delaware Precinct. He is a man highly esteemed by his neighbors, and his wife, a most estimable lady, is a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church.

HON. DAVID BROWN occupies a prominent place among the pioneers of Nebraska, who have been so largely instrumental in the upbuilding of the State, have taken an active part in the administration of its public affairs, and are now closely identified with its most impor-

tant business interests. Mr. Brown is a resident of Nebraska City, where he is engaged in the business of loaning money and in selling real estate. He is also greatly interested in agriculture, and has owned and developed three different farms in this county. He now has a ranch of 3,000 acres in Frontier County, Neb., which is well stocked with fine graded cattle. He was born Nov. 8, 1837, in Penn's Manor, Bucks Co., Pa. His grandfather, also named David, was a native of the same county, where he was prosperously engaged as a farmer, and where he spent his entire life. He was a man of keen foresight, and of more than ordinary intelligence, and his sound judgment made him invaluable in the councils of his fellow-citizens. He was for twenty years Secretary of the Bucks County Insurance Society. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and reared his children in that faith. Politically, he was a Whig until the formation of the Republican party, when he became one of its stanchest supporters. In 1860 this good man passed to his reward, and Bucks County was called upon to mourn the loss of one of her most loyal sons. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of David Brown, was Sarah Williams, and she was a native of Abingdon, Pa.

John Brown, the father of our subject, was a native of the same town as himself. He was reared in his native county, and following in the footsteps of his forefathers, adopted the calling of a farmer. But his premature death in 1839, at the age of thirty-two, cut short a useful career and deprived the community of one of its most valued members. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of David, was Mary Eastburn. She was born in Solebury Township, Bucks Co., Pa., and was a daughter of Aaron and Mercy (Bye) Eastburn, natives of the same county, and members of the Society of Friends. Mrs. Brown resided in Bucks County until a few months before her death, when she went to Philadelphia, and died at the home of her daughter there in 1866. She was the mother of four children: Harriet, the wife of Samuel B. Fox, of Philadelphia; Mercy E.; David; and John W., who is engaged in a wholesale grocery business in Philadelphia.

David Brown, of this biographical sketch, was but two years old when his father died, and he went to live with his paternal grandfather, with whom he made his home until he had grown to maturity. He was carefully reared and received the benefit of a fine education, attending first the district school, and he was then sent to a Quaker academy at Fallsington, Bucks County, and later to the Westtown Academy, Chester Co., Pa. He was thus amply qualified for the profession of teacher, which he adopted for a time, commencing to teach in his native county at the age of sixteen, and continuing thus engaged for two years. After that he went to Philadelphia and entered a law and conveyancing office as a student. He was thus employed for three years, earning his way by doing clerical work, looking up bills and drawing papers, and in the evenings he was an assistant at a public library. In April, 1859, Mr. Brown left his native State to try life in the great and growing West, coming by rail to Pittsburgh, and thence down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Nebraska City. He spent a few days here looking about the country and making the acquaintance of the leading citizens, to whom he had brought letters of introduction; he then returned to St. Joseph, whence he went to Kansas City. He soon concluded to come back to this part of the country, taking a boat to St. Joseph, and thence he came on a stage to Nebraska City. The roads were bad at that time, rendering the journey a tedious one, the passengers often having to walk and carry a rail to pry the stage out of the mud. This was the time of the great exodus to and from Pike's Peak, and Mr. Brown finding many intelligent men here out of work and out of funds, and all branches of business, especially the professions, more than full, instead of opening an office here as he had intended, started out in search of a suitable tract of Government land, thinking to turn his attention to agriculture. While traveling through the country on foot he had an opportunity to teach in Nemaha County, at a salary of $10 per month and board. He accepted the position, and taught three months. He then went to Missouri and located in Mound City, Holt County, where he was variously engaged as a teacher, lawyer and farmer. He rented land, bought stock, and was quite prosperously engaged

in general farming until after the breaking out of war. In February, 1862, he again came to Nebraska City, bringing his stock along with him. He rented land in Four Mile Precinct, and engaged in farming and dealing in stock. During that and the following summer he made several trips to Missouri to buy cattle, and brought them to Nebraska. In the winter of 1862–63 he taught school in Four Mile Precinct. In the fall of 1863 he engaged in freighting across the plains, which in those days before railroads were introduced west of the Missouri was a very profitable business, as all transportation to the different military posts and mining camps in the mountains was done with teams. Mr. Brown put three teams on the road and made one trip to Denver in the fall of 1863. The following winter he returned to his native State and spent the season in Philadelphia. In the spring he came back to Nebraska City, fitted up six teams, and loaded them with freight for Salt Lake City, which he delivered at the rate of eighteen cents a pound. On subsequent trips he received twenty-five cents per pound. At that time there was a great exodus from the vicinity of Salt Lake to Idaho, and he sold all his wagons at a high price, and returned home with his mules. Indians were plentiful and hostile at that time, as they continued to be the most of the time, until he discontinued the freighting business in 1867. During 1864, however, they were the most troublesome, but Mr. Brown fortunately escaped attack that year, and it was not until the year 1867 that he had an encounter with the savages, which took place near Cheyenne Pass, but none of the whites were killed, and only one redskin bit the dust. During the year 1868 Mr. Brown was engaged almost exclusively in farming, and in 1869 he went East and passed most of the winter. On his return he established himself in the insurance business, continuing his interest in that until 1885, since which time he has engaged in loaning money and in selling real estate, besides managing his large farming interests. Mr. Brown was married, in 1871, to Miss Jennie L. Lombard, a daughter of Franklin Lombard, a native of Massachusetts. Of this marriage one son has been born, Herbert W. Mr. Brown is a man of sound education and of unusual ability and character, and he has always since the early days of his settlement here played an important part in the conduct of public affairs. His record as a Representative to the State Legislature, to which office he was elected in 1870, was such as to confer honor on himself and his constituency. In 1871 he was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City, and for five years served his fellow-citizens in that capacity to the general satisfaction of all. He is at present a member of the City Council, and looks well to the interests of the community. He takes an intelligent view of the political situation of the day, and is a pronounced Republican.

LATHROP ELLIS, a well-known and honored resident of Four Mile Precinct, has for more than twenty years been identified with its highest interests. He is prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits, and from the wild prairie, on which he settled when first coming here, he has developed a fine farm, which, in point of cultivation, comfortable buildings and neat surroundings, compares favorably with the best in this locality.

Mr. Ellis was born in Henrietta, Monroe Co., N. Y., April 30, 1818, and is a descendant of an old Connecticut family. His father, William Ellis, was born in that New England State, in the town of Norwich, and his father, Deacon William Ellis, was likewise a native of that State. He was a son of that famous New England divine, the Rev. John Ellis, a chaplain in the Continental Army during the Revolution. After the war he spent his last years in Connecticut, dying in 1805, at a ripe old age. Deacon Ellis, the grandfather of our subject, went into the army with his father to take care of his horse, and at eighteen years of age enlisted and served in the ranks six months, and for that during the last years of his life was a pensioner. He taught school in Connecticut for many years, but finally removed from there to New York about 1817, and located in Henrietta, where he bought a tract of land, improved a farm, and March 1, 1837, closed a useful life.

The father of our subject enlisted in the War of 1812, and served a short time. He married in his

native State Miss Polly Lathrop, likewise of Connecticut birth and ancestry, and a daughter of Asher and Temperance Lathrop. Mr. Ellis went to New York in 1816 with his brother-in-law, Martin Edgerton, making the journey in a one-horse wagon, and he selected a tract of land in Henrietta. He then went back to Connecticut to settle up his affairs in that State, and in 1817 moved with his family, then consisting of his wife and one child, to his future home in New York State. He built a log house on his land, the one in which our subject was afterward born, and cleared quite a tract of land, on which he resided until 1821. In that year he went to Bergen, Genesee County, and bought another tract of land, which he improved into a fine farm, and he there rounded out a long life of eighty years, dying in November, 1872. His estimable wife also died in Bergen. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living.

Lathrop Ellis was the second child born to his parents, and he was reared in Bergen, receiving the preliminaries of his education in the LeRoy public schools. He was a thoughtful, studious lad, and greatly desired to improve his education, so with that end in view he worked hard to earn money to pay his tuition at the academy at LeRoy, N. Y. It was a classical school, under the supervision of Prof. F. W. Olmsted, where he pursued a thorough course of study, and he also attended the academy at Henrietta. With this sound mental equipment at the age of twenty-three he entered upon the profession of teacher, and for some years was thus engaged in the winter seasons. In 1844 he went to Wisconsin by way of the lakes, and landing at Milwaukee, then a village, penetrated into the interior in search of a suitable location where he could build up a home. He entered eighty acres of land in Fond du Lac County from the Government, built a house, and then went back to New York for his promised bride. He was there married, in 1845, to Miss Almeria Vienna Ward, who was born in Genesee County, N. Y., Oct, 20, 1821. She was a daughter of Abel C. Ward, who was born in Killingsworth, Conn., in 1796. His father, John Ward, was also a native of Connecticut, and it is supposed that his grandfather, Deacon Levi Ward, was likewise a native of that New England State. He was a Deacon in the Congregational Church, and he removed to New York in 1808, and settled in Genesee County. He bought a tract of land of the Holland Purchase Company, and spent the remainder of his life in that county, dying at the venerable age of ninety-six. Mrs. Ellis' grandfather was reared and married in Connecticut, and moved to New York with his family in 1808, the removal being made with ox-teams through the wilderness to the town of Bergen, where he bought a tract of timber land. He cleared a farm, on which he spent his last years. The maiden name of his wife was Lucinda Meigs. The father of Mrs. Ellis was twelve years old when his father moved to New York. After attaining manhood he bought a tract of land in Bergen, on which he settled at the time of his marriage. For several years he officiated as a minister of the Congregational Church. In 1851 he sold there, and moved to Fond du Lac County, Wis., where he bought a tract of land, and farmed there for many years. He subsequently removed to the city of Fond du Lac, and lived there in retirement until his death at the age of seventy-six.

On his return to Wisconsin Mr. Lathrop Ellis brought a wagon, and at Milwaukee purchased a pair of oxen, and drove with his wife and one child to Fond du Lac County, a distance of sixty-six miles. He soon became identified with the public affairs of the county, and was made Deputy Surveyor in 1846, and served in that capacity for a short time, was then elected County Surveyor, and served for many years, resigning the office in the year 1866. From about 1850 up to 1863 he devoted most of his time to civil engineering on the line now known as the Chicago & Northwestern. He surveyed from Watertown to Lake Superior. A part of the time he had been quite extensively engaged in the lumber business, and when the first railway was projected in Wisconsin he was employed on the survey, and worked at that and on other railways in the State more or less for many years. In 1866 he came to Otoe County, and bought a tract of wild land now included in his present farm. By the quiet force of steady work, seconded by good management, he has improved a good farm, whose well-tilled acres yield him an ample income.

Six children have been born to our subject and

his wife, of whom the following is the record: Emma Jane married the Rev. George M. Darley: Myron L., the only son, is connected with the Quartermaster's department in the regular army as wagonmaster in Arizona; M. Adell married James H. McLellan; Celia F. married Amsdell Sheldon; Dora married Dr. William A. Wyman; Vina M. is now a teacher in Cass County. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis gave their children good educations, and the daughters have all taught school. Mrs. Ellis, the mother of the children above mentioned, died at their home in Fond du Lac, Wis., Sept. 10, 1861, and Mr. Ellis married his present wife, L. Marilla Ward, sister of his first wife, their wedding taking place in Fond du Lac, April 20, 1864.

Mr. Ellis is a man of deep, earnest nature, and his liberal education gives him a broad outlook on life. He is progressive and practical in his views, and in his social relations he is genial, hospitable and helpful. In his wedded life he has been very happy, as in his wife he finds a companion and friend, who can enter into his thoughts, and sympathize with him in his aims, and her cheerful, amiable disposition endears her to those about her. She is indeed a true "homemaker."

Mr. Ellis is a pronounced Republican in his political views, becoming a member of that party on its formation. In his early days he was a Whig, and cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. W. H. Harrison, and now, forty-eight years later, has voted for the illustrious grandson of the old hero of Tippecanoe, the Gen. Harrison of to-day, now President-elect.

B. L. WOOD, editor of the *Nebraska Press*, was born in Iowa City, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1856. He went to Cincinnati, Ohio, when fifteen years old, to make his own way, and was connected with the Canal Elevator Company until 1878, during the latter part of the time doing some newspaper work, for which he had always shown a predeliction. A year was spent in Colorado in various pursuits, and two years at the State University of Iowa, from the law department of which he was graduated in 1881. During these two years he was connected with the Iowa City *Republican* and other papers, and contributed to Eastern periodicals. He returned to Cincinnati from another Western trip in July, 1882, and for a year did more or less work on the *Commercial-Gazette* and the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, and at this time and later wrote poems and sketches for the *Week* (Cincinnati), the *Current* (Chicago), the *Continent* (Philadelphia), the *Critic* (New York), the *Comet* (Chicago), and other literary weeklies and minor magazines.

Mr. Wood went to Leadville, Col., in April, 1883, assuming the city editorship of the *Chronicle*, was then city editor of the *Democrat*, and for a time managing editor of both papers. In June, 1885, he bought the editorial interest in the *Nebraska Daily Press*, which has prospered remarkably under his management, and is to-day one of the foremost papers of the great State of Nebraska.

Mr. Wood was married, Sept. 3, 1885, to Miss Jennie Hanford, of Vinton, Iowa.

HENRY OLIVER McCART, of Palmyra Precinct, is operating a small farm in a very thorough and skillful manner, making a specialty of market gardening. His land lies on section 4, and embraces forty acres, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. He completed, in the year 1888, a neat and substantial dwelling, and has around him all the conveniences and comforts of modern life. He raises horses, cattle and swine, also operates a boring and drilling machine, and his various interests afford him a handsome income.

The offspring of most excellent ancestry, our subject is the son of Henry and Massy (Wilkins) McCart, who were born and reared in Morgan County, Tenn., where also they were married. The paternal grandfather, Robert McCart, was a native of Virginia, whence he removed to Tennessee early in life, being numbered among its pioneer settlers. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, under the command of Gen. Jackson, and participated in the battle of New Orleans. The great-grandfather was a scion of one of the best Scotch-Irish families

in the North of Ireland, while on the Wilkins side of the house our subject traces a portion of his ancestry to England.

Grandfather Wilkins was of New England birth, but in early manhood went to Tennessee, and from there later to Marion County, Ill. He was a farmer by occupation, and became a large land-owner in the Prairie State, where he spent his last years. The parents of our subject also became residents of Marion County, Ill., where the father was greatly prospered in his farming operations, but finally, about 1855, with his wife went back to Tennessee, where they died within a few days of each other, when only middle aged, being the victims of an epidemic.

The parental household included two sons and four daughters, namely: Mary A., Carrie N. C., Hannah E., Henry Oliver (our subject), Margaret and Louisa J. One besides our subject, Louisa, is living, and a resident of Kentucky. Henry O. was born in Marion County, Ill., Dec. 25, 1838, and lived there until a lad of eleven years, when he accompanied his parents to Tennessee. He and an elder brother remained on the farm there one year, then Henry, repairing to Nashville, engaged as a boat hand on the Cumberland River a few months, then returned to the farm. His brother subsequently moved to Illinois, but Henry remained in Tennessee until the outbreak of the Rebellion. Their property, comprising a farm of 100 acres, lay ten miles south of Jamestown.

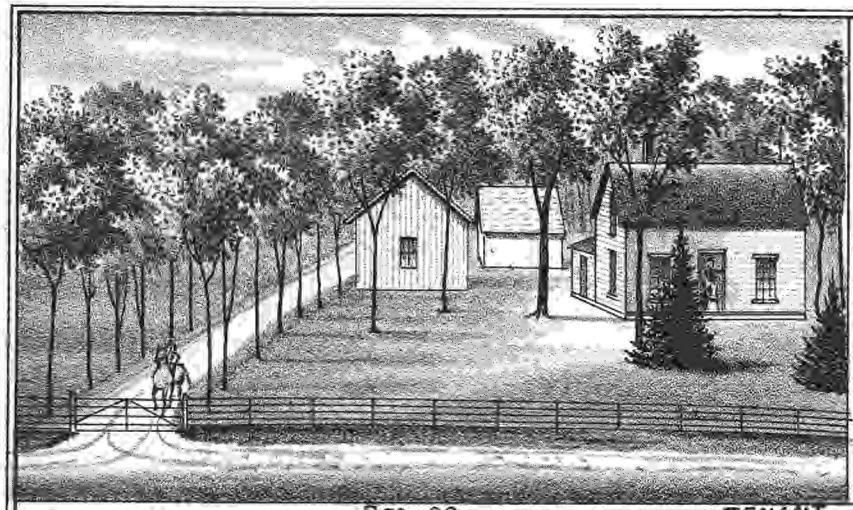
Notwithstanding our subject was the child of Southern parents, he had been imbued with anti-slavery and Union sentiments, and upon the approach of the great conflict went into Kentucky and enlisted as a Union soldier in Company H, 12th Kentucky Infantry, being mustered in Oct. 3, 1861, for the three-years service. Although only twenty-three years of age, he was thoughtful beyond his years, and was solemnly convinced of the justice of the Union cause and the wickedness of human slavery. He had in Tennessee seen the unhappy victims of the peculiar institution tied up and whipped cruelly, and witnessed other scenes which could not fail to arouse the sympathies of a human being. He first saw the smoke of battle at Camp Hoskins, and in February, 1862, fought at Mills Spring, afterward at Shiloh, and was subsequently in many of the important battles of the war. During all the trials and hardships incident to army life he was sustained and encouraged by the consciousness of being in the path of duty. In going from the Ohio River to North Carolina with his regiment he, with his comrades, swam and forded rivers, and were at one time on the forced march of forty-two days, during which they saw little rest, and were indifferently supplied with food.

At Corinth Mr. McCart, while serving on picket duty, was attacked with measles on account of the exposure incident to his position, suffering greatly both at that time and on account of the after effects, from which he has never recovered. He was obliged to accept his honorable discharge on account of disability, and return to his old home in Tennessee. Although able no more to engage in active fighting he lost no opportunity to assist the Union cause and encourage men to enter the ranks, frequently piloting them from Eastern Tennessee across the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky for this purpose. On one of these journeys he was captured by guerrillas, but succeeded in making his escape. In February, 1863, Mr. McCart, having somewhat recovered his health, again entered the service, and was happy in being able to continue until the close of the war.

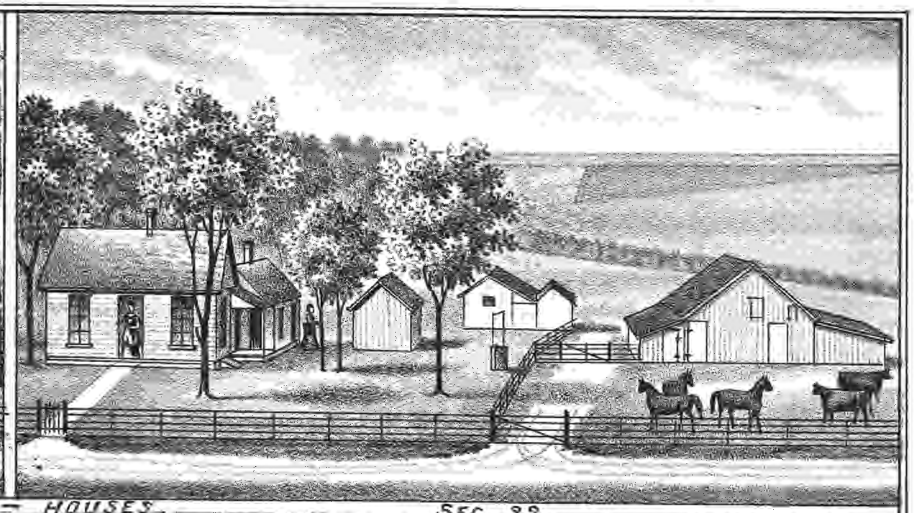
Mr. McCart, before his re-enlistment, was married, April 12, 1863, in Scott County, Tenn., to Miss Minerva Blevins, who was born in Wayne County, Ky., June 5, 1839. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Amy (Chittwood) Blevins, who were natives of Tennessee, and at an early day removed to Missouri, where they remained until 1866. The mother had died in 1841, leaving six children. The father is still living, being now a resident of Pulaski County, Ky., and having attained the advanced age of seventy-nine years. He contracted a second marriage, and became the father of six more children. Six of his sons and daughters are living, and residents of the United States and Scotland.

After peace had been declared Mr. McCart returned on a visit to his old home in Tennessee, and for the purpose also of straightening up matters connected with his father's estate. A few weeks later he decided to make his home in Lawrence

Yours truly
F. J. Castleman

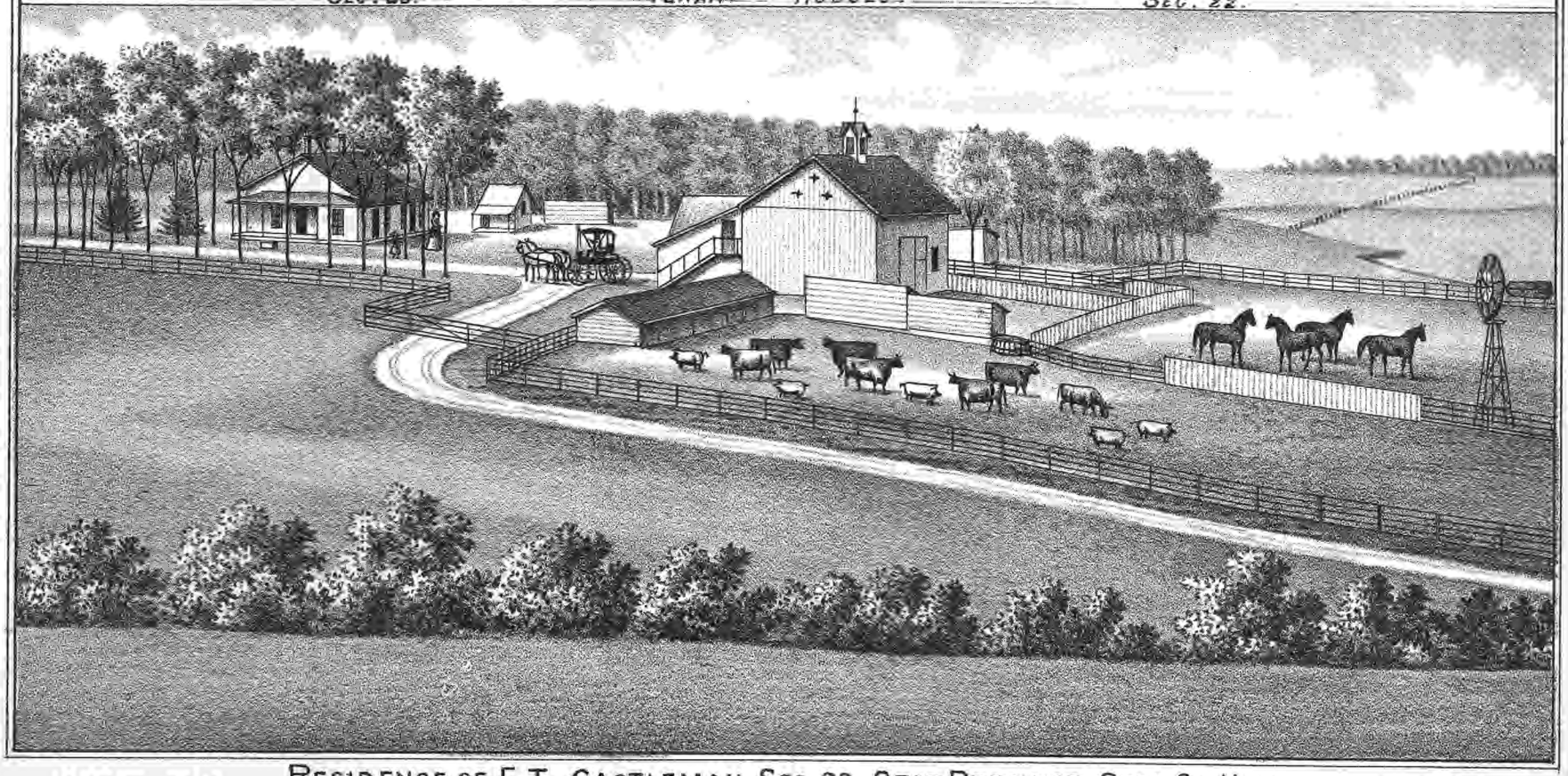


SEC. 29.



SEC. 22.

TENANT — HOUSES.



RESIDENCE OF F. T. CASTLEMAN, SEC. 22. OTOE PRECINCT OTOE CO. NEB.

County, Ill., so he returned there and established a market garden in the vicinity of Lawrenceville. In May, 1867, he removed across the Mississippi into the young State of Nebraska. In this journey he was accompanied by his wife and one child. He homesteaded the forty acres which he now owns and occupies before the village of Palmyra was laid out, and first engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Lincoln, being thus employed during the winter of 1869-70 with a team of horses. On account of failing health he was obliged to abandon freighting for something that would allow him more rest and quiet under his own roof. He then purchased the necessary machinery for drilling wells, and has sunk hundreds of these within the confines of Otoe County. Ten years ago, however, he began turning his attention to market gardening, in which he has met with flattering success. His stock embraces seven head of horses and fifty head of swine.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born ten children, nine of whom are natives of this county. Mercy, the eldest, died in infancy, and Sheridan died when eleven years old; James died at the age of twenty months. The survivors are: Anna J., Daniel, Henry O., Jr., Hannah, Solomon, Winfield and Frank.

FRANKLIN T. CASTLEMAN, the cattle king of Nebraska, has passed through a most unusual and exciting experience, and his life is filled with incidents of deepest interest, which deserve rather a 500-page volume than a brief sketch, such as is here absolutely unavoidable. Regretting that this should be so, it must suffice to present only the most prominent points. To add to the interest of the sketch we give a portrait of the distinguished subject on the opposite page.

Our subject is the son of Henry H. and Mary (Frymire) Castleman, and was born on the 20th of May, 1833, in the county of Dundas, Canada. He was reared upon the farm of his parents, and also learned blacksmithing with his brother, who was then established in Tioga County, N. Y., but now lives in Broome County, N. Y., with whom he staid two years. The ideas of Western life fired his youthful ambition, and he started for the Far West, finally making his way to Kansas. Journeying by railroad to St. Louis, he went up the Missouri River to Leavenworth, and after a time continued his journey to Sumner, which is about four miles below Atchison, which was just then being laid out on the Missouri River. Here he made the acquaintance of the celebrated Albert D. Richardson, a traveler and writer of prominence. He also met Horace Greeley when he made his memorable trip to the mountains. In Colorado Mr. Castleman engaged in mining and prospecting. He discovered the Quartz Mill Lodi Mine in Leavenworth Gulch, which for a time was very rich, and took from it $4,000 worth of gold in thirty days. It proved, however, to be but of short duration, although valuable while it lasted. In 1865 he went to Southern Colorado and New Mexico on an exploring expedition under Gov. Gilpin, of Colorado Territory, and was employed in prospecting for him. Continuing about four months thus engaged, he returned to Denver, and was engaged as foreman of the Baker Silver Mining Company, remaining with it for about two and a half years. About that time he was taken very sick with rheumatism, and had to leave the mines, after which he was engaged by a contractor of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. C. working four teams of his own. He remained in that employ until after the road was completed, and in the presence of a large concourse the mahogany tie was placed in position, and with a heavy silver mallet the completing spike, which was of gold, was driven home. His connections with the railroad being over, he went to Butler County, Kan., and tried farming there, but was taken with the ague, and after a number of years abandoned it.

In 1873 our subject sold his farm and engaged in the cattle business, in partnership with J. J. Cox, and purchasing 700 head of cattle at Wichita, Kan., they took them to Colorado, and prospered beyond the most sanguine expectations. The partnership was dissolved in 1877, and our subject realized as his share of the profits about $2,000.

Taking this capital he went to New Mexico, where he bought 185 head of cattle, and then drove them back to Colorado. He continued in his business alone until 1885, and then sold out all his interest in the business to a great advantage.

In 1865 Franklin T. Castleman enlisted in Company C, of the Colorado Militia, under Col. Moonlight, to escort the mail up and down the Platte River, and was engaged for 100 days. At the end of that time Gen. Connor, from Salt Lake, Utah, assumed command, and they were discharged. About the time of the close of the war he wrote home that he was about to form an independent company and assume command of the same, and then carry the war into the enemy's country. He intended it simply for a joke, but his brother, supposing him in earnest, wrote him a letter severely upbraiding him, and requesting him if determined to enter upon such a course to write them one more letter, which would be a solemn farewell. As he wrote the "one more" letter they supposed he had done as he had proposed. Years rolled on and he was believed by all his friends to be dead. Pat Murphy, an old acquaintance of the family in Canada, went out to the plains of Colorado, and to his greatest surprise discovered in the cattle king of whom he often heard, and whom he supposed to be dead, F. T. Castleman, and subsequently, after Murphy went back to Canada and reported the facts, the brother, J. E. Casselman, who was then a citizen of Otoe County, came to Colorado to visit his brother.

Our subject is one of the rich men and most valued citizens of the county, and has hitherto enjoyed his life in single blessedness. His name is slightly changed since his going to Colorado, and occurred owing to the mistake in drawing up of certain legal papers, by which it was written Castleman instead of Casselman. To this probably is due the non-recognition of the name by his brother. After he sold out in Colorado he made a visit to his brother here, and subsequently bought the farm where he now lives, which comprises 480 acres, and is one of the most highly improved and best fenced farms in Otoe Precinct. He carries on his farm according to the most advanced methods. His barns and out-buildings will compare favorably with the best in the county. His whole place bears the impress of thrift, care and neatness in its management. A view of his splendid place is given as a fitting accompaniment to this brief outline history of the life of its owner.

CHRISTIAN BLUM. Among the prosperous German farmers of Russell Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies a position in the front ranks. He came to this county from Mercer County, Ill., in the spring of 1876, purchasing 143 acres of land on section 30. Here he has labored industriously and with fine results, having now a good set of farm buildings, an orchard of seventy-five trees with the smaller fruits, his fields enclosed with hedge and wire fencing, a fair assortment of live stock, and all the other requirements of the progressive agriculturist. There are displayed on every hand the evidences of the genuine German prudence and thrift which have descended to him from one of the best nationalities on the face of the globe.

The parents of our subject, George and Susanna (Hummel) Blum, were born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, where the father pursued his trade of wagon-maker, and carried on farming until 1857. Then, not being satisfied with the headway he was making upon his native soil, he resolved to emigrate to America. Soon after setting foot upon the Western Continent he made his way to Mercer County, Ill., where he purchased forty acres of land, and, with his excellent wife, spent the remainder of his life. The father died in the spring of 1867, at the age of seventy-three years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, her death taking place in 1865 from cholera, when she was sixty-eight years old. The family consisted of three children of their own: John; George, who died young; and Christian, our subject; and Mary, an adopted daughter. The eldest son is farming in Washington County, Iowa. During the late war he joined a regiment of artillery from Illinois, and was mustered in at Chicago. This shortly afterward proceeded to the South, where he participated in many of the important battles of the war,

including that at Pittsburg Landing, and the siege of Vicksburg. He served three years and escaped unharmed. The adopted daughter, Mary, is married, and a resident of Mercer County, Ill.

Our subject was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, May 2, 1836, and lived there with his parents until reaching his majority, receiving that thorough education commonly accorded the youth of the German Empire. He accompanied his father to America, they making the voyage across the Atlantic on a sailing-vessel, being thirty-three days on the ocean. He lived five years with his father in Mercer County, Ill., and in the fall of 1862 proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in Company C, 102d Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Preemption, Ill., went south into Kentucky, and was assigned to the Army of the Mississippi, under the command of Gen. Sherman. He was in some of the most important battles of the campaign, namely: Perryville, Stone River, Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and marched with the old hero from Atlanta to the sea. He was all through that memorable campaign, and at the close of the war went up through the Carolinas and was present in the grand review at Washington. Thence the regiment returned to Chicago, where our subject was mustered out and received his honorable discharge. He had now fully gained his title to American citizenship, and returning to the Prairie State resumed farming in Mercer County.

The marriage of Christian Blum and Miss Minnie Humel took place in Mercer County, Ill., July 26, 1865, and they began to live together on the little farm of forty acres purchased by our subject, and there continued to live for a period of ten years. In the spring of 1875 Mr. Blum concluded to cross the Mississippi, and moved to Page County, Iowa, living there also ten years. In the spring of 1885 he came to Nebraska and located on the farm which he now owns and occupies. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted county, which recognizes in him one of its most valued and useful citizens.

Mrs. Blum is the daughter of John and Barbara (Boeck) Humel, who were also natives of Wurtemberg, and emigrated to the United States in the spring of 1864, settling in Mercer County, Ill. The father was a weaver by trade, but upon coming to America engaged in common labor. He departed this life in the spring of 1886. The mother is still living, making her home with one of her sons in Mercer County, Ill. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: John, Emanuel, Lewis; Caroline, who died when thirty-three years old; Louisa and Minnie. Mrs. Blum, the youngest of the household circle, was a native of the same Province as her parents and her husband, and was born July 30, 1836. She came with her father's family to America and lived at home until her marriage. Her union with our subject has resulted in the birth of six children, the eldest of whom, a son, John, died when eleven years old. The survivors—Christian, Minnie, Mary, Emma and Sophia—are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Blum were reared in the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, being members of the church at Hopewell. Mr. Blum, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket. He has no desire for official honors, preferring to relegate the responsibilities of office to somebody who would not make as good a farmer.

HENRY C. HANDY is one of the prominent, enterprising and successful business men of the county, and the owner of an extensive farm in North Branch, his home being on section 25, where he settled in the year 1882. His property includes 700 acres, the home farm comprising 280 acres, all well improved and utilized for the purposes of stock raising and feeding, with which business he has been connected for about three years, and in that time has conducted business extensively in twenty-eight different States, and in the Territories.

Our subject was born in Colerain, Mass., on the 6th of October, 1841, to Charles and Lavina (Ross) Handy. The grandfather of our subject, Charles Handy, was born in Scotland, where he was brought up and came to man's estate. There also he was married, and made his first home. In an early day

he came to the United States with a colony which peopled Colerain. His wife was born in the North of Ireland.

The father of our subject was a stockman in the Broughton Market for over forty-five years, and was in partnership with H. C. Leland for twenty-two years. He continued in the business until he was seventy years of age, and died in the year 1867, about nine years after he had retired. His wife, who departed this life in the year 1862, also attained the same age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of ten children, of whom five are now living.

The subject of our sketch was the youngest child born to his parents. When seventeen years of age he went to New York City, where his brother Charles was engaged in a wholesale bakery business. There he remained for about six years. During the last two years he attended the Shelbourne Falls (Mass.) Business College, where he received a thorough business education. At the age of twenty-three he sold out his bakery business, and for one year served as mail agent on the Cunard Line between New York and Liverpool. He then came West, and at Chicago entered the house of Austin, Leiter & Palmer as dry-goods salesman. He remained in the house one year, and for the six subsequent years was on the road as their representative, covering in that time most of the Western States. At one time he made heavy sales in five different States, and carried a large jobbing trade.

In 1871 our subject engaged in the wholesale provision, grain and seed trade, but after a few months of successful business lost all by the Chicago fire, and was again ready to work for someone else, and entered the employ of the J. Russell Manufacturing Company, for which he traveled four years. He then engaged with C. H. Fargo, and served them until 1879, then again with Mr. Russell until 1885. He had purchased a farm of 280 acres in the year 1879, but had rented the same until the close of his engagement with Mr. Russell, although he had made this his headquarters from 1882. The marriage of Mr. Handy was celebrated in 1886, the lady of his choice being Ann P. Deane, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., in May, 1848. She is the daughter of J. Charles and Helen (Porter) Deane. Her father was for many years a Captain on one of the Missouri River boats, but upon leaving his vessel embarked as a grain merchant at St. Louis. There had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Handy three children, who have received the names Charles H., Benjamin D. and Kate A. Mr. Handy is a member of the Northwestern Traveling Men's Association, and has been an active member. He has the reputation of having sold throughout twenty-eight of the States and Territories of the Union, and of a success unusually marked. He has a large natural capacity for business, is pleasant and affable in manner, but thoughtful, shrewd and keen. His political sympathies are with the Republican party, of which he is an old and tried member.

HENRY SHRADER, one of the most stirring business men of Berlin, is interested in both farming and merchandising, and possesses decided business talent, having from a capital of $200 built up a fine property. This includes a half-interest in the store and a good farm of 160 acres with modern improvements, lying on sections 21, 9 and 12 in Berlin Precinct. Mr. Shrader has for his life partner a very intelligent and efficient lady, who nearly equals him in point of business talent, is well educated and intelligent, and contributes her full share in maintaining the reputation of the family.

In the sketch of Mr. Fred Shrader, the brother of our subject, which will be found on another page in this volume, will be noted the parental history. Henry, like the balance of his family, was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, first opening his eyes to the light July 3, 1850. He was a lad twelve years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, they sailing from Hamburg in October of 1862 on the ship "Columbus," the voyage occupying eight weeks and two days, and during which they encountered at one time a severe storm which continued three days, and which menaced the safety of the vessel and all on board. They finally, however, landed safely at New York City, and our subject accompanied his parents during the removals thereafter from Cleve-

land, Ohio, to Dixon, Ill., and from there to this State.

Young Shrader commenced working for himself at the age of thirteen years, at the munificent salary of $3 per month, except during the harvest season, when he was given $4. He was thus employed in farming for a period of seven years, in the meantime completing his education during the winter seasons in the common schools. After coming to Nebraska in December of 1869, he was occupied at farming one year near Nebraska City, and in June of the year following purchased 120 acres of school land on section 16. Upon this there has been no attempt at improvement, and our subject commenced from first principles to build up a homestead. He set out groves, erected buildings, cultivated the soil, and lived there until 1881, when he removed to his present farm, which he had purchased the previous year. This, like the other, was raw prairie, and he proceeded as before to develop a farm with like results. His buildings are on section 7, and consist of a tasteful modern residence, a good barn, and all the necessary out-buildings for the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. He sold his first purchase in the year 1887, and removed to Berlin, purchasing an interest in the stock of merchandise then owned by G. H. Hillman, and ventured upon a new department of business. His natural talent has carried him through this scheme successfully. The business is operated under the name and style of Schrader Bros. They carry a large stock of clothing, dry-goods and groceries, and have in connection with this a millinery establishment. They carry a stock of goods worth $10,000, and enjoy the patronage of the best people of this section.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine Walch, and they were married in Nebraska City, June 24, 1875. Mrs. Shrader is the daughter of Charles and Barbara (Neu) Walch, the father a native of Alsace, France, and the mother born in Byron, Germany. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Walch, also a native of Alsace, was a well-to-do farmer, and Grandfather Michael Neu, who pursued the same occupation, emigrated to America in 1839, and settled among the pioneers of Bureau County, Ill., where he spent the remainder of his days. The parents of Mrs. Shrader were married in Bureau County, Ill., where the father farmed until 1870, then came to this county. Here he purchased 160 acres in Berlin Precinct, upon which he made good improvements, and where his death took place in 1875, when he was but forty-two years old; the mother is still living at the old homestead.

Besides Mrs. Shrader there was born to her parents only one other child, a son, Charles, who is now with his mother. Mrs. Shrader was born in Bureau County, Ill., Aug. 22, 1857. She was subjected to careful parental training, acquired a good education in the common schools, and received from her excellent mother lessons in those housewifely duties upon which the happiness of a home so much depends. Of her union with our subject there are five children, namely: Annie, Rudolph, Minnie, Ulka and Carrie. Mr. Shrader, politically, is a stanch Republican, and was a charter member of the German Lutheran Church at Berlin, to the support of which he has given liberally, and officiated as Trustee and Secretary. He has represented Berlin Precinct in the County Board of Supervisors two years, and has been a member of the Election Board for a long period. The family occupies an enviable position in social circles, and among business men Mr. Shrader is given a place in the first ranks.

JOHN MICHAEL. The subject of this sketch bears the distinction of being the oldest pioneer of Palmyra Precinct. Great have been the changes which have occurred since he first set foot on the soil of Nebraska, and no man has watched with warmer interest its growth and development. Prominent among its business and agricultural interests, he has been no unimportant factor in bringing this commonwealth to its present proud condition. His labors have met with abundant reward, as he is now in the enjoyment of a beautiful home and a competence for his old age. In addition to this he has also fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, being very popular, especially

among the old settlers, who remember his efficiency in other days, and the young extend to him that tactic respect and reverence accorded to those who have seen so much of life and been so useful in the world.

Mr. Michael first arrived in Nebraska Territory on the 1st of April, 1857. He was then a man of twenty-nine years, having been born Feb. 15, 1828. His native place was Northampton County, Pa., and his parents were John and Mary (Warner) Michael, both natives of the Keystone State. John Michael, a farmer by occupation, was a hard-working, industrious man, and the sons were taught those habits of thrift and economy which formed the secret of their success in life. The household circle included eight children, namely: Joseph, who died young; Thomas; John, our subject; Charles, George, David, James and Hannah. Of these our subject and his sister Hannah are the only ones who survive; the latter is a resident of Pennsylvania. The father of our subject, in the fall of 1877, left his Pennsylvania home and with his family emigrated to Nebraska. Both parents spent their last years at the home of their son John, and died within a year of each other, the mother in 1882, when seventy-six years old, and the father in 1883, at the advanced age of ninety-one.

The Michael family were of substantial German ancestry, the first representatives in the United States crossing the Atlantic during the Colonial days. Our subject learned to speak the German tongue when but a boy, but on account of limited school facilities grew up with very little education, except what he picked up himself by reading and observation. He was taught at a very early age to make himself useful around the homestead, and when leaving it at the age of eighteen worked out at $5 per month. In 1852 he made up his mind to seek his fortunes west of the Mississippi. He first went to Iowa, settling in the vicinity of Dubuque, where he worked out by the month for a time and then engaged as teamster. With genuine German thrift and prudence he saved what he could of his earnings, and in the spring of 1857 came to Nebraska with a capital of $300. This, however, should have been three times that sum, as he lost $900 on his contract for hauling building material for the seminary at Cascade, Iowa. In coming from Iowa to Nebraska our subject made the journey with a team of horses and a wagon, in company with Thomas Hunter and Henry Salladay. Mr. Hunter pre-empted land in the vicinity of Nebraska City, but Mr. Salladay soon afterward went back to Ohio. Mr. Michael located his land along the western part of the county, on sections 7 and 8 in Palmyra Precinct. His nearest white neighbor, for six months, was twenty miles away, but Indians were plentiful, and having the good judgment to treat them kindly and in a discreet manner, they neither injured nor annoyed him.

Mr. Michael up to this time was a single man, as he believed in laying the solid foundations of a home before taking upon himself the responsibilities of a family. Having arrived at this point he was finally united in marriage with Miss Mary Spahule, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride, in Lancaster County, Neb., in September, 1877. Mrs. Michael was born in Germany, Jan. 22, 1859, and came to the United States with her parents when sixteen years old. Her parents, Joseph and Rosalia Spahule, were of pure German ancestry. The father spent his last years in Kansas and the mother in Nebraska. Their family included nine children, five of whom are living; they mostly reside in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael commenced their wedded life together in the log house which is still standing on the premises. This was replaced many years ago by a tasteful and commodious frame dwelling, and the barn and outhouses adjacent are ample evidence of the taste and means of the proprietor. Mr. Michael, besides carrying on the cultivation of his land successfully, has planted fruit and shade trees in abundance, including a large apple orchard in good bearing condition, and the choicest of all the smaller fruits. His land is well watered and very productive, and the source of a handsome income.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael there have been born four children, all sons—George, Charles, David and James. David died when seven years old, and James when three. The survivors make their home with their parents. Mr. Michael cast his first Presidential vote for Buchanan, and since that time has uniformly supported Democratic principles. He is

widely and favorably known throughout this part of the county, and has been foremost in the enterprises calculated for its development and progress. He was instrumental in forming the Old Settlers' Association, and is its Vice President. A work of this kind would by no means be complete without the name and a brief epitome of the character of one of the earliest settlers of Otoe County, among whom John Michael occupies no unimportant place.

SHERMAN A. HOSTETTER, one of the most prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct, would at once be singled out in a community on account of his fine stature, being six feet three inches in height and otherwise of commanding presence. He is also a gentleman of remarkable intelligence, and a citizen who enjoys in a more than ordinary degree the friendship and esteem of those around him. The doors of his hospitable and pleasant home are alike open to friends and strangers, who are welcomed with that courtesy which bespeaks the gentleman born and bred. His property consists of a fine farm of 200 acres on section 20 in Palmyra Precinct, of which he took possession in the fall of 1883. He has labored to excellent advantage, being surrounded now with all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries.

Sherman Hostetter, Sr., the father of our subject, a native of Preble County, Ohio, was a man of more than ordinary ability, cultured and intelligent, and one who exerted a wide influence during the years of his active life. He was warmly interested in the political questions of the day, a member first of the old Whig party and afterward a Republican. After taking up his residence in Indiana he was elected to the State Legislature, and was instrumental in the defeat of the Military Bill, which during the times of the Civil War involved most important issues. On account of his efficiency at this period, he became the warm personal friend of Gov. Morton, who extended to him that kindly confidence and esteem fully in keeping with his merits. Conscientious and upright in all his dealings with his fellowmen, he at all times steadily resisted the temptation to profit by that which had the shadow of dishonesty, as was finally illustrated, especially at one time, when Hon. G. S. Orth, Congressman-at-Large from Indiana, came to his house, and for three days sought to persuade him to invest in a quantity of whisky which could be purchased for a trifle, and by the disposal of which there was no question but that he would realize a fortune, as at that time was about to be passed the Internal Revenue Law, which would bring about this result. The father replied: "I have some boys growing up, and if I make my money in whisky, they will be justified in drinking it." No promises or threats could move him from the stand which he had taken, and the tempter departed, able to say at least once in his life that he had met a man governed by principle.

It is hardly necessary to say that the father of our subject was first a Whig, then a Republican, was also an Abolitionist, and by his political speeches in Indiana turned the tide of many an important question. For a period of fourteen years he labored actively in the cause of freedom and union, and rested from his earthly labors on the 7th of December, 1868, passing away at his home in Indiana amid the mourning of many friends and the regret of all who had known him. He had married in early manhood Miss Mary Ann Byrd, who was a native of Kentucky. They had removed from their native State in their youth, and they were married in Indiana. Of their union there were born ten children. Further mention of the family is made in the sketch of John B. Hostetter, which will be found elsewhere in this volume.

The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery County, Ind., Aug. 26, 1850, and spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm, receiving his education in the common schools. This was exceedingly limited and conducted about fifteen days during the winter season. Living in the midst of a timber tract, he early became proficient in the use of the ax, and grew up familiar with the various other pursuits of farm life.

Mr. Hostetter was married rather late in life, when a man of thirty-two years, in the fall of 1882, to Miss Sarah J., daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Smith) Pollet. He had before this continued under the parental roof as a member of his father's

household. Mrs. Hostetter was born near Oxford, in Preble County, Ohio, Aug. 5, 1853, and was the fourth in a family of ten children. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and are now deceased. They removed from the Buckeye State to Indiana when she was a little girl seven years of age, and she spent the time mostly under the parental roof until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter after their marriage remained upon the old homestead in Montgomery County, Ind., until it was sold in 1883. They then came to Nebraska, and settled upon the farm where they now live. Of their union there have been born three children—Bertha F., Clarence I. and an infant unnamed. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Hostetter is a stanch Republican, following in the footsteps of his honored father. In religious matters he is one of the most prominent members of the United Brethren Church, and Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., of Palmyra.

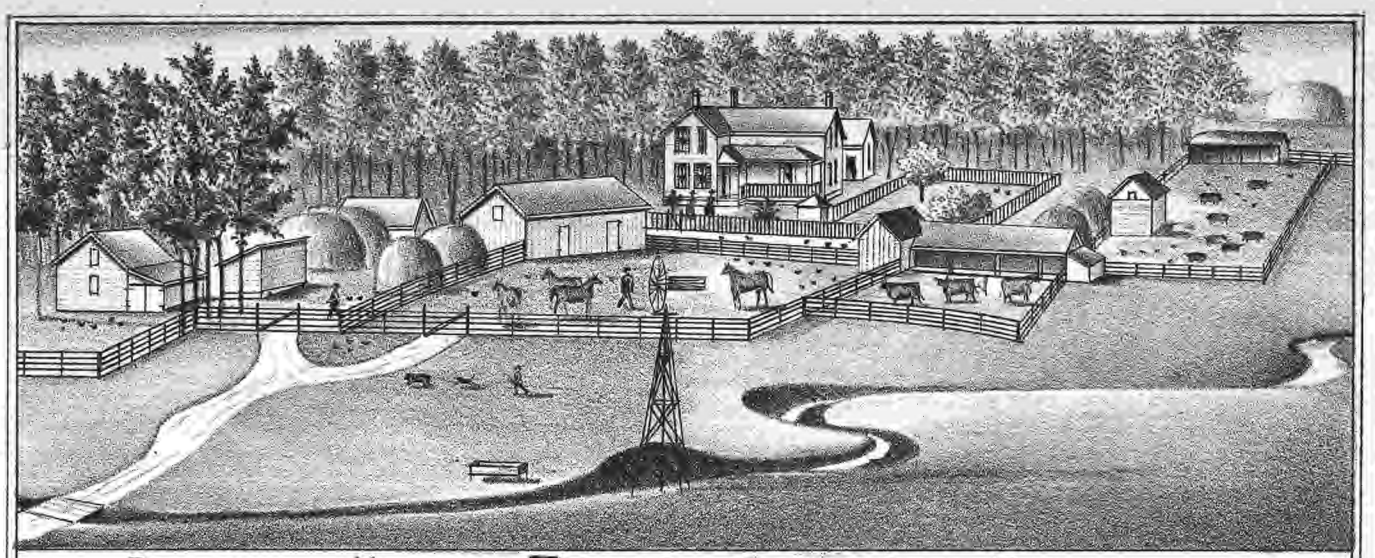
HERBERT G. STILLWELL, who, although the owner of but eighty acres, successfully farms 240 acres, situated in Russell Precinct, the home farm being upon section 30, is the son of George W. and Louisa (Burdell) Stillwell, and both the parents and son were born in Jefferson County, N. Y. The family is of German descent, but has been identified with American citizenship for several generations. The father of our subject was a farmer and worked eighty acres of land. In 1869 he went to San Francisco, and there kept a dairy and also ran a soda spring in Mappa Valley for three years, then removed to Richardson County, near Falls City, where he followed husbandry until 1874, then removed to this county, where he died in 1876, at the age of forty-nine years.

Mr. Stillwell, Sr., enlisted in a regiment of New York infantry in the year 1861, and served until the close of the war. He was present at Bull Run, Gettysburg, and a number of other of the larger and more important engagements. He was a Republican in his political relations, and a Baptist in his religious faith. After the death of her husband the mother of our subject bought 160 acres, and supervised the improvement and operation of the same and still owns the property. She is living near San Francisco, and is fifty-four years of age. Three children came to call her mother—Sarah E., Herbert G. and Daniel S.

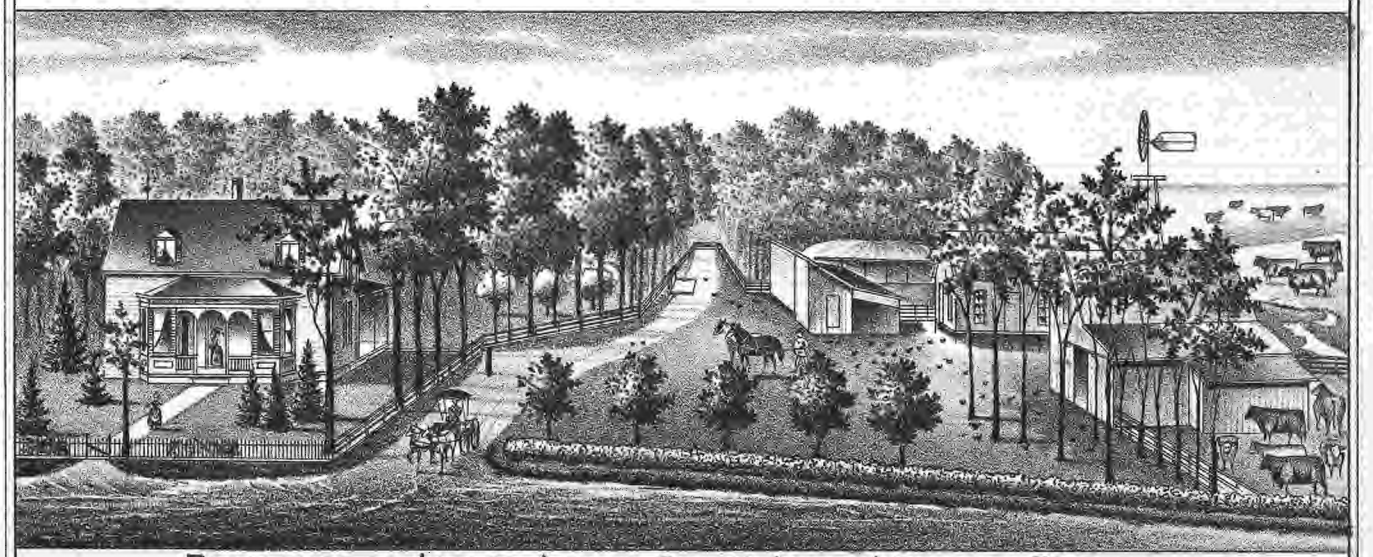
The subject of our sketch opened his eyes to the light on the 21st of April, 1862, and was about seven years of age when his parents removed to California. He attended the public schools in the city of San Francisco for a year or two, and then his parents removed to Nebraska, and he of course accompanied them. After his father's death he continued to make his home with his mother, and as far as was possible assist her in the maintenance of home, until he attained his majority. He then took charge of his mother's farm. In 1885 he spent six months in New York City in an express office, and in July, 1886, he crossed the continent to California, and there attended the Petaluma Commercial College, where he took a six-months course of instruction, and then returned to Russell Precinct, and took up his present place in the beginning of 1887. It was at the time partially improved, and he continued that good work and brought it to its present super-excellent condition. He has from the first given much attention to stock-raising, chiefly of hogs and graded horses.

Mr. Stillwell celebrated his marriage with Miss Emma E. Boyd at Dunbar, Neb., Sept. 8, 1887, His excellent wife is the daughter of J. C. and Isabell (McCulloch) Boyd. Her father was born in Blount County, Tenn., and followed agricultural pursuits; he removed with his wife and family to this State in 1863, and settled in Delaware Precinct, and engaged in farming, changing his residence to his present home in Dunbar in 1869. He is the owner of 400 acres, and superintends the working thereof himself. He has always been a member of the Republican party, and has several times been called upon to fill various offices. He was Assessor for three years and County Superintendent for four terms.

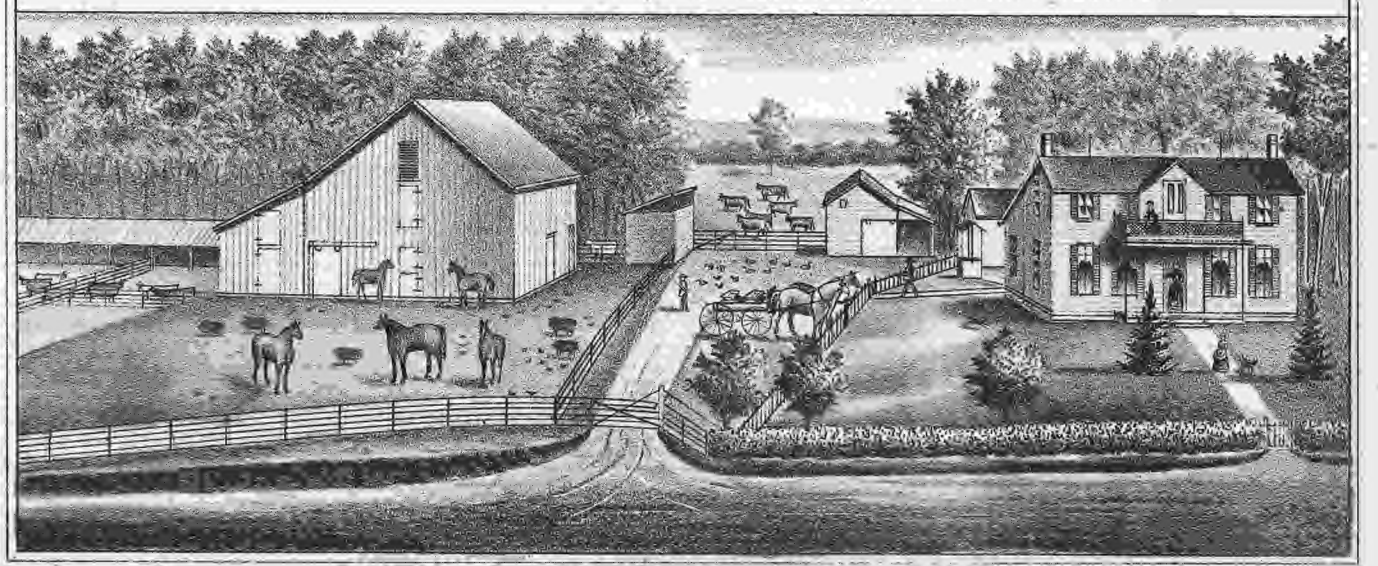
Mrs. Stillwell was born in Blount County, Tenn., June 11, 1863, and is the second of seven children born to her parents. The names of her brothers



RESIDENCE OF HERMANN TETEN, SEC. 19. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES LEWIS, SEC 26. *(NORTH.)* PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN BISCHOFF, SEC. 29. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

and sisters are as follows: Laura L., John W., Frank C., Eddie C., Mamie E. and Albert L. She is a lady of culture and education, and besides the usual instruction of the common schools she attended the Peru Normal School of this State for four years, fitting herself for the position of a teacher, and continuing to follow that profession with marked ability and success for thirteen terms. She has presented her husband with one child, who bears the name of Macy Bartlett.

Mrs. Stillwell is a devout member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and is the recipient of the cordial respect and esteem of her fellow members, as she is indeed of that of the community so far as she is known. Our subject is a member of the School Board at Russell, and has held that position since 1888. He is a firm Republican, and is always ready to take his stand with the party. He is a man of intelligence and character, and esteemed throughout the community.

FREDERICK PAAP. The career of the self-made man is finely illustrated in the subject of this sketch, who began life in America dependent upon his own resources, without means, a stranger in a strange land. He is now one of the leading farmers and land-owners of Berlin Precinct, holding a clear title to 1,360 acres, which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie to a highly productive condition. The homestead occupies the southwest corner of section 15, and presents one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region, being embellished with fine buildings, a commodious and convenient residence, a substantial barn, and the pens and sheds required for the shelter of stock, of which the proprietor makes a specialty. Within, the home is presided over by a lady well educated, refined and hospitable, who has done her share toward the building up of the reputation of the family, and assisted in drawing around them hosts of friends.

Our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Aug. 31, 1839, and is the son of Frederick, Sr., and Mary (Scholtz) Paap, who were natives of the same place as their son. The paternal grandfather, Dedloff Paap, was a cooper by trade, but served in the German army during the war between France and Russia. On the mother's side grandfather John Scholtz inclined more to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, being for a number of years overseer of a farm. Both spent their entire lives in their native Germany.

The father of our subject occupied himself as a gardener near his native town until 1857, then resolved to emigrate to America. He was accompanied by his wife and children on the voyage across the Atlantic, and for two years thereafter lived in Cleveland, Ohio. In the spring of 1859, coming to this county, he purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, Berlin Precinct, for which he paid the sum of $70, all the money he had in the world. He commenced in true pioneer fashion the development of the farm, and was prospered in his labors, building up a good homestead and surrounding himself with all the comforts of life. He doubled his original purchase, and there spent his last days, passing away Aug. 4, 1879, when sixty-nine years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son William, in Berlin Precinct, and is now seventy-eight years of age. Their three children were named respectively: Frederick, our subject; William and Louisa. The two latter are residents of this precinct.

Mr. Paap attended the common schools of his native town until a lad of fourteen years, in the meantime learning the art of gardening of his father. After leaving the day school he pursued his studies at an evening school four years longer. He came with his father to the United States when a youth of eighteen years, in 1857, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel, the "St. John," embarking at Hamburg and landing at New York six weeks and three days later. In the meantime they encountered several storms, and at one time the ship took fire, but fortunately this was arrested before very much damage was done.

Young Paap landed a stranger in a strange land, not being acquainted with a soul in America and almost penniless. He made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where for two years he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, sometimes by the

month and sometimes by the day. In 1859 he resolved to cross the Mississippi, made his way by rail to St. Louis, thence by steamboat to this county, landing in Nebraska City. He was fortunate in securing employment on a farm, and worked the first year for Dave Martin, receiving at the close in payment for his services $150. This seemed quite a goodly sum, as he had landed in Nebraska with $5.

Our subject the second year of his residence in this county was employed at a hotel in Nebraska City. In 1862 he engaged in freighting to Denver, and later worked in John Bennett's mill, near Nebraska City; 1863 and 1864 found him freighting again, and later he was employed in a wholesale establishment at Nebraska City. His journeyings across the plains were invested with the usual dangers and hardships for those times, when the Indians looked upon the whites with very unfriendly eyes, and the traveler at no time felt secure either as regarded life or property. Mr. Paap, however, possessed a cool and temperate judgment, which enabled him to keep out of difficulty both with the rough white element of that region and with the Indians. During the early part of 1865 he was one of the company of home guards organized for mutual protection.

The eighty acres of land which our subject now occupies as his homestead proper was purchased by him in the spring of 1860, but he did not make any attempt at improvement upon it until after his marriage. Then, fortified by the assistance and sympathy of a good wife, he put up a modest dwelling, and in true pioneer style began the improvement of his property. In breaking the soil the wife frequently drove the oxen, while Mr. Paap held the plow. After he had put in his first crop he began setting out fruit and shade trees, and has now fine groves and eleven acres planted with apple trees, and choice fruits of the smaller varieties. In adding to his landed area he has paid all the way from $7 to $25 per acre, but for none of it would he to-day take less than $35 per acre. This he has divided into six farms, each being supplied with groves, orchards, houses and barns. For the building of his present fine residence he was obliged to haul all the material from Nebraska City. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and supplied with all modern conveniences.

Mr. Paap began at an early date his operations as a stock-raiser, and has been remarkably successful. He keeps none but good grades of animals, and his horses are especially fine, being draft animals of the Clydesdale stock. Of these he has seventeen head, besides a span of valuable mules. In his stock operations he utilizes 320 acres of his land, over which he has personal supervision, and rents the balance.

The marriage of Frederick Paap and Miss Caroline Sturm was celebrated at the home of the bride, in Weeping Water, Feb. 2, 1864. Mrs. Paap was born in what was then the Province of Alsace, France, March 24, 1846, and received a careful education, becoming familiar with both the French and German languages. She accompanied her father's family to America when a young girl of thirteen years, in the spring of 1859. Her parents were Andrew and Madoline (Understock) Sturm, also natives of Alsace, and the father a prosperous farmer. The mother died in Germany in 1853. The family crossed the Atlantic on the sailing-vessel "Brockness," and not long after landing in New York City proceeded directly westward to Nebraska, locating in Cass County, where the father purchased 320 acres of land. Upon this he settled with his family, effected good improvements, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death taking place in April, 1874, at the age of seventy-three years. The children of the parental household, five in number, were named respectively: Magdalene, Andrew, Sarah, Caroline and Mary. The brother and the sisters of Mrs. Paap are residents of Nebraska. Her maternal grandfather served in the French army during the war between France and Germany, in 1812. Grandfather Sturm during his early manhood was the owner of a fine property, but for thirty-six years afterward was bedridden from an incurable disease, the expense of which consumed the most of it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Paap there have been born five children, namely: Omar, Alexander, Albert, Medora and Lydia, the latter twins. The eldest of these is twenty-four years of age, and the younger ones ten. They are being trained and educated in

a manner befitting their station in life. Mr. and Mrs. P. are charter members of the German Methodist Episcopal Church, at Berlin, and have always contributed liberally and cheerfully to its support. Mr. P. gave valuable assistance in erecting the church edifice, has been a Trustee for many years, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, he is a fervent supporter of Republican principles, and has done his party good service in this county, frequently being sent as a delegate to the State and County Conventions. He has also served on the Grand and Petit Juries. He is a man who keeps himself posted upon current events, one with whom it is interesting and profitable to converse.

ALBERT HAUPTMANN, one of the most substantial members of the farming community of Otoe Precinct, owns 240 acres of its most valuable land, pleasantly located on section 35. He is one of the nationality which has done so much in the development of the great State of Nebraska, of German birth and ancestry, his early home being in the Province of Westphalia, Prussia, where he first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 7, 1829.

Harmon H. and Anna Margaret (Islabince) Hauptmann, the parents of our subject, were also natives of Prussia, the father born in the little Province of Westphalia, and living there until after his marriage and the birth of his children. In the year 1853 all the family came to the United States, settling first in Niagara County, N. Y.; thence, not long afterward, they removed to Jefferson County, Wis., and the year following to Nebraska.

Albert, our subject, had, however, preceded his parents to America, and it was through his persuasions that they joined him here. The father was a well-educated man, and both parents belonged to the higher classes. Upon coming to the West they crossed the Missouri River on the 1st day of July, 1856, at a point upon which now stands Nebraska City, the site of which was then occupied by only a few wooden houses. The father pre-empted 160 acres of land, embracing the northeast quarter of section 35, building up a homestead which is now occupied by his grandson, George E. Hauptmann, and where the aged grandmother is still living, being now eighty-three years old. The father died Nov. 30, 1886, at the age of eighty-three years and ten months.

The parental family included seven children, namely: Albert, our subject; Elizabeth, Casper, Henry, Anna C. I., John Frederick and William F. They are all well-to-do and residents of Nebraska. Albert was twenty-two years of age when he came to America; he acquired an excellent education in his native tongue, his father being in good circumstances and able to give his children the best advantages.

Young Hauptmann, when first setting foot upon American soil, employed himself at farming in the vicinity of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and not long afterward wrote back to his parents, urging them to join him in America, and they did so before he came on to Nebraska. They lived for a time near Lockport, N. Y., and Albert preceded them to Jefferson County, Wis., in 1854, they joining him eighteen months later.

Our subject, while a resident of Wisconsin, was united in marriage with Miss Anna Margareta Islabince Jacobmeyer, who was, like her husband, a native of Prussia, and born April 2, 1838. She came to America with friends when a young girl of fifteen years. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hauptmann started for Nebraska, arriving in Nebraska City on the 2d of June, 1856, the journey being made by team. Our subject at once pre-empted 160 acres of land, and for many years thereafter was, with his estimable wife, industriously employed in building up the homestead. His industry and perseverance met with their legitimate reward, he being now surrounded with all the comforts of life, with a prospect of a competence for his old age. He purchased additional land in 1878, and has brought the whole to a good state of cultivation, erecting thereon substantial and convenient buildings.

The household circle of our subject and his estimable wife was completed by the birth of nine children, who, with the exception of a daughter, Louisa, who died when an infant, are all living. They are named respectively: Anna, Harmon A., Jay

H., Charles F., Lydia, Theodore, Hannah M. and Maggie. Anna is the wife of William Jewell, of Nemaha County, and the mother of three children —Lydia, Allie and Nettie. The others are at home with their parents. Mr. Hauptmann is a member in good standing of the German Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically, votes with the Republican party. He has never sought official honors, although officiating on the School Board of his precinct. His good wife and the mother of their children died Sept. 14, 1888, and is buried in Lee Cemetery, this precinct.

GILBERT WELLS, engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Unadilla, and a gentleman representing a good amount of property, owns and occupies a small cottage in the town. A native of Sutton, Merrimack Co., N. H., he was born May 5, 1826, and until the age of twenty-one years spent his time upon a farm, acquiring his education in the common schools. After reaching his majority he commenced farming on his own account on his father's land, then purchased a farm for himself, which he afterward exchanged for village property in Waterloo, N. H.

After his marriage our subject removed to Dane County, Wis., settling in the vicinity of Stoughton, and in the spring of 1856 purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he operated as an agriculturist for a period of nine years. The fall of 1865 found him west of the Mississippi, and located in South Branch Precinct, this county, of which he has since been a resident.

The journey hither was made overland with a team, the party crossing the Missouri River at Nebraska City. Mr. Wells homesteaded and improved a claim on section 4, where he made good improvements, setting out groves of fruit trees and hedge fences. He was obliged to have his building material hauled from Nebraska City, with which to put up a house and the various other structures required for his convenience. He subsequently added forty acres to his real estate, but this he has since deeded to his son.

Mr. Wells, in the fall of 1886, removed from the farm to a home which he had purchased in Unadilla, where he has a house and three lots on I street. Soon afterward he went into partnership with C. R. Stedman, in the grocery trade, but on account of failing health was obliged to abandon this. In the spring of 1888 he began dealing in real estate, and also became an agent for the Phœnix Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, straightforward in his business transactions, and in all respects a highly esteemed citizen.

The parents of our subject were Benjamin and Lois (Wheeler) Wells, also natives of the Old Granite State, the father born in Loudon and the mother in Sutton. Benjamin Wells was a farmer by occupation, and enlisted as a soldier in the War of 1812, although not seeing any actual service. On the mother's side Grandfather Wheeler was an old Revolutionary soldier, and received an honorable wound at the battle of Bunker Hill. He spent his last years in Sutton. Both the Wells and the Wheeler families were of English descent.

Benjamin Wells owned a farm of 100 acres in Sutton, N. H., and was fairly prosperous in his labors as a tiller of the soil. He was a member of the Baptist Church, and died about 1845. The mother, a member of the same church, survived her husband a period of ten years, dying in 1855, at the age of seventy-six. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy; the others lived to mature years, but Benjamin, Lucy W., James and George are since deceased. The survivers are Sarah W. and Gilbert. The sister is a resident of South Newbury, N. H.

Our subject, in the fall of 1854, was married in Warner, N. H., to Miss Mary W. Kelley, who was the second child of Caleb and Susanna W. (Worth) Kelley, both natives of the Granite State. The father was of Irish ancestry, and a farmer in prosperous circumstances, holding 200 acres of good land. His death took place in 1853, in his native State. The mother subsequently removed to Wisconsin, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Moses Emerson, at Stoughton, in 1878. Of their six children only three are living, namely: Mary W., Lovina M. and Lucy S. Thomas H., the youngest son, and twin brother of Lovina, enlisted in

the 7th Wisconsin Regiment for three years, in the early part of the War of the Rebellion. He participated in several hard-fought battles, and was once wounded. He died of smallpox in the hospital after honorably serving his country for two years and nine months. Samuel W. and Emily J. are also deceased.

Mrs. Wells was born near Warner, N. H., July 15, 1835. She received a common-school education, and continued with her parents until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, namely: Clara M., Jessie F., Llewellyn A., Forest J. (deceased) and Ermina L. Clara is the wife of C. R. Stedman, a merchant of Unadilla (whose biography will be found elsewhere in this work), and the mother of two children —Nellie L. and Alma R.; Jessie married J. M. Brown, who is farming in Washington Territory; they have five children—Clarence O., Harry, Frank, Myrtle, and an infant unnamed. Llewellyn married Miss Nellie Balfour, and is farming in South Branch Precinct, this county; the have one child, a son, Hugh G. Ermina L. married H. E. Stedman, who is farming in Russell Precinct, and they have one child, Georgietta.

Mr. Wells states that he was born a Democrat, reared a Republican, but votes with the Prohibitionists. He served as Justice of the Peace for four years in South Branch Precinct, was Assessor one year, and a member of the School Board several years. At Burr Oak he was Postmaster for a period of ten years, withdrawing from the office in the summer of 1882. He was at one time a member of the P. of H., belonging to the Grange at Rockford, and afterward in his own school district. In the spring of 1870 he was the Census Taker of South Branch Precinct.

THOMAS BELL. This gentleman is one of the most widely known and at the same time truly respected citizens of Palmyra, and a worthy representative of the mercantile interests of this place. He is the son of William and Helena (Heron) Bell, who were natives respectively of Yorkshire and the county of Durham, England. His father was by occupation a farmer, and was a small land-owner in his native country. He died in the year 1858, aged sixty-eight years, at his home in England. His wife died in England after her son Thomas had left for America. She was ninety years of age, and almost until the last was a hale and healthful old lady. Grandfather Bell was a man of large knowledge, and was Principal of the grammar schools at Kirby, England, for many years.

Our subject was one of a family of six children, who received the following names: Mary, Stephen, Jane, Frances, William and Thomas. Thomas was born on the 21st of May, 1824, in Yorkshire. He was from earliest childhood very delicate in health. His education was received in the parish school, and he was allowed to continue longer than was usual. After leaving the institution he was apprenticed to a tailor for seven years. At the time he was twenty-one years of age he was possessed of just one sovereign sterling, representing in American currency about $4.85. Until coming of age he had devoted his spare time and evenings very diligently to his studies, and thus largely increased, solidified and established his education.

Upon coming to man's estate Mr. Bell began business for himself as a merchant tailor; considering the almost insurmountable difficulties he had to contend with in beginning with practically nothing, he did remarkably well, and was very successful. When twenty-five years of age he was married to Miss Elizabeth Reed, the daughter of John and Hannah Reed, both of whom were natives of Yorkshire. They were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom were boys. Mrs. Bell was the fifth child, and was born in March, 1827. She was educated in the schools of her native place, and received a fairly good English schooling. Her father was engaged extensively in business as a dairyman, and she was known as the "buxom dairy lass of Yorkshire" by her friends and companions. Her parents died in their native country. After their marriage in August, 1849, Mr. and Mrs. Bell continued to live at Marton, Yorkshire, for about eight years. He had studied theology, and become one of the prominent members of the church since he was about seventeen years of age, and was fre-

quently urged to take up the work of the ministry. He became pastor of the church at Broughton, and served as its regularly ordained pastor for six years. He filled charges at Broughton and Stocksley, continuing until the summer of 1851. In the fall of that year he accepted a call from the Park Head Church of Cumberland, which was one of the first churches built by the ejected ministers of the seventeenth century, for one Rev. George Nicholson.

While in pastoral charge in Cumberland Mr. Bell taxed his constitution, which had never been the most robust, to such a degree that he was compelled to resign his charge, much to the regret of the three congregations he had served, for under his able ministry the work had grown to an unexpected extent, and the membership was nearly quadrupled. Upon the advice of his physician he determined to try what the United States climate might do for him, and therefore sold out his property, and, accompanied by his wife and family, he set sail from Liverpool on the 3d of April, 1867, on board the steamship "Louiscana." He landed in the city of New York, after an ocean passage of twenty-one days, unmarked by any especial noteworthy incident; but his destination was Nebraska, and he proceeded at once to the West.

Before leaving England Mr. Bell had organized a colony consisting of over 100 Englishmen, and they came to Otoe County on or about the 1st of May, 1867. Almost without exception they took claims in the vicinity of Palmyra, and it acquired the name of the English settlement. Mr. Bell bought one-half of section 22, and immediately went to farming, which was an entirely new vocation for him. His health, however, began to improve from the first, and as he became more acquainted with the Government and institutions of the country he grew to like it more and more, and before long declared his intention of becoming an American citizen. He took out his first papers at Nebraska City, in the year 1867, shortly after his arrival here.

Richard Oakley, one of the colonists, built and started the first store in Palmyra. From this beginning the town has grown to its present position of importance to the surrounding country. Upon the urgent request of the Superintendent of the Home Mission Society of America, he accepted the position of pastor of the Congregational Meeting at Palmyra. He took hold of affairs vigorously, organized the congregation, and set them to work as a church, and at his instigation they erected the church building. For four years and a half he continued to serve them faithfully and well, but the strain was more than he could bear, and at the end of that time through failing health he was compelled to resign his charge and return to farming.

In 1877 our subject went West to Gosper County, this State, and took up a pre-emption, and also a timber claim, intending to have settled there, but owing to the death of his eldest son, John R., he was unable to carry out his plans, and so continued farming in Palmyra Precinct. He now owns but a small farm of but twenty acres, not far from the town. Twelve acres are taken up with apple trees. He also owns several good store buildings in Palmyra, and sixteen lots of village property, also two good residences. He has also his hardware store, where he does a large business under the name of Thomas Bell. He and his son run a clothing store, and have an established business. He also handles upon an average 500 tons of coal annually.

There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bell eleven children, viz.: John R., William, Thomas, Hannah, Jane H., Elizabeth, Thomas H. and Mary, who were all born in England, and in this country the family circle was extended to admit Robert, and two who died in infancy. John R. died as above mentioned when about twenty-five years of age; William and Thomas also died in England; Hannah is happily married to Dwight Wait, and is the mother of four children; Jane H. is the wife of Richard Ockley, and is the mother of five children; Elizabeth lives in St. Joseph with her husband, J. H. Parker, who is manager of the Mutual Telegraph Company at that place; Thomas W. is in business in Palmyra; Mary is at home, and Robert died in this State in 1878.

In 1885 Mr. Bell was appointed Notary Public under Gov. Dawes, and for three terms has held the office of Justice of the Peace. For fourteen years he was School Moderator for District No. 8. He is a prominent member of the religious organization of Palmyra, and is a strong temperance advo-

cate, which he has been in fact since he was about seventeen years of age. In politics he is a Republican, and takes much interest in such matters. He is eminently respected as a man, a citizen and a Christian, as are also the various members of his family. His influence for good in the community is quite large. He is now a strong Prohibitionist.

PETER A. FLODIN. Among the extensive grain buyers and dealers of Otoe County, is the gentleman whose history is herein sketched. He is the owner of the Talmage Steam Elevator, of which he has been proprietor since July, 1888. He has been connected with the business for a considerable period, working for Jameson Brothers, and then purchasing the elevator and outfit, succeeding that firm in the business. Since he has had the business he has made strenuous efforts to enlarge the trade, and has prospered beyond measure in his endeavor. He is prepared to handle all kinds and quantities of grain, having an elevator possessed of a capacity of 10,000 bushels. He commands and manages a trade averaging 4,000 bushels per diem.

Mr. Flodin came to Talmage from Leona, Kan., having been engaged there in the hardware and tinning trade for several years. He began business at that place in the year 1874, establishing first a blacksmith-shop, which was successfully operated for about seven years, after which he turned his attention to hardware, implements, etc., until coming to this place. In both he was a success, and had an extensive and profitable trade.

Sweden was the land of the nativity of the subject of our sketch, and where his birth took place on the 27th of December, 1847. He was there brought up and educated, and learned the blacksmith trade, which he continued to follow in his native country for about six years. In 1870, and while yet a single man, he came to the United States, and stopped for a short time in Toledo, Ohio. Later he went on to Atchison, Kan., and subsequently to St. Joseph, Mo.; in the latter place he followed his trade for two years, but at the end of that period removed to Severance, Kan., and later went on to Leona, where he figured prominently in business circles until he came to this State.

While a resident of Leona there occurred an interesting incident in the life of Mr. Flodin, being that of his union in marriage to Miss Ida R. Schock. This lady was born in the State of Ohio, where also her parents were born, but of German descent. She came west to Leona in the year 1870, and remained there until after she became of age. She is the daughter of Jacob and Maria H. (Sherry) Schock, who are still living at the above-named town, where Mr. Schock is a prosperous and well-established wagon-maker, carpenter and builder. Mrs. Flodin has presented her husband with three children, whose names are as follows: Carl E., Bertha H. and Nellie B.

The subject of our sketch is a member of the A. F. & A. M., and holds the position of Junior Warden of Trestle Board Lodge No. 162, of Talmage, of which he is an affiliate, and is also Trustee of the lodge and property. Politically, he is a sound Republican, and takes a deep interest in all political affairs.

CRYSTAL S. WADE is one of the old settlers of the State, and has made for himself quite a record as a miner, and in later years, also as an agriculturist. His excellent wife and life companion is a lady of noble character, most devoted in every domestic relation. Their home is situated on section 17, Otoe Precinct, where they own 160 acres, which is utilized for general farm purposes.

The parents of our subject, James G. and Eleanor B. Wade, were born in Ohio and Kentucky respectively, but were married and settled in Fountain County, Ind. They did not remain there for any considerable period, but removed to Fremont County, Iowa, in 1847, at which time there were but six families in the entire county. There the father died in 1850, when but thirty-nine years of age, and was followed to the silent land in 1856 by his wife, who had attained the age of fifty-five years. Both were twice married. By his first union the father had three children. By her first marriage

the mother had six. Their union was blessed by the birth of five children, to whom were given the subjoined names—Barbara, Crystal S., Robert, Fleming and Antoinette.

On the 29th of December, 1839, in Fountain County, Ind., was born the subject of our sketch. His earliest recollection is that of crossing the Mississippi at St. Louis in the course of the migratory journey. His boyhood days were spent in Iowa, and he grew up among the Pottawatomie Indians. Owing to the newness of the country his education was but scanty. Such as he received was obtained at Sidney, which was laid out in 1851. Being the only son left at home, the mother upon him rested large responsibility in regard to home affairs.

It was in the spring of 1860 that our subject went to Colorado, for the purpose of seeking his fortune in the mines. Taking three yoke of oxen, a cow and his dog, he and his brother-in-law, John G. Graves, started west. Crossing the plains they reached Denver after a journey of about six weeks, and at once pushed on for the mines. He did fairly well in Colorado, but was hardly satisfied, and in 1862 went to Montana, joining the company of gold miners in the vicinity of Virginia City, where he remained until the fall of 1864, when he returned to this county and purchased his farm of 160 acres, and settled down to improve it.

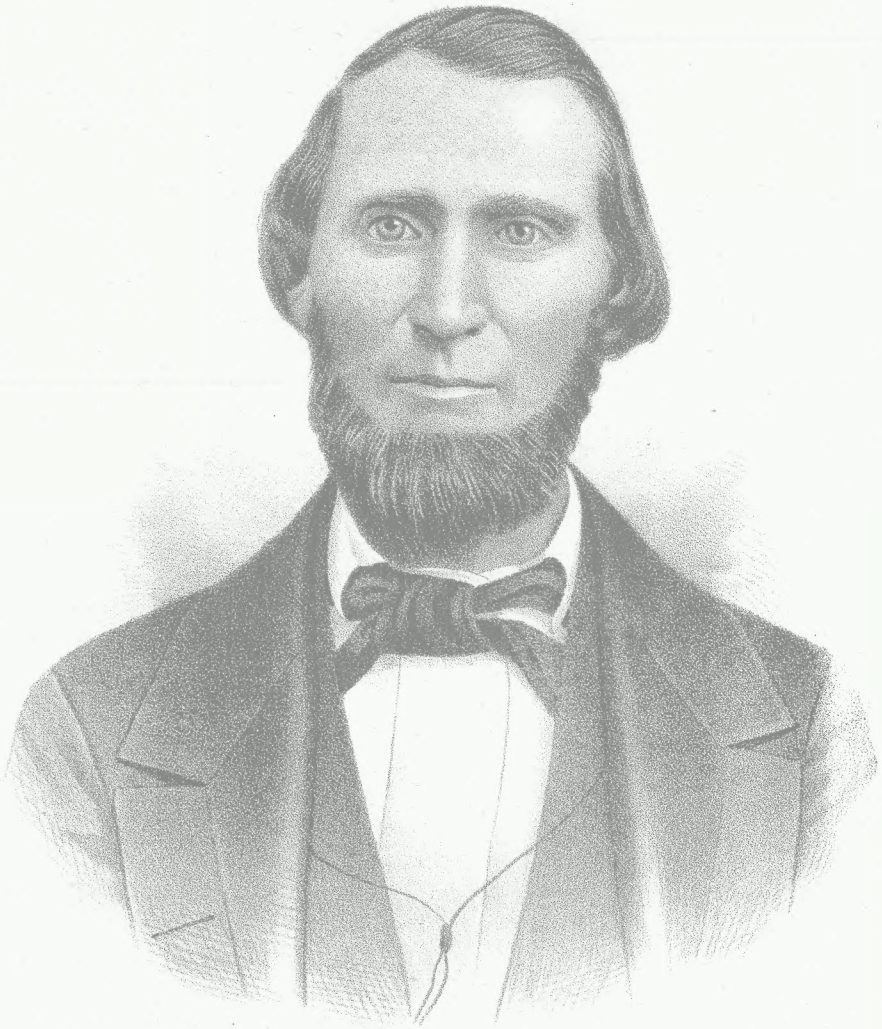
The wedding of our subject and Miss Augusta Guy, a lady descended from the Guys of Scotland, which family at one time held the earldom of Warwick, and is a branch of the Scottish royal family, was celebrated on the 7th of December, 1865. She is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Phillips) Guy, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The grandfather, Thomas Guy, was the first representative of the family to settle in this country, coming from Scotland many years ago, and settling in Pennsylvania.

Leaving Pennsylvania the parents of Mrs. Wade removed to Davenport, Iowa, in the year 1844, coming to Nebraska in 1858. They settled in this county, where the father died in June of 1873, at the age of eighty-five years, and the mother departed this life in 1880, aged seventy-one years. Their union was fruitful in the birth of two children, viz: Hiram and Margaret A. The latter was born on the 10th of February, 1849, at Davenport. She was nine years of age when they came to this State, where her education was continued in the schools of Nebraska City. She has presented her husband with three children, viz: Della, Edwin Guy and Ida Bell. Della is the wife of W. H. Cockrain, of Nuckolls County, Neb., and they have two little ones, named Winnifred and Pearl; Edwin and Ida attend the Normal School at Peru, Neb.

The subject of our sketch has held the office of Justice of the Peace for several years, and for two terms has been Assessor. Nine years he held different school offices, in each serving with conscientious thoroughness. Politically, he is a Republican; with his wife, he is associated with the Methodist Episcopal communion, of which they have been members for many years.

WILSON McCONNELL. In Otoe Precinct, on section 33, a fine farm attracts the attention of the passing stranger, not more on account of its neat appearance and seeming fertility and productiveness, than for its sightly location one-fourth of a mile from the Missouri River, commanding a broad and extensive view not only of a part of Nebraska, but of the adjoining States of Iowa and Missouri. The eye rests on one of the richest and most fertile farming regions in the world, and the low bluffs of the river, the gently undulating prairies stretching for miles on either hand, dotted with lovely groves of forest trees, planted by the early settlers, form a scene of unsurpassing beauty, one that a lover of nature never ceases to admire. The fortunate owner of the farm referred to is Mr. Wilson McConnell, the subject of this sketch, who is here quietly passing the declining years of a useful life, surrounded by the loving care of his children, free from the burden of ill-health so often laid upon the aged, and able to enjoy the good things of life that he has gathered together through long years of industry and shrewd management.

Mr. McConnell was born in Belmont County, Ohio, April 13, 1811. His father, Robert McCon-



James N. Pait

nell, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married. He moved from his native State to Ohio early in the present century, and became a pioneer of Belmont County. He lived there until about 1816, and then cast in his lot with the early settlers of Harrison County, in the same State. He bought a farm there, and was successfully engaged in agriculture until his death. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Prudence Coleman. She was, it is thought, a native of Virginia, and died on the home farm in Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the pioneer home of his parents in Harrison County, and after his marriage he bought a farm near his father's homestead, and lived there for many years. At length he sold his place there and moved to Indiana, settling near Peru in Miami County, where he bought a farm of 160 acres. In 1864 he traded for the land that he now owns and a tract in Kansas; the latter he has sold. In the fall of that year he bought a stock of general merchandise in Chicago, and, accompanied by his family, started west to find a suitable location to open a store, going by way of the railway to St. Joseph, Mo., then the western terminus of the railway, and from there proceeding on a steamer to Omaha. He did not consider the opening there favorable, so he returned to Atchison County, Mo., where he opened a general store. During that winter he sold his goods, and in the spring returned to Indiana and bought a hotel at Greencastle, which he managed until the following spring. He then sold out and returned to Miami County, and rented land until 1869. In the fall of that year he removed with his family to Nebraska to locate on his land, coming with teams. His land was at that time in a wild state, not a sod having been turned by the plowshare, and there being no buildings thereon, he rented a cabin near by, in which his family spent the winter. During that season he was busily employed in erecting a commodious and comfortable hewed log house, into which his family moved in the spring of 1870, and in that year he made the first improvements on his land, which he has since brought into a high state of cultivation.

The beloved wife of our subject, who so faithfully aided him in his early struggles, departed this life at their home in Indiana, May 5, 1864, leaving behind her a pleasant memory of a life well spent, and full of all things that go to make a good woman. Her maiden name was Rachel Hooper, and she was born in Harrison County, Ohio, Oct. 29, 1819. Mr. McConnell has seven children living—Robert J., Mary E., John, Nancy, Joseph, Wilson and Rachel. All the sons have been married. The father of Mrs. McConnell was Jesse Hooper, a farmer and a tanner, who carried on both occupations in Miami County, and died there.

Mr. McConnell is a good citizen, a man of stable character and steady habits, who is thoughtful and kind in his family relations, and whose neighbors always find him obliging and helpful, so that he fully deserves the high esteem and consideration in which he is held by all. In politics he is a Democrat.

BENJAMIN D. TAIT, a prominent resident of Nebraska City Precinct, is a wide-awake, intelligent man, of fine business ability, and of sound principles and good habits. He personally superintends his farming, stock-raising and fruit-growing interests, and derives from them a substantial income. The father of our subject, James Nelson Tait, was a pioneer of Nebraska, and an early settler of Nebraska City, with whose commercial interests he was prominently identified for several years.

Our subject is a native of Clermont County, Ohio, his birth occurring there Jan. 31, 1844. His father was James N. Tait, who was born in Springfield, Mass., Dec. 19, 1816. His father, Joseph D., was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and at the age of fourteen he entered the English Army as a drummer boy, and came to America with his regiment during the War of 1812, and was present at the battle of Lundy's Lane. After peace was declared he settled in Massachusetts, and there married a Miss Holten, of New England birth. He subsequently moved from Massachusetts to New York, and plied his trades of stonemason and plasterer in Oswego

County, where he resided until his death. After making his home in this country he was always a loyal citizen, and during the late war enlisted as drum-major, but the infirmities of age incapacitated him for the position, and he was soon discharged and lived but a short time. His wife survived him a number of years.

The father of our subject, whose portrait we give on an accompanying page, was but a boy when his parents moved from Massachusetts to New York, and there he grew to manhood. He remained in the parental home until he was nineteen, and then started out to seek his own living, traveling quite extensively, and doing odd jobs of work at anything that would pay. He finally settled down near Batavia, Ohio, and was for some time engaged as a clerk, until he learned the trade of a miller, and he then operated a mill for the same man for whom he had been clerking. After marriage he established himself in the mercantile business in Clermont County, Ohio, and from there he went to Marathon, where he carried on the same business until 1858. In that year he wound up his affairs in Ohio, and came to the Territory of Nebraska, by way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, landing in Nebraska City on the 1st of May. He went to Nemaha County, and there made a claim, on which he built a small frame structure in which to live, broke a few acres of his land and raised a crop. Wild animals, such as deer, prairie chickens, wolves, etc., were very plentiful then, and the deer destroyed his sweet corn.

In the fall of the year, after he had proved up on his land, Mr. Tait moved to Nebraska City and entered into the mercantile business. There were no railways nearer than Eastern Iowa at that time, and all transportation was done with teams or on the waters of the Missouri River, where steamboats were constantly plying. Mr. Tait kept a general store with Talbert Ashton, under the firm name of Ashton & Tait. They were appointed agents for the different steamboat lines, leased the levee from the city, and had to collect wharfage and keep it in repair. This was for some time the headquarters of the freighters, who were engaged in teaming supplies across the plains to the different military posts and mining camps, and large amounts of freight were received and forwarded by the firm. Mr. Tait and his partner continued in the mercantile business together until 1865, and as agents of the steamboats until 1868, when they dissolved partnership, and Mr. Tait retained the agency until his death, May 1, 1869, caused by accidentally walking off a high bank in the night, and sustaining injuries from which he died in a few hours. Nebraska City thus lost an energetic, enterprising citizen, one who had done much to extend its commercial interests.

Mr. Tait and his wife were the parents of three children—Benjamin D., Joseph E. and Mary E. Joseph was born Feb. 17, 1847, and died Oct. 30, 1865; Mary married David W. Ferry, and resides in Nemaha County. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Rachel Cramer, and she was born in Brown County, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1823. Her father, Benjamin D. Cramer, was born in Monmouth County, N. J., Oct. 16, 1799, a son of Samuel and Rachel (Doughty) Cramer, the former supposed to have been a native of New Jersey, and the latter of New Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y. In 1816 his parents removed to Ohio, going with wagons to Pittsburgh, and thence on flatboats down the Ohio to their destination. Mr. Cramer bought a tract of timber land in Brown County, and there engaged in farming until his death. Mrs. Tait's father, grandfather of our subject, was but a youth of seventeen years when his parents moved to Ohio in January, 1817. He inherited a part of the old homestead after his father's death, and bought another place near by, and resided there some years. About 1852 he broke up housekeeping to make his home with his children, and in 1862 came to Nebraska to spend his last years with Mrs. Tait. The maiden name of his wife was Calista Granger, and she was born in Seneca County, N. Y., a daughter of Ephraim and Dorothy (Lampkin) Granger. She died at the old homestead in Brown County, Ohio.

Benjamin Tait, of this sketch, was a lad of fourteen years when he came to Nebraska with his parents, and he remembers well the incidents of pioneer life here. He had gained the foundation of a sound, practical education in the Ohio public schools, and after a course in the city schools here, in 1867 was sent to Poughkepsie, N. Y., to attend Eastman's

Business College. On his return home he became a clerk in his father's establishment, which situation he retained until the latter's death. From that time until the present he has been extensively engaged in general farming and fruit-growing.

Our subject was married, March 8, 1882, to Miss Ida M. Sittler, and they have one child, Jessie. Mrs. Tait was born in Rock Creek Precinct, Dec. 19, 1862. Her father, John Sittler, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., a son of Michael Sittler, a native of Baden Baden, Germany, who on coming to America located in Pittsburgh. He subsequently moved to New Albany, Ind., and is now a resident of Nebraska City. Mrs. Tait's father was young when his father moved to Indiana, and he afterward came to Nebraska, and lived for some years. The maiden name of Mrs. Tait's mother was Margaret F. Brown, and she was born in Mason County, Ill., to Jesse and Hannah (Streater) Brown. She is now the wife of William McLennan. Mr. and Mrs. Tait are valued members of this community, as they are frank, warm-hearted, charitable people, and every good work receives their encouragement and cordial support. In politics he is a stanch Republican.

CLARENCE B. CASTLEMAN is carrying on a lucrative trade in hardware at Hendricks, in the southwestern part of this county, where he has been established in business since June of 1888. He is a careful and conscientious business man, and is a favorite in both social and business circles, and is steadily gaining ground, with the prospect in the near future of conducting one of the indispensable institutions of the city.

Our subject is the scion of an excellent family, being the son of Charles N. and Cordelia (Jenks) Castleman, the father a native of Ontario, Canada, born in 1828, and the mother a native of New York, her birth taking place in 1834. They were married in Broome County, the latter State. The elder Castleman was a blacksmith by trade, serving his apprenticeship at Syracuse, of which he was a resident ten years. Later he removed to a farm in Broome County, N. Y., where, with his excellent wife, he is still living, and in good circumstances. Their family included five children, namely: Clarence B.; Jasper H., who is farming in Broome County, N. Y.; Daniel A. and William C., in Colorado, and Franklin, at home with his parents.

The subject of this sketch was born in Speedsville, N. Y., Feb. 14, 1856, and continued with his parents until reaching his majority, acquiring a common-school education. In December, 1877, leaving the Empire State, he came to Nebraska, and for five years thereafter was a resident eight miles south of Nebraska City, where he engaged in farming. In 1882 he came to this county, and took up a tract of uncultivated prairie land lying on section 36 in Palmyra Precinct. He remained there four years, in the meantime bringing about good improvements. He then returned to his native State to visit his old friends, and soon after coming back to this county purchased another eighty acres adjoining his land, upon which he labored until the spring of 1888. Then, desirous of a change of occupation, he invested a portion of his capital in a stock of hardware. Later he erected a fine building in Hendricks, in which he placed a full line of everything pertaining to his trade, including agricultural implements.

Mr. Castleman came to this county "fancy free," but soon became acquainted with one of its most estimable young ladies, Miss Hettie Winyard, to whom he was married at the home of the bride in Otoe Precinct, in the southeastern part of this county, Dec. 20, 1882. Mrs. Castleman was born in this county, Aug. 10, 1860, and was the daughter of John and Ann (Hodges) Winyard, who were natives of England, whence they emigrated to the United States in early life, settling with their parents in Illinois, where they were married. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the family came to Nebraska in 1858, while it was still a Territory. Mr. W. secured a tract of land in Otoe Precinct, where he followed farming, and where his death took place in 1872, at the age of forty-five years. The mother is still living, and resides on the homestead. The household circle included four children, namely: Millie, Hettie, Grace and May.

Mrs. Castleman was a lady of excellent education, and taught school successfully for a period of six

years before her marriage. She was a graduate of the Pennsylvania Normal School, but became the wife of our subject before completing the course. She became the mother of two children, Winnie and Frank, and died in Palmyra, this county, Feb. 11, 1886. While a resident of Otoe Precinct C. B. Castleman was a member of the Congregational Church, in which he officiated as Trustee. He is now identified with the Presbyterian Church at Hopewell. Politically, he is a warm supporter of Republican principles.

WILLIAM E. KENNICUTT. The homestead of this early pioneer of Otoe County is one of the finest in Southern Nebraska. The farm comprises 160 acres of highly cultivated land, and on it is located a large and elegant residence, with finely constructed barns and outhouses adjoining, the former set in the midst of an ample lawn with walks and driveways, and the latter comprising all the conveniences required by the modern and progressive agriculturist. There is an abundance of shade and fruit trees, while shrubbery and flowers in the summer season serve to embellish the grounds and complete the attractions of the place. Within, the home is presided over by a very intelligent and excellent lady, our subject having been particularly fortunate in the choice of a wife and helpmate. The family is widely and favorably known throughout this section as a leading exponent of its education, and the cultivation which is one of the features of the social element of Otoe County.

Our subject was born fifty-four years ago in Fulton County, N. Y., May 8, 1834, at the modest home of his parents, whose property consisted of a farm in Mayfield Township. His father, James H. Kennicutt, was born in Massachusetts, reared to manhood in New York, and was married in the latter State to Miss Abigail Wells, who was born in Hartford County, Conn. She was a teacher, and removed to Fulton County, N. Y., in her girlhood. The parents spent their last years in Hartford County, Conn. Of their six children, William E., of our sketch, was the eldest born; Mary F. is the wife of James Foote; John died in childhood; James H. died in 1868, in Montana; Jennie is the wife of Leonard Lewis, also a resident of Montana; Abby W. is the wife of C. W. Cook; they live in Montana.

Mr. Kennicutt spent his childhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, pursuing his first studies in the district school. At the age of thirteen years he entered the public schools of Hartford, Conn., where he studied a period of three years, then returned to the farm, assisting his father in its various employments until reaching his majority. He also learned the printer's trade in Hartford, Conn. He had, however, already conceived the idea of visiting the West, and when starting out in the summer of 1856 came directly to this county in company with Joseph Foote, landing in Nebraska City. They made their way to Chicago, Ill., by rail, from there to Batavia by the same means, then purchased a team of horses and a wagon, and proceeded by this means on their journey, crossing the Mississippi on a ferry at Fulton, Ill., and the Missouri at Minersville, then Otoe City.

Our subject soon took up a pre-emption claim of 160 acres, which is included in his present farm. In the spring of 1857 he commenced working for a Mr. Pendleton, but in the fall of that year went over into Atchison County, Mo., where he lived a year, and from there migrated to Fremont County, Iowa.

In the fall of 1858 our subject, in company with Mr. Frank Squires, purchased a steam sawmill in Fremont County, Iowa, which they operated very successfully for a period of two years, and during which time Mr. K. laid the basis of his future prosperity. He now disposed of his interest in the sawmill, and about this time, the spring of 1861, he had the happiness of welcoming his father's family to this section.

Mr. Kennicutt, in the fall of 1862, feeling assured that he was now able to support a family, was united in marriage with Miss Sophia, daughter of Henry and Jane (Smith) Adams, who was of an excellent family, and was born Oct. 14, 1840, at Holley, Orleans Co., N. Y. Her father was the second cousin of John Adams, second President of the United States, and she was the eldest child of the second marriage of both parents. Of the first marriage of her father there were born two sons—Tru-

man H. and Nathaniel. Of the first marriage of her mother there were born two daughters—Mary J. and Henrietta McCrillis.

Mrs. Kennicutt grew up amid the quiet scenes of country life, pursuing her first studies in the common school, and at the age of ten years entered the academy at Holley, where she took a seven-years course, and developed into a well-educated young lady. When eighteen years old she came to Nebraska, accompanied by her father, her eldest half-brother and the eldest half-sister, landing in Otoe County in the fall of 1858. The mother had died in Holley, N. Y., when her daughter Sophia was but eight years of age. The father now settled in the vicinity of Otoe City, which was then but a hamlet, where he occupied himself at farming, and is now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennicutt commenced the journey of life together in true pioneer style, in a manner suited to their means and surroundings. Their first dwelling was a log house, where, notwithstanding their humble surroundings, they spent many happy years. This was on the home farm of her father. The present residence was erected in the summer of 1861, and remodeled in 1882, and it is hardly necessary to say that it has taken years of labor to bring their farm to its present condition, and erect the buildings which attract the admiring eye of the passerby, and form one of the attractive features in the landscape of that region. The household circle has been completed by the birth of four children, namely: Harry A., Frank B., Allen McC. and an infant unnamed, now deceased. All the boys have been students at Doane College, in Crete. Henry is at present attending the School of Technology in Boston, Mass., making a specialty of civil engineering, and expects to graduate in the class of '91. Frank B. and Allen McC are at home with their parents.

The winter of 1856–57 Mr. Kennicutt recalls as one of the most severe that he ever experienced, and during which, being a single man, he made his home with Mr. Foote and Mr. Pendleton. He assisted in the organization of Hazle Dell School District, which was one of the first organized in Otoe County, and was a leader in many of the enterprises affecting the moral and educational status of the community. He voted both times for the adoption of the State Constitution during the agitation of the question in 1860, and later in 1866. He cast his first Presidential vote for Lincoln, and since 1872 has been independent in politics. He has borne an honorable part in the development of Otoe County, and is respected as among its best citizens.

DAVID W. HERSHEY, M. D., one of the able and popular physicians of Nebraska City, and whose reputation is quite extensive in the county, was born in Amherst, Erie Co., N. Y. His father, John Hershey, was a native of the same county, while the grandfather, whose given name was Christian, was born in Maryland, and was, as far as can be gathered, of Swiss ancestry. He settled in Erie County when it was still uncleared timber land and without settlers. He cleared for himself a farm, and built his home and out-buildings from the timber felled under his own ax.

The father of our subject was reared upon the home farm, and afterward, when at about the age of thirty-five, he entered mercantile life in Amherst and continued for about two years, then returned to the farm, where he followed agriculture until his death, in the year 1881. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Chastren Welty. She died many years before her husband, leaving three children: Our subject; Margaret, who is a teacher at Buffalo, N. Y., and another little one who died quite young.

The education of our subject was begun in the district schools, and he afterward entered the Genesee University at Lima, N. Y. In 1850 he elected to follow the medical profession, and began studying with Dr. L. J. Ham, at Williamsville, N. Y. He also attended the medical department of the university at Buffalo. At that time the eminent Doctors, White, Hamilton, Flint and Dalton, were members of the faculty of that institution, and he was privileged to study under those gentlemen. He was graduated from the university in February, 1854, receiving the usual diploma at that time.

Dr. Hershey began the practice of his profession

at Williamsville, continuing there with unqualified success some years. In 1864 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the 98th New York Regiment of the National Guards; this regiment was mustered into the service of the United States at Elmyra, N. Y., in August, 1864, and served for several months. He held this position until 1867, when he came to Nebraska City and opened an office for regular practice and surgery. Since that time he has continuously followed his profession, growing up with the city, and has made for himself a name as a medical man that is an honor to his alma mater.

In 1862 Dr. Hershey was united in marriage with Miss Josephine Emmons. Mrs. Hershey was born in Springville, Erie Co., N. Y., and is the daughter of Dr. Carlos Emmons, now dead. Of this union four bright and interesting children have been born, viz.: Hattie, who has become very successful as an artist; John, Margie and Herbert. John is at Union, Neb., engaged in clerking in a dry-goods store; Margie is at home; and Herbert is attending school at home.

Mrs. Hershey is a consistent member of the Baptist Church, and in religious circles, as in all others, is most highly esteemed. The Doctor is an active and tried member of the Republican party. He is quite prominent in political affairs, and belongs to the G. A. R. and the State Medical Society. While a resident of his native State, Dr. Hershey held the position of School Commissioner for the Third District of Erie County a period of three years, doing efficient service in connection with the educational interests of that section, and after coming to Nebraska City was for a time a member of the Board of Education. In this county he has held the office of Coroner for ten years; he has also been the County Physician a number of years. He is a member of Baumar Post, G. A. R., at Nebraska City.

JAMES PALEY is one of the most enterprising and successful citizens of Nebraska City, where he is carrying on an extensive marble business. He is well known throughout Otoe and adjoining counties, and wherever known is honored and respected as a good citizen, one who attends strictly to business, deals fairly and honestly, and is wide-awake, always keeping up with the times. He was born in the city of Leeds, Yorkshire, England, Aug. 7, 1840. His father, Benjamin Paley, and his grandfather, James Paley, were likewise natives of the same shire. The latter was a stonemason, and worked at his trade in different parts of England, remaining a lifelong resident of his native land.

The father of our subject was reared in England, and learned the stonemason's trade of his father. He married Elizabeth Seaby, a native of Nottingham, England. In the year 1849 he came to America to seek a home, leaving his family in England until he found a suitable location. He first stopped awhile in Baltimore, finding work at his trade there. In 1851 he sent for his wife and two children, and six months after their arrival in Baltimore he removed with them to Warren County, Va., where he still followed his trade for a time. He subsequently went to Fauquier County, in the same State, and later to Shenandoah County, also in Virginia. He was a contractor on the Manasses Gap Railroad when it was in process of construction. In 1857 Mr. Paley moved to Sheridan County, Mo., and stopped there a short time. He then decided to try farming in Howard County, Mo., and purchased a farm there. He was also engaged at his trade there for a time. He finally disposed of his place in that county, and in Boone County, the same State, engaged in the marble business for two years. When the war broke out he again resumed farming, renting a farm for two years in Atchison County, Mo. At that time he was quite out of health, and he then took up his residence in Fremont, Iowa, and did but little for some time. In 1863 he came to Nebraska City and resumed work at his old trade of mason, and was engaged in that until 1867. Again he became a farmer, taking up a homestead claim ten miles south of Lincoln. He improved a fine farm, and lived thereon for nine years. He then sold his property, settled up his affairs there, and returned to Nebraska City, where he lived for nearly a year. After that he went back to Missouri, and spent his declining years in Ray County, dying Sept. 26, 1885, aged sixty-eight years. His wife had preceded him the year

before, the date of her death being Oct. 7, 1884. They were people of genuine worth, whose useful and upright lives commanded the respect of all who associated with them. They were the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are our subject and his sister Elizabeth, wife of Charles H. Cates, of Jackson County, Mo.

James Paley was a lad of eleven years when he and his mother and sister set sail from Liverpool in the middle of May, 1851, to follow his father across the Atlantic. They landed at Baltimore on the 23d of the following July, after a long voyage of nine weeks. After the removal of the family to Virginia, our subject commenced work with his father on the bridge that spans the Shenandoah Valley, his father being the contractor. He continued in the employ of his father until 1860, when he went to St. Louis and worked in a stone yard under instruction for a year, and thus became an expert stone-cutter. After the breaking out of the war business was quite suspended, and he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits in Missouri for a year, and then engaged in the same in Fremont County, Iowa, for another year. In 1863 he crossed the plains as a teamster with a freight train drawn by six pairs of oxen. He went as far as South Pass, and then went back to Cottonwood Springs, where he left that train and entered another bound for Denver. After his arrival in that city he worked as a stone-cutter for six months, and then went to Central City, a mountain town forty miles distant, and there he mined for three months, and then worked at his trade until August, 1865. He then returned to Nebraska City, where he found work as a stonemason, among other work cutting stone for the present court-house. He continued as a stone-cutter until 1870, and then established himself in the marble business, and has been engaged in that continuously ever since.

Mr. Paley was married, July 18, 1872, to Miss Nancy Anderson, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Lewis and Ruth (Blunt) Anderson, natives of the same State. Mr. and Mrs. Paley are highly esteemed by their friends and acquaintances, of whom they have many. They are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal Church, and cordially support every scheme for the social and moral elevation of the city. Although Mr. Paley was not one of the earliest settlers of Nebraska City, he can lay claim to the distinction of being an "old-timer," and it has been his privilege not only to watch the growth of the city from a small town to its present size and importance as the leading city of Otoe County, but to contribute thereto by building up an extensive and flourishing business within its limits by his industry and shrewd management. Socially, our subject is identified with Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.; politically, he is a stanch Democrat.

JACOB W. WALDSMITH is prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Nebraska City, as one of its leading grocers, also with its social and religious circles, and he is influential in its public life. He is one of the self-made men who, coming to Nebraska in early Territorial days with scarcely $20 in his pocket, cast in his lot with the energetic and wide-awake pioneers who had preceded him to this land of promise, and while actively assisting them and those who came after to develop the marvelous resources of the county, and give it its present eminence in commerce, agriculture, and all that marks an enterprising and prosperous community, has acquired a competence that will enable him to pass the evening of life in comfort and luxury, free from the cares and anxieties that beset his early years.

The subject of this sketch was born three miles northwest of Mifflintown, Juniata Co., Pa., April 20, 1835. His father, John Waldsmith, was born in Berks County, Pa., but his grandfather, William Waldsmith, was, it is thought, born in Germany. He was a farmer, and moved to Juniata County in 1800, becoming an early settler there. He bought a large tract of timber land in the Tuscarora Valley, and the village of Johnstown is now located thereon. He cleared a good many acres of his land and resided on it until his death. Several of his grandchildren now own and occupy farms that were included in his original purchase in the opening year of this century.

The father of our subject was but a boy when

his parents moved to Juniata County, and there he was reared on a farm, always following agricultural pursuits, and resided there until his death. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Martha White, and she was a native of the same county, and died on the homestead in 1847. There were twelve children born to that worthy couple.

Jacob Waldsmith was twelve years old when his mother died, and two years later his father broke up housekeeping, and our subject had to seek a home elsewhere. In 1851 he went to Carroll County, Ind., and obtained employment on a farm at $12 a month. He continued to work there as a laborer until 1857, and on the last day of September, that year, started for Nebraska, then a Territory, going by rail to Alton, Ill., then the western terminus of the railway; from there by boat to St. Louis, and so on to Nebraska City, where he landed on the 16th day of October. He soon took a claim four miles northwest of the city, built a small shanty on the place, and there he and James R. Kendall spent the following winter, keeping bachelor's hall. The settlements in the Territory at that time were confined to the river, while the interior was still owned by the Government. Deer were plentiful in this vicinity, as were also prairie chickens, and there were a few wild turkeys. In 1858 our subject worked for a time on the levee in Wyoming Precinct, and later was engaged in cutting timber. In the fall of 1858 he built a log cabin on his place, to which he added a frame structure in the spring of 1860, and when married in the month of April, that year, to Elizabeth Faunce, they commenced housekeeping in that abode. Mrs. Waldsmith was born in Hancock County, Ill., and is a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Dixon) Faunce. The pleasant married life of our subject and his wife has been saddened by the death of four of the six children born to them. Leslie, the first-born, died at twenty-two years of age. He was a promising young man of good habits, and was in partnership with his father. Of the others, Charles died at the age of eight months; Junietta at the age of a year and a half, and Leoto at the age of fourteen months. The names of the children spared to bless the declining years of our subject and his wife are: Rena, wife of J. L. Diefendorf, of Nebraska City, and Amie C.

Mr. Waldsmith drove the first breaking plough on his land in 1859, and in 1860 reaped his first harvest, a fine crop of corn. In the spring of 1859 his cousin came from Pennsylvania and purchased a half-interest in his claim, and they bought some stock and farmed together until 1862. Our subject then bought his partner's interest and carried on the place alone until 1865. In that year he sold his property here and moved to Cass County, where he bought a tract of wild prairie and timber land, of which eighteen acres broken constituted the only improvement. He planted that piece, fenced fifty acres of land, built a frame house for his family and sheds for the shelter of his stock. He had to draw the lumber for his buildings fourteen miles, and did nearly all the work himself, not hiring more than $50 worth of labor. He resided there until November, 1869, when he rented his farm and moved to Nebraska City to engage in teaming. In 1872 he traded the farm for Nebraska City property, and then engaged as a baker and confectioner, and from that drifted into the grocery business, to which he has since devoted his entire attention. He has built up quite a large trade and is now in very prosperous circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldsmith are prominently identified with the reorganized church of the Latter-Day Saints. He was the seventh person to join after the organization of the Nebraska District south of the Platte River, and a year and a half later he was elected Elder, which position he has held since that time. He has had charge of the work of the church in this city since the society was organized here, and under his able administration it has flourished, and now owns, free from encumbrance, a substantial brick church on Second Corso street, between Sixth and Seventh streets. He is Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is an active worker in it. Mr. Waldsmith has also borne a conspicuous part in the government of the city, he having served two terms as Alderman, and was President of the City Council last year. Mr. Waldsmith was a Republican from the formation of the party, casting his first vote for J. C. Fremont, until 1886, when he joined the rank of the Prohibitionists. He is

Yours truly
J. W. B. Stevenson

a man of great sagacity and far-reaching foresight, and combines a resolute, uncompromising nature with a just, kind and generous disposition. In him we have the example of a true Christian, an honorable and upright man.

HON. THOMAS B. STEVENSON, attorney-at-law, Nebraska City, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is a fine representative of the men of brain, unerring judgment, and sound business ability, who, coming to Nebraska in Territorial days, became prominently identified with the pioneers, and has been instrumental in the upbuilding of this State, and has done much to further its financial prosperity. The record of his life is indissolubly connected with the history of Nebraska City, with whose public interests he has been identified from its early days.

The subject of this sketch was born near Sackett's Harbor, Jefferson Co., N. Y., July 28, 1835. His father, Thomas Stevenson, was, from the best information that we have at hand, born in the county of Armagh, Ireland, came to America a young man, and located in Jefferson County, N. Y. He lived there until about 1840, when he moved to Kingston, Province of Ontaria, Canada, where he engaged in milling and resided until his death, about 1847. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Hannah Martin, and her death occurred previous to that of her husband.

Their son, of whom we write, was left an orphan at a very early age, and thenceforth was thrown on his own resources for a living. He was a bright, active lad, and had no difficulty in securing work, being employed on a farm the following two years, receiving his board and clothes in payment for his labors. He then commenced to learn the trade of cabinet-maker, but only worked at that for one year, and then engaged as a clerk in a shoe store in Kingston, making himself useful in doing errands as well as indoor work. He was of a studious turn of mind, and being ambitious to obtain an education he attended evening school, and as opportunity offered, day school also. He continued to live in Kingston until he was fifteen years of age, and then went to Belleville, and attended school and clerked in his brother-in-law's store for three years. At the expiration of that time, having carefully saved his earnings, he went to Ohio and entered Antioch College. He did chores about the college buildings, and in the evening tended in a shoe store to assist in paying his tuition and board in the institution of learning until 1859. Subsequently he taught school and attended college alternately until the winter of 1860–61. His brother-in-law having died, he had to return to Belleville and assist in settling the latter's business. In the spring of 1861 he went back to Ohio, and soon after was taken sick, and was unable to do anything for nearly a year. In the spring of 1862 we find him in Chicago, studying law in the office of Lull & Smith, and in the fall of that year he was admitted to the bar at Ottawa. In the following winter he taught a term of school in Rome, Peoria Co., Ill., but his health continuing to be poor, and it being feared that he had inherited consumption from his mother, he was advised to go to the Pacific Coast, and at once started for California. He went to St. Louis, thence embarked on a steamer on the Missouri River bound for Hannibal, and from there by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., which was then the western terminus of the railway. There he took passage on a stage coach for Nebraska City, where he had some business to transact which had been intrusted to him by another gentleman. He was delayed there longer than he had intended to stay, partly on account of his business, and partly because of the illness of his traveling companion, and finding that even in that short time his health had been benefited by the salubrious, invigorating climate of Nebraska, he determined to locate in this city, and from that time has been one of its most prominent citizens.

Even before the full restoration of his health Mr. Stevenson entered upon his long and honorable career as a distinguished jurist and civilian, wherein he has achieved many triumphs at the bar, and has ably filled some of the highest State and local offices. He soon made the acquaintance of the leading citi-

zens of the State, among whom was Judge O. P. Mason, one of the most prominent lawyers in the Territory, and he formed a partnership with him for the practice of law. In that day there were but few settlers in the interior of Nebraska away from the river, and Indians still lingered and were frequently troublesome, and in 1864 an open outbreak occurred. Mr. Stevenson immediately offered his services to assist in quelling the Indians, enlisting in August, 1864, in Company A, 2d Nebraska Militia, and receiving a commission as Captain of his company, he marched to the frontier of Nebraska and Kansas, and there rendered valuable service in putting an end to the troubles with the red men. In January, 1865, he returned to Nebraska City, was discharged with his regiment, and was then appointed Acting Provost Marshal, serving in that capacity until May, 1865. He then resumed his law practice with his partner, Mr. Mason, with whom he continued until 1867, when the latter gentleman was elected to the Supreme Bench of this State, and then he carried on the business of the firm alone, and is still conducting it, being one of the leading lawyers not only of the county but of the State. He is a practical man, well learned in law, and witty, forcible and brilliant as an advocate. Notwithstanding the pressing demands of his business, he has found time to take an active part in public life. He was a member of the first State Senate that met in Lincoln in 1869. While a member of the State Senate in that year he formulated the present school law, and especially the system of dividing the school money among the districts. He was again in the State Legislature in 1885. He has taken a great interest in educational matters, and was a member of the City School Board for many years. For five terms he held the office of Mayor of Nebraska City, and to his able administration of the city affairs its citizens are greatly indebted for their present prosperity. When he was first elected to the office the city was very badly involved financially, but by his skillful and shrewd management the debt was refunded and greatly reduced. In politics Mr. Stevenson has always been recognized as one of the leaders of the Republican party in the State. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and he was a member of the convention that nominated Gen. Grant for President, and was one of his firmest supporters.

Mr. Stevenson was married, in March, 1868, to Miss Annie Nicewander, a native of Virginia, who has filled the perfect measure of wife, mother, friend, and renders their pleasant home attractive not only to her own family but to all who are so fortunate as to share its hospitalities. Nine children have been born of this marriage. Those living are: Olla, Thomas, John, Nellie, Harry and Annie. Those deceased are: Thaddeus, Stanton and Frank.

ROBERT DUNLAP, who bears the reputation of an honest man and a good citizen, has carried on farming successfully in Palmyra Precinct for the last twenty years. He owns 280 acres of valuable land, lying on sections 22 and 21, where he has fair improvements, a comfortable, though not elegant, residence, and ample storage for grain and shelter for his stock.

Our subject was born in Vermont, Oct. 27, 1843, and is the son of William and Jane (Glenn) Dunlap, the former a native of Scotland, and the latter born in Ireland, but of Scotch ancestry. A scion thus of a family which traces its ancestry to the best nationality on the face of the globe, he has abundant reason for self congratulation.

William Dunlap when a young man removed to the North of Ireland, and carried on farming near the city of Belfast. There he was married, and soon after the birth of one child emigrated in the spring of 1843 to the United States. Settling in Vermont, they lived there a year, their son Robert in the meantime being added to the household circle. From the Green Mountain State they removed to Greene County, N. Y., and were subsequently residents of Lewis, Ulster and Oneida Counties in that State, where the father pursued his occupation of farming with fair success.

The Dunlap family in March of 1869, leaving the Empire State, crossed the Mississippi, the father having already selected his location in this county, where he was in due time joined by his family. He first pre-empted eighty acres which was included in the farm now occupied by our subject, and which has

now been the family homestead for a period of nearly twenty years. Subsequently he purchased 120 acres, and the parents labored with a mutual interest for the building up of a home for themselves and their children. They are both living to enjoy it, the father being now seventy years of age, and the mother sixty-nine.

To the parents of our subject there were born five children, the eldest of whom, a daughter Jane, is a native of Ireland, and is the wife of E. W. Ross, of Palmyra Precinct; Robert, our subject, was the second child; John is in the lumber business in Michigan; James W. died when about twenty-four years old; Sarah E. is the wife of W. A. Hartley, a resident of Bennet, Neb.

The first recollections of our subject are of his childhood home in Greene County, Vt., where he pursued his first studies in the common schools. His education was completed in the Empire State, and there he grew to manhood. He was a man of twenty-seven years when he first came to Nebraska, and in the meantime had become thoroughly acquainted with the various pursuits of farm life. He had also engaged considerably in the lumber business among the hemlock regions of Lewis and Oneida Counties. At the time of coming to Nebraska with his father's family he also homesteaded a claim of eighty acres of land, and there commenced to lay the foundations of a competency. Two years later, March 6, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Ellen E. Rockwell, who became the mother of two children, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Ellen E. Dunlap departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, Feb. 19, 1874. During that year Mr. Dunlap was greatly afflicted, not only in the loss of his wife but one of their children and a brother. His crops were also partially destroyed by the grasshoppers. He, however, fortunately had inherited in a marked degree the sturdy courage of his excellent Scotch ancestry, and outlived his discouragements, evading no duty, but endeavoring to make the best of circumstances. Time, the healer, caused him to partially forget his losses.

The present wife of our subject, to whom he was married May 24, 1876, was in her girlhood Miss Ada Ogram, who was born in Yorkshire, England March 21, 1855. She is the daughter of John and Hannah (Johnson) Ogram, and came to America with her parents when a child three years of age. They settled near Fond du Lac, Wis., where the father engaged in farming, and whence he removed July 5, 1870, to this State. Mrs. Dunlap was then a young girl of fifteen years. She remained with her parents until her marriage; they are now residing in this county.

Of this union of our subject there have been born six children, namely: Nellie J., Mary, George W., Robert G., Harvey and Florence M. Mr. Dunlap was formerly a Democrat, but since 1884 his warm sympathies with the temperance movement have led him to side with the Prohibitionists. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of Palmyra, while his estimable wife belongs to the United Brethren. Mrs. Dunlap is a very amiable and attractive lady, and fulfills in an admirable manner the duties of wife and mother. Our subject of late years has been considerably interested in live stock, usually keeping on hand about forty head of cattle and a large number of swine. Of the latter he usually ships a carload each fall. He is a man of good education, and has served as a Director in his district.

REV. GEORGE S. ALEXANDER. This gentleman was born in Cumberland, R. I., on the 10th of July, 1832, and is the son of Ira and Frances C. Alexander, natives respectively of Rhode Island and Vermout. The family is of Scottish ancestry, and its early representatives in this country settled in Boston in early Colonial days, prior to the burning of Deerfield, Conn., at which place some of the family were killed and others carried into captivity. The maternal ancestors, also from Scotland, were among the early colonists in Rhode Island. His maternal grandfather, George Sherman, was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. The parents of our subject were married in Cumberland, R. I., and there resided during the remainder of their lives, his father following the occupation of mechanic, supplementing it by the working of a small farm. They

were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the family circle included five children, four of whom are living, viz: David; our subject; Rachel, now Mrs. Thomas C. Wood, and Charlotte.

The subject of this sketch commenced work in a cotton-mill at the age of fourteen, and afterward in the woolen-mills, where he progressed until he became a weaver, which he continued to follow for some years. He found time to attend school sufficiently to acquire the groundwork of an education, to which he added by constant reading and thought, until he had attained a general proficiency upon all current topics, and began teaching school when about twenty-one years of age. For a time he was engaged clerking in a store, in which he continued until the year 1854.

In the mental makeup of our subject there is a large preponderance of the devout, and his religious experiences, linked with this mental property, produced the conviction that the duty devolving upon him was to take up the work of the ministry in the service of the Great Head of the church. Accordingly, upon the 30th of April, 1854, he entered the ministry and preached his first sermon in the town of Sandwich, Mass. From that point on and through the southeastern part of Massachusetts he was engaged in preaching for about twelve years; then for one year at Westerly, R. I., and Norwich, Conn. In 1868 he came to Nebraska City and became the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, continuing in that office until 1871. His next charge was at Peru, where he remained for one year; next at Lincoln, where he was stationed for two and a half years as pastor of St. Paul's Church, and for a like period he served as Chaplain of the Nebraska State Prison. The winter of 1875 he served as Chaplain of the House of Representatives of Nebraska, and in 1877 as Chaplain of the State Senate. In March of that year he resigned his position as Chaplain of the State Prison. The August following he went to Champaign County, Ill., and in September joined the Illinois Conference, and preached in the State in Champaign and Piatt Counties for five years. At the end of that period, feeling that his health demanded a change, he came to Syracuse, and for four years served the church of his denomination in this city. At the same time he purchased the Syracuse *Journal*, and from that on continued as editor. He was the sole proprietor until July of 1885, when he associated his son Arthur D. as partner.

The subject of our sketch has been twice married, in the first instance, on the 11th of March, 1856, at Eastham, Mass., to Abby G. Smith, a member of one of the oldest and most respected families of Cape Cod, being a daughter of Davis Smith, who was active during the War of 1812 in various enterprises as a privateersman. The family have always been extensively engaged in the deep sea fisheries. This lady died in Lancaster County of this State, on the 12th of September, 1876. By this union our subject became the father of eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: Arthur D., Alice M., George L., Lottie M., Hartley B., Irvin F., Minnie E., and also a son who died in childhood. The first-named three of the surviving children were born in Massachusetts, the remaining ones in this State.

The second matrimonial alliance was celebrated on the 20th of September, 1877, at Philo, Ill., the lady being Susan M. Godding, daughter of Russell and Abigail Godding. This lady was born in Vermont, and is possessed of much innate refinement, which has been increased and perfected by education and culture. For twenty-five years she has been engaged as a teacher of art, the first half of which at the Providence Conference Seminary, East Sandwich, R. I., and the Quaker College, of Providence, R. I. She was finally compelled to retire from the duties of this position, owing to failing health, but still devotes much time to painting and teaching. She has brought to her husband a well-cultivated mind and ripened intelligence, that has been at once a help and source of pleasurable delight throughout the years of their companionship.

In the Masonic fraternity Mr. Alexander is very widely and favorably known, both as a member, worker and lecturer. He took the first two degrees in the Pilgrim Lodge, Harwich, Mass., the third degree in the Marine Lodge, of Falmouth, Mass. The degrees leading up to that of the Royal Arch Mason were received in the Orient Chapter, of Hyan-

nis, Mass., his Council degrees in Howard Council, Westerly, R. I., and he was knighted in the Mt. Olivet Commandery at Nebraska City. Among brothers, fellows and companions he is regarded with much esteem, and among the Sir Knights as a true soldier of the temple. His historical lectures upon masonry have been well received by the fraternity, and those in outer circles who have been privileged to listen to them, and have been the occasion of many justly complimentary remarks.

REV. CHARLES HEISE, a retired clergyman of the Lutheran Church, having numbered a little more than his threescore years, is living quietly at his farm on section 2, Belmont Precinct. He here has 240 acres of fine land, the operations of which are carried on by himself. He is a cultivated gentleman of excellent education, a quiet, unassuming citizen, who during the years of a well-spent life has fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

The childhood home of our subject was in the Province of Saxony, Prussia, where his birth took place Sept. 26, 1822. His parents were Samuel and Augusta Heise, who were also of German birth and parentage, and who spent the greater part of their lives in Germany. Their family consisted of six children, who are now mostly deceased.

The subject of this sketch completed the details of a very careful education in the gymnasium at Magdeburg and the University of Berlin. These institutions were conducted with that thoroughness peculiar to the schools of the Fatherland, and young Heise was thus fairly equipped for a career which has reflected great credit upon his natural talent and his fidelity to duty.

In December, 1855, Mr. Heise embarked on a sailing-vessel at Bremen for the United States, and soon after landing upon American soil was stationed in Cincinnati, Ohio, as pastor of the German Lutheran Church, where he remained two years. Thence he removed to New Bremen, that State, and had charge of the Lutheran Congregation there for a period of twenty-two years. From there he came to this county in March, 1880, and settled upon the land which he now owns and occupies, forced to abandon his pastoral duties on account of a throat trouble, which finally developed into bronchitis. Under his wise supervision many improvements have been brought about upon the place since he assumed ownership, and he is surrounded by all of the comforts of the ideal country home.

Mr. Heise while a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, was married, Jan. 10, 1858, to Miss Sophia Wehmer. This lady was born Sept. 10, 1833, in Germany, and is the daughter of Christian and Catherine (Schriver) Wehmer, who were natives of Germany; the mother is residing in Cincinnati, Ohio, but the father is deceased. The parental household included eight children, seven of whom are living, and residing mostly in the United States.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Oscar N., Walter S., Emil P., Otto C., Flora, Martha and Ida. Oscar married Miss Emelia Marqua, and is a practicing surgeon dentist of Cincinnati, Ohio; he is the father of one child, a daughter, Viola. Flora is the wife of Willis Roberts, who is occupied at farming in Rawlins County, Kan.; Walter is traveling on the Pacific Slope as a salesman for the carriage manufacturing firm of Davis & Co., of Cincinnati; Emil is employed at merchandising in Syracuse, this county. The education of the younger children, who are at home with their parents, is being conducted under the careful supervision of their father. All the family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Heise has very little to do with public affairs, preferring to devote his attention to his farming interests and his family.

THOMAS A. GILMORE. Upon section 12 of Belmont Precinct is a general and stock farm, comprising 160 acres, which, whether notice be taken of the fields or pastures, buildings or residence, usually excites nothing but remarks of admiration and congratulation, and worthily so, because it is one of the best cultivated and regulated properties within a very large section of the country. It is the property of the gentleman

whose name stands at the head of this biographical epitome. The nativity of our subject occurred on the 17th of October, 1854, in Morgan County, Ill. He is the descendant of an honored family not altogether unknown in historic annals. He is the son of John W. and Frances (Wardell) Gilmore. His father, who was a native of County Derry, Ireland, came to the United States when about eighteen years of age, and became one of New Orleans' successful merchants. He followed also the business of a pork packer, and at one time was the owner of a line of flatboats on the river, continuing that business relation for some fourteen years. His demise occurred June 19, 1872.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of Thomas Wardall, of England. His father, Christopher Wardall, was a native of England, and was in the service of King William, and served him as his armor bearer. He upon several occasions did his royal master good service, and after a fiercely fought battle saved the life of the king. In honor of the occurrence his name was changed by the king from Wardal to Wardall, seeing that he had by his adroitness and skill in arms warded off the blow that would have been fatal to the royal soldier.

The family circle of which our subject was a member numbered seven children, three of whom only are now living, namely: Elizabeth, John and the subject of our sketch. Elizabeth is now residing at "The Pines," the name given the home farm of our subject, and John is one of the rising and successful farmers of Thomas County, Kan.; James, who died after reaching the age of thirty-eight years, was extensively engaged in business at the time of his death as a railroad contractor, and left large business interests which it had been his ambition and hope to finish. His bereaved wife and five daughters mourned his loss as one who had wellnigh perfectly filled the sacred relations of the home. His wife was the daughter of George Robinson, and bore the given name Susannah. The names of his daughters were as follows: Frances, Anna, Mabel, Effie and Catherine.

The subject of our sketch is yet numbered among the free and untrammelled bachelors, and has been in no hurry to make any change. He is chiefly occupied with his farm, and takes just and laudable pride in bringing it to the highest possible state of cultivation, and in the raising of the best possible grades of stock. He and his mother are both members of the Presbyterian Church. He has not taken a prominent part in political affairs, although usually voting with the Democratic party, and is not by any means anxious to accept any official seat, although he has several times been requested so to do.

DICK A. NEEMANN, the proprietor of a good farm on section 30 in Rock Creek Precinct, besides land elsewhere in this vicinity, located where he now lives in the spring of 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory. He thus bears the honor of being one of the earliest pioneers of this county, and it is hardly necessary to say that the land of which he then took possession had been unbroken by the plowshare. He has labored industriously upon it for a period of nearly thirty years, and it gives ample evidence of the success which has crowned his efforts. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and upon it have been erected good farm buildings, while from time to time have been added the conveniences and embellishments which have secured for it the reputation of being one of the most desirable homes in this part of the county.

Mr. Neemann came to this region a poor man, having little capital save his stout heart and willing hands. In this respect, however, he was not different from his neighbors, so there were no ill-feelings on account of his poverty. He made his way to the Territory of Nebraska from Madison County, Ill., in the spring of 1859, overland with a team, crossing the Father of Waters on a ferry. He had only lived in Illinois a few months, having settled there in the previous fall, soon after landing upon American soil. His earliest recollections are of a home in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, where his birth took place on the 3d of December, 1825. His parents were Albert and Margaret Neemann, who were of pure German ancestry; the father died in Germany, and

the mother in Otoe County, Neb. Their family consisted of four sons and three daughters, most of whom are living in Nebraska.

Our subject was reared to manhood in his native Province, and, like most of the children of Germany, was placed in school at an early age and given a thorough education in his native tongue. Upon attaining his majority, in accordance with the laws of the Empire, he went into the army and served the Government a period of four years. Afterward, May 15, 1851, he was married to one of the associates of his youth, Miss Christina Wilhelmina, whose birthplace was not far from that of her husband. This lady our subject holds in the most affectionate regard, and acknowledges with true manliness that she has been his able assistant in his efforts at securing a home and a competence. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, the record of whom is as follows: George S. married Miss Cosha Rodermaker, and they are living on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Christina M. is the wife of Herman Jackal, who is in business in Hamburg, Iowa; Albert is the assistant of his brother George on the farm; John H. remains with his parents. Mr. Neemann since becoming a naturalized American citizen has uniformly supported Democratic principles, and, with his family, is connected in membership with the Lutheran Church.

HENRY HEYE, who is pleasantly located on section 23 in Belmont Precinct, is one of the most intelligent and prosperous German farmers along the eastern line of this county. A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, he was born March 11, 1836, and is the son of John G. and Mary (Schultz) Heye, who were also born and reared in the Fatherland, where they lived until August of 1847.

That year John G. Heye with his little family emigrated to the United States and settled in Clayton County, Iowa, where the father carried on farming, and where his death took place in July, 1883, after he had reached an advanced age. The mother had passed away in the spring of 1850. The parental household included six children, only two of whom are living, our subject and his sister Mary, Mrs. Kruger, still a resident of Clayton County, Iowa.

The Indians were just leaving when the Heye family settled on their land in Iowa, and there were consequently no educational advantages for our subject or his brothers. He is, however, by no means an ignorant man, as all through life he has kept his eyes and ears open to what was going on around him, and by availing himself of every opportunity for information, will pass for a man with a very good education. He was early made familiar with the various employments of pioneer farm life and assisted his father in the development of his land, working from early morn till late at night. He was twenty-one years of age in the spring of 1857, and on the 21st of November following was united in marriage with Miss Mary Oelka, the wedding taking place at the home of our subject's father, in Clayton County, Iowa. This lady was also a native of Hanover, and born in August, 1835. Her parents were John and Maggie Oelka, the former of whom died about 1860, and the latter is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Heye commenced the journey of life together upon a farm in Clayton County, Iowa, where they lived until July of 1861. They then changed their residence to this county, our subject taking up 160 acres of land on section 23, in Belmont Precinct. Their first dwelling here was a small house, and Mr. Heye at once commenced the improvement of his purchase. He was greatly prospered in his labors, as the soil yielded bountifully, and he gradually put up the buildings required by the modern and progressive agriculturist. He is now the owner of 320 broad acres, with substantial farm buildings, and his homestead invariably attracts the attention of every intelligent traveler passing through this region. He keeps numbers of cattle, horses and swine, carries on agriculture by means of the most improved machinery, and his barns afford ample storage for grain and stock. The whole premises has that air of plenty, comfort and broad hospitality which is so grateful to the eye and so cheering to those who are fortunate enough to be the friends of the family.

Mr. Heye cast his first Presidential vote for Lin-

coln, and has uniformly supported the principles of the Republican party. He is thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted county, and in the development of one of its finest farms has contributed largely to its wealth and importance. He has been quite prominent in local affairs, officiating as Road Supervisor, School Director, Assessor, and is at present County Commissioner. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and one whose word is considered as good as his bond.

To our subject and his wife there have been born nine children, five only of whom are living, namely: Maggie, Mary, Frederick, Henry E., Jr., and George. The eldest daughter, Maggie, is the wife of Charles Bramer, a well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct, and the mother of three children—Charles, Clara and Minnie. The other children of Mr. Heye continue under the home roof, and are being given the educational advantages in keeping with their station in life.

Mr. Heye is liberal and public-spirited, and no man takes a warmer interest in the welfare and advancement of his community. Although not a member of any religious organization, he believes in the establishment and maintenance of churches, and gives of his means to this object. He is widely and favorably known throughout Belmont Precinct and vicinity as one of its most prosperous farmers, and one of the foremost representatives of the nationality which has done so much toward the development of the Great West.

FRANK MEYER. One branch of the interests of the traveling public is receiving good attention by the subject of this sketch, who is conducting a first-class livery stable in the village of Talmage. For this purpose he has an excellent outfit, double and single carriages, and fourteen head of horses, which are usually all in demand. Besides the property comprising this establishment, Mr. Meyer is the owner of a good farm of 240 acres in Osage Precinct, and which is supplied with all necessary farm buildings, machinery and live stock.

Of this farm Mr. Meyer has been proprietor for a period of ten years, and upon it has effected many improvements during this time. Providence has blessed him with a large measure of practical good sense, and this, added to his industry and perseverance, has resulted in making him comparatively independent. He became a resident of this State in the spring of 1865, coming here in company with his father, Frank H. Meyer, who is now deceased. Frank was then a lad of twelve years, having been born Jan. 26, 1853.

The father of our subject was a native of the Kingdom of Bavaria, where he was reared and educated, and where he married Miss Elizabeth Kerthberger, a native of the same section of country. They were of pure German ancestry, and the elder Meyer during his early manhood learned the miller's trade, while at the same time he became familiar with farming pursuits. Upon emigrating to America with their little family of seven children, the parents located in Gasconade County, Mo., where two more children were born, which completed the household circle of six sons and three daughters. After the outbreak of the Rebellion Mr. Meyer enlisted as a Union soldier in the 4th Missouri Infantry, and did brave and faithful service for a period of two years. Upon his return home he sold his Missouri land, and coming to this State located in Otoe County. He only lived until the following year, dying in 1866, when not quite fifty years of age. It has always been believed by his family that the hardships and privations which he endured in the army undermined his health and cut short his days. The mother is yet living, is now sixty-seven years of age, and makes her home in Talmage with our subject. Her other sons and daughters are residents mostly of Nebraska, and all the family are connected with the German Catholic Church, of Nebraska City.

Our subject was little more than an infant when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, and received his education mostly in Gasconade County, Mo. He now owns and occupies the old farm which was secured by his father before the death of the latter. To this he brought a bride in the winter of 1887, having been married December 28, that year, to Miss Mary Butsch. This lady was born in Lee County, Iowa, in 1864, and came to

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this State with her parents in girlhood. She received a common-school education, and remained under the home roof until her marriage. Her father, Frederick Butsch, a resident of McWilliams Precinct, is one of the most prosperous German farmers of this county. Mrs. Meyer is a lady of much intelligence and goodness of heart, a wife who maintains a common interest in all that pertains to the labors of her husband, rejoicing in his successes and assisting him in his worthy ambitions.

Mr. Meyer cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant. He has served two years as Town Marshal, and is also Constable.

HON. WILLIAM McLENNAN. This gentleman was one of the first lawyers to settle in Nebraska, and his name frequently occurs in the early annals of the State as one of its most distinguished officials. For several years he bore a conspicuous part in the legislative councils of the Territory, and of the State after its organization. He took a prominent part in the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention in 1864; he was at one time District Attorney for the South Platte country, and he was once Speaker of the House in the State Legislature, during the sessions of 1869 and 1871.* He has now retired from public life to his pleasant home in the suburbs of Nebraska City, and devotes his attention exclusively to farming.

Our subject was born Dec. 19, 1821, in Columbiana County, Ohio. His father, Kenneth McLennan, was born in Inverness, Scotland, and his grandfather, Donald McLennan, was also a native of that country. The father of our subject and a brother, Donald, were the only members of the family who ever came to America. Donald had served in the English Army, had lost a leg at the battle of Waterloo, and, being a British pensioner, located at Halifax. The father of our subject preferred to settle in the United States, and took up his residence in Columbiana County, Ohio, for a few years. He rented land of his father-in-law, and was actively engaged in farming in that county until 1826, when he sought the wilds of Jefferson County to build up a home for himself and family. He was an early settler there, and he entered a tract of Government land, heavily timbered, and proceeded to clear it for cultivation. He was very successful in his undertakings, becoming quite wealthy and an extensive land-owner, having increased the acreage of his original purchase to 600 acres of land. He died in 1834, having rounded out a useful and busy life, wherein he had won the respect of his fellowmen in the highest degree. The maiden name of his wife was Janet McLaughlin, and she was likewise a native of Inverness, Scotland. Her father, William McLaughlin, was also a Scot by birth, and he came to America about 1819 and located in Columbiana County. He entered quite a large tract of land, and resided there until his death in 1833, at the remarkable old age of one hundred and one years. His wife survived him for some years, and died at the advanced age of one hundred and two years. There were eight children born to the parents of our subject, all of whom grew up, namely: Donald, Eliza, Margaret, Janet, Ann, William, Kennett and Eleanor. The three youngest were born in America, and the five eldest in Scotland; the three eldest are deceased. Ann resides in Kansas, and the others in Ohio.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Steubenville, and subsequently was a student at Grove Academy, in the same town, for three terms. He commenced reading law at the age of twenty, with O. C. Gray, a Steubenville lawyer. After remaining with him one year, he read under the instruction of the Hon. Edwin M. Stanton the succeeding year, and was then admitted to the bar. In 1846 he removed to Illinois and located in Carthage, Hancock County, where he practiced his profession four years with good success. In 1850 he went to Keokuk, Lee Co., Iowa, and resided there until 1854, when he started for the Territory of Nebraska, which was then beginning to attract much notice as a favorable place for settlement. He proceeded on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in the steam ferry-boat that he had had built in Columbiana County, and in which he had voyaged to Iowa four years previously, and when he arrived at Council Bluffs

he made his headquarters there, and ran the boat during the season of 1854, and then sold it. When going to Council Bluffs in May he had landed at Nebraska City, inspected the surrounding country, and, being much pleased with the pleasant scenery and the charming climate, during that month made a claim, with a view of locating here, to the land that he now occupies. After coming here to live Mr. McLennan built a steam sawmill and a boarding-house on his land, in 1855, but the place where the mill stood has since been washed away by the river. Our subject has been a continuous resident of Nebraska since 1854, and has therefore witnessed almost its entire development, and has played no unimportant part in promoting its growth and present prosperity. When he first came here he had nearly the entire Territory of Nebraska from which to select his land, and it was at that time, as far as the Indian titles had been extinguished, owned by the Government. The Indians still made their home here, and it was their favorite hunting-ground for antelope, deer, wild turkeys, and other game that was then very abundant. When he first came here Col. Downs and his family, who occupied the Government building, were the only inhabitants of the present site of the city, then called Ft. Kearney.

Mr. McLennan has been four times married. His first marriage was to Miss Sarah B. Hall, a native of Indiana, and it took place in November, 1857; she died in August, 1858. Our subject was a second time married, in October, 1859, to Miss Martha J. Hall, a native of Bureau County, Ill., and she died in December, 1868, leaving two children—William E. and Mary J. Mr. McLennan's third marriage, which took place Sept. 15, 1870, was to Ella Ewing, a native of Utica, N. Y.; she died Nov. 28, 1871, leaving one child, Ella M. The marriage of our subject to his present wife took place in December, 1876, and they have one child living by this union, Stella. Mrs. McLennan's maiden name was Margaret Frances Brown, and she was born in Mason County, Ill., a daughter of Jesse and Hannah (Streeter) Brown. Her father was a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point, and became a resident of Richardson County, Neb., in 1860, and was one of the pioneers of the Territory; he is now deceased. She has been twice married. Her first marriage was to John Sittler, and to them were born three children, namely: Ida, Gussie and Ernest.

Our subject was elected District Attorney for the South Platte country in 1855, and was re-elected in 1857. In 1863 he was sent to the Territorial Legislature, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1864. He was elected to the Legislature again in 1868, and was Speaker of the House in the session of 1869–71. He was nominated by Gen. Grant, in 1870, for the position of Assistant Attorney, but was not confirmed by the Senate. Mr. McLennan is a fine man, and he is universally respected by all who know him for his many noble traits of character. He is well grounded in the law, and had he chosen to prosecute his profession would undoubtedly have attained a high position among the leading lawyers of Nebraska. Both in public and private life he has always borne the reputation of one whose motives are pure and whose acts are above reproach. He is now nearing old age, but his active mind still keeps pace with the progress of the world, and he is especially interested in the affairs and political situation of his own country. In this connection we may state that he was in early life a Whig, later became a Democrat, but on the breaking out of the war transferred his allegiance to the Republican party, and has been a firm supporter of its policy ever since. The portrait of this highly esteemed and well-known citizen is given in connection with this brief sketch of his life.

FREDERICK STAHLHUT, one of the wealthy men of Nebraska City, owns and occupies a good property in its southwestern limits, and is carrying on a thriving dairy business, which he makes both pleasant and profitable, on account of the modern equipments and conveniences connected therewith. He is a man of remarkable energy and perseverance, one who has always put his own shoulder to the wheel, and who has accumulated a snug property by the exercise of his own industry and good judgment. His patronage is largely among the best residents of the city, and he is a man of standing in his community,

intelligent and well informed, and no unimportant factor in the building up of its business interests.

Our subject emigrated from the Fatherland in the spring of 1867, when a young man of twenty-one years, and settled near Bloomingdale, Ill., where he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, mostly working as a farm laborer by the month. He will be remembered as having later been the employe of Joel Draper, a farmer of this county. Since old enough to think he had made up his mind to be a man among men, to have a good home and property, and this resolution closely adhered to, has resulted in what we see around him to-day. He had very little means upon coming to America and nobody to depend upon but himself, but there had been handed down to him from his thrifty German ancestry those qualities of character by which he was enabled to push his way amidst every discouragement, and finally come out a victor in the struggle. He is now the owner of two farms in Otoe County, each embracing a quarter-section of land, and provided with good buildings. He is thus in the enjoyment of a handsome income, with the prospect of ease and comfort in his old age.

The subject of this sketch was born near Shamburg, in Germany, Jan. 10, 1845, and is the son of Fred and Arnestenia Stahlhut, who spent their entire lives on their native soil, the father dying about 1872, at the age of sixty-four years, and the mother a few years later, in 1878, when sixty-nine. Fred Stahlhut was a carpenter by trade, an honest and industrious man, who made a good living for his family and stood well among his neighbors. The parental household included five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom Frederick was the youngest son born. The others were named respectively: Charley W., Whilem, Arnestenia and Angeline, and are all now in Germany except our subject and brother, Charley W.

Mr. Stahlhut was reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which he still loyally adheres. After attaining a business foothold with a prospect of something for the future, he was married, March 19, 1874, in Nebraska City, to Miss Anna Huberle. Mrs. Stahlhut was born in Manitowoc County, Wis., Oct. 14, 1857, and is the daughter of Joseph and (Barbara) Huberle, who were natives of Germany, and emigrated to the Badger State during its pioneer days. The father engaged in farming, and, with his estimable wife, is still living, being now sixty years old, while the mother is fifty-eight. They were the parents of three children only: Anna and her brother Joseph, and Louie, who died at the age of twenty-seven years.

The parents of Mrs. Stahlhut left Wisconsin in the fall of 1865, and coming to this county settled in Rock Creek Precinct, where they now live. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been four children born—Horace, Louis, Minnie and Tillie. The eldest is ten years old and the youngest eight months. Mr. S. is a Republican, politically, but meddles very little with public affairs, preferring to give his attention to his business concerns.

JOHN BEY. The subject of this sketch stands prominent among the prosperous German farmers of North Branch Precinct, where he owns 240 acres of prime land, 160 on section 14 and eighty on section 11. Thereon he has erected good buildings, and has all the appliances of the model country estate. He is a man well thought of by his neighbors, and when we say this it is enough. He has served as Assessor of his precinct, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1886, and the duties of which he discharged with that conscientious care which is one of the distinguishing traits of his character. He is a man enterprising and liberal-minded, always willing to contribute both time and means to the furtherance of those objects tending to the general welfare of his community. The friend of schools and churches, he is especially interested in their establishment and maintenance. He has for a wife a very amiable and intelligent lady, one who presides over her department of the farm in a most creditable and praiseworthy manner, and contributes her full share in keeping up the reputation of the family and homestead.

Our subject was born in the Province of Holstein, Germany, Sept. 1, 1851, where he lived with his parents on the farm and received a thorough common-school education, pursuing his studies un-

til a youth of sixteen years. The year following he determined to emigrate to America, and accordingly completed his preparations for the journey. March 17, 1869, bidding adieu to the associations of his childhood, he took passage at the city of Hamburg on the steamer "Saxonia," and two weeks later set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he came at once to this State, visiting first in Cass County, the home of an uncle, where he staid a week, and then made his way to Avoca Township, Cass County, where he entered the employ of a gentleman with whom he made his home for a period of four years. At the expiration of this time he invested a portion of his capital in a team of horses, with which he broke prairie, thrashed, and was similarly employed for two years following.

About this time our subject, having made a pretty good start, secured for himself a wife and helpmate, and took up his abode in North Branch Precinct, this county, where he had purchased 160 acres of prairie land, and which is included in his present farm. Upon this not a furrow had been turned and there were neither fences, trees nor buildings. He first provided a shelter for himself and his young wife, and began gradually to cultivate the soil and set out groves, fruit trees and hedge fence. He was fortunate in selecting a piece of land well watered by a branch of North Branch Creek, but his building operations involved large expense, he having to haul material from Nebraska City. After getting his farm under full headway he began raising and feeding stock, and now ships annually a carload each of cattle and swine, and has in his stables some fine specimens of draft horses. About 1883 he added to his first purchase eighty acres of improved land on section 11 adjoining. The accumulation of his fine property has been the result of years of industry and perseverance, and for which he has been indebted to no one, if we may except his sensible and industrious wife.

The lady above mentioned, and to whom our subject was married in Plattsmouth, March 30, 1876, was in her girlhood Miss A. Sophia Schoemaker. She, like her husband, is a native of Holstein, Germany, and was born Dec. 9, 1846. She came to America with her brother in 1867. Her parents, Peter and Anna Schoemaker, were natives of Germany. The father spent his last years in Germany, and the mother in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Bey became the parents of four interesting children—Annie, Freddie, Mathilda (deceased) and Bertha.

Mr. Bey, after becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, of whose principles he is an ardent supporter. He has done good service for his party in this county, and has been sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He served as Assessor one year in his precinct, and has been a member of the district School Board for a period of nine years. He soon became familiar with the English language, and is a constant reader, keeping himself well informed upon topics of general interest.

Both our subject and his estimable wife are charter members of the German Lutheran Church at North Branch, in which Mr. Bey has been Trustee a period of ten years. He has also served as Secretary for the past six years. He was instrumental in the organization of the society, and has given liberally of his means for its support. He has made an admirable record as an honest man and a valuable member of the community.

MARIUS BAUMGARTEN, one of the self-made, prosperous and popular citizens of Nebraska City, is a native of Denmark, and was born on the 24th of November, 1851. His father was Carl Christian Baumgarten. His grandfather, Otto Ludwig Baumgarten, was a native of Prussia, but went to Denmark when a young man, where he followed his business, that of a harness-maker, settling in Assens, where he lived upward of fifty years, and in fact for the remainder of his life. There also his son, the father of our subject, continued to make his home and engaged in business.

The subject of our sketch was reared in his native village and learned his father's trade, continuing also to work at home until 1878, when his parent was called to his long home. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Maria Ohlson. She was born in Senderborg, Sleswick, but now resides in

Odense Village in Denmark. She was the mother of seven children, only two of whom now live, viz: Amelia, who lives with her mother, and our subject, who was the only member of his family to come to this country.

All the education our subject received was in the schools of his native country, and prior to his reaching his fourteenth birthday. He came to America in 1878, on board the steamer from Copenhagen, which landed him in New York after a voyage of three weeks. Spending one week in the metropolis, he came on to Chicago, where he remained for about the same length of time, and then went to Sidney, Iowa, where he was engaged working for the railroad company for about six weeks, and then he came on to Nebraska City, where he shortly after started as a harness-maker and repairer, with which he presently linked upholstering. After two years he became a house furnisher and upholsterer, and continued thus engaged with constantly growing success. From that has grown up his present business, which is both extensive and a splendid financial investment.

In August of 1881 the subject of our sketch was united in holy matrimony with Hannah Johnson, a native like himself of Denmark. She was born in that country at Hjoring, in the year 1861. They are both members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and are both able and liberal supporters of the same. He has learned fully to appreciate the institutions and government of his adopted country, and usually votes with the Democratic party.

REV. M. F. CAREY is the founder and President of the Nebraska City Academy, which, although newly established, is one of the important educational institutions of Nebraska. It was opened in January, 1888, with twenty-three pupils, and before the term closed in June there were eighty-five enrolled. The second term commenced in September under the most favorable auspices. A fine corps of talented and highly educated teachers is employed, comprising such notable instructors as Prof. William Valentine, late Superintendent of Schools in Otoe County; Prof. Charles J. Gedge, a graduate of Cambridge University, England; Miss Emma J. Evans, late Principal of the Third Ward School, Nebraska City; Edwin F. Warren, a graduate of Yale College, lecturer on Civil Law; Clyde Watson, M. D., lecturer on physiology, anatomy and hygiene.

President Carey was born near the Lakes of Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, Dec. 23, 1846. His father, M. R. Carey, was a native of the same county, and was a descendant of an ancient English family. He owned quite a large and valuable estate, on which he lived in retirement, spending his entire life there. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Mary Fleming, and she was also a lifelong resident of County Kerry. There were six children born to the parents of our subject, three of whom grew to maturity, but our subject is the only one who ever came to America. He was reared amid the beautiful scenery of his native land, and was early sent to school, first attending the National school, and later a private college, where he was fitted for Trinity College, Dublin. He was graduated from that world-famed institution of learning in the class of '69. He was then selected as Principal of a school in the city of Cork, over which he presided for two years, and then resigned to enter the ministry. He was ordained May 1, 1871, as a Deacon in the Church of Ireland, diocese of Kilmore, and located in the parish of Cloone. On the 22d of December, the same year, he was advanced to the priesthood, as curate at Cloone, and while attending to the duties of his curateship was also private tutor to the grandsons of the Grand Marquis of Headford. After three years service in that parish, our subject was assigned to the rectorship of Kilegar, where he remained three years. At the end of that time he returned to Cloone, and was there until 1880, when he came to America and settled in New York City. He was there licensed to preach by Bishop Horatio Potter, and served as a supply in New York pulpits for nearly a year. He then accepted the appointment as rector of St. Thomas' Church, in Falls City, Richardson Co., Neb. At the expiration of three years he came to Nebraska City to fill the position of President of Nebraska College. That institution was discontinued in 1885, and in the month of May, that

year, our subject was installed as rector of St. Mary's Church, and is still acting in that capacity. In 1887 he bought the college property, and in January, 1888, opened his academy, as we have before stated. He also purchased his pleasant and attractive home on the corner of Fifth street and Second avenue.

Our subject was married, in 1867, to Mary Von Stein, a native of Cork, Ireland. Her father, John Von Stein, was a prominent man in that city, where he spent his entire life. His ancestors were Dutch, and went to Ireland with the Prince of Orange, and became prominent in public affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Carey have two children—Kathleen Alice and Fred Arthur Von Stein.

The Rev. Mr. Carey is one of the foremost scholars of the West, a gentleman of polish and rare culture, and is eminently fitted to move in the highest social, literary and scientific circles. He is an associate of the Philosophical Society of Great Britain, and Fellow of the Society of Science, Letters and Art of London. As a Christian minister, he is pre-eminent; of acknowledged ability in the pulpit, in his relations with the parish he has not only sustained its character but added to its reputation and influence. It is generally conceded that the institution of learning of which he is the head is of great advantage to the city, the county and the State, as it is conducted under the highest principles, employs the most advanced methods of instruction, and cannot fail to make its mark on the rising generation, and elevate the tone and literary tastes of the people.

CAPT. ANDREW J. KLEPSER is prominently identified with the industrial interests of Nebraska City as a harness-maker. He has led an active and busy life, and has had a wide and varied experience, having visited and lived in many places in the western and southern portions of our immense country. He took an active part in the Civil War, and attained distinction and promotion as a thoroughly brave, patriotic soldier, and an intelligent, capable officer.

Our subject was born in Salem, Ohio, July 10, 1838, being a son of Jacob Klepser, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Oct. 7, 1807. The great-grandparents of our subject were Andrew and Hannah (Mutzer) Klepser, also native Wurtembergers. The great-grandfather of our subject was a life-long resident of the Fatherland, and died at the advanced age of ninety-nine years. The grandfather of our subject learned the trade of tailor, and followed it in Germany until 1817, when he came to America with his wife and five children, landing in Philadelphia in October. He located in Huntingdon, Pa., and opened a shop and pursued his trade there a few years. He then removed with his family to Martinsburg, Bedford Co., Pa., and there continued in the tailoring business until his death in 1844. His wife survived him many years, dying in the same place in 1872, at a ripe old age. They were the parents of eleven children, five of whom were born in Germany, and nine of whom grew to maturity: Andrew, Jacob, Jeremiah, Catherine, Frederic, Daniel, David; Elizabeth, who died in her eighteenth year, and Maynard, who died in his twenty-fifth year.

Jacob Klepser, the father of our subject, was ten years of age when he came to America with his parents. He had attended school four years in Germany, and after settling in the new home in Pennsylvania he went to the public schools for two years. When he was twelve years old he became a self-supporting member of society, as at that age he went to work on a farm, where he earned at least his board and clothes, although but little more. He continued as a farm laborer until seventeen years of age, and then commenced to learn the trade of harness and saddle maker, serving three years in Martinsburg for that purpose. He then did journeyman's work there and in Pittsburgh for some time. In the year 1830 he went to Montgomery County, Ohio, and carried on his business in Salem for twelve years. He then located in Delphi, Ind., removing his family and household goods with teams, as there were no railways in that part of the country. He opened a harness-shop in Delphi, and was actively engaged at his trade there until 1856, when he sold out and started for the Territory of Nebraska, in June, with two wagons and four horses, accompanied by his wife and three

children. They had cooking utensils, and cooked and camped by the way at night. They made such good progress that on the 25th day of July they crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, Neb. Mr. Klepser selected a suitable site on the prairie twelve miles south of that town, and bought the claim of another individual from the Government, there being forty acres broken, and a log cabin on the place. The family took up their residence in this humble abode, and he at once commenced to improve the land. This was in the very early years of the settlement of Nebraska, and the country was in a wild condition, showing but little signs of its present populous and prosperous condition as a great and wealthy State. The settlements were confined to streams; deers and wolves were plentiful on the prairies, and in the interior and western parts of the State, or Territory as it was then, buffaloes still roamed; the Indians had been removed the year before, but used to revisit their old haunts on these prairies. Mr. Klepser entered land from the Government at $1.25 an acre, and continued to reside in that place until 1865, when he sold out and came to Nebraska City. He immediately established himself in his business as a harness and saddle maker, and has continuously carried it on ever since, meeting with great success, and building up a very profitable trade, as he is a sharp and prudent business man. Mr. Klepser married, in March, 1833, Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Tunis Van Clefe, both natives of New Jersey, and of Holland ancestry. Of this marriage four children have been born, namely: Catherine, wife of John D. Simpson, of Plattsmouth; Andrew J.; Letitia, wife of O. F. Johnson, of Plattsmouth; Luella, who was killed by lightning in the sixteenth year of her age.

Capt. Klepser was quite young when his parents moved to Indiana, and he was eighteen years old when they came to Nebraska City, but although this was over thirty years ago, he can still give a clear and vivid account of that ever memorable journey, and of the hardships and privations of the early years of their life as pioneers. He assisted his father on his farm for awhile, and then went to Plattsmouth as a clerk in his brother-in-law's store, remaining with him until 1859. But for his restless, enterprising spirit, an adventurous life in California had great attractions, so on the 1st of May, that year, he started with ox-teams, and crossed the plains and mountains to the "Golden State," arriving at Susanville, Cal., on the 1st of September. From there he went to Marysville, and thence to Sonoma to mine gold, remaining there until the fall of 1861. He then abandoned the hard life of a miner, well satisfied with his gains, and turned his face homeward, starting on his return by the way of the Isthmus and New York, and thence to Indiana. In that State he spent the winter visiting friends. It was while there, in the spring of 1862, that our subject commenced his military career, of which he has modestly withheld the record, all but the most meager details. We learn that he enlisted in the service, and assisted in raising a company which was designated as Company A, and was attached to the 72d Indiana Mounted Infantry. He was mustered in as Second Lieutenant, and soon went to the front, where he took part in the battle of Stone River; was with Sherman from Chattanooga to Atlanta, taking part in the important battles, and in the siege and capture of Atlanta. After the battle of Stone River he received deserved promotion to the rank of Captain for his cool courage and efficiency on the battle-field. In the fall of 1864, having served his country faithfully for nearly three years, he resigned his commission and retired to private life in Plattsmouth, where he opened a book store. He soon gave up that business, and commenced freighting from Plattsmouth and Nebraska City to Denver and intervening military posts. He continued in that business until 1867, when the Union Pacific road was built, which of course restricted the freighting business, making it less necessary and also less profitable. He then turned his attention to farming in Cass County, and was busily engaged in agriculture there two years. At the expiration of that time he sold that place and bought another farm in Ashland, upon which he resided a year. We next hear of him in Plattsmouth again, where he engaged in the dairy business for a year and a half. From there he went to Kearney and Lowell, where he spent a few months, and thence proceeded to Texas and engaged in railroading for a short time, but a few months later he again made his appearance in his old home in Nebraska City.

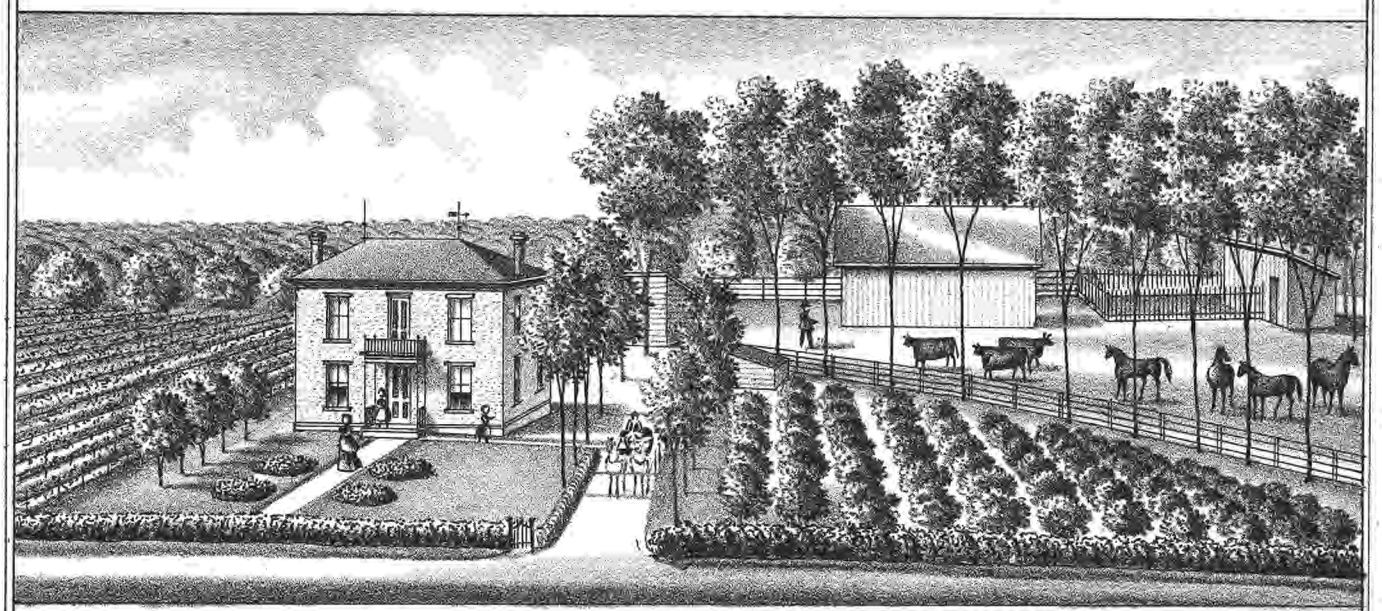
He entered his father's harness-shop, and worked with him for three years. But the old roaming propensities were not cooled, he was not ready yet to settle down to a quiet, uneventful life, but must be up and off. This time the Territory of Dakota was the chosen scene of his travels, and for awhile he found a home there. He was employed a part of the time at his trade in Yankton, a part of the time was mining in the Black Hills, and part of the time was prospecting and railroading in Northern Dakota. In 1881 he left Dakota and returned to Nebraska City, where he has ever since resided, and immediately established himself in his present business.

Capt. Klepser was married, in 1865, to Miss Abbie Buck, a native of Illinois, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of three children—Theodora, Elizabeth and John J. The Captain and his wife occupy an honorable position in society in this community, and he is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M. After the stirring and adventurous life of his earlier years, he has now settled down to a quiet life, and pays strict attention to his business, which is in a flourishing condition. During all these years while traveling in different parts of the country he has been a keen and intelligent observer of men and things, and has gained a fund of useful and interesting information.

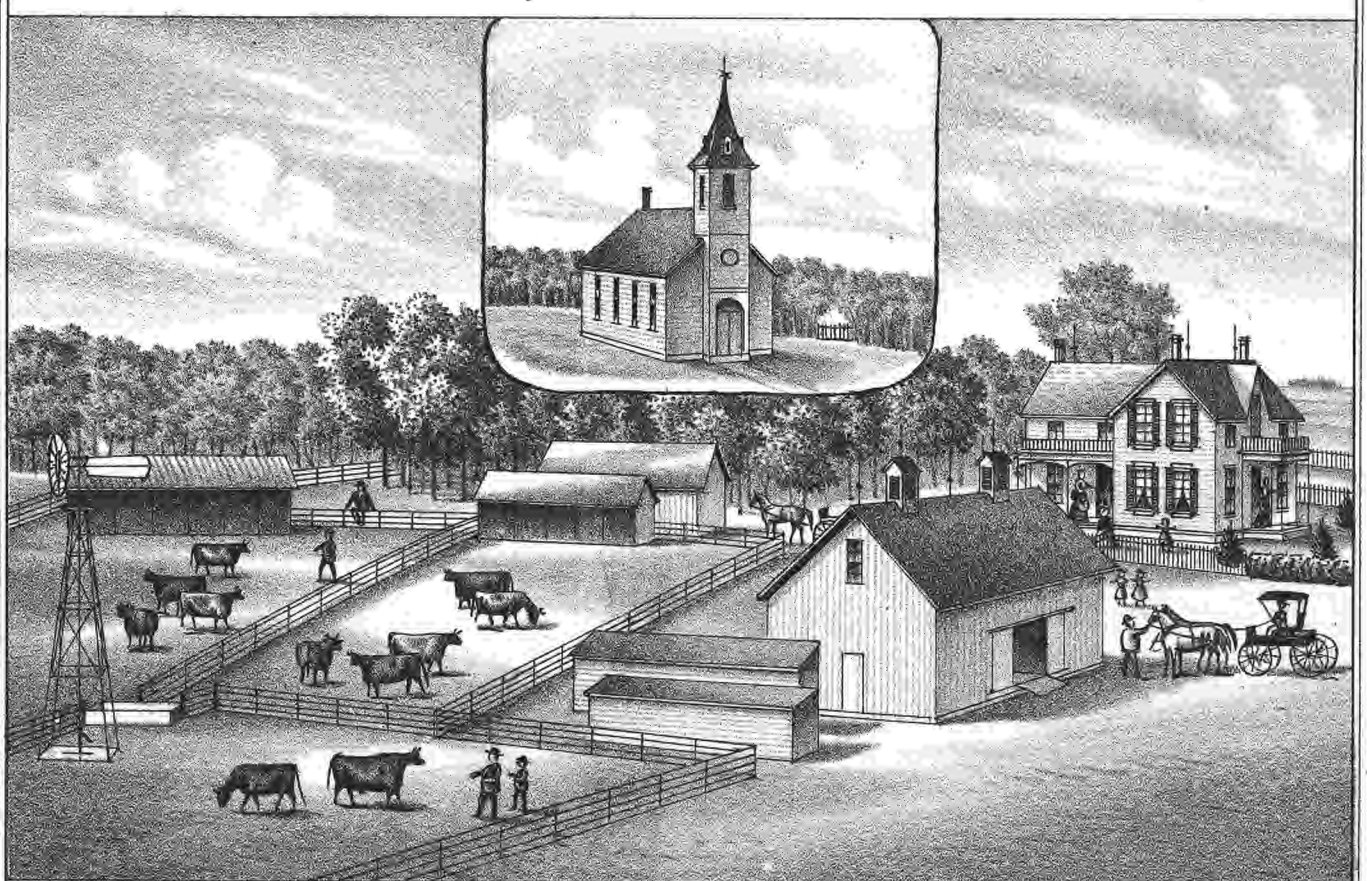
ERNST GUENZEL is the proprietor of one of the best managed farms in Nebraska City Precinct; its proximity to a good market in a prosperous and growing city, its well-tilled acres, and its substantial and commodious buildings, render it one of the most valuable estates in Otoe County. A view of his fine place the publishers present on the adjoining page. Mr. Guenzel was born in Schleusingen, Prussia, Oct. 11, 1837. His father, Karl Guenzel, and his grandfather, Christopher Guenzel, were natives and lifelong residents of the same locality, where they followed the pursuit of farming. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Christina Frencel, and she was likewise a native of Schleusingen, Prussia, and is still living there at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. There were five children born to her and her husband, namely: Maria, Ernst, Johanna, Christina and Henry. Our subject and his sister Johanna were the only ones who ever came to America, and the latter, the wife of Peter Scharp, lives in Wyoming Precinct.

Ernst Guenzel obtained a very good education in the excellent schools of his native land, which he attended from the age of six until he was thirteen and a half years old. After leaving school he devoted three years and three months to learn the trade of shoemaker, and then followed that trade on his own account in his native place for one year. After that he resolved to seek a home in the New World, and in 1855, at the age of eighteen years, set sail from Hamburg in an American bound vessel on the 18th of October, and, after a weary voyage of two months, landed in New York on the 20th of the following December. At that time he had but $11 in his pocket; but he had youth, health and a clear head in his favor, and with high courage he made his way to Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked at his trade in one shop for three years and three months. He subsequently visited Memphis, Tenn., spending two months there, and from there went to Westport, and later to Carrolton, Mo., working at his trade in both places. In Carrolton he established a shop and carried on the shoe business for one year. In 1861 we find him in Nebraska, then a Territory, about to open a store in Nebraska City for the sale of groceries, ice cream and confectionery. He was engaged in that until 1868, when he turned his attention to bottling mineral water. In 1871 he sold out that business and bought his present farm, which comprises forty acres, and has since devoted his attention very successfully to agriculture. He has planted a variety of fruit trees, apple and peach, and now has a fine orchard, from which he derives a good income, and he also has quite a vineyard of choice grapes. Mr. Guenzel has erected a commodious brick house, in which he and his family have one of the pleasantest and coziest homes in the precinct.

Our subject has been twice married. He was married to Miss Emma Oekle, July 13, 1865; she was a native of Hanover, Germany, and came to



RESIDENCE OF ERNST GUENZEL, SEC. 15. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF FRITZ DAMMA, SEC. 35. OSAGE PRECINCT.

America when she was seven years old. Eleven children blessed their union, of whom the following six are living: Carl, Selma, Anna, Edward, Ida and Lulu. The faithful wife and devoted mother passed to her reward March 23, 1887.

Our subject was married to his present wife July 29, 1888. Her maiden name was Dora Wendt, and she was born in Mecklenburg, Germany. She came to America with her parents, Henry and Dorothea Wendt, in 1857, and they settled in Davenport, Iowa. She was married there to John Haacker, a native of Germany, and she had two children by her first marriage, Ida and Julius.

Mr. Guenzel is classed among the most intelligent agriculturists of this community, and he well understands how to apply the best modes of cultivation to the soil so as to obtain the richest results. He is a sturdy, sober, industrious man, well endowed mentally and physically, and is regarded as an upright citizen. He and his estimable wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, and contribute generously of their means to the support of the Gospel. In politics he is a Republican.

FRED DAMMA, who was one of the first settlers of Osage, and also is one of the prominent and worthy representative German-American citizens, is at the same time one of the prosperous and intelligent farmers and stock-raisers of that precinct, and owns 760 acres of thoroughly improved land, 480 on section 35, and the balance in McWilliams Precinct. His parents, Henry and Katie Damma, were born in Germany. They came to America in 1843, taking ship at Bremen. The ocean passage occupied a period of eight weeks. Then they were landed at the city of New Orleans, after which they pursued their journey up the Mississippi by steamer to St. Louis. From that city by means of wagons they went on to Franklin County, Mo., where land was purchased and a farm improved. This was the home of the family until 1856, when the father died, after a sickness of about twenty-four hours, thus closing a life of sixty years. The cause of death was cholera. His wife had died at the close of 1852, aged fifty-four years. The following are the names of their children: William, Minnie (deceased), Henry, Minnie (deceased), Frederick, August, Louis and Louisa.

The subject of our sketch was born in Prussia on the 21st of March, 1837, and was thus quite young when his parents emigrated to this country. The scenes furnished by his first recollections are those of the home and its surroundings in Franklin County, Mo. He continued to reside with his parents until he was seventeen years of age, during that time imbibing the first principles of an education, and also becoming practically acquainted with the farm and farm work. Upon leaving home he went to Illinois and there worked out upon a farm. In 1859 he went to Nebraska City and had so prospered as to be able to purchase his present property of 160 acres. As most purchases of a similar nature were at the time, it was entirely without improvement, and what is to-day seen in the various departments is all the result of his work, intelligence, ambition and prosperity.

In beginning life in this State our subject found that it was not by any means a path without obstacles, difficulties and hardships. There were many things to be put up with, experienced and overcome entirely unknown to the farmer of the present. It is to his credit that he has made the progress he has. His nearest market either for the sale of produce and stock or the purchase of supplies was Nebraska City. Every piece of lumber used upon his house and buildings he had to haul from the same place.

It is patent that Mr. Damma is prosperous in his undertakings and successful in the operation of his farm, for since taking the original 160 acres he has purchased 320 acres in Osage, all of improved land, fenced and hedged; also 280 acres in McWilliams Precinct, so that the total acreage of his estate is 760 acres, all of improved and cultivated land. He still superintends the home farm, the remainder he rents. He is now chiefly engaged in stock-raising, and is the owner of a herd of 150 head of very fine cattle.

Our subject has been twice married. First in 1863, in Franklin County, Mo., to Miss Christine Rhodenier. Her parents were born in Germany, but emigrated to this country, and settled in

Missouri, where they still reside. Their daughter Christine was the eldest of seven children; she was born in Germany in the year 1843, and died in Osage in the year 1869, leaving three children, viz: Louisa, George and Charles. Louisa is now married to August Butts, the well-known blacksmith of Talmage, and has two children, who bear the names Christine and Elsie.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in McWilliams Precinct, on the 17th of September, 1872. He then became the husband of Miss Annie Naman, who was likewise a native of the Fatherland, where she was born on the 28th of June, 1845. Her parents, John and Minnie (Houtels) Naman, emigrated to America in 1873, and are at present living in Hendricks Precinct, where they farm eighty acres of land. Their daughter Annie was the eldest of eight children who formed their family circle. To Mr. and Mrs. Damma have been born seven children, whose names we mention as follows: Herman, Minnie, Christine, John, Katie, Caroline and Matilda.

Our subject and wife are both members of the Lutheran Evangelical Church at Osage, and were in fact charter members of that organization and helped largely in the building of the church. There they are highly respected, as they are also in every other circle in that community. Ever since he has understood the political situation in his adopted country Mr. Damma has been allied with the Republican party and voted its ticket.

A view of Mr. Damma's place is presented on an adjoining page.

WILLIAM T. SLOAN has been engaged in the sale of farming implements in Nebraska City since 1871, and has established a large and prosperous business in that line. He is a native of Missouri, born in the town of Otterville, Cooper County, May 11, 1834. His father, William Sloan, was born in Tennessee, and his father, Alexander Sloan, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Kanawha County, W. Va., finally removing from there to Tennessee. He was a gunsmith by trade, and during the Revolutionary War was in the employ of the Colonists. About 1800 he moved from Tennessee to Barren County, Ky., and in 1819 became an early settler of Cooper County, in the same State. He took up a tract of timber land there, and cleared a farm, on which he made his home the remainder of his life.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and went from there to Kentucky with his parents. He subsequently took up a tract of Government land in Missouri, and built a log house to shelter his family, the same in which our subject was born. It had no chimney, and his wife did her cooking by a fireplace outside. He kept sheep and raised flax, and his wife used to spin and weave all the cloth used in the family for years. There were then no railroads, no manufactories, nor any markets in that part of the country. Mr. Sloan kent stock, but all that he could sell to get cash was the fat steers, that would bring $12 apiece when driven to the Baltimore (Md.) market. There were very few wagon roads in the country at that early date, and often merchandise was packed on horseback for transportation. Mr. Sloan resided on the farm that he had developed from a wild state until his death in 1870, at the age of seventy-five. He was greatly respected in the community where he had resided for so many years, as he was a faithful, law-abiding citizen, and did his share in developing the country. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Jane B. Alcorn, and she was born in Kentucky about the year 1803. Her father, James A. Alcorn, moved to the Territory of Missouri, and was a pioneer of what is now known as Howard County, being one of the earliest settlers there. At that time the Indians made their home there and were very hostile, and as a protection against them the settlers built a fort, in which they resided. Whenever they went to the fields to work, they always carried their muskets, yet, in spite of this precaution, it was not infrequently the case that a settler would be found massacred. Mr. Alcorn took up a tract of land, on which he located as soon as the Indian troubles ceased. He spent most of his last years with the parents of our subject. He was a man of considerable power, and was influential and prominent in public affairs, and

at one time represented the Territory in Congress. The mother of our subject died on the homestead in Cooper County, Mo. She had eight children, namely: Elizabeth, Catherine, Mary A., James, William T., Virginia J., Pamelia M. and Archibald R.

He of whom we write was the fifth child and second son of his parents. When he was young there were no free schools in Missouri, but in the winter season a school was kept on the subscription plan, and he obtained his education in such a school, assisting on the farm in other seasons of the year as soon as he was large enough to be of use. He lived with his parents until he was nineteen, when he went to Western Missouri, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until 1855. On the 22d of June, that year, he started for Kansas City with a freight train bound for Santa Fe, N. M. The train consisted of ten large wagons, each drawn by six pairs of oxen. Mr. Sloan went as an extra hand, and received $25 a month and board during the three months that it took to make the round trip. From that time until 1868 he frequently made the same trip, after the first year going as wagonmaster. He freighted between Kansas City, Leavenworth and Nebraska City to the various military posts in the West. He first visited Nebraska City in 1858, and was much pleased with its fine location, and in 1863 he came here to settle, having resolved to make his permanent home here. He engaged in mercantile business for two years, and then began the sale of farm implements, in which he has been engaged since that time.

Mr. Sloan was married, in 1862, to Miss Martha Berkley, who has faithfully shared his fortunes ever since. She is a daughter of Joseph Berkley, and was born and reared in Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Sloan have two children—Maud and James R. Our subject and his wife occupy a high position in the social and religious circles of this city, and they are active members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which he is an Elder. Mr. Sloan is a firm believer in the doctrines of the Democratic party, which has no more stanch supporter than he in all Nebraska. He is a man of good understanding, is exceedingly just and honorable in all his transactions, and exerts a good influence in his community. He takes a marked interest in the welfare of the city and county, and as County Commissioner for two terms and a member of the City Council he has contributed to the material prosperity of both.

JOHN R. McKEE. The subject of this biography is regarded by a large majority of his fellow-citizens as one of the most popular men on the western line of Otoe County. He is at present engaged in operating a livery stable at Palmyra, but at the same time is active in all those enterprises in which the public are generally interested. A pioneer of this county, and one of its most capable and intelligent men, he has watched with keen interest its growth and development, and has been no unimportant factor in assisting it to its present prosperity. He possesses all the elements of a useful citizen, has been prominent in politics as well as in business circles, is public-spirited and liberal, and has given no small amount of time and money to the various enterprises set on foot having for their object the general welfare of the people. His home is on his farm a short distance south of the village, and forms one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region. The residence is built in modern style of architecture, and all the surroundings are indicative of cultivated tastes and ample means. His family includes his accomplished wife and a number of interesting children, who, in the social circles of their community, enjoy the acquaintance of hosts of friends.

The farm of Mr. McKee embraces 500 broad acres, which have been brought to a high state of cultivation, and which occupy the larger portion of section 2, Palmyra Precinct. Our subject has been familiar with agricultural pursuits since his boyhood, having been born and reared amid the quiet scenes of country life. The place of his birth was in Bennington Township, Morrow Co., Ohio, and the date thereof June 5, 1839. His father died when he was a lad of fifteen years, and he continued with his mother, assisting in the management of the farm until the summer of 1856. The mother then believ-

ing that it would be for the best welfare of her boys, sold out her property in the Buckeye State, and moved to Iowa. To this step she had been persuaded by her children. John R. was the eldest boy at home at that time, and still recalls the incidents of preparation, and the overland journey. They wintered in the vicinity of Montezuma, Poweshiek County, and in the spring of 1857, changing their plans, came to Nebraska, landing in the limits of Palmyra Precinct on the 27th of April, unloading their goods two miles west of the present site of Syracuse. The mother had pre-empted 160 acres of land, and at first they were sheltered in a log cabin. The boys as soon as possible began breaking the prairie sod, and in the following fall harvested a good crop of sod corn.

During the following winter, John R. McKee going into Cass County, attended school at Mt. Pleasant, and the next summer worked out by the month on a farm. He continued a resident of that county eighteen months, and on the 1st of January, 1862, was united in marriage with Miss Sallie, daughter of Jacob and Susan Lowe. Mrs. McKee was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, Oct. 1, 1840, and received a good education in her native State. Her parents had a family of five sons and five daughters, and when one of her elder sisters, Kate by name, married Rochester Hedges, Miss Sallie accompanied the young people to the West. She had expected to return to Ohio after a brief visit, but through the persuasions of young Mr. McKee, changed her intentions, and with him in due time took up her residence in Nebraska.

Mrs. McKee, a very intelligent and capable lady, had made good use of her time in school when a girl, and employed herself as a teacher. After coming to Nebraska she taught the first district school in Syracuse Precinct. At the time of his marriage Mr. McKee was the owner of 120 acres, upon which the eastern portion of the village of Palmyra now stands. He, however, had lived at home with his mother, and in the meantime added to his first purchase a like amount adjoining, upon which he settled with his young wife. He had for his neighbors that first summer John Roberts, E. M. Brown and a Mr. Merwin, with their families. There were no other families within four or five miles. Nebraska City was the nearest market, from which point they secured their provisions. A post-office was established here in 1865, and John Roberts was the first Postmaster.

During this period of the early development of the western part of Otoe County the subject of this sketch, although a young man, was among the most prominent of those who were active in its agricultural and business interests. His industry and enterprise had a marked effect in their influence upon those around him, and stimulated others to follow his example. He cast his vote and influence toward the adoption of the State Constitution in 1867, and no man rejoiced more heartily when Nebraska emerged from a Territory into a State the following year. He was at an early date appointed Postmaster at Palmyra, serving four or five years, and until the Midland Pacific Railroad was completed, and the station and post-office transferred to its present site. He then resigned in favor of Miss Dora Harrington.

To our subject and his estimable lady there were born ten children, six of whom are living, and still continue under the home roof. An infant daughter, Elizabeth, died at the age of eighteen months, and a little son, George, was taken from the household circle when seven years old. The survivors are Florence B., Henry C., Guy B., Stella, Vinnie and Edmund.

Mr. McKee is now the owner of 1,000 acres in Palmyra Precinct, all of which he purchased between 1867 and 1888. He assisted in the organization of the first school district within its limits, when it included an area of sixty square miles, and hired the first teacher, a Miss Brown. He has been School Director for a period of eighteen years. He has always voted the straight Republican ticket, and during the late campaign (1888) served as Chairman of the County Central Committee. He identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1869, being at present a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Nebraska City. In his family Mr. McKee is the model husband and father, and gives the larger portion of his time and attention to the interests and happiness of those bound to him by the ties of nature.

The parents of our subject were Henry and Eliza-

beth (Kellen) McKee, both natives of Delaware. They emigrated with their parents to the Buckeye State, where they were married, and afterward became intimately identified with its pioneer element. Henry McKee was greatly prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, and accumulated a comfortable property. He was a strong Whig politically, a man of decided views, and one who kept himself well posted upon matters of State and National interest. His death took place in February, 1854, when he was forty-nine years of age. The mother died at the homestead near the town of Syracuse, in September, 1874, when nearly sixty-five years old. The five sons and three daughters comprising the parental household, with one exception, all lived to mature years. Clark died when twenty years of age, and Maria when an interesting child of thirteen. The survivors are James, Sarah, George, John R. (our subject), Belle and William.

HERMAN H. FASS, proprietor of the leading clothing house of Nebraska City, is a wide-awake and intelligent business man, who is meeting with deserved success in his mercantile pursuits. He is a native of Hanover, Germany, born Sept. 11, 1847. His father, Conrad H. Fass, and his grandfather, Johan B. Fass, were born in the same locality, and there the latter, who was a merchant, spent his entire life. The great-grandfather of our subject, who was an officer in the French Army, is supposed to have been a native of France.

The father of our subject was reared in the town where he was born, and received his education in the schools of the place. As soon as large enough he commenced to clerk in his father's store, and later engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Hessel on his own account, and also established a brewery. He died there in 1883, and his death was regarded as a severe blow to the business interests of the village. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Falkerts, and she was likewise a native and lifelong resident of Hanover. To her and her husband were born seven children, six of whom grew to maturity, as follows: John Burns, Mary, Herman, Falkert, Annie and Christina. Herman and Falkert are the only ones in America; the others live in their native land.

The subject of this sketch passed his early years in his native land, acquiring an excellent education in the public schools, which he attended steadily until he was seventeen years old. He served one year in his father's brewery, and learned all the details of the trade. After leaving school his great desire was to come to America, the goal of so many of his countrymen, to see something of the country of which he had heard so much, and to establish a home of his own at some future time, if he should be prospered in life. With these ends in view he set sail from Bremen Sept. 11, 1865, and landed in New York the following November. From there he went directly to Bedford, Ind., where he had no difficulty in securing a clerkship in a general store. At the end of three months he gave up that position and went to Illinois, where he engaged in dealing in live stock in Macoupin County. After spending a year there he went to Missouri, and located in Carrolton County, where he was engaged in his early occupation of brewer until 1868, when he revisited the Fatherland, and spent four months very pleasantly among his old friends. On his return to America he went back to Carrolton County, Mo., and lived there until 1872, when he came to Nebraska City. Here he was employed as a clerk for a time, and then established himself in business. In 1882 he turned his attention to grain and general merchandise business, and was thus engaged until 1884. On the 2d of January of that year he was burned out, entailing a loss over the insurance of $3,000. He was not, however, disheartened by this severe blow to his financial interests, but with characteristic push and enterprise he opened a grocery store in a rented building a few days after the disaster. He carried on the grocery trade very prosperously until April, 1886, when he was obliged to vacate the store. On the 4th of June in the same year he opened his present clothing establishment. This is a first-class store in every respect, and he carries a fine assortment of goods, and gives general satisfaction to his numerous customers.

In 1876 Mr. Fass was married to Miss Annie

Bertha Damme, a native of Missouri, of German parentage, and four children complete their happy home circle—Annie, Herman, Katie and Bertha. Mr. and Mrs. Fass are members in high standing of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is classed with the ardent Republicans of Nebraska City. Mr. Fass is a loyal citizen of this country, having great respect and veneration for its institutions and laws, but his heart still clings fondly to the Fatherland; he often thinks of the pleasant years of his youth, and likes to revive the memory of old associations by revisiting the scenes amid which his early years were passed, and in 1883 he a second time had that pleasure, staying among his old friends until April.

JACOB BEUTLER is the able managing editor of the *Nebraska Staats Zeitung*, one of the leading German papers of this State. It is devoted to the best interests of the city and county, and is a fine exponent of the policy of the Republican party. Our subject was born in the town of Sembach, in Bavaria, Germany, Dec. 18, 1859. His father, Peter Beutler, was a lifelong resident of the same village, and there learned the trade of wagon and carriage maker, which he pursued until his death in 1875. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Mary Kinsinger, and Sembach was also her birthplace. She came to America in 1874, and settled in Nebraska City, where she still makes her home. She has seven children, namely: Annie, Jacob, Daniel, Lizzie, Christian, Mary and Arthur. All are in America except Daniel. Annie married Adam Schaefer, and lives in Nebraska City; Lizzie married George Hopp, and lives in Osage Precinct.

Jacob Beutler attended school quite steadily while he remained in the old country, and obtained an excellent, practical education. He came to America with his mother when he was fifteen years old, and further supplemented his education by a year's attendance in the schools of this city. After leaving school he entered the office of the Nebraska City *Press* to work on a German paper published in that office. Six months later the paper was removed to Plattsmouth, and he went to work on it in that city for one year. At the end of that time he returned to Nebraska City, and was employed for awhile in the office of the *Chronicle*, and later in that of the *Press*. In 1880 Mr. Beutler thought he would like to try the mercantile business, so he went to Malcolm, Lancaster County, and engaged as a clerk in a general store. But to a young man of his thoughtful, intelligent mind journalism held strong attractions, and at the end of a year he came back to Nebraska City, and once again resumed his work in the printing-office of the *Press*. In 1881, in company with Charles Young, he bought the office of the *Nebraska Staats Zeitung*, and they conducted the paper together for a year, when Mr. Young sold his interests to Adam Schaeffer and Paul Schminke. Mr. Beutler has now for some time had full charge of the office and the management of the paper, and we may note in this connection that he has been very successful in this; he has brought the paper to a high standard, and it has a good circulation.

Mr. Beutler was married, in 1885, to Miss Paulina Kuwitzky, a native of Bohemia. She came to America with her parents when she was quite young. Her husband finds in her a ready sympathizer and counselor, and she is truly devoted to his interests. They are esteemed members of the Evangelical Church, and contribute liberally of their means to the support of the Gospel. Mr. Beutler is one of the most earnest and enthusiastic of the young Republicans of Otoe County.

PERRIN D. BABCOCK, Freight Agent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a resident of Nebraska City, is one of the self-made young men, and has before him a brilliant future; to-day, in spite of his age, he holds one of the most responsible positions connected with the above-mentioned company. He is a man of fine presence, large ability, courtly manner and genial disposition, and by all who can appreciate such qualities he is held in highest regard. He was the first regularly appointed agent for this place, and has held the position since October, 1887, and to his credit largely must be placed the fact that in

the corresponding month of the present year the freight receipts have more than quadrupled. Previous to his residence in this city his home was in Lincoln.

The birth of our subject occurred on the 25th of January, 1860, at Alburg Centre, Vt. He is the son of Thomas and Saphronia (Dorrow) Babcock. The family is of English extraction on both sides. His father served in the Union Army for four years. He was promoted to be First Sergeant, and was accounted a gallant soldier. Fear was with him an unknown quantity. His devotion to the old flag was unquestionable, and he found many opportunities of manifesting the same. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Welden Railroad, and after suffering the horors of Andersonville he died in that prison.

The death of the father left his widow with three sons and one daughter, and of these our subject was the third child born. The mother, with the determination that only those possess who are similarly circumstanced, made it her life work to bring up her sons so that they should be an honor to the cause for which their father had died, and should be prepared to fill honorable positions as citizens of the Republic. That the task then undertaken has been grandly completed it is unnecessary to remark, and is fully substantiated by the subsequent history of the family.

After completing the ordinary course of study the subject of our sketch entered the Vermont State Normal School at Johnson. Subsequently being graduated from that institution, he entered the profession of the teacher, making his first effort at Cresco, Iowa, continuing in that place for four terms. Besides his professional work he found it congenial and profitable for him to work upon a farm, which he accordingly did. Entertaining a desire about that time to enter the railroad service, he became a student of telegraphy, taking instructions under the operator at Cresco. He learned with comparative ease, and was appointed to a position at Ramsey Junction, Minn. This he continued to hold with much satisfaction to the company for six months, but having a more advantageous offer from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, he entered into an engagement with that company, and was stationed at Omaha, whence he went to Fairchild, Wis. After five months he was appointed operator at Augusta, Wis., for the same road, and continued there for two years. Then he became agent at Neillsville, in the same State, but after six months was sent to Ashland, where he was retained for sixteen months as joint agent for the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western and the C., St. P., M. & O. R. R. The wages being insufficient, he determined to try the West, and choosing the Nebraska & Missouri Pacific Railroad, he engaged with that company on the 25th of August, 1886, serving as cashier and Ticket Agent at Lincoln. He was appointed by President Clark of the company to his present position on the 2d of October, 1887.

Mr. Babcock entertains very liberal views in regard to the religious position of others, and accords them every right to their opinions, if they be but honest in their investigations. The marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 15th of October, 1884, at Neillsville, Wis., the lady of his choice being Miss Ella Barnes, of Augusta, in that State. She is the daughter of H. S. and Catharine Barnes. To Mr. and Mrs. Babcock there has been born one child, to whom has been given the name Bernice. The social circles of Nebraska City have cordially welcomed Mrs. Babcock as a lady of truest worth.

For several years the subject of our sketch has been an enthusiastic and devoted member of the I. O. O. F., and is at present the Noble Grand or Presiding Officer of Frontier Lodge No. 3, of Nebraska City, in which high office his high personal character and manly qualities make themselves felt among his fellow-members, who entertain for him the warmest sentiments of regard, which is equally true of those outside the lodge room and in the larger circle of life.

WESLEY SPURLOCK, a citizen widely and favorably known throughout this county, came hither in its pioneer days, and has contributed his full quota toward its growth and development. He traces his ancestry back to England, the first representatives in this country being

five brothers who crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days and settled in Virginia. There they and their descendants distinguished themselves as active and enterprising citizens and good business men, building up comfortable homes and accumulating each a good property.

The subject of this sketch was born in the part of West Virginia which was then Cabell, but is now Wayne County, Jan. 15, 1813, and is the son of Stephen Spurlock, a native of the same locality, and who was born March 19, 1786. The paternal grandfather, Jesse Spurlock, was a well-to-do farmer of that region, a very prosperous man, and prominent in public affairs. His estate at the time of his death included a number of slaves. Stephen and another son were strongly opposed to making merchandise of human flesh, and in the division of the property they took the slaves, setting a part of them free, while the other children were given the real estate. This, of course, was long before the outbreak of the Civil War. Stephen Spurlock also became prominent in his community, and was at one time Chaplain in the House of Representatives. He was fond of agricultural pursuits and spent most of his life in farming, He, however, never lost the spirit of piety which was evinced from his earliest youth, and joining the Methodist Episcopal Church, commenced preaching when a young man, and thus labored in the Master's vineyard for a number of years. He spent his entire life upon the soil of his native State, dying there Dec. 31, 1870.

Stephen Spurlock had married in early manhood Miss Nancy Amos, who was born Feb. 8, 1784, and died on the 1st of May, 1872. The parental household included seven children, namely: Cassy, Jesse, Wesley (our subject), Abigail, Milton J., Francis A. and Esther A.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in his native county, received a common-school education, and subsequently taught school on the subscription plan. He resided with his parents until the twentieth year of his age, when he was married, and settled on land given him by his father-in-law, and which was a part of the homestead of the latter. He lived there with his young wife until 1837, then sold out and set his face toward the West. He made the journey via the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers on a steamer to Peoria, Ill., then with his four-horse team drove to Knox County, and settled on land near which subsequently grew up the present flourishing town of Abingdon. A brother-in-law had preceded him to that point, and with him he remained until the spring following. Then going into Whiteside County he purchased a "squatter's" claim, near which the town of Albany grew up. He did not enter this land, although he improved about 100 acres of it. He sold his claim in 1840 and returned to Knox County, purchasing wild land south of Abingdon, upon which he made some improvements, but which he finally sold, and crossing the Mississippi with teams, and accompanied by his brother-in-law and family, they both took up land in Wapello County, Iowa, being the very first settlers in that region.

Wild game of all kinds abounded in that section at the time and Indians still lingered there. The latter received their last payment at the Agency that year, Mr. Spurlock witnessing the procedure. The pioneer cabins were located in the timber on Rich Creek, but in the spring Mr. Spurlock and his brother-in-law started out and made a claim twelve miles from the present city of Ottumwa, also erecting a log cabin there. Here they decided to settle and proceeded in true pioneer style to battle with the difficulties around them. The nearest mill was thirty miles distant;, and not raising any wheat the first year, corn constituted their principal breadstuff. Mr. Spurlock had a number of sheep, and the wife and mother from the wool of these manufactured the clothing for the family.

Five years later Mr. Spurlock sold this property and returned to Knox County, Ill., lived there two years, and then returned to Iowa, purchasing land this time in Warren County. This property was also wild and uncultivated, but civilization had begun to set Westward and our subject made better progress. He put up a set of frame buildings, but two years later changed his residence to Madison County, buynig again wild land near Winterset, where he improved a good farm and lived a number of years, carrying on agriculture very successfully. Then leaving the farm he purchased town

Respectfully
Yours
J. H. Morrison.

property in Winterset, where he built a store, but remained there only one winter. His next removal was to Glenwood, in Mills County, and there he rented a tract of land until 1856.

In 1857 Mr. Spurlock repeated again his pioneer experience, coming to the vicinity of Plattsmouth, this State, where he farmed two seasons, then purchased city property, put up a good house, and lived there until 1858. Returning to Mills County, he engaged in general merchandising in the then flourishing town of Pacific City. Upon selling out a few months later he rented a farm near Nebraska City, where he lived a few years, then moved into the town limits, where he has since resided.

Our subject was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Barton, Aug. 9, 1832. This lady was born in Wayne County, Va., April 13, 1815, and of their union there are nine children, namely: Nancy, Burwell, Stephen, William H. H.; Nina, the wife of Charles W. Sherfey, a sketch of whom appears on another page; Ezra, Saunders; Mary A., the wife of J. D. Gilman, of Falls City, this State, and Wesley W. Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which they have been identified for a period of fifty-five years. Mr. S. was a Whig, politically, during the early days, but upon the abandonment of the old party allied himself with the Republicans.

SAMUEL H. MORRISON is a well-known and honored resident of Nebraska City, where he has been engaged in the jewelry business since the days of 1867, and although not among the earliest settlers, he may be considered a pioneer of this locality whose growth and development it has been his privilege to witness. He is a fine representative of the citizen soldiery, who fought so nobly to save the Union during the late Civil War, and his military record shows him to have been a brave and loyal soldier and an efficient officer, worthy of the confidence placed in his discretion and zeal by his superiors. He was born April 27, 1834, in Washington County, Pa., and is a son of Samuel Morrison, a native of the same State.

John Morrison, grandfather of our subject, was born in Chester County, Pa., and moved from there to Washington County, Pa., in the early days of its settlement. He was accompanied by his brother Henry, and took up a tract of Government land in what is now Nottingham Township. That was in Colonial times, and Pennsylvania being under the jurisdiction of Virginia, he procured the title of his land from that colony, and the farm which he improved from that wild tract of land is still owned by his descendants, he having died there. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of our subject, was Mary Hughey, and she was a native of Ireland. She resided on the old homestead until the death of her husband, and then went to live with a son. Twelve children were born of their marriage, all of whom grew to maturity.

The father of our subject was reared in the home of his birth, and when young learned the trade of a tailor, which he followed a few years. He married Rachel Cooper, a native of Nottingham Township, Washington Co., Pa. Her father, Frederick Cooper, was a lifelong resident of that county, of which his parents were among the first settlers. The grandfather of our subject learned the trade of millwright, and built and operated several mills. After marriage Mr. Morrison abandoned the tailoring business and engaged in milling and farming, remaining a resident of Nottingham until his death, which closed a highly honorable and useful career, and deprived his community of one of its most trustworthy citizens. He served in the War of 1812, and his descendants may well be proud of his gallant and daring conduct while a soldier under Gen. Harrison, he being one of the four brave men who volunteered to cross the Niagara River near Black Rock to spike the enemy's guns, in which feat they were successful. He was always a stanch Democrat in his political views, and took a deep interest in public affairs. His estimable wife spent her last years on the old homestead in Nottingham, Pa. To them were born twelve children, eleven of whom grew to maturity.

Samuel H. Morrison was the ninth child born to his parents. He was reared in his native town and

obtained the foundation of a liberal education in its district schools, subsequently attending a mercantile college, and also spending a term very profitably at an academy in the capital city of Michigan. He resided with his parents until he was sixteen years old, when he went to live with an elder brother in Virginia for a time. He then returned to his old home, and was an inmate of the parental household until he was eighteen years old. At that time he was appointed Deputy Recorder in Washington, Pa., retaining that office for one year. He was ambitious to perfect his education, and attended Duff's Mercantile College after that for one season. He then adopted the profession of teacher, and taught two years in Washington County with gratifying success. After that he went to Huntingdon, Pa., where he taught penmanship and bookkeeping one winter, and then went to Lancaster, Pa., and taught the same branches in the mercantile college there for one summer. He subsequently turned his attention to farming, but his health not being good, he was obliged to throw up that pursuit, and he went to Lake Superior, and was engaged as a clerk and accountant for the owners of the Minnesota mines for three months. We next hear of him as a hard-working student in an academy at Lansing, Mich., and as a teacher of penmanship evenings. He continued his studies for six months. Milwaukee, Wis., was his next destination, and the ensuing year he was engaged in that city as a clerk and in writing cards.

The breaking out of the Rebellion found our subject engaged in his old employment as instructor in penmanship, and as clerk and bookkeeper for a milling company in Portage, Wis. At the first call for troops to defend the Union he did not hesitate an instant to offer his services to his country, laying aside all personal aims and comforts to enroll his name among the other brave volunteers who went forth to encounter the deadly perils and hardships of Southern battle-fields that they might preserve the honor of the dear old stars and stripes, and to whose valor in the terrible years that followed we are to-day indebted that our flag waves over a free, glorious, undivided country. He enlisted April 19, 1861, in Company G, Wisconsin Infantry, and was mustered in as a private. He went with his regiment to Washington in May, and joined the Army of the Potomac, and served under McClellan, Burnside and Hooker. Mr. Morrison very soon had an opportunity to witness and take part in a battle, and was present at the battle of Bull Run, the very first engagement of the war. He subsequently fought at Gainesville, Fitz Hugh Crossing, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and took part in many other important battles. In June, 1862, he received deserved promotion to the position of Corporal; March 3, 1863, he was appointed Second Lieutenant, and his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant followed on the 1st of July, his coolness and daring in the heat of battle and his executive ability as an officer having gained him the implicit confidence of his superiors. He was wounded at the battle of Gainesville, an ounce ball piercing his left lung, and he was not recovered sufficiently to join his regiment until four months had elapsed, a part of which time he had spent at home. In the battle of Gettysburg a minie ball passed through both limbs, but fortunately a comrade wound a bandage around the limbs so as to stop the flow of blood, and thus saved his life. He was taken from the field in an hour and conveyed to a hospital, and thence, two days later, to a private house, where he lay six weeks. He then returned to his old home in Pennsylvania, and on account of his wounds he was discharged Jan. 15, 1864. In the month of March, the same year, President Lincoln commissioned him as Second Lieutenant of the veteran reserve troops, and on the 15th of that month he was ordered to report with his command to Maj. Sidell at Louisville, Ky. In the following April Lieut. Morrison was ordered to take command of a detachment of unassigned troops at Camp Joe Holt, Ind., but in May he was relieved there and sent to take command of the 83d Company, Veteran Reserve Corps, at Jefferson General Hospital, Jeffersonville, Ind., and in August the 84th Company, Veteran Reserve Corps, was added to his command, and he was made military assistant to the surgeon in charge, and commander of the post of four companies on duty there, and he held that position until January, 1866, when he was relieved from duty at that point, and he received

his discharge from the army, in which he had served so faithfully, June 30, 1866.

The Lieutenant after his retirement returned to his Pennsylvanian home, and visited his friends there until October, when he sought the then Territory of Nebraska to begin life anew in its invigorating climate. He came to Nebraska City, and in March, 1867, established himself in the jewelry business, buying the stock and good-will of the store. He has since added the sale of musical instruments, and is doing a fine business. Our subject is a frank, unassuming man, and well endowed with those qualities that make him an important social factor of this community. He is prominently identified with the following organizations as a member: Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons; Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 2; William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R.; and military order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S. Commandery of Nebraska.

Among the portraits of leading and well-known citizens of Otoe County may be found that of our subject.

ADOLPH ALBRIGHT is recognized in the farming community of Belmont Precinct as one of its best citizens and most successful agriculturists. He at one time owned 500 acres of land, but deeded most of it to his son, reserving for himself eighty-five acres, which constitutes his homestead, and a very neat and comfortable one it is. His has been a career filled with industry, during which, by his excellent management and perseverance, he has accumulated a competence, surrounding himself and his family with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

The early home of our subject was in the Fatherland on the other side of the Atlantic, in the town of Gandersheim, Brunswick, where his birth took place Feb. 16, 1833. His parents, Ludwig and Julia (Finkenstet) Albright, were natives of the same Province, and of pure German ancestry. They are now deceased. Their family consisted of seven children, of whom three are now living.

Mr. Albright, in common with the children of his native country, was given a thorough education, and reared to manhood in his native town. In early youth he learned the trade of shoemaker, which he followed for a period of twenty years. At the age of twenty-two, believing he could do better upon the soil of America than in his native Empire, he crossed the Atlantic, and was settled for a time in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he followed his trade until 1856.

At the date above mentioned our subject, turning his face toward the Great West, crossed the Mississippi, and coming to this county located first in Nebraska City, where he followed his trade until the spring of 1870. He had in the meantime, with true German thrift and forethought, saved a snug sum of money, and invested a part of this in eighty-five acres of land in Belmont Precinct. Since that time he has made his home in this locality, fo lowing principally the pursuits of agriculture. He is accounted one of the most reliable citizens in the county, highly respected wherever known.

Miss Louisa Schmidt became the wife of our subject on the 26th of September, 1858, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City. Mrs. Albright was born in the Grand Duchy of Hesse, Germany, Oct. 19, 1837, and came to the United States in September, 1855. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Emma, Alex, Lucy, Minnie and Mary. Emma is the wife of Theodore Wirth, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, and the mother of two children—Anna and Olive. Lucy married Mr. Oswald Wirth, a brother of the above-mentioned gentleman, who is residing in Belmont Precinct. The other children are at home with their parents, and being given the education and training in keeping with their position in life. Mr. Albright has been generous with his property as regards his children, and nothing pleases him better than to see them prosperous and honored citizens.

While a resident of Nebraska City Mr. Albright was a member of the Council for two terms, and he has also officiated as Assessor in Belmont Precinct four years. He was the Census Taker of this precinct in 1880, and that same year was also made the candidate of the Democratic party for their Representative in the State Legislature. He was

reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which he loyally adheres, and which constituted the religious faith of his honored parents. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., and has passed all the Chairs in his lodge at Nebraska City. He is a quiet, unassuming man, who invariably commands the respect of both friend and stranger.

DANIEL RIEGLE wherever known occupies a high place in the estimation of those by whom he is surrounded, and as one of the younger members of the farming community of Palmyra Precinct, active and industrious, is apparently destined to a successful future. His chief interests are centered in the homestead, comprising 160 acres on section 28, where he is giving his principal attention to stock-raising, and meeting with flattering success. He has had ample experience among the various employments of farm life, and entertains a genuine affection for the sweet-smelling soil, the growing crops and the golden harvests. With his tastes lying in this direction, and tempered by that practical application which must be connected with every enterprise successfully carried out, it is predicted for him that in the near future he will be a leading light among the business and agricultural interests lying along the western line of Otoe County.

Winnebago County, Ill., was the early tramping ground of our subject, his birth having taken place one mile southeast of the beautiful little village of Davis, in a prairie region claimed to be the fairest in America. He first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 21, 1849, and is the son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Hartzell) Riegel, who after lives of worthy industry are enjoying the fruits of their labors in a comfortable home at Davis, Ill. They are both natives of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. They emigrated from the Keystone State to Northern Illinois after their marriage, and at a time when the territory comprising the counties of Stephenson and Winnebago had scarcely been disturbed by the plowshare. The father secured a tract of land from the Government, and with the primitive implements at hand proceeded as best he could with the cultivation of the soil, while his family were sheltered in a small house on the prairie. As years passed by, and the country around him began to be settled up, the pioneer who was in the advance guard, uniformly keeping a little ahead of his neighbors, began to gather around him modern conveniences, and in due time the uncultivated tract of land was transformed into a valuable homestead.

Among the other possessions of Jonathan and Elizabeth Riegle eleven children had come to bless their union, six sons and five daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth. They grew up intelligent and industrious, and following in the footsteps of their parents were "early to bed and early to rise," and if not becoming wealthy, became well-to-do and wise. Daniel, like his brothers and sisters, received careful home training, and at an early age imbibed those sentiments of honor and integrity which have formed the basis of a most admirable character.

Our subject received only limited opportunities during his boyhood and youth, but made the most of them, and kept his eyes open to what was going on around him. He remained a member of the parental household, assisting in the development of the homestead until reaching manhood, and then determined to build up for himself a home beyond the Mississippi. In 1875 he had purchased 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct, this county, and in the spring of 1878 resolved to settle upon it, and begin the establishment of a future home. He still remains a bachelor, his domestic affairs being presided over by himself. His land has been laid out with neat and substantial fences, and he has effected all the improvements naturally suggested to the thorough and skillful agriculturist possessing modern enterprise, and ambitious to keep pace with his neighbors. He has a good residence, while the barns, sheds and corn cribs adjacent provide ample accommodation for the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. To the latter he has given particular attention, feeding and shipping each year numbers of cattle and hogs, and from which he realizes a generous income. He usually keeps a herd of seventy head of cattle and 125 head of

swine, making his purchases usually from his neighbors, and his sales at Nebraska City and Omaha.

Mr. Riegle in the multiplicity of his agricultural employments wisely takes time to keep himself posted upon matters of general interest, and although never ambitious for office, is public-spirited and liberal to the extent that he believes in "America for Americans," and protection for every man in the enjoyment of his free and equal rights. The principles of the Republican party appear to him the clearest exponent of these sentiments, and to this he accordingly gives his earnest support. He is a man who is genial and companionable in the social circle, and wherever his lot is cast invariably attracts to himself hosts of friends.

ABSALOM TIPTON. The pleasant home of this gentleman lies on the part of section 31 which has recently been attached to Nebraska City Precinct, and which is consequently quite valuable. Here he has 110 acres, the greater part of which he pre-empted from the Government, and to which he subsequently added, bringing the whole to a fine state of cultivation. In addition to general farming he is largely interested in fruit-growing, and has a fine apple orchard of about 500 trees in good bearing condition, and 700 cherry trees, besides the smaller fruits, several acres being devoted to these also. Among his specialties is the raspberry, of which he has 7,000 plants, 4,000 blackberry and 100 blueberry, all of which are in a flourishing and productive condition.

Mr. Tipton has been one of the pioneers in fruit-raising in this part of the county, and keeps himself well posted upon modern methods of culture, and the new varieties which are constantly appearing. Prior to his arrival in Nebraska he had lived in Iowa and Missouri. He crossed the Missouri in the fall of 1854, and located in this county in September. He secured a warranty deed of his land as soon as it came into market, being very soon after the treaty between the Government and the Indians had been ratified. A portion of Eastern Nebraska, however, had been exempt, although Indians were numerous at that time, and the settlers were obliged to pay tribute to them to keep the peace while waiting for the lands to come into market, which was accomplished in the early part of 1856.

Mr. Tipton was born in Holmes County, Ohio, Dec. 16, 1829, and comes of an old and highly respected family. His father, Luke Tipton, was a native of Maryland, and son of Luke, Sr., a New Englander, a farmer by occupation, and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The latter was celebrated for his fine physique, and he made a brave and daring soldier, who received the approval of his superior officers for his courage and gallantry. After the war he went South, and died in Tennessee at the advanced age of about one hundred years. A brother who served with him in the American Army afterward settled in Maryland, where he spent the remainder of his life. The Tiptons are of Welsh descent, and the first representative of the family in this country crossed the Atlantic at an early period in its history. He was a cooper by trade, and left his native soil under threat of being beheaded on account of political disaffection existing during the time of Cromwell, the same as was the great-grandfather of the President-elect, Gen. Harrison. The original Tipton was placed in a barrel for safe transportation across the Atlantic, and settled among the Alleghany Mountains, where he lived partially secluded for a long period. The records indicate that he was one hundred and five years old at the time of his death.

Luke Tipton, Jr., the father of our subject, spent his boyhood days in his native Maryland, and had hardly got beyond these when his two brothers enlisted in the army and served in the War of 1812. Before reaching his majority he accompanied his father to Ohio, where he was married a few years later to Miss Mary Young. This lady is a native of Pennsylvania, and of Dutch ancestry. She removed with her parents to Ohio in her girlhood, where her parents died when quite well advanced in years. The young people emigrated to Iowa in 1852, and lived in that State and Missouri until the death of the father, which occurred in Mills County, Iowa, in 1871, when he was seventy-three years old. Mrs. Mary Tipton is still living, and makes her home with her son Saul, in Mills County. Al-

though eighty-seven years old, she is well preserved and active in mind and body. Both parents united with the Methodist Episcopal Church many years ago, and the father, politically, was first a Whig and then a Republican.

Absalom Tipton, the subject of this sketch, was the fifth child and third son of a family of five sons and six daughters. He was reared and educated in Putnam and Lucas Counties, Ohio, and attained his majority in the Buckeye State. He found his bride in the West, being married in the northeastern part of Missouri near the State line, to Miss Martha N. Norris. This lady was born in LaPorte County, Ind., in 1833, and was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Brock) Norris, who spent their last days in Hamburg, Iowa. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parents were married in Indiana. They were very excellent and worthy people, greatly respected by their community, and making it the rule of their lives to do by others as they would be done by. The mother held to the doctrines of the Baptist Church, but Mr. Norris, although a Christian man, never identified himself with any church organization.

Mrs. Tipton was reared and educated in Indiana, whence she removed with her parents to Missouri, and under the careful training of a Christian mother imbibed those sentiments and principles by which she became possessed of all the womanly virtues. She was more than ordinarily intelligent, hospitable and kind among her neighbors, and most faithfully devoted to the interests of her family. By her union with our subject she became the mother of seven children. One of these, a daughter, Flora, died at the age of fourteen months, and twins died in infancy. Of the survivors the record is as follows: Oscar is farming in Logan County, Col., and quite prosperous; William married Mrs. Lizzie Bruner, and lives in Omaha; Cora remains at home with her father, attending to his domestic concerns and devoting herself to his comfort. She is a very intelligent young woman, possessing largely the amiable qualities of her excellent mother. Schuyler is attending school in Nebraska City. Mrs. Martha N. Tipton departed this life at the homestead, Nov. 28, 1875, deeply mourned by her family and a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. and Mrs. Tipton identified themselves with the Methodist Protestant Church about 1858, to which our subject has since given a liberal and cheerful support. Both he and his sons are stanch Republicans, politically, and have done good service for their party in this section.

JAMES WILSON. The home of this excellent old gentleman and his estimable wife is one to which their host of friends always love to repair, and at whose threshold the stranger is welcomed with equal courtesy. In their lives is illustrated the result of well-spent years, and in their eyes the clear light of a good conscience and souls at peace with all the world. By years of industry and economy they have gathered around them all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, including the fine farm of 240 acres, which, with its buildings and other appurtenances, forms one of the most attractive features of the landscape of Russell Precinct. The estate lies on section 12, and is a credit not only to the wise management of the proprietor, but to the county at large.

The childhood home of Mr. Wilson was many leagues from his present one, his birth having taken place in Norway, Jan. 19, 1835. His boyhood days were spent upon the farm of his father, and later he learned the trade of ship carpenter, which he followed until a man of twenty-five years. In the meantime he had received a common-school education, and was well fitted both by habits and training for the battle of life. He had as a boy been bright and thoughtful beyond his years, and at the age of thirty-three years, not being satisfied with the prospects of the future held out to him upon his native soil, he resolved to seek the New World of which he had heard so much, and to which many of his countrymen were hastening. He accordingly set sail from Liverpool on the steamer "Etna," and after a stormy voyage of forty days set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he proceeded by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., and not long afterward we find him in Nebraska City. Thence he proceeded to the western part of the county, and homesteaded eighty acres of land. He

and his little family were sheltered for a brief time in a small room, and he made it his first business to provide for their most urgent necessities. Around him stretched the uncultivated prairie, and in order to put up a dwelling he was obliged to haul lumber from Nebraska City, thirty miles away. His neighbors, however, had done the same, and he suffered nothing to discourage him as long as he was in the enjoyment of his health and strength.

To Mr. Wilson, as to every individual who persistently labors and suffers himself to be dismayed by no discouragement, his industry brought its legitimate reward. The soil under his careful cultivation began to yield plenteously, and as time passed on he was enabled to erect the buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience. In due time there appeared a comfortable frame dwelling, a barn and all the other necessary outhouses, while Mr. Wilson planted groves and an orchard of 150 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. Later he invested a portion of his surplus capital in additional land, adding eighty acres to the home farm and purchasing 160 acres on section 10. It has all been brought to a state of cultivation, and is the source of a handsome income.

Mr. Wilson came a bachelor to this county, but on the 6th of March, 1880, was united in marriage with Miss Celestia Mills, who was born near the city of Cleveland in Summit County, Ohio, June 1, 1848. She received an excellent education, being graduated from the Peru Normal School, and taught school two years before her marriage. Her parents, Andrew and Jerusha (Dickinson) Mills, were natives of the Buckeye State and Connecticut respectively; and came here in the fall of 1869. The father purchased a quarter-section of land in Hendricks Precinct, in the southwestern corner of Otoe County, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. The mother passed away in the fall of 1873, and the father in March, 1887. The latter was sixty-four years old. Their five children were named respectively: Celestia, Emma, Minnie, Russell and Frank. Of these all are living, residing mostly in Nebraska and Dakota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilson there were born three children, one of whom, a daughter, Laura, died when five months old. Effie G. and Andrew are aged six and four years respectively. Mr. Wilson upon becoming a naturalized citizen allied himself with the Republican party, of which he has since been a uniform supporter. He has served three years in his school district, and socially, belongs to the I. O. O. F., at Weeping Water. He is a man who has been prompt to meet his obligations, made it a point always to live within his income, and one whose word is considered as good as his bond.

Thomas Wilson, the father of our subject, was, like his son, born in Norway, and married a native of the same place. The elder Wilson was a wealthy ship builder, and he owned a farm of 500 acres in his native district. He died there at the age of sixty years, about 1855. During the invasion of Norway by England, in 1812, he did good service as a soldier in protecting his native land from a foreign foe. The mother, after the death of her husband crossed the Atlantic, and going to Salt Lake City, made her home with her daughter there until her death, which occurred Jan. 28, 1888, after she had reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years.

DAVID STALL. This gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Otoe County, in connection with his extensive business interests as a stock raiser and dealer, and enjoys quite a reputation as a farmer and thresher. His home is upon section 8 of Palmyra Precinct, where he owns 240 acres of very fine farming land, but also operates 160 acres on section 11.

The subject of our sketch was born in Knox County, Ohio, on the 14th of March, 1836, to William and Susannah (Firebaugh) Stall. This family is of German extraction, and the original settlement was made in Pennsylvania, where the parents of our subject were married and made their first home, but removed to Ohio among the early settlers of that section of country. Our subject was the youngest of ten children born to them.

The early days of David Stall were spent upon the home farm amid surroundings common to agricultural life. He began to work with his father when quite a little fellow, and at ten years of age

received his first lessons in plowing, and began to work at the threshing-machine when but twelve years of age. True, he was large and stout for his age, bright and intelligent, but it was undoubtedly quite an early day for a boy to begin the serious duties of life.

Until his marriage, June 2, 1861, our subject made his home with his parents, but at that time he was united in wedlock with Elizabeth Bechtel, and they began their new life on the farm he was born on. She was born in Ohio, in Tuscarawas County, June 14, 1834. Of this union there have been born four children, whose names are as follows: Alonzo M., William H., Elizabeth E. and Alfred L.

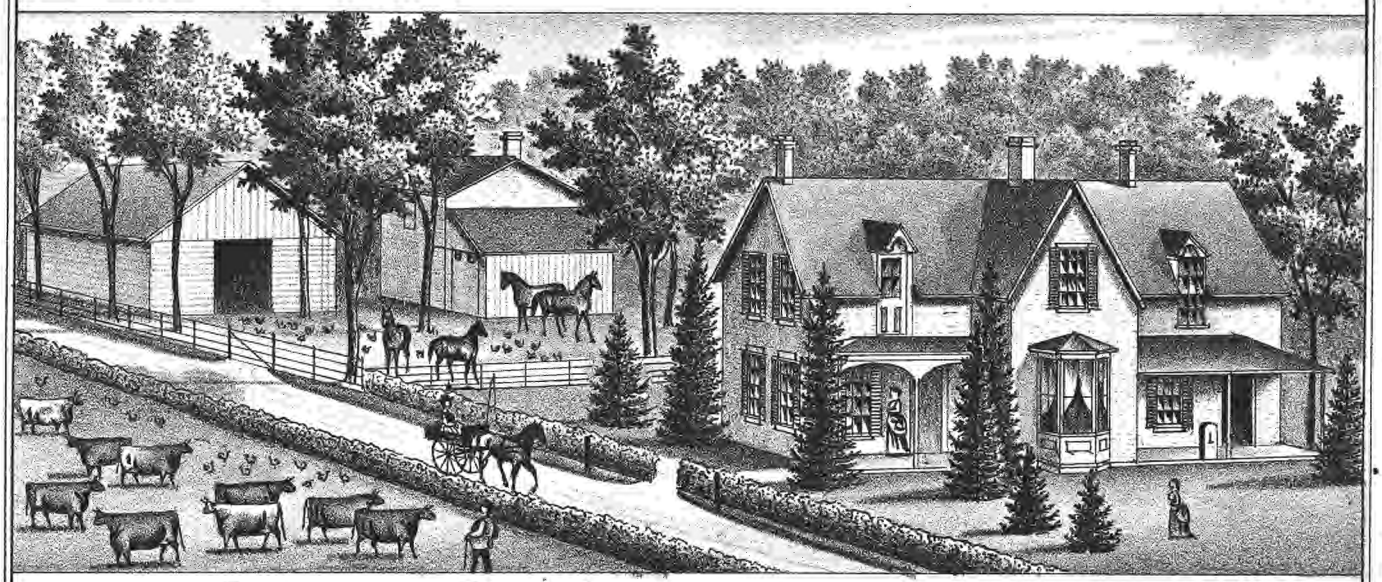
Selling the Ohio farm in the year 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Stall settled in Davis County, Ind., and there Mr. Stall followed the combined occupations of farming and threshing, and owned 200 acres of land. In 1872 they came to Bennet, Neb., and purchased 400 acres, but this they sold after one year, and then came to Palmyra, in this county, where they became the owners of 400 acres of land, well situated and calculated to meet his requirements as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. He has put up several valuable improvements in the line of farm buildings, and has also erected a very fine stone residence. He is the owner of seventy head of cattle of the various varieties. The fall of 1888 was his eighteenth consecutive season as a thresher, in which he is quite expert.

Mr. and Mrs. Stall are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at Palmyra. Our subject is a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association of Nebraska. Politically, he is a Republican, and, although not a leader in political affairs, he is deeply interested in all current questions connected therewith.

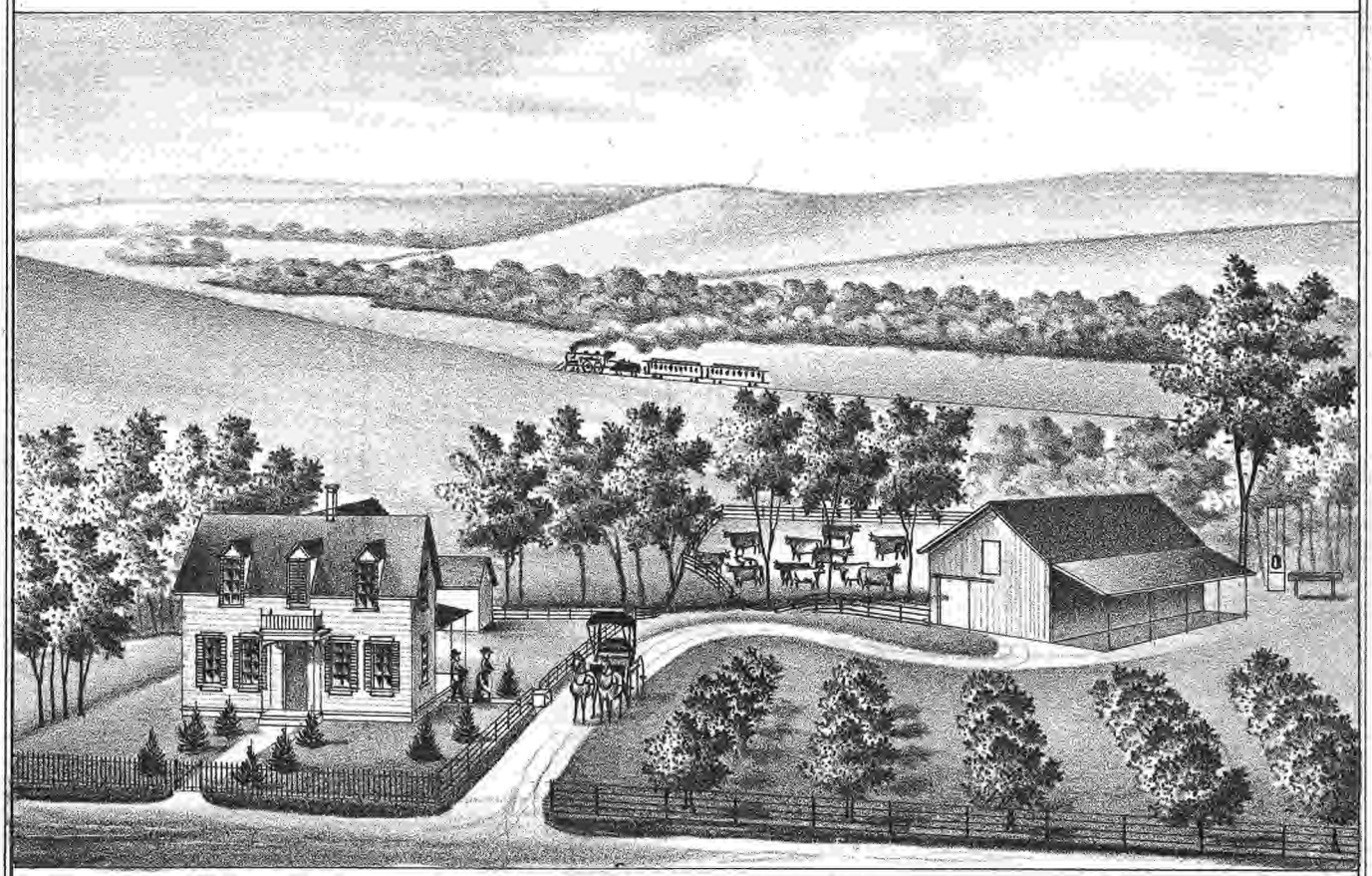
GEORGE QUIBLE. The broad acres which constitute the estate of the gentleman above named present one of the finest bodies of land in South Branch Precinct, being 380 acres in extent, upon which have been effected the modern improvements in keeping with the progress of the present day and age. A neat and substantial dwelling, with barns, outhouses, shade and fruit trees, orchards, live stock and machinery, form a picture of prosperous rural life which is delightful to contemplate.

The leading spirit in effecting the improvements upon a tract of land which was comparatively uncultivated when he came upon it, is one of the most public-spirited citizens in his community, and while his farm indicates a vast amount of labor, he has yet found time to interest himself in the enterprises calculated for the good of his community and the building up of its educational, moral and religious interests. To these Mr. Quible has contributed liberally of his time and means, and many are the struggling but worthy projects which would have failed had he not aided them so generously. It is not to be wondered at then that he is held in the warmest regard by his fellow-citizens, and with one accord is numbered among the most useful members of his community.

The family of our subject is of English ancestry, his parents being John and Annie Quible, who were natives of England, and spent their entire lives upon the soil which gave them birth. Their family consisted of three children, of whom George was the youngest. He was born in England, Sept. 10, 1832, and when a child of five or six years, being orphaned by the death of his parents, came to America with friends who settled in Will County, Ill., where he lived with them until a youth of fifteen years. They then returned to their native country, but young Quible resolved to abide in America. He began working out by the month, and was thus occupied in Will County until the spring of 1859. He then came to Nebraska, while it was a Territory, and sojourned the first year near the then unimportant town of Nebraska City, where he engaged in farming. He next moved to another tract of land near by, operating this one year, returned to town again, and in the spring of 1866 took possession of the land which he transformed into his present homestead. He first purchased 160 acres, upon which he effected various improvements, reducing the soil to a productive condition. He has an orchard of 200 trees, considerable wire fencing, and in 1880 added to his



RESIDENCE OF EDGAR CLAYTON, SEC. 24. OTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF GEO. QUIBLE, SEC. 29. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.

real estate by the purchase of 160 acres. His land is well watered, and the soil has yielded generously under his wise management.

Mr. Quible was married, April 22, 1857, in Lockport, Will Co., Ill., to Miss Emma A., daughter of John and Marietta (Bassett) Nichols. The parents of Mrs. Q. were natives of New York State, where they spent their entire lives, dying, however, when only middle aged. Their daughter Emma was then taken into the home of an aunt in Canada. She received a common-school education, and of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, one of whom, Ira, died when two years old. The survivors are: Ella M., who was born in Illinois; Etta M., Ernest B., Henry G., Rhoda and Cora E., the others all natives of Nebraska. Ella is the wife of F. S. Hazelton, a real-estate dealer of Norton County, Kan., and the mother of one child, a daughter Edna; Etta married Frank D. Arnot, who has a cattle ranch in Cherry County; they have two children, Pearl, and an infant son Ralf. The other children make their home with their parents. Ella and Etta taught school considerably before their marriage, the former for a period of seven years and the latter five years very successfully.

For a number of years Mr. Quible was largely interested in the cattle business, and engaged in herding at one time from 1,000 to 1,500 head, and had from sixty to 100 of his own. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, at the organization of the Republican party, and has since given his earnest support to this party. He has always been interested in the maintenance of schools and churches, and given of his means as he was able for their advancement. Mrs. Quible is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, of which their daughter Rhoda is the organist, being a young lady possessing more than ordinary musical talent. All the children take naturally to music, learn readily and sing with taste. Mrs. Q. has been a teacher in the Sunday-school for some time. Our subject, aside from being a member of the School Board for a period of nine years, has invariably declined official honors, and although elected Justice of the Peace and Assessor several times, he would not consent to serve.

In the view of the Quible homestead which will be found in this connection, are illustrated the diligence and taste which have been exercised in its construction, and which reflect credit upon the proprietor in a most admirable manner. The self-appointed surroundings of an individual are usually a safe index to his character.

EDGAR CLAYTON, an early settler of Otoe County, is one of the most extensive farmers in Eastern Nebraska, his landed estates comprising more than 1,000 acres of the richest and most valuable farming land to be found in all the country around; the greater part of it is located in Otoe Precinct, where he has his home, and the remainder is in Nemaha County. It is under high cultivation, is amply supplied with substantial, conveniently arranged farm buildings and all the necessary machinery for conducting agriculture successfully; is well stocked, and, altogether, is considered one of the best managed and most profitable farms in the vicinity.

Mr. Clayton is of English birth and ancestry, Berkshire, England, being his native place, and Suffolkshire that of his father and grandfather, both named Robert. The latter was a farmer, and spent his entire life in his native shire. The father of our subject was reared in the home of his birth, but after marriage removed to Berkshire, and there rented land and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1868. He then came with his family to America, hoping to better his financial condition. He settled in Otoe Precinct, and in the following year, 1869, died in his new home. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Sarah Watts, and she was born in Suffolkshire, England, and was a daughter of Isaac Watts. She survived her husband's death but one month, dying on the home farm. To this worthy couple were born six children, namely: Betsy, Robert, Emma, Edgar, Belle and Ephraim. Betsy and Robert never came to America; Betsy is still living in England, and Robert was in Australia the last time he was heard from. The rest came to America and are all living.

Edgar Clayton was reared until sixteen years of

age in his native county, and was carefully trained by wise parents to a practical, useful life. But he was a lad of more than ordinary energy and ambition, and at that youthful age determined to go forth from his old home to see the world and to seek the fortune that often rewards the venturous and the daring. The limited space of this biography forbids our following him in the long voyages that he made to many strange lands in the ensuing years, or to relate the sights and exciting incidents of his travels; we can but give a brief *resume* of the countries that he visited. He first set sail from London for Australia, where he engaged in mining in the interior for seventeen months. He then spent a month in Sydney, and from there went to the island of New Zealand. After a few months' stay there he returned to Australia, and spent a while in the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, whence he went to Hadley. We next hear of him in Van Diemen's Land, and then in King George's Sound. He subsequently visited different parts of the Mauritius Islands, the Cape of Good Hope, St. Vincent, the Madeira Islands, and from thence returned to his old home and friends in England. Four months later he again started on his travels, this time visiting scenes nearer home, going first to Ireland, then to Scotland, from there to France, and then back to England, making the trip in two months. In all his travels he had not visited America, so in 1855 he set out for this country, and after landing in New York City made his way to the western part of the State, and spent the ensuing winter in Honeoye Falls, Genesee County. In the spring he started for the Great West, coming by rail to Iowa City, then the western terminus of the railway, and from there he crossed the State of Iowa, going all that long distance almost wholly on foot to the city of Council Bluffs, then but a small hamlet. He staid there but a short time, and then continued his journey to Sidney, Neb., where he stopped one week before proceeding to Nebraska City, performing the journey between the two places on the back of a pony that he had purchased in the former city. There he found only a small collection of houses, there being, perhaps, less than 100 people living there at that early date. The country round about was in a wild state, being sparsely settled, and Indians still lingered about their old haunts. He staid here but a few days, and then began his wanderings again, starting for Kansas, and riding on his pony over the plains of that State about a month. He, however, found no location that pleased him better than Otoe County, and following an Indian trail he returned to this vicinity, and being pleased with the advantageous situation of the site of Otoe Precinct, he decided to settle here, and secured a claim on section 24, the southeast quarter, now included in Otoe Precinct, and when the land came into the market he entered it from the Government at the land-office in Nebraska City. When he first located on it he kept bachelor's establishment in the rude log cabin that he found on the place. Later he erected a frame house, which, in its turn, has given way to the present commodious brick residence in which he and his family make their home. He has also erected a fine frame barn and other necessary buildings. By superior management and untiring industry Mr. Clayton has accumulated a large and valuable property, and he has added to his landed estates until he owns more than 1,000 acres of as good land as the sun ever shone upon.

Mr. Clayton was married, in 1870, to Miss Eleanor Horn, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of James and Ellen Horn. Mrs. Clayton died in 1881, and her family was bereaved of a devoted wife and a loving mother, her neighbors of a kind friend. Two children were born of that marriage, Eleanor and Nettie; they are both students at the State Normal School at Peru, Neb. To his present wife, who so pleasantly dispenses the hospitalities of their charming home, Mr. Clayton was married in 1882. Mrs. Clayton's maiden name was Sarah Church. She is a native of Iowa, and a daughter of Reuben and Lydia (Little) Church. For sketch of her parents see history of Reuben Church.

As will be seen by perusing this sketch, Mr. Clayton possesses a full amount of the ability, enterprise and decision of character that mark the men who have been leaders in the work of developing the marvelous agricultural resources of Nebraska, building up her towns and extending her commercial interests. He is public spirited and takes pride in contributing to the various schemes for the im-

provement of Otoe Precinct and Otoe County. He is open hearted and gives generously of his abundance to the needy. He is a man of wide experience and varied information, sturdy and independent in his views of men and things, and is in his political affiliations a strong Republican. A view of Mr. Clayton's homestead is given on an accompanying page.

EDWIN MOORE, a well-to-do English farmer of Russell Precinct, crossed the Atlantic when a young man twenty-one years of age, with no capital save his strong hands and resolute will, determined to carve out for himself a good name among his fellowmen, and a position worthy of the efforts of any honest man. He had been thrown upon his own resources early in life, his mother having died when he was a little lad five years of age, and when a lad of twelve years he commenced the struggle of life on his own account. His career has been one so far of which he need not be ashamed.

Our subject was born in Lincolnshire, England, Jan. 19, 1848, and is the son of William Moore, a native of the same county. The latter married a Miss Gibbons, who was also born in that locality, and they became the parents of five children, namely: Mary A., George, Joseph, Edwin and William, all of whom are in America. Mary, Joseph and William are residents of Lee County, Ill., and George lives in LaSalle County, that State. After the death of the mother, which occurred in 1853, the father of our subject emigrated to the United States, and for four years thereafter resided in New York State, where he was occupied at farming. Thence he changed his residence to LaSalle County, Ill., where he purchased eighty acres of land and carried on farming until his death, which occurred in January, 1886, when he was seventy years of age.

After the death of his mother our subject was taken into the home of his maternal grandfather, and received a limited education in the common school. He remained in England until reaching his majority, and in 1869 set sail from Liverpool, and twelve days later landed in the city of Quebec, Canada. Thence soon afterward he came into the States, and joining his father in LaSalle County, Ill., employed himself at farm work until the fall of 1877. He had in the meantime saved what he could from his earnings, and purchased a tract of land near his father, upon which he farmed two years. The result of his labors not being entirely satisfactory, he resolved to cross the Mississippi, and coming to this county purchased eighty acres in Russell Precinct, the ownership of which he still retains. He has set out groves and an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides trees of the smaller fruits. Much of his land is enclosed by neat wire fencing, and it is all well watered by running streams. He has been prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, and added 160 acres to his first purchase, having now a fine farm of 240 acres, all under a good state of cultivation. The residence is a neat and substantial structure, while the barn and other outbuildings reflect credit upon the proprietor.

Our subject, while a resident of LaSalle County, Ill., was married, Dec. 4, 1872, to Miss Sarah A., daughter of John and Sarah (Young) Cottew, who was born in that county, Oct. 15, 1853. The parents of Mrs. Moore were natives of County Kent, England, whence they emigrated to America about 1845, and settled in LaSalle County, Ill. They were among the earliest pioneers of that region, and the father, securing a tract of land, carried on farming successfully for a number of years. He became the owner of 240 acres, upon which he erected good buildings, and gathered about him the comforts and conveniences of the modern farmer. He has now retired from active labor, and at the age of seventy years is still living upon the old homestead. The mother died in 1887, aged seventy-three years. Their five children were named respectively: Abram, William, Harriet, Mary A. and Sarah A. William during the late war enlisted in an Illinois regiment, and yielded up his life in the Union cause. The surviving children are residents of the United States.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born seven children, namely: John W., James M., Flora M., Charles H., Nettie, Joseph and Harrison. The eldest of these is thirteen years of age and the youngest is a babe. Mrs. Moore is a very well-

educated and intelligent lady, a first-class housekeeper, and well versed in those little arts which have so much bearing upon the comfort and happiness of a household. The dwelling both within and without is remarkably neat and tidy, and it would seem as if Mr. Moore and his wife were in harmony upon the question of cleanliness and good order.

Mr. Moore cast his first Presidential vote for Grant, and since becoming a naturalized citizen has uniformly supported Republican principles. He has been a member of the School Board in his district for the last five years, and in religious matters belongs to the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Moore is a member of the United Brethren Church.

GEORGE W. BOYER, an honored resident of Nebraska City, with a pleasant home beautifully located on Kearney Heights, is a successful and well-to-do farmer, whose farm, lying in Four Mile Precinct, is one of the most valuable in the county. Mr. Boyer was born in Stark County, Ohio, Sept. 9, 1825. His father, Peter Boyer, was born in Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married, Elizabeth Binkley becoming his devoted companion and helpmate. She was likewise a Pennsylvanian by birth and breeding. For some time Mr. Boyer kept a tavern at Sinking Springs, Berks County, and it being before the era of railroads, all transportation was done with teams, and he used to furnish entertainment for the teamsters and their horses.

In 1818, accompanied by his family, Mr. Boyer went down the Ohio River to Ohio, and settled in Stark County, buying there a tract of land. After a residence there of four years he moved to Knox County, and went into the milling business, having purchased a mill for $1,700, and he operated it to its fullest capacity, night and day, for four years. He found a ready market for the flour that he manufactured near Lake Michigan, shipping it to that point by team. He also established himself in the mercantile business, carrying it on in connection with the mill until 1837, then, selling the latter for $4,500, disposed of his other property, and again took up his march for the West.

Mr. Boyer next went by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, his family accompanying him; thence up the Missouri River to Independence, then a small place of about 400 inhabitants. He then proceeded with a team to Platte Purchase, and located in that part now included in Buchanan County. The city of St. Joseph had then no existence, there being simply a trading-post on its present site, kept by a French-Canadian named Rubedeux, who had a family in St. Louis, and a large family of Indians at the trading-post. Mr. Boyer and two partners who were employed in the United States land-office tried to buy Rubedeux's claim, and he at last consented to sell, but backed out and laid out the city himself about 1844.

The father of our subject was one of the first to buy a lot, for which he paid $100, paying for it in wheat at twenty-five cents a bushel. After the city was laid out its growth was quite rapid for those days, and it finally became important as an outfitting post for freighters, who were engaged in drawing freight to the various military posts and settlements in the West. The country was then in a wild state, sparsely settled, and with plenty of wild game, such as deer, turkeys, antelopes, etc. Mr. Boyer made a claim, and soon made arrangements to purchase of the Government 1,600 acres of land, but before he had paid for it he was robbed of his money. In the face of this discouraging fact he did not give way to despair, but with characteristic energy he immediately set about making up the deficit by collecting the money owing him in the county. He took cattle in payment, which he drove all the way to Philadelphia, Pa., and there sold them at a good price. His trip occupied six months, and after his return he entered his land, and built a hewed log house on the place, and at once commenced making improvements. He was extensively engaged in farming there until his death in 1856, at which time Buchanan County, Mo., lost one of its most useful and wide-awake citizens.

Mr. Boyer was a straightforward man, keen and sharp in his dealings, but always to be found on the side of honesty and right. When he first set-

tled in Buchanan County, Weston, thirty-five miles from St. Joseph, was the nearest market, and there he sold bacon from one to one and one-half cents a pound, oats at seven cents a bushel, wheat at twenty-five cents a bushel, and good three-year-old steers were sold for $3 or $4 apiece, the hide being worth more than the live steer. The mother of our subject died on the old homestead in Missouri three years after the death of her husband. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity.

George Boyer was a lad of twelve years when he accompanied his parents in their removal to Missouri, and he remembers well the incidents of the pioneer life in that State where he grew to manhood. He attended the schools there, which were conducted on the subscription plan, and in the intervals assisted his father on the farm. At the age of twenty-two our subject left the parental roof to establish a home of his own, his father having given him a tract of unimproved land, part timber and part prairie. His first work was to build a double log house, and to this he brought his bride, formerly Miss Sabina Bowen, a native of Berks County, Pa., and a daughter of Ephraim and Catherine (Coucher) Bowen, to whom he had been united in marriage in August, 1847. Our subject improved the greater part of 315 acres of his land, and continued to reside in Missouri until 1866. But the same pioneer spirit that had moved the father was strong in the son, and in that year he sold all of his property, and sought under the sunny skies and in the genial climate of Nebraska a new home. He came to Nebraska City and bought his present residence on Kearney Heights, and also purchased a farm of 160 acres in Otoe Precinct, residing in his city home, and managing his farm with good results until in 1876, when he sold it, and bought the farm in Four Mile Precinct that he now owns. Since coming to this State he has been very successful in his agricultural ventures, and has a well-managed, well-cultivated and well-stocked farm, from which he obtains a good annual income.

To our subject and his amiable wife have been born six children, all of whom are living, namely: Catherine Ellen, the wife of Hugh L. Hopkins; Edwinna, who married Stephen Lyon; Isabella, the wife of O. H. Shaw; James I. married Miss Florence Carry, and resides in Denver, Col.; Matilda, the wife of Charles Davidson, and Alice. All, with the exception of Alice, who is a teacher in the public schools of Otoe County, are residents of Denver, Col. The Boyers are gifted with fine physiques, coming of a strong, vigorous and long-lived race, and fourteen grandchildren had been born to our subject and his wife before there was a death in the family. They are all members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and are in high standing in religious and social circles. Mr. Boyer's life record is that of a conscientious, upright Christian, and he is deeply respected by all in the community. He is greatly interested in the political questions of the day, and is, and always has been, a firm Democrat.

ROBERT C. ELVIN, M. D., a practicing physician of Nebraska City, was one of the first settlers of Nebraska, having crossed the Missouri River as soon as the Territory was open to settlement. He is one of the leaders in the re-organized Church of Latter-Day Saints, which differs radically in its doctrines from the Mormons of Utah, and he was at one time President of the Southern Nebraska District, and has been one of the most powerful and popular preachers of the sect.

Dr. Elvin is a native of Scotland, Renfrew Parish, in the town of Paisley, being his birthplace, and May 11, 1823, the date of his birth. His father, John Elvin, and his grandfather, Charles Elvin, were also natives of Scotland. The latter was for many years a soldier in the Brrtish army, and died in the East Indies while in the service. The father of our subject was born while his parents were with the army, and he was reared amid military scenes until he was quite a boy, when he was sent to Dublin to be educated. From there he went to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend school for a time, and he there devoted his attention to the study of medicine, and after graduation was appointed surgeon in the army. He accompanied his regiment to Spain, and was present at the siege of Cadiz, and also at the battle of Waterloo. Soon after the latter event he

resigned on account of impaired health, and returned to his native Scotland, where he settled in Paisley, and spent his last years. Our subject's father spent his last years in the northern part of Scotland, his death occurring in 1849. The maiden name of his wife was Mary A. Barnett, and she was a native of England and a daughter of John Barnett. She died in Paisley in June, 1823. There were seven children born to her and her husband, three of whom grew to maturity, Robert C. being the only one who ever came to America.

Our subject was but an infant when his mother died, and at the extremely youthful age of seven years he was thrown on his own resources and became self-supporting. At the age of ten he commenced working in a drug-store, and even at that early age he commenced to read medicine with a view of preparing himself for the medical profession, for which even then he displayed a decided talent, having inherited in part his father's genius and temperament. He remained in a drug-store until he was twelve years old, and then, with remarkable enterprise, established himself in the mercantile business, keeping a store with a small stock of goods in Glasgow.

When he was fifteen our subject concluded to try his luck in America, and set sail from Liverpool in January, 1837, and landed in New York after a voyage of seven or eight weeks. There our embryo physician and merchant sought employment in a drug-store, where he was engaged as clerk for eighteen months. He then entered a dry-goods store in the same capacity, and worked there until 1840, when he went back to Scotland, and, in partnership with his brother, carried on the shoe business in the town of Beath, and later went to Irvine and manufactured shoes there. He continued in that business a year and a half. He then joined the Church of Latter-Day Saints, and was soon called to the priesthood, and preached for that society until 1849. In that year he returned to America and located in St. Louis, where he engaged in the upholstery business until the fall of 1851. He then bought land in Council Bluffs, near the city, and engaged in farming, and at the same time practiced medicine. That was in the very early settlement of that section of the country, and there were no railways west of the Mississippi, all travel being by boats on the river or overland in teams.

The Doctor resided in Iowa until 1854, the year in which the Government made the treaty with the Indians that was signed on the 16th of March, by which they agreed to vacate Eastern Nebraska. Then our subject, with others, crossed the Missouri to look at the country. They staid a short time, and then went back to Iowa, and in May he returned to make a claim in Douglas County, Neb. Our subject cut logs to build a cabin, but was soon obliged to return home on account of sickness in his family, and while he was gone his claim was jumped. The Doctor then went to Cass County and made a claim on the bank of the Weeping Water, the land still belonging to the Government, and not an acre of it surveyed. He built a log house on his land, and in the spring of 1855 moved his family there. He entered the land from the Government as soon as it came into the market, and lived on it until 1859, when he sold it, and in November of that year came to Nebraska City. He immediately established himself in the general merchandising business, which he continued with good success for eighteen years. In 1869 he was burned out at a loss of about $12,000 above the insurance. But, with his usual energy and courage, he at once re-established himself, and carried on his business until 1874, when he disposed of it very advantageously.

Our subject had severed his relations with the Church of Latter-Day Saints in 1852, because he did not believe in the doctrine as preached and practiced at Salt Lake City, but in 1866 he joined the Reorganized Church of Latter-Day Saints, and has been prominently identified with it since. He was made President of the Southern Nebraska District, and after settling up his business affairs he traveled extensively and established churches in different places, and also practiced as a physician. In 1880, desiring to perfect his knowledge of medicine, already considerable, he became a student at the School of Medicine at Omaha, and threw himself into his studies with all the ardor and interest of youth. He attended there one year, and then, on the organization of the Omaha Medical College, enrolled himself as a pupil in that institution, and

studied there two terms. He thus became thoroughly conversant with the most advanced methods of practicing medicine, and to-day ranks high among his professional brethren. When we consider that this was the step of a man already past the meridian of life, for he was fifty-seven years old when he became a student, an age when many men who have been successful in business are thinking of retiring to a life of ease, we have no words in which to express our admiration of such force of character and indomitable will. After leaving college our subject opened an office in Omaha, and was busily engaged in practicing his profession there for three years. At the end of that time he returned to Nebraska City, and then for a time with his wife he traveled East and West, and saw much of his adopted country. In 1887 he re-opened his office here, and has been in active practice since.

Dr. Elvin was married, March 16, 1845, to Martha Baird, a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, and of Scotch and English parentage. Of their marriage eight children have been born, five of whom are now living, as follows: Robert resides in Lamoni, Iowa, and is a preacher in the Latter-Day Saints' Church; Elizabeth is at home with her parents; John lives in St. Paul, Minn.; Martha is the wife of Fred Borstram, and lives in Nebraska City; Walter A. also lives in this city.

Our subject, in his double capacity of physician and preacher, does all that lies in his power to allay the suffering and sin in this world. In him the weak, the unfortunate and the down-trodden find a steadfast friend, and he has done much to elevate such and bring them to a higher life. The Doctor is identified with the A. F. & A. M., and is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2.

BENJAMIN F. HAYWARD, who for many years has been identified with the business interests of Nebraska City as a contractor and builder, is the son of David and Lucretia (Chapman) Hayward, both of whom were born in the State of New York. Upon their marriage his parents settled in Essex County in that State, and there our subject was born Feb. 5, 1819. His father died in the year 1834, when forty-five years of age, and his mother in the same year, at the age of thirty-five years. Their family included seven children, four of whom were boys.

The grandfather of our subject, Ephraim Hayward, was born in England. He came to this country and served in the Revolutionary Army when about sixteen years of age, and was a drum major in Washington's first regiment, continuing in the service throughout the war. His son David, the father of our subject, took an honorable part in the War of 1812, and afterward enjoyed no little prosperity in the business which he made his chosen occupation, viz, that of carpenter and lumberman. He went to Essex County, N. Y., with his parents at the time they established the pioneer colony of the county.

The subject of our sketch was about fifteen years of age when his parents died, leaving him almost entirely alone to struggle in a world that affords little help to the oppressed and helpless, even under the most favorable circumstances. He immediately looked around in a hopeful and self-reliant spirit for some employment, and was engaged to work by the month at farming, at the rate of $6 per month. Up to that time our subject had been attending school, but until he was eighteen he found no opportunity for continuing his education, but at that time he spent eight months in a private school, and crowded into that period all the hard study and faithful work possible.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated in 1842, the lady of his choice being Vienna Reynolds, of New York State. It was their happiness to enjoy this companionship for but the short period of eighteen months, when the bonds were severed by her death. After this bereavement he determined to go West, and accordingly found his way to Johnson County, Ill., and there followed his business as a carpenter, and also dealing in real estate.

In the spring of 1846 Mr. Hayward enlisted in the United States Army for the Mexican War, and became a member of Company F, 2d Illinois Infantry. The enlistment was followed by the necessary preparation of drilling at Alton, when they were sent to the front, and went to San Antonio, Tex. The Mexicans were met at Buena Vista in a terrible con-

flict, and there, as on other fields, he earned for himself a name that has not yet been forgotten, as a true soldier, gallant, intrepid and fearless.

Receiving an honorable discharge in 1847, our subject returned to Illinois. The following year he entered married life a second time, being united with Miss Elizabeth Chapman, a native of New York State. They made their home in Illinois for about nine years, until 1857. Then with his wife and children he came West, making the entire journey by means of wagons and teams. The following children have been born to our subject, viz: William J., who died in infancy; Benjamin F., Jr., George, Sarah L., Samuel J. and Elizabeth. The two latter are now deceased. Benjamin F. is a carpenter and builder, of Nebraska City; George is engaged in business in San Francisco; Sarah L. is at home. In 1862 the wife and mother departed this life, thus leaving him a second time bereaved.

Among the first work done by Mr. Hayward in Nebraska City was the erection of the Morton House, and also the residence of Gen. Coe. These were but the beginning of a business success that reflects the greatest possible credit upon our subject. In politics he has ever been stanch and true as a Democrat. He has watched the course of thirteen Presidential campaigns, including two campaigns during the time that Nebraska was yet a Territory. It is doubtful if in the county there is any citizen more truly esteemed and respected than the subject of this sketch. His life and character are such as to command such sentiments, and he is generally admired as one whose long life, which has been uniformly honorable and upright, deserves the entire confidence and regard of the community.

CHARLES WEATHERHOGG, a man standing high in his community, and the subject of a very interesting history, owns and occupies one of the most valuable homesteads in Palmyra Precinct, comprising 160 acres of land on section 17. Conspicuous among its improvements is the large and valuable orchard which he set out in the spring of 1873, and which now yields annually hundreds of bushels of most luscious fruit. He also has the smaller fruits in abundance, and the groves of cottonwood, maple and other forest trees, planted by the hand of thrift and industry, serve as a shelter to man and beast from the heat of summer and the blasts of winter. The farm of late years has been devoted largely to stock-raising. Mr. W. makes a specialty of Poland-China swine, and in this line exhibits some of the finest animals in the county. All his agricultural operations are carried on in that methodical manner which has been the secret of his success and laid the foundations of a competence.

The eldest child of John and Ann (Coates) Weatherhogg, our subject was born in Lincolnshire, England, Nov. 21, 1823. His parents were natives of the same county, and the father, a farmer by occupation, died in 1843, at the age of forty-eight years. The mother survived her husband a period of forty-three years, and died in 1886, aged eighty-five. She was married a second time, to Joshua Gresham. By the first marriage she became the mother of six children, five sons and one daughter.

Our subject received but a limited education, and remained a resident of his native shire until a man of twenty-seven years. In the spring of 1850 he resolved upon a change of location, and accordingly, accompanied by friends, set sail from Liverpool about the 20th of May. The 4th of July following found him in the city of Albany, N. Y., whence he repaired to Dansville, expecting there to meet relatives and remain for a time. The relatives, however, had embraced the Mormon faith, and this not being agreeable to Mr. Weatherhogg, he quickly parted company with them and hastened back to Rochester, in the vicinity of which he was engaged in farming and butchering for two or three years.

Our subject in the meantime had made the acquaintance of Miss Rose Stinson, to whom he was married in October, 1852. This lady was born in Canada, and departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, May 15, 1881. They had in the meantime removed from the Empire State to Illinois, settling near the embryo town of Mendota, where Mr. W. engaged in farming on rented land for a period of ten years.

In the spring of 1863 our subject started with his family for Pike's Peak, accompanied by his broth-

Yours Truly
J. H. Masters

ers William and Thomas. From Mendota they made their way by wagons to the mountains, and arrived in Gilpin County, Col., seven weeks later, where our subject engaged in mining and prospecting. From the first he realized very good results, but the latter incurring heavy expenditures rather offset his profits. He, however, saved some money, and in 1870, seeking once more the bounds of civilization came to this county, and located upon the land which he now occupies. It was then in an uncultivated state, and two years passed away before he succeeded in raising any crops. In 1874–75 he suffered like his neighbors from grasshoppers, chink bugs and drouth, but the men of those days seemed to possess more than ordinary courage and perseverance, and Mr. Weatherhogg was not lacking in any of these qualities.

Mr. Weatherhogg contracted a second marriage, with Miss Nina Conger, in Bureau County, Ill. Her parents, Calvin and Aranda (Horton) Conger, were natives of Syracuse, N. Y., and are now residing in Illinois.

HON. JAMES HARRIS MASTERS, the pioneer nurseryman of Nebraska, occupies an honorable place among the able, energetic and enterprising men who reclaimed this part of the country from the "Great American Desert," and helped to give it its present proud position among its sister States as a great and prosperous commonwealth, whose wonderful growth and development have excited the marvel and admiration of the world. Mr. Masters came here in December, 1854, shortly after Nebraska had been organized as a Territory, and since that time he has been closely identified with its best interests. He engaged first at his trade as carpenter, and worked on the second brick building ever erected in Nebraska City. The Territory was at that time a reservation of the Indians, and there were but very few white inhabitants in any part of it, it being a wild, unsettled country, the hunting-ground of the red men, where they chased the buffaloes, the deer, antelopes and other wild game. In 1854 he bought a claim which is included in his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 21, Four Mile Precinct, three miles from the court-house in Nebraska City, and as soon as the land came into the market in 1857 he entered it at the land-office in Nebraska City. In March, 1855, he commenced to remove his fruit trees from his nursery in Atchison County, Mo., and on the 16th of the month set out the first apple trees ever planted in the South Platte country, and, doubtless, the first in Nebraska. At that time his sales were few and slow, as the settlers were not many in numbers and were scattering, and their financial condition was such that they were unable to buy trees; but he gradually established his business on a sure foundation, his trade increased and extended further West, and in after years became very profitable, so that he became one of the leading nurserymen of the State. He is now closing out his nursery business. He is a prominent member of the State Horticultural Society, which was organized at the first Territorial Fair which was held in Otoe County in 1864. He holds a life membership in the society, and was its first President, serving in that capacity for eight years, and it is largely due to his zeal, influence and rare judgment that it has proved such a valuable auxiliary to the agricultural interests of Nebraska. His aid and counsel have been sought in the administration of public affairs, and as a member of the State Legislature in 1872, when he served as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and of the committee that had charge of the railway and public land interests of the State, the ripe wisdom and sound common sense that characterized his views on important questions favorably impressed his fellow legislators, and bore much weight in their decisions.

Mr. Masters was born Aug. 15, 1819, in Warren County, Ky., ten miles from Bowling Green, and four miles south of Shakertown. His father, Richard C. Masters, was born in Orange County, N. Y., and his grandfather, Richard Masters, was a native of England, and was there reared and married to a Miss Campbell, a native of Scotland. They came to America in Colonial times, and with them a brother, and settled in New Jersey. The grandfather of our subject lived in that State for a time, and then moved to Orange County, N. Y., and was

a pioneer there. At the breaking out of the Revolution he immediately entered into the service of the Colonists, and throughout the entire conflict was an active and efficient soldier. He was a bearer of dispatches, and received for his pay continental script, which depreciated until it was of no value. He was a wagon-maker, and had a shop on his farm in which he did repairs when not engaged in agricultural pursuits. Directly after the war he removed to Virginia, but it is not known where he first located in that State. He subsequently settled in Greenbrier County, where he had bought a tract of land. In 1808 he left Virginia for Kentucky, the removal being made with teams, and he became a pioneer of Warren County. He was quite well along in years, and made his home in that State with his son Charles until his death.

The father of our subject was a young man when his parents went to Virginia, and he accompanied them, and there met and married Agnes Cochran, a native of the State. He learned the trade of wagon-maker from his father, and removed with him to Kentucky in 1808. He bought a tract of land in Warren County on which was a log cabin, and in that humble dwelling the subject of this sketch was born. There were a few acres of the land broken, and Mr. Masters erected a log building for a shop, and worked at his trade in connection with farming. The life that he and his family led there was the most primitive imaginable, as they were pioneers in a pioneer country. The mother had to do her cooking by the fireplace as she had no stove, and she used to spin and weave wool, cotton and flax, carding all the wool and cotton by hand, and for years she made all the cloth used in the family, to say nothing of making it up into clothes. In 1828 the father of our subject rented his place, and removed to Illinois, his family and household goods being conveyed in two wagons drawn by two yokes of oxen and one pair of horses. He settled at Springfield, Sangamon County, which was then only a small village, before the location of the capital there. He entered eighty acres of Government land, which is now included within the city limits. He built a log house, and resided there until 1835, when he sold and moved to Bureau County, Ill., and was a pioneer there, settling nine miles northeast of Princeton, where he made a claim, and as soon as the Government threw the land on the market, entered it at the land-office in Galena. There were then no railways in the State, and Chicago, 110 miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Masters improved a farm, and resided on it until 1853, and then made his home with his son, a few miles distant, until 1860, when he removed to Minnesota, and died at Waterford in that State, in the fall of 1861, at the home of his son Robert. Thus, at a ripe old age, after an honorable and useful life, he was gathered to his fathers. His amiable and devoted wife had preceded him in death, in 1856, at their home in Princeton, Ill. There were nine children born of their marriage, of whom the following six grew to maturity: Robert, John; Elvina, wife of T. J. Cole; our subject; Archer C. and William H.

James Masters, of whom we write, was nine years old when his parents moved to Illinois, and remembers well the incidents of the journey, and of the pioneer life there. He worked in the shop with his father, and having a natural aptitude for mechanics became very handy with tools, and at the age of eighteen commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Illinois until 1853. In that year he moved to Atchison County, Mo., his intention being to cross the river to Nebraska (which at that time was an unorganized Territory and an Indian reservation) as soon as the Indian titles to the land should be abrogated by the Government, and start a nursery. So during his residence in Atchison County, Mo., he grew seedlings and root grafts for that purpose, and in December, 1854, as before stated, came to Nebraska City to make his future home in Otoe County, and we have already noted how he has prospered in his undertakings.

Mr. Masters has been three times married. First in 1844, April 10, to Miss Ann E. Pierce, who was born in New Hampshire, Sept. 27, 1826, and died Oct. 19, 1846, leaving one child, Abbie E., now the wife of William Harrison Wilson, of Lincoln. The second marriage of our subject was to Elizabeth Keiser, July 4, 1847. She was born May 28, 1825, and died June 9, 1861. Four children were born of that union, three of whom are now living, namely:

Josephine E., wife of Albert Sarnes, of Jefferson County, Neb.; James William, who lives in Lincoln; and Alice L., wife of David O. Tait, of Otoe County. Mr. Masters was married to his present wife June 3, 1863. Her maiden name was Susan M. Cramer, and she was born in Brown County, Ohio, June 24, 1831. For the history of her parents, B. D. and Calista (Granger) Cramer, see sketch of B. D. Tait. Mrs. Masters had been previously married before her union with our subject. Her first marriage, which took place Feb. 26, 1852, was to Edward Beyette, a native of Montreal, Canada. He came to the "States" at nineteen years of age, and settled in Ohio in the village of Boston, where he was engaged as a painter until his death, May 31, 1860. Mrs. Masters had three children by that marriage, only one of whom is now living, Doughty Cramer, a farmer, who resides near Syracuse, Neb. After her husband's death Mrs. Masters sold her home in the village of Boston, and in the spring of 1862 came to Nebraska City and located. One child has been born to our subject and his wife, Charles L., who was born April 4, 1864, and died May 3, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Masters are influential members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he has been Trustee and Steward for many years.

Mr. Masters is a man of great intelligence, is well read, and is considered an authority on horticulture, to which he has devoted years of study. This brief record will show that he is a good citizen, and he is, moreover, thoroughly respected for his high character, and we take pleasure in presenting his portrait in the galaxy of portraits of leading citizens of Otoe County given in this ALBUM.

ERNEST D. GARROW is widely and favorably known throughout the eastern part of the county for his energy and fine business capacities. He has seen much of life on the frontier, having come to the West during the early settlement of this county, landing in Nebraska Territory on the 3d of April, 1859, when a boy eight years of age. During his youth and early manhood he attained a close acquaintance with farming pursuits, and entered upon a successful career, which has wound up with a good business as a live-stock commission merchant, being connected with the firm of Savage & Green, commission merchants of South Omaha.

Our subject comes of one of the best nationalities on the face of the earth, his parents, David and Margaret (McDonald) Garrow, having been born in Scotland, where the father was a farmer in good circumstances, and where the family lived until about 1854. Then, selling out, David Garrow emigrated to Canada, but within the space of six weeks suffered the loss of his wife and three children. Not long afterward, turning his back upon the scenes of so much affliction, he came over into the States, locating in LaSalle County, Ill., with his remaining motherless children, and farmed there upon a tract of unimproved land for a period of two years. At the expiration of that time he crossed the Mississippi, and spent his last days in Otoe County, Neb. The brothers and sisters of our subject were named respectively: Peter, James, David, Alex, John, Isabel and Elizabeth. Peter, James and John died in Canada.

Mr. Garrow who, like his parents, also first opened his eyes in the "land of the thistle," is a native of Aberdeenshire, his birth taking place Feb. 17, 1851, and, although less than three years old when leaving his native hills, he has a distinct recollection of the stone mansion which sheltered his infant head, and the barns adjacent, also built of stone, and the air of plenty which pervaded the whole. He also remembers the sea dogs, whose heads frequently appeared above the water during the voyage across the Atlantic. His mother's family, the McDonalds, were people of wealth and prominence, as was likewise the father of our subject, but the latter hoped to still better himself on the soil of America. From the loss of his wife and children he never fully recovered, and it was an event which shadowed not only the subsequent life of the father, but that of his son, our subject.

Mr. Garrow, of this sketch, studied his first lessons in LaSalle County, Ill., but upon coming to Nebraska his education was sadly neglected, as there were no schools near the pre-emption claim upon which the father had settled. He was very

ambitious, however, remarkably industrious, and always aspiring to something better in the future. At the early age of thirteen years he left home, and engaged with the firm of Smith & Galbraith to drive an ox-team and wagon, loaded with provisions, principally corn, meats and bacon, to Ft. Smith, on the Big Horn River. They started out in the spring of 1866, and arrived at their destination six months later. Upon returning our subject found that his father was dead, and the family living in Nebraska City. In April of 1866 Mr. Garrow went with a train to Ft. Laramie, and was at that point at the time of the massacre, when, within the space of an hour, ninety soldiers and three citizens were killed by the Indians. Subsequently he engaged in many skirmishes with the Indians in journeying from Ft. Laramie to the Sweetwater mines, near the present site of South Pass City. He thereafter followed teaming through the mountains for a period of seven years, when for the most time his only shelter was the firmament of heaven, his couch the ground and his covering a blanket. For about two years he traveled in Wyoming, having for his companion during this time Frank Wheeling, who is now with Buffalo Bill as his steward.

In the winter of 1867 Mr. Garrow engaged with Antoine Reynolds, a man who had dealt with the Indians for a period of forty-three years, and who was at one time a member of the old American Fur Company. He at this time operated the Cold Springs Trading Ranch on the North Platte, twenty-two miles below Ft. Laramie. While in his employ Mr. Garrow became familiar with the Sioux language, a knowledge of which afterward served to save his life on several occasions. One day he went to Ft. Laramie for the purpose of obtaining provisions, riding a pony. Upon his return, in crossing a deep gully with his pony and provisions, he was suddenly confronted by a band of thirteen bucks, whom he saw at once were bent on plunder, if not murder. They were decorated in their war regalia, and the situation for our subject was alarming, but he soon regained his self-possession, and addressing them in their own language, invited them to go to his own fireplace and share his evening repast. To this they consented, and all rode to the ranch together, a distance of seven miles. After partaking of an evening meal they departed in peace. In the fall of 1868 Mr. Garrow made a solemn vow, that, if Providence would pardon him for ever associating with the Sioux, he would forever abandon their country. He consequently set out for the Sweetwater mines in Wyoming, where he spent some time, and was quite successful in his operations there. Afterward he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in hauling timber for the construction of a branch road, and when this contract was ended made his way to Salt Lake City, where he sojourned two months. Thence he went to Montana, where he spent in that Territory and Idaho two or three years, and in the fall of 1871 we find him in Pioche, Nev. There he placed his money in the hands of a commission broker to be invested in a silver mine, but the broker absconded, and our subject suffered a loss of $10,000.

Mr. Garrow continued in Nevada from 1871 until 1876, engaged in prospecting and mining in different parts of the Territory, and developed several paying mines, with results similar to that described by Tourjee in his "Fool's Errand," spending much time and a large amount of money at almost a total loss.

After this our subject started out on horseback from Nevada to Washington Territory, and traveled in that manner through Oregon and California, and in fact through nearly all of the country on the Pacific Slope. Upon returning eastward he struck Nebraska City on the 29th of October, 1879, not, however, with the intention of staying. A few months later he entered the employ of Gen. Coe, as superintendent of his ranch at Humboldt, Nev., where he occupied himself four months. He was homesick, however, for a better civilization, and, returning to Nebraska City, prepared to engage in the mercantile and stock business. There was at the same time another attraction which drew him to this point, namely, a most estimable young lady, Miss Addie Lane, to whom he was married Sept. 5, 1880. This lady was born in Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 9, 1860, and is the daughter of J. C. Lane, who with his wife was a native of Virginia; they are now living in Nebraska. They came to Nebraska when their daughter Addie was a young girl of thirteen years, and she completed her edu-

cation in its schools, remaining with her parents until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. G. have since lived in Nebraska City, and have become the parents of two sons and a daughter—Alexander Wayne, Wesley Claude and Mamie.

Our subject, in 1879, entered into partnership with his brother Alex, and they still operate together. The latter is a resident of the city of Lincoln. Mr. Garrow has always had great faith in the future of both Nebraska City and his adopted State, but his interests naturally center mostly in the former. He has been a man prompt to meet his obligations, and stands high in the business community, his transactions aggregating $100,000 annually. He has valuable property on Fourth avenue, consisting of a good residence and grounds, and is interested in other real estate in the city. Politically, he terms himself a "flat-footed" Republican, that is, he allows nothing to swerve him from his support of the principles which preserved the Union. Socially, he belongs to Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., where he is prominent among the brethren and in which he has done good service. His excellent wife is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church.

ADAM SPRINGMAN, of Palmyra Precinct, is very pleasantly situated in life, having a fine homestead, a competency and a household in which he finds his chief enjoyment. The latter is presided over by a very estimable and capable lady of sterling worth, who looks well to her domestic affairs, and possesses those qualities which go so far toward making up the sum of satisfaction and enjoyment within the precincts of home. Although not elegant, the home of the Springmans is replete with all needful comforts, and it has often been noted that in these quiet and unpretentious households more often exists true happiness than in many of those where splendor and luxury abound.

Mr. Springman, during the earlier years of his life, was a resident of Stephenson County, Ill., and identified with its early history. Upon the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in Company G, 46th Illinois Infantry, and during the vicissitudes of army life marched through the States of Missouri, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, and was also at Mobile, Ala. After a faithful and patriotic service of two years he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, La., in February, 1866.

Our subject was the eighth child of his parents, and was born in Lycoming County, Pa., Nov. 4, 1836. He was reared as a farmer's boy, and at an early period in his life he was trained to those habits of industry which he has preserved to the present time, and which have been the secret of his success in life. Upon approaching manhood he learned the trade of carpenter, and remained at home in Pennsylvania until the spring of 1859. Thence he emigrated to Freeport, Ill., about the time of the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad through Central Illinois, where he followed his trade, and in the fall of 1862 was first married, to Miss Sarah A. Lauck, whose home was in the vicinity of Rock Grove, Stephenson County. This lady died while our subject was in the army, in October, 1864. Of their union there was born one child, a son, Harvey F., who married Miss Anna Tanner, and is the father of a son, Edward A. He is living in Otoe County, and engaged in farming.

Mr. Springman, on the 25th of September, 1866, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Rebecca E. Sidles, who was born in Somerset, Pa., and is the daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Zorn) Sidles, who were natives of Pennsylvania; the father is now deceased, and Mrs. Sidles makes her home with her daughter, wife of our subject. Mrs. Springman was the sixth in a family of nine children, four sons and five daughters, and was born July 16, 1844.

Catharine Sidles, wife of Daniel Sidles, deceased, was born Sept. 5, 1805, in Berlin, Somerset Co., Pa. Her father's name was Charles Zorn, who lived to the age of sixty-five years; he was married to Barbary Wiant, who lived to the age of sixty-eight. Their union was blessed with eleven children, seven of whom survived their parents. Catharine Sidles was confirmed, and united with the German Reformed Church at the age of fourteen, was converted at a camp meeting in Somerset County, Pa., at the age of thirty, and united with the Evangelical Church, of which she remained a faithful member until the

year 1875. There being no class of that church in Dakota, Ill., where she then lived, she united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has proved a consistent member of that church. She was united in the bonds of matrimony, March 26, 1828, at the age of twenty-two, to Daniel Sidles. They were blessed with nine children, all of whom survived their father, he being the first to break the ties of the family. Daniel Sidles, her husband, was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade in Somerset County until 1854, when they moved to Illinois and settled on a farm of eighty acres two miles southeast of Dakota, where they lived until 1867, when they sold this farm and bought twenty acres adjoining the village of Dakota. They built a comfortable dwelling, and lived there happily together until December, 1879, when her husband was removed by death, to join the angelic host above.

"DIED.—At his home in Dakota, Ill., Dec. 19, 1879, Daniel Sidles, aged seventy-two years, nine months and twelve days. He was born in Dauphin County, Pa., but mostly reared in Somerset County. He was married to Catharine Zorn in 1828, with whom he lived happily until his death. They have lived in Stephenson County twenty-five years. Forty years ago he was 'born again,' and has since shown Jesus' power to keep. He was not able to lie down for more than a year, and his sufferings were intense, yet his soul triumphed over pain, and God was 'an ever present help.' He feared the Lord and walked in His ways, and saw 'his children's children and peace upon Israel.' He was buried Sunday, the 23d. George H. Wells, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his pastor, preached at his request from the 128th Psalm. He leaves a wife, four sons and five daughters, the father being the first to break the family ranks. The old settlers and their families turned out largely, and many wept, as memories past and prospects future passed in visions before them. 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.'"

Mr. and Mrs. Springman continued residents of Stephenson County, Ill., until the spring of 1875, when they came to this county, and Mr. S. soon afterward purchased eighty acres of land, which is now included in his present farm. He had only $800 in money, and in the building up of his homestead commenced upon an uncultivated tract with few implements or other conveniences. He was prospered, however, and in due time added to his real estate, and gradually abandoning his operations as a tiller of the soil, turned his attention to the easier and more lucrative business of a stock-raiser. He usually keeps a herd of sixty-five head of cattle, besides horses and swine. A man honest and fearless in the expression of his opinions, he gives his support to the Democratic party, and has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, otherwise than serving as Assessor and in the minor positions in his precinct, which it is important should be filled by competent men.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Springman are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. S. has contributed liberally, and is a Trustee. Socially, as an ex-soldier, he belongs to the G. A. R., of Palmyra. He is the father of three children by his present wife—John D., Clayton I. and Estella C.

The parents of our subject, John and Agnes (Stull) Springman, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom died at the age of sixty-one years, in January, 1861, at his home in Pennsylvania. The mother survived her husband twelve years, spending her last years with her son Fred, in Pennsylvania, and passed away in 1873, at the advanced age of seventy-five. The paternal grandfather, Mesias Springman, was a native of Germany, and crossing the Atlantic during his early manhood, settled in Lycoming County, Pa., where he carried on farming and spent the remainder of his days. The hereditary traits of his character, honesty, industry, and his unostentatious manner of living, were transmitted in a marked degree to his descendants.

JOSEPH SAUNDERS, one of the very first settlers of Palmyra Precinct, came to the present site of the city of Hendricks as early as 1857, eleven years before the Territory of Nebraska was admitted to the Union as a State. He took up a homestead claim on the South Branch of the Nemaha, and here he has since lived. He improved a valuable farm from the wilderness, and

is numbered among the most enterprising men of the county. He avails himself of the latest improved machinery, has a substantial and commodious dwelling, ample barns and other out-buildings, a choice assortment of live stock, and everything indicating the modern and progressive agriculturist. While uniformly successful in his business and farming transactions he was most fortunate in the selection of a wife and helpmate, Mrs. Saunders being a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, a thorough and careful housekeeper, and fully alive to all those little details which make home the most attractive spot on earth, and conduce to the happiness and comfort of the family. The homestead presents one of the pleasantest pictures of rural life, where peace and plenty reign, and upon which Providence has smiled in an unusual manner.

The family history of our subject is in its main points as follows: His father, Thomas Saunders, was born near Bowling Green, in Virginia, in 1804. The paternal grandfather was of English descent, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He spent his last years in Pennsylvania. The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Leah Hudson, and the parents were married in the Old Dominion. Shortly afterward they emigrated to the vicinity of what is now Etna, Ohio, where he worked as a carpenter, and also by degrees converted a tract of timber land into a good farm. A man of strong anti-slavery principles, he concluded to leave his native State on account of his hatred of that peculiar institution. From Ohio, in 1848, he removed to Jackson County, Iowa, where he purchased a half-section of land, and subsequently added to it forty acres more. He continued there until the death of the mother, which took place in 1875, when she was seventy-six years old—the same age as her own mother at the time of her decease.

After the death of his wife Thomas Saunders retired from active labor. and made his home with his sons in Chautauqua County, Kan., where his death took place in 1876. Both parents were members in good standing of the Baptist Church. They had a family of eight children, viz: John; David, deceased; Jackson, Washington; Joseph, our subject; Isaac and Mary, deceased, and Samuel. The latter during the late war served as a Union soldier in an Iowa regiment under the command of Gen. Grant. He is now living in Crawford County, Kan.

The subject of this sketch was born in Greenfield County, Ohio, Feb. 24, 1835, and remained on the farm of his father until reaching his majority. The second school-house in which he pursued his studies was built of hewn logs and plank, and he attended school mostly in the winter season, assisting in the labors of the farm during the summer, He remained at home a year after reaching his majority, and then in the spring of 1857 started for the West with a yoke of oxen, crossing the principal streams on a flatboat, and a month later found himself in this county. At that day there was not even a steam ferry. He crossed the Missouri River at the present site of Nebraska City, on the 10th of March, and a week later selected the land which comprises a part of his present homestead. He built the first fence in this section of the country, and constructed a dwelling of logs for his first shelter. The fine grove of cottonwood trees which stands adjacent to the present residence has grown from the sprouts which Mr. Saunders pulled up along the Missouri River bottom with his own hands. Besides these he has a fine orchard of 300 trees, and other fruit and shade trees in abundance, all planted by himself. It is hardly necessary to say that he watched the growth of these with fatherly solicitude, and his retrospection over a period of thirty years has been in the main a very pleasant one. Game at that time was very plentiful, elk and deer being abundant within a radius of thirty miles. Mr. Saunders was present at the first burial in Hendricks Precinct, and assisted in making the coffin.

The lady who has been the companion of our subject for a period of over thirty years became his wife July 10, 1856, the wedding taking place at her home in Jackson County, Iowa. Her maiden name was Louisa Hendricks. She was born in Delaware County, Ind., Nov. 16, 1835, and is the daughter of George B. and Sicily (Thompson) Hendricks, who were natives of Kentucky and Virginia respectively, and spent their lives in Nebraska. A sketch of them will be found elsewhere

in this volume. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born thirteen children, two of whom, Melissa and George, died, aged six months and five years respectively. The others are: Albert, deceased; Laureta, Arminta C., Margaretta, Joseph, Charlotte, Mary L.; Janette, deceased; James, Norah and Jennie. They are now mostly residents of Nebraska. Mr. Saunders in earlier life supported the Republican party, but his warm interest in the temperance cause led him later to array himself on the side of the Prohibitionists. He was three times chosen as a delegate to the Republican conventions, and has always been a busy, wide awake man, giving his support and encouragement to the enterprises calculated for the best good of the people. He was at one time identified with the South Branch Grange, and both he and Mrs. Saunders have for many years been active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Hendricks, in which Mr. S. officiates as Class-Leader. It is hardly necessary to say that they are known throughout the greater portion of the county, and they open hospitable doors to hosts of friends.

F. W. FRENZEL. The thrifty and industrious German element has made itself felt largely in the Great West, and in no section has it accomplished more admirable results than in Southern Nebraska. The subject of this sketch is one of the finest representatives of his nationality, and owns a valuable farm of 240 acres on section 19, in Wyoming Precinct, and 193 acres in Berlin Precinct. This he brought up from an uncultivated condition, has tilled the soil to the best advantage, and effected the improvements naturally suggested to the modern and enterprising agriculturist.

Mr. Frenzel has been in possession of the homestead which he now occupies since the spring of 1872. He first purchased eighty acres, and subsequently added a quarter-section, and has effected all the improvements which have made it one of the most valuable estates in this part of Otoe County. His family consists of an intelligent and estimable wife and six children, namely: Mary, Edwin, Richard, Louisa, Gertrude and Bismark. Three other children died in infancy. The survivors are bright and intelligent, the eldest fifteen years of age and the youngest two.

The Province of Schlesien, Prussia, contained the early home of our subject, where he was born beneath the modest roof of his parents, Nov. 19, 1848. The latter were Traugott and Christina (Donad) Frenzel, who were of pure German ancestry, and natives of the same Province as their son. The father carried on farming in a limited manner, but in the spring of 1872 resolved to seek his fortunes in America, having been persuaded to this step by some of his elder children who had already emigrated. Coming directly to Nebraska, he established himself on eighty acres of land in Wyoming Precinct, where, with his excellent wife, he is still living. They are aged seventy-five and fifty-eight respectively, and are people generally respected by their neighbors, while they have for many years been devout members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was the eldest of seven children, three sons and four daughters comprising the parental family, and in common with the youth of Germany was carefully educated, and received that home training which prepared him for the future duties of life. After leaving school he learned the trade of a stonemason. In 1869 he announced to his parents that he was coming to America. They raised little objection to this scheme, which they considered really quite sensible, and he thus preceded them three years, being comfortably established and ready to welcome them when they joined him here. He followed his trade three years after coming to Nebraska.

Mr. Frenzel came to the United States a single man, but in March of 1873, a year after the arrival of his parents, was united in marriage, in Wyoming Precinct, with Mrs. Sophia (Karsten) Wehling. The wife of our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, Sept. 6, 1849, and emigrated with her parents to America in 1866, when a young girl of seventeen years. They came at once to Nebraska, the year before it was admitted into the Union as a State, settling among the pioneers of Berlin Precinct, this county,

Mr. and Mrs. Frenzel began their wedded life

Yours truly
J. C. Gilman

together at their present home, and have labored with the mutual purpose of building up a comfortable home for themselves and their children, also securing a good position in their community as people worthy of the highest respect. Their home and its surroundings is one of which they have reason to be proud.

JEREMIAH C. GILMAN, proprietor of one of the largest farms in Nebraska City Precinct, is a gentleman well known throughout this section as one of the old settlers of this State, coming here as early as 1857. Through a life of industry and wise economy he has acquired a competency, and since his return to this locality twenty years ago, he has built up a comfortable, commodious home, one of the most attractive in the precinct. Mr. Gilman comes of sturdy New England stock, his ancestry being of the hardy, self-reliant, energetic class that has sent so many brave, resolute men to conquer and people the Western wildernesses and prairies. His forefathers were probably early settlers of New Hampshire, the birthplace of his immediate ancestry. His paternal great-grandfather, Jonathan Gilman, was born in 1720, and resided in Carroll County, N. H.

John Gilman, the grandfather of our subject, was born Sept. 8, 1749, it is supposed in the State of New Hampshire, and among her rocky hills and pastures he passed his life as a farmer, dying at last in Carroll County. His son Andrew, father of our subject, first opened his eyes to the light of day Oct. 5, 1798, on a New Hampshire farm, and after attaining manhood chose the honorable calling to which he had been reared, and which had been that of his forefathers from generation to generation. He married Dolly Pike, likewise of New Hampshire birth, born in Coos County, April 5, 1802, and they commenced their wedded life in the wilds of Coos County, where he had bought a tract of timber land, which he proceeded to clear and prepare for cultivation. The country roundabout was sparsely inhabited, and for some years Portland, Me., 100 miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Gilman improved a farm, and there spent his declining years, dying in 1848. He was a man of sound common sense, a hard worker, just and kind in his relations to others, and in his death the community where he had spent so many useful, busy years was deprived of a good citizen. His estimable wife spent her last years with her daughter in Carroll County, N. H., where she died in 1885. There were six sons and one daughter born to her and her husband, namely; Joseph, John K., Fanny E., our subject and his twin brother Andrew, George and Pike. Jeremiah and his brother John were the only members of the family who settled in the West. John died in Nebraska City in 1886.

Jeremiah C. Gilman was born Nov. 8, 1834, at the home of his parents in the beautiful town of Bartlett, and there amid the grand old hills of his native State he was nurtured to a vigorous manhood. He was educated in the district school, and resided on the old homestead assisting in the farm work until 1854. In that year he and his brother John left the shadow of the White Mountains to seek a home and fortune on the broad prairies of the Far West, more than a thousand miles away. They went by rail to Rock Island, Ill., then the western terminus of the railway, and crossing the Mississippi on a ferry boat to Iowa, took passage on a stage for Ft. Des Moines, and from there to Greene County, where they identified themselves with the early settlers. They laid out a town, which they called Kendrick, and erected a steam sawmill and a corn cracker, which they operated there for one year, and then moved it to Warren County, where they managed it until 1857, then sold it, and in December of that year came to Nebraska.

Our subject and his brother in coming to the Territory, located in that part of Nebraska City called Kearney, and engaged in the livery business together for two years. Then the brothers sold out, and again in 1859 started westward, settling in that part of the Territory now included in Lincoln County. The whole of that entire section of the country was wild prairie; deer, antelopes and buffaloes roamed across it in large numbers, and there were no settlements nearer than Ft. Kearney. The brothers went there to start a ranch, raise stock, and

to trade with the Indians, having taken a supply of goods with them. They used to buy their goods in Nebraska City and St. Louis, and had them transported with teams to their post. During the years 1861 and 1862 the brothers, who were all these years in partnership, began freighting west of the Missouri River from Nebraska City to Denver, Col. They had two trains of twenty-six wagons each, and consequently had to give employment to about sixty men. They carried their cooks and camping outfit with them. All the parties were armed, as a protection against maraudering bands of Indians. The freighting business was profitable, the tariff on goods being about six cents per pound. The brothers were engaged in that business about four years, and during several winters they traded with the Indians as far as 200 to 300 miles south of the North Platte. They thus dealt mostly with the Sioux and the Southern Cheyennes.

Mr. Gilman and his brother took the contract from the Government from Maj. O'Brien, 7th Iowa Cavalry, to build Ft. McPherson, seventy-five miles west of Ft. Kearney. This was in the fall and winter of 1863. They constructed the main building of hewn logs, also the hospitals and the commission buildings. The quarters for the private soldiers were constructed of round logs. The second year Mr. Gilman and his brother remodeled the forts and quarters. The amount involved was about $150,000, and yielded the brothers a handsome profit.

The Gilman brothers continued the operations above mentioned until 1868, and then, having accumulated considerable money, they returned to Nebraska City, where they invested in 640 acres of land, of which 320 acres were on section 7, township 8, range 14, and the remaining 320 acres were on section 1, township 14, range 7, Otoe County. Our subject settled on section 7, Nebraska City, and has resided here continuously ever since. He does general farming, raises a large amount of grain, fruit, etc., and devotes much time to raising cattle and other stock, of which he has many fine specimens of high grades.

Mr. Gilman was married, in 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Alice Fitchie, daughter of James and Eliza (Douglas) Fitchie. Mrs. Gilman is a native of Allegheny County, Pa., and of her marriage with our subject six children have been born, namely: Larsh, Andrew, Nellie M., Marmaduke, Lee and Charles.

When Mr. Gilman was living on the plains of Lincoln County he took an active part in public affairs. There was an attempt made then to organize a county to be called Shorter, and he was elected Sheriff, but as the organization was not perfected he was not called upon to serve. Though past the prime of life, he is active and enterprising as many a younger man, and is always busy looking after his agricultural interests, and carefully manages his property so as to get the best returns from it. He possesses a clear head and a sound intellect, and is a man to be relied upon in any and every case. He is a sturdy advocate of the policy of the Republican party, and is keenly interested in all the questions of the day that pertain to the welfare of our country.

As a man who has been closely connected with the development of Southern Nebraska, it is eminently proper that the portrait of Mr. Gilman be given in connection with this sketch, and we herewith present it from the hands of our special artist. There is no doubt it will be regarded with more than ordinary interest.

GEORGE SMITH. There are in Palmyra Precinct many agriculturists who compare favorably with any in the State, and among these must undoubtedly be mentioned the gentleman whose biography is here outlined. His property is situated on section 23, where he operates 160 acres. As his name would imply, he is of Scottish parentage; his parents, William and Mary H. Smith, were born at Fenwick, Scotland, and shortly after their marriage came to America and settled in Missouri. The chosen occupation of William Smith was that of a stonemason. He was usually employed upon large buildings, and took large contracts for public and other buildings. His life in Missouri began in the year 1838, and the public buildings of St. Louis and neighboring cities bear marks of his handiwork; but his business was

not successful, owing to the failure of a company with which he was connected, and he removed to Galena. Here he worked upon the brewery, and put up the first arch of that building. After a few years a removal was made to Elk Grove Township, LaFayette Co., Wis. This was his home until his death, in 1886, when he was eighty-seven years of age.

Mrs. Smith is eighty years of age, and is still living, making her home with her eldest daughter in Wisconsin. There were seven children born to her and her husband, five of whom grew to mature years and are still alive. Their names are mentioned as follows: Catherine, Mary, Elizabeth, George and Robert H. From this it will be seen that the subject of our sketch was the youngest child but one. They have all been educated and trained after the model of Scottish strictness and care in regard to the higher qualities of character and morals.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 6th of July, 1852, at the Wisconsin home. His advantages in the line of education were undoubtedly excellent, and he developed an unusual capacity and liking for his studies, and became quite a good scholar in all the common branches. One trouble the teacher had with him was on account of his being naturally left-handed. It was only by persistent efforts that he learned to write as others do, but he has this advantage that he can use his pen as well with one hand as with the other.

Not having a large farm our subject's father gave him and his brothers the privilege of their own time and earnings, in order to get some start in life. When about thirteen he started to work for his brother-in-law by the month. As soon as he had money enough he bought a horse, and from that as a beginning went on to accumulate little by little. During the winter months he still continued his studies, and was more earnest as a student because he began to realize the value of an education.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Eliza Jane Herron was celebrated on the 18th of March, 1879. His wife was the daughter of James and Mary Ann (Nolan) Herron; her father was born near Dover, in Delaware, while her mother first saw the light in the vicinity of the city of Dublin, Ireland. She was a sister of the Rev. John Nolan, and a lady of large mental capacity, of complete education, possessed of many accomplishments, and this endowment she was only too glad to share with her daughter Eliza, so that she was also prepared to take her place in her home, and bring to it all the beauties of refinement and culture. The parents of Mrs. Smith were married in Wisconsin, and there continued to make their home. The business interests of Mr. Herron were at Galena, where he owned extensive lead mines. His death occurred on the 6th of February, 1885, when he was eighty-three years of age. His wife is still living in Wisconsin, and is now sixty-eight years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Herron were pioneers of LaFayette County, Wis., and were universally respected wherever they were known. They were exceedingly active in religious circles, and were pillars of the church to which they were united in membership. They were the parents of ten children, whose names are as follows: Susannah S., William E.; Wesley J., who died when fourteen years of age; Henry J. and Osley F. (twins), Eliza J., Mary A., Olivia V., Carson D. and Elmer E. Mrs. Smith was born on the 20th of December, 1851, in LaFayette County, Wis., and was educated in the common schools of the district. After taking the Normal course at Platteville, when seventeen years of age she received a high-class teacher's certificate, after which she followed that profession. For five terms she had charge of the Elm Grove public school. Her parents being among the wealthiest in the community this engagement was a matter of choice only. She was very fond of teaching and showed an admirable tact in the management of her school.

For two years after the marriage of our subject and wife, Wisconsin continued to be their home, and there their first child was born. The removal to this State was made in 1880, Mr. Smith having spent the fall of the previous year in prospecting, and had then purchased their present farm, comprising 160 acres, of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company; he also has 160 acres on section 35, within two miles of Douglas. All the improvements made upon the property are those of our subject. Stock-raising seemed to offer a more

profitable as well as more congenial employment, and he has consequently engaged largely therein, breeding chiefly Clydesdale horses, although he has a number of other very high-grade animals. He is the owner of the celebrated stallion "Young Donald." In cattle he has not confined himself to any particular breed, but has quite a large herd of very fine creatures. He also owns between 150 and 200 hogs of the best grade.

Mr. Smith has been called upon at various times to fill positions of public trust, and has always done so in the most perfect and happy manner, winning the esteem and respect of the entire community. He has been Road Supervisor, and has also filled other offices, and is one of the energetic members of the Republican party. In the Methodist Episcopal Church Mr. and Mrs. Smith find that which is congenial to them religiously, and there is little proposed or accepted either by the church, Sunday-school or societies with which they are not connected, either as the promoters or supporters.

There are few who can look back to the names of honored ancestors with more pride than the subject of our sketch, whose forefathers and members of the family have upon several occasions suffered martyrdom, and sealed their religious confessions with their life blood. This has been a treasured memory to the generations, and has undoubtedly been a powerful lever in the sustaining and onward movement of the transmitted high standard of moral power and character.

ROLLIN M. ROLFE, a retired merchant, has been an esteemed resident of Nebraska City since 1860, having made his advent in this place October 15 of that year. He at once identified himself with the mercantile interests of the city, engaging in the wholesale and retail grocery business, being the first wholesale jobber of groceries in Nebraska south of the Platte River. There were no railways west of the Missouri River at the time, and none nearer than St. Joseph, and all transportation was done with teams for some years, making freights very high, the average rate paid on freight between Nebraska City and Salt Lake City being twenty-five cents a pound. The greater portion of the Territory of Nebraska was then in its primitive wildness, and buffaloes, deer and antelopes roamed at will over the prairies. There were military posts en route, but not a city between here and Denver. Our subject was a potent factor in opening up the undeveloped country, and was instrumental in the building of the wagon road to Ft. Kearney, and was afterward one of the original incorporators and first Secretary of the Midland Pacific Railway Company.

Our subject is a native of New York, born near Bath, Steuben County, Oct. 12, 1830. The Rolfes have figured conspicuously in English and French history, it having been Count Rolfe, the father of William the Conqueror, to whom Normandy was ceded by Charles the Simple, King of France. Simon Rolfe was known to have been a resident of Sarem, England, in 1660, and he had the power to issue coins, one of which is now in possession of the subject of this sketch. It bears on one side the name Simon Rolfe, and on the reverse side the family coat of arms. From the records of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society we learn the following: "John Rolfe, with his wife and two sons, John and Thomas, who were from Melchitt Park, Wilts County, England, set sail from London in April, 1638, in the ship "Confidence," and on arriving in this country settled in Massachusetts. Later other Rolfes came to America and settled in Salisbury and Haverhill, Mass., and Concord, N. H. Descendants of these families are scattered about in different parts of the Union, the branch from which our subject sprang settling in Virginia, where Moses Rolfe, the grandfather of our subject, was born. He removed to Monmouth County, N. J., and thence, about 1805, to Ovid, N. Y., where he was a pioneer, and where he spent the rest of his life. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of our subject, was Mary Coon. After the death of her husband she removed to Steuben County, N. Y., and spent her last days with her children, who had married and settled there

Joseph Rolfe, the father of our subject, was born during the residence of his parents in Monmouth County, N. J., May 5, 1800. After his fifth year his early life was passed in New York State, where

he received his education and engaged in the lumber business, manufacturing his lumber and floating it down the Susquehanna River and its various tributaries, where it found a ready sale in the seaport towns. The last years of his life were spent in the home of a son in Lawrenceville, on the Pennsylvania State line, his death occurring in January, 1878. In politics he was formerly a Whig, but joined the Republican party on its formation, and was afterward a firm supporter of its principles. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Eliza Reed, who was born in Dutchess County, N. Y. Her grandfather, the great-grandfather of our subject, Gilbert Reed, a native of Kinderhook, was connected with the Commissary Department at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, and being a wealthy man, devoted to the interests of his country, did not hesitate to advance $100,000 from his private funds, for which he was paid in continental script.

The subject of this biographical sketch was reared in his native town, and there received his education in the district school. At the age of fifteen years he commenced his mercantile career, engaging as a clerk in a general store at Monterey, Steuben County, receiving $4 a month the first year, besides his board. The following year his salary was increased to $10 a month, the third year to $20, and the fourth year he received a further increase of $5 a month. He remained in that place five years, then went to Elmira, where he secured a similar position, and from there to Geneva, where he clerked a short time in a dry-goods store. Subsequently our subject returned to his native town, where he worked as a clerk for five years. From Bath Mr. Rolfe, who was ambitious of bettering his financial condition, and thinking the Far West offered special inducements, went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained about a year. Proceeding to Memphis, Tenn., our subject rented a flouring-mill, which he operated six months, then disposed of his property and moved to St. Louis. There he engaged in the auction and commission business, remaining there until Oct. 15, 1860, when he came to Nebraska City. As before mentioned he at once established himself in the grocery business, and was thus employed until 1884. During this time Mr. Rolfe was engaged in different branches of business, and was for some years connected with James Sweet and others in the banking business, under the firm name of James Sweet & Co. In 1879 our subject built a fine residence on the outskirts of the city, familiarly known as Boscobel, and resided there until 1886, when, on account of the ill-health of his wife, he sold it and bought his present residence in the city.

Mr. Rolfe was married, June 28, 1859, to Miss Harriet Emmons, a native of Springville, Erie Co., N. Y., and a daughter of Hon. Carlos and Harriet (Eaton) Emmons. Mr. Emmons was born in Vermont and moved from there to the Empire State, settling in Springville, where he practiced medicine. He identified himself with the best interests of the town, county and State, and served as State Senator two terms. He was subsequently offered the nomination of the Governorship of the State by his party, but declined the honor, and was also offered a portfolio in the cabinet of Millard Fillmore.

To our subject and his wife have been born three children, namely: Emmons, Charles and Harry.

SQUIRE EDWIN H. BALDWIN ranks prominently among the honored pioneers of Otoe County. He came to this section during its earliest settlement, and has been President of almost every Fourth of July celebration ever held in Palmyra. This fact is suggestive not only of his patriotism but of the estimation in which he is held by his fellow-citizens. It is hardly necessary to say that he is also prominently identified with the Old Settlers' Association of Nebraska. He has never aspired for political preferment, but has earnestly sought the best good of the people around him, and labored to the best of his ability to build up the interests of his adopted county.

Mr. Baldwin, as the consequence of a life of industry, is now in the enjoyment of a competency, living at his ease in a good home and surrounded by all the comforts of life. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, both educationally and financially. Deprived of his father's care when a lad of twelve years, he was then thrown upon his

own resources. The paramount thought in his mind at that time was the acquirement of a good education. With this end in view he labored and lived economically until reaching the age of twenty years, in the meantime making good use of his limited opportunities at the common school and of the books which came in his way. At the age mentioned he became a student of the Epworth College, of Iowa, in which he took a six-years course, teaching in the meanwhile and otherwise employing himself to pay his expenses. Having now secured that which could not be taken from him, he entered upon the serious business of life, engaging at first in merchandising at Manchester, Iowa. He was greatly prospered, but was finally persuaded to dispose of his business, and in consequence suffered a loss of about $7,000 on account of the rascality of the man with whom he dealt.

This calamity visited our subject the first spring after his marriage, and in consequence was doubly trying. He, however, suffered himself to lose no time in bewailing his misfortunes, but resolved to endeavor to repair them in the Far West. He accordingly made his way to the Territory of Nebraska, and the result of this determination may be seen in the position to which he has attained, socially and financially. He has become one of the prominent and wealthy men of his county, and by his upright and honorable career is numbered among those who enjoy the esteem and confidence of the people around him.

The property of Squire Baldwin includes 700 acres, laid off into four farms in Palmyra Precinct, while he also has a farm in Eagle Precinct, Cass County. The main points in a history of more than ordinary interest are as follows: Mr. Baldwin was born June 4, 1837, in Fredonia, N. Y., and is the son of Chester and Mary (Terry) Baldwin, also natives of the Empire State, and whose early home was in the vicinity of Oswego. The family is supposed to be of English ancestry; the paternal grandfather of our subject carried a musket in the War of 1812, and later did service during the Indian War of 1841.

Chester Baldwin was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and after their marriage the parents settled near Fredonia, in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where the father built up a comfortable home and was fairly prospered. He was a man of decided views and prominent in the political circles of his county. He only lived to middle age, however, his death taking place on the 6th of June, 1850, at the age of forty-four years. The mother was married the second time and removed to Minnesota, where her death took place June 26, 1867, at the age of sixty-seven and one-half years. Of her first marriage there were born eleven children, namely: Mary A., Cerilla A., Sarah, William D., Edwin H. (our subject), Chester, Wesley, Charles, Frank, Corydon J. and Emma J. Of these seven are now living, and residents of New York, Tennessee and Dakota.

Squire Baldwin continued a member of the parental household until a youth of eighteen years, working on the farm and also away from home until he could see his way clear for entering college. In the meantime he frequently served as janitor for his tuition and sawed wood for his board. He was a student at Earlville Academy one year, and attended Epworth Seminary five years. From the latter institution he was graduated in 1860 with the degree of L. B. For a year thereafter he was Principal of Earlville Academy. In the spring of 1864 he entered upon his mercantile career, and in the fall of 1864 was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Cattron. This lady is the daughter of his former partner, who is now living on a farm in Delaware County, Iowa. The parents of Mrs. Baldwin, John and Elizabeth Cattron, were natives of Indiana, and are now aged respectively sixty-seven and sixty-five years. Their eight children were named William V., Sarah F., John W., Frank, Etta, Ella, Edgar and Effie.

Mrs. Baldwin was born June 13, 1841, in La-Porte, Ind., and was a little girl nine years old when her parents removed to Iowa. She took kindly to her books, and after securing a good education commenced teaching, and was a preceptress in the Iowa University for one year. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin in making their journey from Iowa to Nebraska came overland with a wagon and team of horses, bringing with them their worldly effects and their one child. They arrived in the then unimportant village of Nebraska City on the 8th of June, 1867, and Mr. B. at once homesteaded 160 acres in

the vicinity of what is now Hendricks. Upon this he labored until bringing it to a good state of cultivation, and in time added to it another quarter-section. Of this property he retained possession until the fall of 1877, when he sold out and purchased his farm of 105 acres west of Palmyra.

During these years our subject has given strict attention to his business as an agriculturist and stock-raiser, in the meantime also buying and selling land. From these several resources he has realized a handsome income. No man has watched with warmer interest the development and growth of Nebraska, and few have given more generously of their time and means to the various enterprises having this end in view. A Republican, "dyed in the wool," Mr. Baldwin has given his vote and influence in support of the principles of his party, but aside from serving in the school offices has refrained from assuming greater responsibilities. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1876 and served two terms. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which they have been identified many years. Our subject was one of the founders of the Old Settlers' Association, and one of the chief workers in keeping it together and maintaining an interest among its members.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin there were born seven children, namely: Charles W., who died at the age of two years; Frank Pearl, Rilla May, Cora E., Harry G. C., Carl S. and Addie. Those surviving are at home. They have been carefully trained and educated, and as rising members of the community will do credit to the name of their honored parents.

WILLIAM KOONTZ, the well-known contractor and builder of Nebraska City, is the son of Baltzer and Susan (Whistler) Koontz, who are natives respectively of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Both are of German descent. The paternal grandfather emigrated to and settled in this country when the father of our subject was about seven years old. After ten years they removed to Ohio. In that State the parents of our subject were married, and continued to reside for several years. The father was by occupation a carpenter, and continued at his trade until he was about forty years of age, when he engaged in farming.

The subject of our sketch was the last child but one of fourteen born to his parents. His birth occurred in Stark County, Ohio. His parents removed to Indiana when he was about eleven years of age, and in 1853 finally settled in Whitley County, where they died, the father in November, 1877, the mother on the 12th of July, 1884, being eighty-four and eighty-five years of age respectively.

The birth of our subject occurred on the 9th of September, 1842. He was brought up on the home farm in Ohio and Indiana. He was, however, privileged to enjoy but very meager educational opportunities. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War our subject was serving an apprenticeship to the cabinet-making trade, but left his tools and the workshop to enlist in Company H, of the 15th Indiana Infantry. He engaged to serve for three years or during the war; this event transpired upon the 6th of August, 1862. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and he was present at some of the hardest fighting of the war.

Among the battles in which our subject took part may be mentioned those of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Gap, through the Atlanta campaign with Sherman, and on with him in his march to the sea; thence up through the Carolinas, and was at Raleigh when the news of Lee's surrender reached them. His military experiences closed with the grand review at Washington, after which he in common with his comrades received an honorable discharge.

Returning home, our subject remained there until 1869, and then came to Nebraska. Arriving in Nebraska City he went to work with the determination to make his fortune. There was no opening in the cabinet-making business, and so he turned his attention to carpentry, working as a journeyman. He has been unusually successful as a contractor and builder, and has erected many of the large buildings of the city, among them the Odd Fellows' Block and the Kee's residence.

Mr. Koontz is enthusiastic over the prospect of

the future of the city, and bases his judgment, first, on its natural location, second, on the location and enlargement of its stockyards, third, on the greatly increased railroad facilities by the way of "Q" bridge and the Union Pacific Railroad. Thus far he has been fully justified, and his expectations have been more than realized. His hopes therefore for the future would seem to be well founded.

In the year 1872 the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Emma J. Howe, the daughter of Noah and Sarah M. Howe. She was born in the State of Virginia, Oct. 22, 1832, and was about seven years of age when her parents migrated to Nebraska City just before the war. There have been given to Mr. and Mrs. Koontz five children, whose names we mention as follows: Maggie May, Nellie M., Alfred O., Edgar B. and W. Carl, all of whom are at home with their parents, and in attendance at the city schools.

Feeling the cramping through lack of education in his own life, our subject is anxious to make the education of his children as complete and thorough as possible. We would not be understood as implying that our subject is not a well-informed man, for to recognize the need of study and instruction was for him to bend every energy to the task of obtaining knowledge, so that to-day he is well posted upon the usual topics, and has a clear understanding and appreciation of current political affairs, and such a grasp of his business affairs as to make him thoroughly successful, and is a citizen of whom the community is proud, exerting an influence among his fellows that is favorably recognized.

Mr. Koontz is an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R.; he is Past Commander of the Post, and is at present holding the position of Officer of the Day. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F. In religious associations he is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is also a Trustee. Politically, he is a Republican, and always takes deep interest in matters relative to the party. On the Board of Education he is recognized as one of the active, clear-thinking, practical working members, and is respected accordingly. In his general ideas and patriotic sentiments he is thoroughly American, and entertains the highest ambitious hopes and laudable pride in view of what he conceives to be the future position of his adopted State in the Union.

T. D. Babcock, at present Noble Grand of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 3, says of our subject: "I admire him as a man; as a worker in our fraternity he is well and favorably known as being one of its most worthy members. In his connection with the fraternity his character shows itself plainly, as being that of an honest and upright man."

FREDERICK DOW. Among the early pioneers of Nebraska Territory the subject of this sketch is entitled to occupy a position in the front rank, he having settled in Cass County as early as the fall of 1857. He lived there on a partially cutivated tract of land for a period of seven years, then came to Wyoming Precinct, this county, taking up his abode on section 14, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and where he has since lived. He began to build up his present homestead from first principles, there having been no attempt at cultivation or improvement at the time it came into his possession.

Mr. Dow is a self-made man, and, when pursuing his journey into Cass County, carried his worldly possessions on his back. He had lost most of his household goods on the journey from Chicago to Nebraska. He was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, June 23, 1823, where he was reared to man's estate, and when of age entered the regular army and served a period of seven years in the Grenadier Guards, enduring all the vicissitudes of a soldier's life, and coming out at the close with a clean record and an honorable discharge. He set out a single man for the United States in 1852, landing in the city of Quebec, Canada, and going thence to Chicago, Ill., where he employed himself at working on a railroad for a time. There also he was first married to Miss Mary Stahl, a native of his own Province in Germany, and born in 1826. She came alone to the United States about the same time as her husband, and accompanied him to Nebraska, assisting him in his first struggles at making a living. Of this good wife he was deprived by death Dec. 17, 1866, when she was in her prime and most needed by her little family of six children.

Yours Very. Truly
C. W. Seymour

These all lived to mature years: Sophia and Minnie were married, but are now deceased; Frank is farming in Custer County, this State; John is living in Stockton, Cal.; William is farming in Wyoming Precinct; Frederick, Jr., is living in this county.

Mr. Dow contracted a second marriage, in August, 1871, with Mrs. Rebecca J. (Searle) Nail. This lady was born Nov. 4, 1835, in Scioto County, Ohio, and was first married to John Nail, in that county, where he died a year later. Mrs. Nail came to Nebraska City after the death of her husband, and by her union with our subject there have been born three children, two of whom died young. The survivor, a son, M. Albert, born in Otoe County in 1875, continues at home with his parents. Mr. Dow and his first wife were trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, uniformly votes the Republican ticket. His present wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

HON. CHARLES WILLIAM SEYMOUR, whose portrait graces the opposite page, is a distinguished citizen of Nebraska City, and one of the first lawyers of the State. He has mingled much in public life, and has held many important offices for which his ability and legal attainments have eminently fitted him. He is a native of Ohio, Hartford, Licking County, being the place of his birth, and June 4, 1838, the date thereof. His father, John William Seymour, was born in Salem, Conn., and his grandfather, Medad Seymour, and his great-grandfather, Zachariah Seymour, were both natives of and livelong residents of that New England State, the former having been born in Hartford. The Seymour family is of ancient English ancestry, and is descended from the famous Duke of Somerset, which statement is confirmed by the Encyclopedia Britannica. The American branch of the family were early settlers of Connecticut, the first ancestor of our subject coming to this country in 1649.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, receiving a substantial education, and when a young man he went to Rahway, N. J., to teach school. From there he went to Ohio about 1836, and located at Hartford, Licking County, where he was prosperously engaged in the mercantile business until 1868. In that year he moved to Mt. Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, and receiving the appointment as special agent of the Etna Insurance Company, continued in the insurance business in that town until his death in the month of July, 1872. He was a man whose ability, intelligence and integrity were of a high order, and he was valued as a loyal and upright citizen. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah J. Clark, and she was born in New York City, of which her father, Thomas Clark, was likewise a native. He spent his entire life there, and was for many years engaged in the mercantile business. The mother of our subject died at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1880. There were eight children born to her and her husband, and he had one child besides by a former marriage.

Charles W. early showed a taste for scholarly pursuits, which was gratified by a liberal education at one of the best universities of the day in the West, the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. He entered that institution of learning in 1854, and after attending there three years, he left for awhile to take a business course in a commercial college at Cleveland. On receiving his diploma there, he resumed his studies in the Wesleyan University, and was graduated from there in 1860, having attained high standing in his classes, and with the degree of A. B. and subsequently A. M. He immediately commenced the study of law in the office of the renowned jurist, Judge Allen G. Thurman, at Columbus, Ohio. Having under the Judge's instructions acquired a good, practical knowledge of the legal profession, in 1861 he came to Nebraska City, and in 1862 was admitted to the bar. He at once opened an office with William H. Taylor, who was his partner for two years. Mr. Taylor then moved away, and our subject continued to practice alone until 1865, and then was with B. M. Davenport until 1868. He then carried on an extensive law business alone until 1886, when his son William became his partner. Mr. Seymour was appointed Notary Public in 1863, and has held the office ever since. In 1870 he received his appointment to

his present position as United States Commissioner. In 1862 he was elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was re-elected the following year. He was Master in Chancery for ten years and Land Commissioner for the Midland Pacific when he first located here, and was Prosecuting Attorney for one year, appointed by Judge Streeter. At the time when the removal of the capital of the United States from Washington was agitated, Mr. Seymour was sent as a delegate to the convention held at Cincinnati for the purpose of discussing the question. He was a member of the commission that met at Chicago in accordance with an act of Congress to locate the Union Pacific Railway. On two occasions he acted as Chief Clerk of the State Legislature at the opening of the session. He is one of the leaders of the Republican party, he having always been a Republican since he attained his majority, and he has served as Chairman of the State Central Committee. Our subject also has an honorable military record. When the war broke out he was in early manhood, and just about to enter upon his brilliant career as a lawyer and a statesman, yet notwithstanding his bright prospects of winning his way to an assured position in his profession, he put aside all personal aims and ambitions at the first call for troops, and enlisted as a member of the 2d Ohio Infantry, for a term of ninety days. He served with his regiment that length of time, and was present at the first battle of Bull Run. In 1863 a regiment of State Militia was raised, and he was appointed Major by Gov. Saunders, of Nebraska, and at the same time he was serving as Captain of the Union Guards. Our subject is identified with the following societies: Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter No. 2; and Mt. Olivet Lodge No. 2. He is also a member of the Alpha Consistory—of the Ancient and Accepted Order of Scottish Rite Masons, having attained the thirty-second degree. In St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church Mr. Seymour is a Vestryman.

In this brief summary of the many responsible civic positions which he has held, we have not spoken of the conspicuous ability that Mr. Seymour has brought to bear upon his work, nor the lofty sense of duty that has been the guiding motive of all his acts, so that he has never been accused of neglecting public trusts for private interests. He has a keen, cultivated intellect, a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the law, and by the force of an indomitable will, has attained his present eminence as one of the most astute and successful lawyers now practicing before the Nebraska bar, although he is not yet much beyond the prime of life.

The brief limits of this biographical sketch will not permit us to more than glance at the home life of our subject. He was married, July 4, 1863, to Catherine Ella Holly, a native of Savannah, Mo., and a daughter of Judge Charles F. Holly. Her father was born in Stamford, Conn., and went from there to Kenyon College, Ohio, to complete his education. After graduation he was married, and then went to Savannah, Mo., where he edited a paper a number of years. In 1855 he came to Nebraska City, and was one of the first lawyers ever located in Nebraska. In 1863 he went to Colorado, and was soon after elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was made Speaker of that body. In 1864 he enlisted, and was commissioned Captain, and served until the close of the war. Soon after that he was appointed District Judge. He went from Colorado to New Mexico, and was there engaged in a land speculation. He now resides in Paskack, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have a delightful home, the center of a refined and cultured life, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of five children—William F., Catherine Ella, Howard S., Hugh A. and Louisa Maria.

CONRAD MULLIS. The agricultural interests of Wyoming Precinct are admirably represented by the subject of this sketch, who until recently was the owner of 380 acres of highly cultivated land, which embraced one of the most valuable farms in the county. The homestead proper is on section 25, and adjacent is quite an extent of land which Mr. Mullis has divided among his children. He may most properly be ranked among the pioneers of Nebraska Territory.

He crossed the Mississippi as early as 1854, lived for a time in Fremont County, Iowa, and thence came to Nebraska City when it was but a hamlet.

Our subject, during his early manhood, had learned blacksmithing, which trade he pursued in Nebraska City until 1860, when he was burned out. He then concluded to change his occupation, and accordingly settled on a part of the land in Wyoming Precinct which he now owns and occupies. His labors as a farmer have been crowned with success, he now having a competency for his old age, and being surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Mullis was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in Switzerland, March 22, 1821. His parents were also of Swiss birth and parentage, and spent their entire lives upon their native soil. The father was a laboring man and the family was in modest circumstances. Conrad was the youngest, and was reared and educated in the place of his birth. When twenty-three years of age he set sail in 1844 for America, taking passage on an English vessel, and after a rough voyage of seven weeks, landed in New Orleans. In addition to the storms which beset them on the passage the provisions gave out, and both passengers and crew suffered greatly for lack of food.

Mr. Mullis soon left the Crescent City and made his way to Madison County, Ill., where he arrived $14 in debt and without a cent in his pocket. There he learned his trade of blacksmith, his honest face securing him friends and employment. In due time he had cancelled all his obligations, and is now not only out of debt but may be called a wealthy man. After taking up his residence in Fremont County, Iowa, he made the acquaintance of a very estimable young woman, Miss Nancy Hill, to whom he was married. This lady died at the birth of her first child, the latter dying also.

Our subject after coming to this county contracted a second marriage, with Miss Magdalena Lohse, who was born in Holstein, Germany, Oct. 6, 1834. Her parents, Henry and Catherine (Hanschild) Lohse, were also natives of Germany, and after their marriage settled in Holstein, where they lived until after the birth of two daughters, Mrs. Mullis and her sister Anna, now Mrs. Kausboy, of Cass County, this State. They then, in 1858, set sail with their little family for the United States, and coming directly to Nebraska located near the present site of Nebraska City. The parents joined their married daughter in Cass County, where the father died seven months after his arrival in the United States. The mother after being a resident of Cass County eight years, joined her husband in the better land.

The wife of our subject received a good education in the German tongue, and was about twenty-two years old when she came to America. She has proved the suitable helpmate of such a man as her husband, encouraging him in his worthy efforts and contributing her full share toward the building up of the homestead. Of their union there have been born four children, the eldest of whom, a son Henry, continues at home with his parents. Conrad, Jr., married Miss Josephine Barhurst, and they are living near Dunbar, this county; John is at home assisting his father in the labors around the homestead; Anna is attending school in the convent at Kearney Heights. Our subject and his estimable wife have wisely retired from active labor, and, surrounded by their children and friends, are spending their declining years amid the comforts which they have gathered around them by lives of industry and economy. Although not connected with any religious organization, they have made it the rule of their lives to do unto their neighbors as they would be done by. No family is held in higher respect and none are more deserving of the esteem and confidence of their community. Mr. Mullis in politics is independent, aiming to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office.

GEORGE OELKE, of Otoe Precinct, is one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers within its limits, being the owner of 340 acres of good land, embracing 160 acres on section 5, and 180 acres on section 8. His home is located on the former section. He is a man who at once commands attention as evidently possessing more than ordinary abilities, and physically is of fine stature and commanding presence. His quali-

ties of mind are in proportion to his physical development, as is indicated in his surroundings, his home being one to which the admiring eye of the passing traveler is at once attracted, and which forms one of the most pleasing features of the landscape of Otoe Precinct. He has a tasteful and commodious dwelling, which is one of the handsomest in the precinct, with good barns and outhouses, corn-cribs, sheds, etc., and everything appertaining to the modern rural estate.

The main points in a most interesting history are substantially as follows: Our subject was born in the town of Sumte, near the city of Nauhaus, Germany, Nov. 12, 1842, and is the son of John and Maggie (Myer) Oelke, who were also of German birth and parentage. The father was a farmer and wagon-maker combined, and a man in prosperous circumstances. He came to America with his whole family in the summer of 1857, settling in Clayton County, Iowa, but only lived four years afterward, his decease taking place in 1861, when he was sixty-five years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son George, and has now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years.

The parental household included twelve children, of whom John, Henry, William, Minnie, Emma, Bertha, Emma (2d) and Louisa are deceased, the four latter dying when quite young. The survivors are Mary, who is the wife of Henry Heye; they live in Delaware Precinct. Fred; George, our subject, and Christ. They are living in Otoe County, Neb. George was carefully educated in his native tongue, and soon after coming to Nebraska, June 15, 1863, purchased his first land in company with his brother Frederick. Prior to this he had operated as a renter. He was married, Dec. 22, 1864, to Miss Lena Sharp, a native of the Province of Holstein, Germany, and who came to America when a young girl of twelve years, with her parents, they settling at once in this county. Her father is dead, but her mother is still living. She is the daughter of Timothy and Mattie (Hauchildt) Sharp.

Our subject purchased first eighty acres on section 5, Otoe Precinct, and labored early and late in the development of the soil and the building up of his homestead, and continued to add thereto until he now owns 340 acres. His farm is six miles south of the court-house in Nebraska City. The household circle has been completed by the birth of nine children, namely: John, George, Mattie, Timm, William, Jesse, Emma, Eddie and Josie, all living at home and single. The eldest is twenty-three years of age, and the youngest two years. Mr. and Mrs. Oelke, together with their children, are all connected with the German Lutheran Church at Nebraska City. Mr. Oelke votes the straight Republican ticket, and is serving his second term as School Treasurer of his district. He is also engaged in buying and shipping hogs. His shipments are mostly made from Paul Station on the Missouri Pacific, to Nebraska City and Omaha.

JOHN DUNBAR, an extensive land-owner and retired farmer in good circumstances, and at present a resident of Dunbar Village, is a gentleman widely and most favorably known throughout this section for his honesty, integrity and straightforward manner of transacting business, and his thoroughness and skill as an agriculturist. From him the precinct and village of Dunbar are named, though the former has since been changed.

A native of County Londonderry, Ireland, our subject was born Oct. 28, 1820, and is the son of Thomas Dunbar, who was born in County Antrim, and came to the United States with his family in the spring of 1829. They settled first near Ogdensburg, N. Y., where our subject lived until the spring of 1832. He then went over into Canada West, and from there, in 1856, came to the Territory of Nebraska, settling on a tract of land in Delaware Precinct, and has since then been a resident of this county.

It is hardly necessary to say that the country was wild and new at that period, there being but very few settlers this side of the Mississippi. The father and paternal grandfather, Thomas H Dunbar, had preceded our subject to this section in June of the same year, being joined by John on the 14th of November following. There were then but a few houses between this point and Nebraska City. Deer, wolves and Indians were numerous, and the latter,

Pawnees, stole a team of horses from our subject, which he never recovered.

Mr. Dunbar was married, Sept. 11, 1851, to Miss Ann E., daughter of James Watson, now deceased. This union resulted in the birth of twelve children, namely: Emily, Mary, Thomas H., John A., Leona; Sarah J., deceased; William F., Edwin W., Merritt W., Ann E., Ella Dora and Alfred. Mary is the wife of Merle D. Smith, of Blount, this State, and the mother of two children—Clarence and Ralph; Leona married Elias C. Reed, of Syracuse Precinct, and has two children—Anna L. and Herbert; William married Miss Charlotte Latter, and lives on the old homestead.

Mr. Dunbar has always been prominent in the affairs of this county, and about 1869 platted the town named in his honor. His property embraces 640 acres of land, which he has brought to a good state of cultivation, and erected thereon substantial buildings. The first wheat shipped from the precinct was of his raising. He officiated as Justice of the Peace for a period of twenty years. He then rested for a time, but in 1887 was prevailed upon to resume his official duties, and now holds the office. He has always taken a warm interest in the temperance movement, and in religious matters is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, taking the Bible for his rule of faith and practice. He has been an extensive reader of the Scriptures, and possessing a remarkable memory, is able to quote largely therefrom. He usually upholds the principles of the Republican party, but is somewhat independent, aiming to support the men best qualified for office, irrespective of party.

BROWN BROS. Charles A., Frederick L., George E. and Frank F. have operated together in the cultivation of one of the finest tracts of land in North Branch Precinct, and lived together since they were born until the marriage of George E., since which time the latter and his wife have been in a home of their own, while the three brothers continue with their mother.

Amos Brown, the father of these brothers, was born in Windsor County, Vt., in 1828, and when quite a lad removed with his parents to Illinois, they settling on a farm in the vicinity of Peoria, but which was in Tazewell County. They were among the earliest pioneers of that region, and there Amos Brown grew to manhood, assisting his father in the development of his homestead. He married Miss Sarah I. Lackland, who was born in Tazewell County, Ill., Feb. 27, 1835, and is the daughter of David and Elizabeth (Hale) Lackland. The latter were natives of Tennessee, where they were reared and married, and whence they emigrated in 1830 to Illinois. They settled at first in Sangamon County, but shortly afterward changed their residence to Tremont Township, Tazewell County, and were, like the Brown family, among the earliest settlers. Mr. Lackland entered land from the Government, improved the farm, and continued at the homestead which he had thus built up until the time of his death, which occurred about 1856. The wife and mother had died in 1844. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: Nancy, now deceased; Louise, Mrs. Davidson, of Livingston County, Ill.; Martha, Mrs. Owen, of Tremont, Tazewell County; William R., deceased; Margaret, who was the first white child born in Tazewell County, and is now the wife of Stephen Stout, of Marshall County, Kan.; and Sarah, the mother of the Brown brothers.

Amos Brown and Miss Sarah Lackland were married in 1851, and for seven years afterward lived in the then little village of Pekin, Ill., where Mr. Brown followed his trade of carpenter. Later they settled upon a farm in the same county, where the death of the father took place in 1870, he leaving five children, four of whom, Brown Bros., are still living. The mother with her sons continued her residence in Tazewell County until 1877, then at the instance of the latter came to Nebraska, and invested a portion of her capital in 160 acres of land in North Branch Precinct, where she and her three sons still live. They were prospered in their efforts to build up a homestead, and added to their first purchase until their estate now embraces 400 acres of land, with all the buildings and machinery required for the successful prosecution of agriculture. A large portion is devoted to stock-raising, and

they keep the best grades, including Morgan horses, Polled-Angus cattle, graded stock and pure-bred Poland-China swine.

George E. Brown was married to Miss Nellie E. Cornish, May 18, 1886, at the home of the bride in Minnesota. They took up their residence in a snug dwelling in North Branch Precinct. This son and his mother are members in good standing of the Congregational Church. Charles, politically, is a Democrat, while the other brothers are earnest supporters of Republican principles. The family are widely and favorably known throughout this part of the county, and are closely allied to its agricultural interests, which, in the building up of one of its finest farms, they have thus greatly facilitated, adding to their wealth and importance.

Grandfather Nathaniel Brown was born in New Hampshire, Jan. 3, 1783, and died Oct. 5, 1842. He was married, in May, 1826, to Miss Sally Densmore, who was born in Alstead, N. H., Sept. 19, 1789, and who died Nov. 7, 1875. The parents of Grandmother Brown removed to Pittsfield, Vt., when she was a child. The Browns emigrated from Rochester, Vt., to Illinois in the summer of 1838, reaching Enoch Emerson's on the 1st day of August, after having been five weeks on the road. They had journeyed overland with teams to Buffalo, N. Y., and at that point the horses and wagons, and the family, numbering five persons, were loaded upon a steamboat and taken to Detroit. Thence they resumed their journey by wagon to Illinois.

These travelers first went up Lake Erie to avoid the Miami swamp in Ohio. It was not safe to travel through Canada on account of the rebellion. The name of the great-grandfather was also Nathaniel, and he married a Miss Groves. They became the parents of seven children, namely: Thomas, Reuben, Nathaniel, Amos, Daniel, Amanda and Polly. On the other side of the house the great-grandfather, Zebadiah Densmore, married Miss Elizabeth Todd, and they became the parents of ten children, namely: Thomas, Zebadiah, Jr., John, Amos, Joel, Elizabeth, Jemima, Sally, Lucy and Polly. Both the great-grandfathers served all through the Revolutionary War. Uncle Joel Densmore was in the army four years during the War of 1812, entering the ranks as a drummer boy when fourteen years of age. During that war a company of volunteers, under command of Grandfather Brown as Captain, marched to Plattsburg at the time of the concentration of forces there, but did not succeed in arriving until after the battle. Capt. Brown, as he was afterward familiarly called, was the offspring of a family noted for their industry and integrity of character, and these traits have descended in a marked manner to the Browns who have come after.

CHARLES B. BICKEL has for more than twenty years been prominently identified with the building interests of Nebraska City as contractor and builder, and thus it has been his privilege not only to witness its growth, but to be an energetic factor in promoting it. He was born in Gallia County, Ohio, May 16, 1826. His father, Anthony Bickel, a native of Botetourt County, Va., was the son of a German who came to America some time during the last century, and settled in Botetourt County, which remained his home until his death.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, and when a young man went to North Carolina, and there married Diana Chappell, a native of that State. After marriage the parents of our subject removed to Ohio, traversing the long and weary distance over the Alleghany Mountains in a wagon containing their household goods drawn by Indian ponies, for this was before the introduction of railways into that part of the country. They located in Gallia County, and were thus identified with its early settlers. Mr. Bickel rented land for a time, and later bought a tract, but, being unfortunate, was unable to pay for it. He continued to be a resident of that county until his death in 1858, respected and esteemed by his neighbors for his many sterling qualities. He was quite young when the War of 1812 broke out, but during the latter part of it he enlisted and started to join the army on the Virginia coast, but the war, however, closed before he reached his destination, and he was discharged with his comrades and walked home. Mrs. Bickel survived her husband only a few years, dying in Gallia County. There were eleven chil-

dren born of that marriage, nine of whom grew to maturity.

Charles Bickel, of this biographical notice, was reared amid the pioneer scenes of his native county, where the advantages of an education were very much inferior to those enjoyed by the youth of the present day. The nearest school was two and one-half miles distant from his home, and was conducted in a rude log building, with seats or benches made of slabs without backs or desks; a board that rested on wooden pegs that were driven into the logs served for the scholars to write on. As soon as he was large enough to do so our subject commenced to help his father on the farm. When he was fourteen years old the care of the farm devolved upon him entirely, as his father was stricken with rheumatism. But he was a bright, active lad, and was fully equal to the occasion, and a manliness and self-reliance beyond his years were thus early developed in him. He lived at home until he was twenty years old, and then hired a man to work in his place, and went to Virginia, where he commenced to learn the trade of bricklayer, serving an apprenticeship of three years. His first job as a builder was in Virginia, when he superintended the construction of his brother's house. He formed a partnership with another brother, and they took contracts to erect buildings, always burning their own brick. As an excellent specimen of their work the court-house at Barboursville, the county seat, may be mentioned. Mr. Bickel continued in business as bricklayer and contractor in Virginia and Kentucky until 1857, when he went to Quincy, Ill., to work at his trade. When he first went there business was good and he earned $4 a day, but in about three months all building ceased, and he was thrown out of work. He then started for Maryville, Mo., where a brother lived, going by way of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. His family was with him, and when they arrived at Maryville the boxes containing all their best clothes and most valuable household effects were missing, and they had to start anew. Maryville was then a village of 300 or 400 inhabitants, and the surrounding country was wild and sparsely settled.

Mr. Bickel found employment at his trade for a few months, and then business was suspended, but he was a man of resources, and not easily discouraged, and determined upon renting a farm. While attending to that he took up plastering, and finding that he could do well at that, he worked at it as opportunity offered. During the war times were hard, and the state of affairs was so unsettled in Missouri that he could not get work there, so he concluded to go West. He divided his last $30 with his wife, and with the small sum of money remaining to him started across the plains for Colorado. Arriving in Denver, then a town of 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants, he found employment by the day, and was thus engaged for a time, until he formed a partnership with J. B. Lull, and engaged in contracting. They built the Governor's residence, a Methodist Church, and other noted buildings of that day. Mr. Bickel remained in the Queen City until the fall of 1864, and then wishing to return home, he engaged passage by a mule team, the most convenient mode of carriage before the railways stretched across the plains, and paid $17 fare to Nebraska City. From here he proceeded to Graham Village, Mo., where his family lived. In January, 1865, he sold his property there and removed with his family to this city, where he at once took a contract to erect an extensive warehouse. Since that time he has been a respected resident of this place, and is still conducting business here, the greater part of the brick buildings in the city being monuments of his handiwork. His four sons are interested in the business with him, and their work is not by any means confined to Otoe County, but extends as far as Omaha.

Mr. Bickel was married, in 1852, to Miss Isabella Kelly, a native of the Isle of Man, Great Britain, and the following are the six children who have been born to them: Mary, who married Jacob Schulenberger, and died in Nevada; John K., Anthony A., Charles C., Rosa B. and George R. Mrs. Bickel came to America with her mother when she was five years of age, her father, Thomas Kelly, having come here two years before. Her father was born on the Isle of Man, coming of an old family of that isle that can trace its ancestry back several generations. When he first came to America he lived for awhile near Columbus, Ohio, and from there he removed to Lawrence County, in that

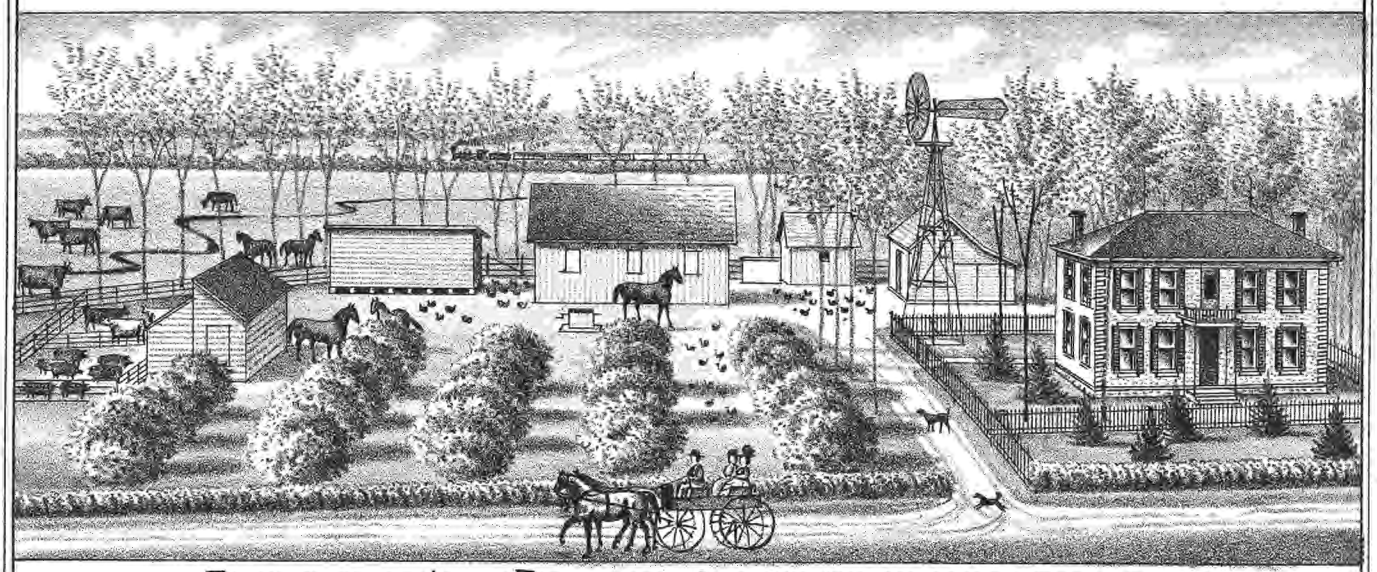
State, where he spent the remainder of his life. His wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Kirk, was also a native of the Isle of Man, and came of an old and respected family. She likewise died in Lawrence County, Ohio. Mr. Bickel has always shown a spirit of enterprise, and is ever ready to assist in anything to benefit Nebraska City or Otoe County. In 1883 he was one of the company that attempted to start a barbed wire manufactory in this city. In 1872 he bought a half-interest in a tannery at Lincoln, located on the northwest corner of O and Twenty-fourth streets, and retained it until 1887, when he sold it at a good advance. Mr. Bickel is a time-honored resident of Otoe County, and in his useful career has gained the respect of the many who have had dealings with him, as he is always strictly just and honest in all his transactions, and no blot has ever been cast on his name. He is influential in public affairs, and has served two years as a member of the City Council. He affiliates with the Democratic party, although he was in early life a Whig. He is a member of Nebraska City Lodge No. 12, A. F. & A. M., and also of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F. He and his wife are members in high standing of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN FRERICHS. The finely cultivated farm of 210 acres which occupies a portion of section 24, McWilliams Precinct, has for the last eighteen years been under the management of the subject of this sketch, and indicates in a most forcible manner his characteristic enterprise and energy. He has built up a fine farm from an uncultivated tract of land, placing thereon neat and substantial buildings, and gradually adding the comforts and conveniences which have become indispensable to the well-being and satisfaction of the citizen of to-day, with his modernized ideas. A self-made man in the truest sense of the word, Mr. Frerichs has been the architect of his own fortune, building up his property slowly but surely by the labor of his hands.

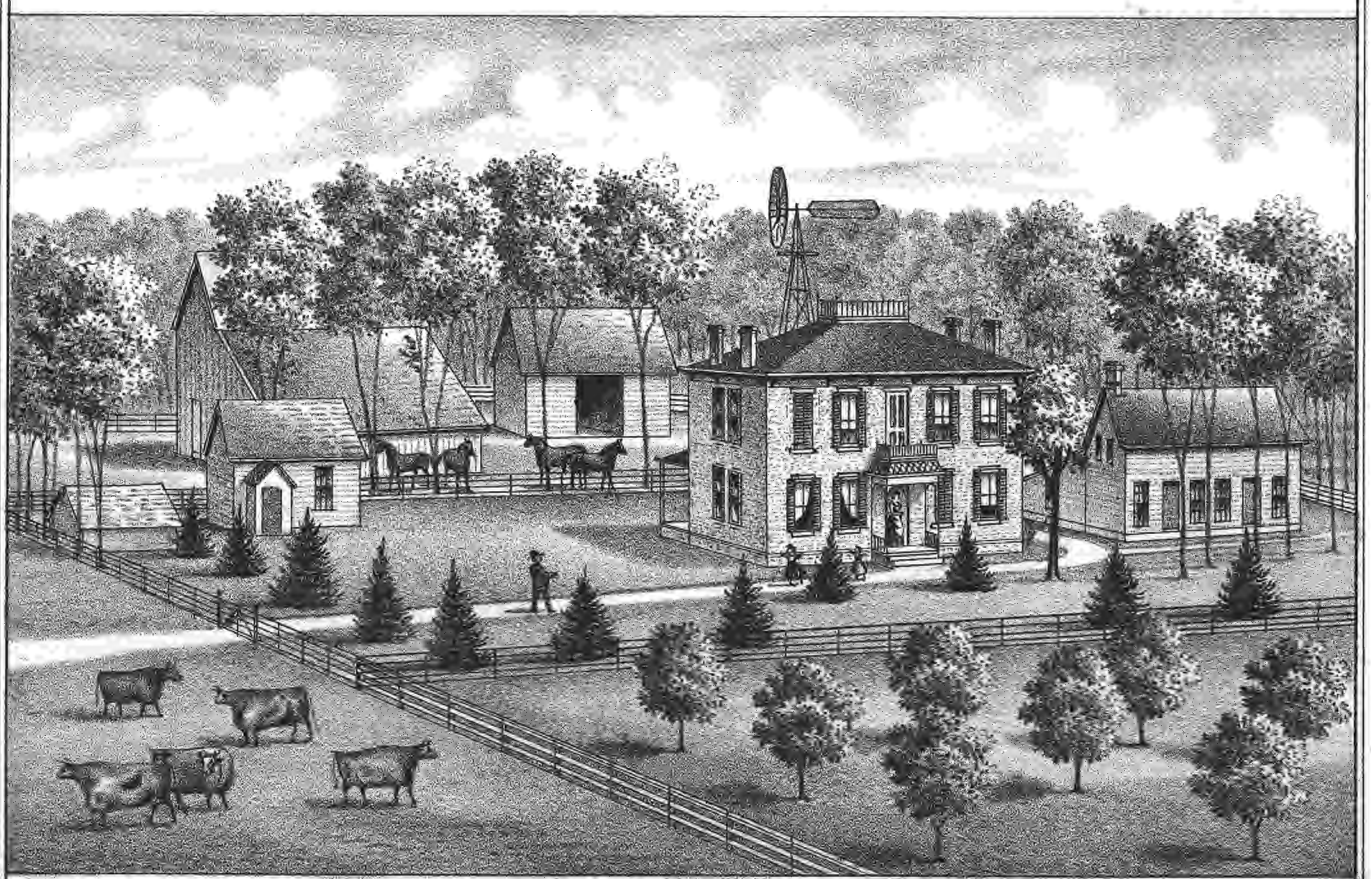
Our subject was born in Madison County, Ill., Nov. 31, 1857, and when a lad of thirteen years accompanied his parents to this State, which had but just emerged from a Territory. They located on a farm in McWilliams Precinct, this county, which is now the property of our subject. The father, Abraham Frerichs, was born and reared in Hanover, Germany, and was there married to Miss Gretje Ubben, a native of the same. They remained upon their native soil until after the birth of five children, and upon coming to the United States sojourned in Madison County, Ill., for a period of thirteen years. John, of our sketch, was the youngest of the family, and the only one born on this side of the Atlantic. The father upon coming to Nebraska remained upon the homestead now occupied by our subject until his death, which took place Feb. 15, 1875, when he was sixty-five years old. He was a good man in the broadest sense of the term, honest and industrious, a man prompt to meet his obligations, and a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church. After becoming a naturalized citizen he identified himself with the Republican party, of whose principles he was a warm supporter until the day of his death. The mother is still living, and resides with our subject. Their family consisted of five sons and one daughter; the latter is deceased; the sons are residing in this State.

John Frerichs completed his education in this county, and after the death of his father continued on the homestead with his mother, assisting her in its management. He was married, Oct. 22, 1885, to Miss Mary L. Ritter, who was born in Bureau County, Ill., Sept. 20, 1865. The wedding was celebrated at the home of the bride in McWilliams Precinct. The parents of Mrs. Frerichs were Rev. Josiah and Charlotta Ritter, who are still living on the farm where they settled when first coming to this county. The father has been a minister of the Lutheran Church for many years. The parental household included three children, who are all living in Nebraska.

Mrs. Frerichs was quite young when her parents came to Nebraska, and completed her education in the public schools of McWilliams Precinct. She remained with her parents until her marriage, and is now the mother of one child, Lydia S., who was



RESIDENCE OF JOHN FRERICHS, SEC. 24. McWILLIAMS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF F. JOE SAND, SEC. 15. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.

born Sept. 5, 1886. Like their parents before them, Mr. and Mrs. Frerichs are identified with the Lutheran Church, and Mr. F., politically, is a stanch Republican. He has held various minor offices, and is a man who inspires respect among all who know him. The handsome lithographic view of his homestead which will be found on an accompanying page illustrates the industry and energy which form the leading elements of his character.

FRANK JOSEPH SAND occupies a prominent place among the young agriculturists of Otoe County who are active in sustaining and still further developing its great agricultural interests. He is second to none in enterprise and practical ability, and he has a thorough knowledge of farming in all of its branches. The homestead on section 15, Nebraska City Precinct, that was once his father's, has descended to him; a goodly heritage, indeed, with its broad, highly cultivated fields, comprising 160 acres of exceedingly fertile land; its farm buildings, neat, substantial and conveniently arranged; and its many other valuable improvements, which makes it one of the finest farms for many miles around.

The father of our subject, Joseph Sand, was a pioneer first of Missouri, and later of Nebraska, in each case doing his share to promote the growth of the county in which he located. He was a German by birth and breeding, born in Bavaria, March 9, 1811. He early learned the trade of blacksmith in the Fatherland, and coming to America about 1838, worked at his trade in various States. He finally settled in Atchison County, Mo., about 1840, and was a pioneer of that section of the country. He entered a tract of Government land, on which he immediately erected two log cabins, one for a dwelling and the other for a smithy, wherein he plied his calling, and, as opportunity offered, worked on his land. In 1860 he rented his place and came to Nebraska, then a Territory, and located in Otoe County, where he bought 160 acres of land on section 22 of Four Mile Precinct, of which thirty acres broken and a log house constituted the improvements. He lived there one year, and then bought 160 acres on section 15 of Nebraska City Precinct, which is the place now occupied by our subject. It is beautifully situated two miles from the court-house in Nebraska City. There was a small frame house and a log stable on the place then, and about fifty acres of the land were improved. Mr. Sand was much interested in fruit growing, and devoted a great deal of his time to that branch of agriculture, planting quite a large vineyard and fine apple, pear and peach orchards. He erected frame stables, and commenced the erection of a commodious brick house which our subject completed. He was very successful in his ventures, and accumulated a fine property. His death, June 5, 1882, was a severe blow to the industrial interests of the community, as he was a man of rare sagacity and sound judgment, a hard worker, and one whose reputation as a good citizen, a kind husband and a wise father was of the best. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Anna Bach, and she was also a native of Bavaria. She died in 1862. The following is the record of the five children born to them: Anthony died at the age of thirteen years; Theresa married Emile Zimmerer, and died in her thirty-fourth year; Frank J., our subject; Fridoline is now a resident of Germany; Philomena married John Zimmerer, and resides at Seward, Neb.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Otoe County. When he was twelve years old he went to Germany with his father to complete his education, and after studying there four years he returned to Nebraska and assisted his father on the farm, and when the latter fell sick the entire charge of the homestead fell to him. He now owns and occupies the old place, which under his able management is still kept up to the high standard of cultivation that it had attained under his father's care.

Mr. Sand was married, May 5, 1884, to Miss Rosina Wirth. She is a native of Atchison County, Mo., and a daughter of Anton and Walburga Wirth, natives of Bavaria. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed to them by the birth of three children—Mary, Johnnie and Helena. Mr. and Mrs. Sand are devoted members of the Bene-

dictine Catholic Church, and they carry their religion into their daily lives. Mr. Sand is an intelligent, well-informed man, inheriting from his father the highest principles of honesty, industry, sobriety and truthfulness, and he acts well his part as a citizen, as a husband, as a father and as a neighbor, and is respected accordingly by all who know him. Politically, he is a stanch Democrat. We call the attention of our readers to the fine lithographic view of the handsome residence, surroundings and farm of Mr. Sand on an accompanying page.

JOSEPH F. WELCH. Upon the first introduction to this gentleman one is impressed with the fact that he is an Englishman by birth. He presents all the happy national traits of that people, and yet is so sufficiently and thoroughly American that nothing objectionable can be found by the most critical patriot. He is at once popular and respected; his business is that of a manufacturer of store fronts, store and office fittings, moldings, sash, doors and blinds. He is also President of the Nebraska City Chair Manufacturing Company. He was born on Charlotte street, Fitzroy Square, London, England, Feb. 25, 1834.

Our subject is the son of James and Harriet Welch. His father was by occupation a plumber, but it was the misfortune of our subject to lose him by death when a very young child. His mother is also deceased. Our subject was the only child, and was brought up with an aunt, and did not go back to London until he was sixteen years of age.

The educational advantages afforded Mr. Welch were comparatively few, and he began to work with his uncle, who was a builder; when he returned to London he was engaged as an improver and finisher. He continued working in the city for some time as a journeyman. and then went into business as a builder with a young man who was also a thorough mechanic, and carried on quite a large business, their pay-roll frequently amounting to over $500 per week.

During the period of his life in London our subject was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Baker. This lady is the daughter of James and Elizabeth Baker, and was born in Worthing, Essex, England. Of this union five children were born in England prior to their journeying to the New World, which event transpired in 1870. Passing direct from New York to Nebraska City, the family resided in that place until the Chicago fire; that event led our subject to that city, and he continued working there and helping to rebuild it for the space of about one year, and then returned to Nebraska City, where he began his work as a builder and contractor.

Mr. Welch is one who has grown up with the city, and has all the time kept himself to the front. He had about $1,000 when he first came from England, which certainly was a powerful lever to success, but there have been many disadvantages to be overcome, and losses to be sustained. He takes great pride in his sons, to whom he claims is largely due the prosperity that has attended him in this country, because they have, as he puts it, "stayed right by him in everything." In 1880 he started with a four-horse power engine in a small planing-mill business in Griggsport, and happily the business outgrew the capacity of the shop. Purchasing the ground upon which his property now stands, he built his present extensive factory, and put in the plant in 1883. He put up the first building of the Blind Asylum in the Third Ward at Griggsport, that portion of Nebraska City lying on the hill in the northern part of the town.

In 1880 Mr. Welch went into the lumber business, and is now engaged quite extensively and prosperously. The Nebraska City Chair Factory, of which company, as above mentioned, he is President, is one of the earliest enterprises of the city, and has from the first been assured of success with such a moving and controlling spirit as our subject. It is now one of the important industries, and its shipments are quite large.

The family of our subject has included five children, viz: Elizabeth C., who died in England; Frederick William, James, Emily J., and Ellen, who died in this State; all were born in England. Mr. Welch has from the first been thoroughly American in regard to matters of legislation and political economy. He is not bound by party lines or prefer-

ences, always seeking to deposit his ballot in favor of such candidates as in his judgment will best serve the people. The same liberality marks his approach to religious questions, for he is not confined by lines of denominational demarkation. He is by no means an unbeliever in the Christian faith, but is large-souled and generous in his thoughts of others.

WILLIAM R. GRAHAM, junior member of the firm of Catron & Graham, millers at Walnut Creek, is, with his partner, doing a lucrative business, and has the general management of the mill, which is situated in the eastern part of Nebraska City Precinct. It is an old and reliable institution, well equipped with modern machinery, and has a capacity of 3,000 pounds per twelve hours. The mill under its present management does a large custom trade, and yields to its proprietors a handsome income. Mr. Graham has been connected with it for a period of four years, and has had a practical experience in the business for twenty-seven years. He was at one time connected with the Walnut Creek Roller Mills, which are well known and popular in the county.

Prior to taking up his residence in Nebraska Mr. Graham was engaged in milling in Mills County, Iowa, for two years, being connected with the Phœnix Mills, of Glenwood, and was for a period of six years connected with the Factoryville Mills, located on the Little Weeping Water, in Cass County. A native of Amherst County, Va., he was born Jan. 26, 1846, and is the son of Joseph and Frances (Thomas) Graham, who were also natives of the Old Dominion, the father a miller by trade, and the mother a lady of more than ordinary intelligence and good education. About 1883 they removed to East Tennessee, where they are now living, well advanced in years. They celebrated their golden wedding May 24, 1888, an occasion which called together a large number of warm friends and acquaintances.

The parental family consisted of nine children, six of whom are living. William R. learned the miller's trade under the careful instruction of his father, and remained a member of the parental household until reaching his majority. He then set out on his own account, following his trade in his native State until coming to the West. He understands the business in all its details, and has been largely instrumental in building up the present business.

Our subject was married in his native State, March 28, 1867, to Miss Betty A. Austin, who was born in Campbell County, Va., Nov. 16, 1846. The parents of Mrs. Graham were Thomas L. and Martha N. (Ward) Austin, who are still living, and now residents of Rock Creek Precinct, this county. A sketch of them will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Graham was well reared and carefully educated in her native State, and lived with her parents until her marriage. Of this union there are no children. Mr. and Mrs. G. occupy a good position in social circles, and our subject is considered one of the leading business men of the place. Politically, he votes the straight Democratic ticket, and has built up for himself the record of an honest man and a good citizen.

WALLACE STEVENSON. The present biographical epitome presents the more salient features in the life of an ex-County Clerk of Otoe County, who, at the same time, was one of the very promising, progressive agriculturists of the county, and operates 480 acres of fine land situated in Russell Precinct, section 14. He is the son of Oliver and Maria (Sherwood) Stevenson. His father was born in Wayne County, Pa., in 1808, and his mother in Sullivan County, N. Y. Their marriage was observed in Pennsylvania.

The forefathers of this family were among the first Quakers who settled Burlington, West Jersey; there were three brothers, Thomas, John and William, all of whom married the three daughters of Samuel Jennings, Governor of the Province, about the year 1680. The great-grandfather, Joseph Stevenson, a descendant of William Stevenson, moved from New Jersey to Wayne County, Pa., in 1796. The name of his son, the grandfather of our subject, was James Stevenson, and his son Oliver, the father of our subject, who represents the fifth generation of

the family in this country, bore worthily a name that had been honored in other years. By occupation he was a miller, and his work was in Honesdale. This mill burned in 1858, and the following year he removed to Brownsville, Neb., where they spent the winter. In the spring of 1860 he went to Nebraska City, and there built a mill at the foot of Main street, and carried on business. As the years passed he grew more prosperous. He owns considerable property, chiefly situated in Nebraska City. For three years he filled with ability the office of Sheriff of Wayne County, Pa., and was State Senator of Nebraska for one term, and three times was elected to fill the office of County Commissioner. His politics are identical with those of the Democratic party, which ticket he accordingly votes.

The subject of our sketch is one of four children born to his parents, viz: Henry (deceased), Granville, Marietta and Wallace. He was born on the 3d of April, 1853, in Wayne County, Pa., and was six years of age when his parents removed to Nebraska. He staid in Nebraska City until he was about eighteen years of age. He was well and carefully educated, bei g graduated from the common school, then taking a thorough course in the Presbyterian High School at Nebraska City. In 1871 he went to the State University at Lincoln, and took the scientific course, being graduated with the degree of B. S. in the class of '74.

Mr. Stevenson taught school for one year after leaving college, and then began farming in Russell Precinct on his present farm. The 480 acres which constitute his property, in connection with his father, is well kept and cultivated. Valuable improvements are found on every hand, and the value of the property is further enhanced by the flowing of Wolf Creek through it.

On the 18th of January, 1888, near Burlington, Iowa, our subject was united in wedlock to Lucy Hurlbut, the daughter of of T. K. Hurlbut, who was born in Hartford, Conn. Her mother's maiden name was Jane Tweedy, and she was born in Massachusetts. Mrs. Stevenson is the third of nine children born to her parents. She was born in Des Moines County, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1857. She is a lady well educated, and has taken a thorough course of music at the Oberlin College, Ohio, and from the time of her graduation until her marriage she was busily engaged in imparting instruction to others.

The political relation of our subject is with the Democratic party, but his ability and character are recognized, and resulted in the election of 1883 creating him County Clerk for the term of two years, and for six years he served as Director on the School Board of his school district. He is also one of the order of the Knights of Pythias, and as such is well received and much esteemed.

JOHN A. MILLIKEN is one of the practical, progressive and prosperous farmers of Russell Precinct, where he operates 160 acres of excellent land on section 16. His parents, Alexander J. and Fanny J. (Clark) Milliken, were natives of New York. Upon the paternal side of the family our subject is of Irish descent, while the ancestry of his mother is Scottish. The father of our subject had a woolen manufacturing establishment in successful operation in Orange County, N. Y., but in the year 1840 he sold his business and plant and began farming. After reaching sixty-five years of age the father died in the year 1865. He had been an active member of the Republican party and took much interest in questions of public interest. The mother died in Orange County in 1876, aged sixty-three years. Both were ardent Episcopalians. They were the parents of five children, viz: Anna and Margaret, both deceased; Elizabeth, who resides in New York; James C., deceased, and our subject, John A. Alexander Milliken, the grandfather of our subject, was of Irish descent. He was born in 1760, and died in 1803, in Walden, N. Y. He served as a Captain in the War of 1812.

The birthplace of Mr. Milliken was in the vicinity of Walden, Orange Co., N. Y., the event occurring on the 18th of July, 1842. The common schools supplied him with a foundation of education and mental training, but he continued his residence at home until he attained his majority. In the year 1861, when the call was made for defenders of the Union, he enlisted in the 124th New York Infantry, serving in Company H, under Capt.

Crist, the regiment being under command of Col. Ellis. He was mustered in at Goshen, N. Y., went to Washington and then into Virginia. At the battle of Abington Heights he was injured by a bayonet thrust in the right knee, and was laid up in the hospital at Washington for three weeks and was then discharged, owing to disability. Upon fully recovering he went into the woolen-mills, and continued for nine years, and then made a change, going into the manufacturing of knives, which he continued for about four years.

In 1873 the subject of our sketch came to Nebraska, journeying by rail to Nebraska City. He arrived on the 1st of March. He then went on to Russell and rented a farm, where he remained for one year. He then bought eighty acres of land and ran it upon his own account for a time. Afterward, renting his land, he went to Lincoln and sold ice for about a year. Owing to the loss caused by the grasshopper plague he was compelled to let his land revert back. He then rented land for about four years. At the end of that time he had recovered his financial power and purchased his present property. He came to it when it was yet in an unimproved condition, and in beginning turned the first furrow upon the place. In the fields, farm buildings or dwelling may be seen at every turn improvements, arrangements and conveniences that indicate the enterprise and intelligence of the owner of the place. He is chiefly engaged in raising stock of various kinds, including cattle and hogs. He has also some nine head of horses of high-grade Norman stock.

In Orange County, N. Y., on the 3d of May, 1870, Mr. Milliken celebrated his marriage with Miss Angeline Houston, who is the daughter of Robert and Elena (Vandelyn) Houston. The father was a native of Ireland, and the mother of Dutch and Scotch descent. The former came to America when about fifteen years old, and later became a prosperous farmer in New York, afterward entering into mercantile pursuits, where he was likewise very successful financially. In 1874 he came to Russell Precinct in this county, and in 1880 bought eighty acres of land. In 1882 he went to Unadilla, where he purchased a house, and there lived a retired life until his death, which occurred on the 16th of June, 1888, he at the time being sixty-eight years of age. His widow is still living at Red Oak, N. Y., and is seventy-one years of age. This lady has been twice married. By her first marriage she is the mother of one child, Louisa Wilkins; by the second union, of six children, viz: Mary A., Sarah, Angeline, John, James (deceased) and Jane E.

The wife of our subject was born in Bradford County, Pa., on the 20th of September, 1846. She obtained her education in the usual institutions and led an active life until her marriage. She presented her husband with four children, only two of whom survive, viz: Eleanor Frances and John Gerald. The deceased children were named James C. and Charles C. Mrs. Milliken is an earnest member of the United Brethren Church at Pleasant Hill, and has been connected with the society for thirteen years. She is a lady of good family, possessed of those graces and refinements that mark a noble woman. Her home speaks eloquently of her domestic powers, and it is safe to say that she has given zest and tone to the life of our subject since the acquaintance began which has so happily resulted.

If the subject of our sketch has anything outside his home that receives more thought, care and attention than another it is horses; using the word in its best sense we could almost say it is his hobby. He is the owner of some very fine creatures, and takes the greatest delight in caring for them. He is a man who has made his way in the world largely by his own exertions, energy and thrift, although since his marriage the mutual help of his faithful wife has done very much to this end. Both are highly esteemed in the community in which they reside.

H. G. CASSEL, a native of this county, and one of the oldest living white residents born within its limits, has his home with his mother on the farm which was taken up by his father from the Government. He was born Oct. 22, 1856, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (West) Cassel, who were natives of Ohio, the former born in Warren County and the latter in Champaign County.

Thomas Cassel accompanied his parents to In-

diana when a boy, where he was reared to manhood, becoming familiar with farm pursuits. There also he was married to Miss West, and settled upon a tract of land in Warren County. Five years later, in May, 1856, the father believing he could do better west of the Mississippi, disposed of his Indiana homestead, and gathering together his family and personal effects set out for the Territory of Nebraska. They located upon a quarter-section of land on the eastern line of this county, four miles northeast of which later grew up Nebraska City.

The parents of our subject endured in common with the people around them the hardships and privations of pioneer life. They brought with them their two children, Emma and Louisa, the latter of whom died when a child two years of age. H. G., our subject, was born the same year of their arrival here. The father, however, was not permitted to carry out the plans which he had cherished in regard to the building up of a homestead, as his death occurred two years later, April 19, 1858, when he was but thirty years of age.

The mother of our subject after the death of her husband moved back to Indiana, where she lived until our subject was a lad of fifteen years. In the meantime she had been married to John Steely, who died in Indiana Feb. 11, 1883, leaving three children. Our subject at the age mentioned set out in life for himself practically, and coming back to Nebraska completed his education in the schools of Nebraska City. Since first coming to this State he made ten trips back and forth. In 1884 he engaged in the hardware and implement business at Palmyra, in partnership with W. M. Thaler, and was thus occupied until January, 1888. He then disposed of his interest in the business to his partner, and invested his capital in his present homestead. His widowed mother makes her home with him. His two sisters are married and live in Indiana. The farm of our subject embraces 160 acres of land, occupying the southeast quarter of section 2, Palmyra Precinct. Although his residence here has been brief, it is apparent that he will in the near future be numbered among the skillful agriculturists of Southern Nebraska. He is a young man of more than ordinary capacities, wide-awake, intelligent, and possessed of excellent judgment. A man prompt to meet his obligations, and of the strictest integrity, he has fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of his community. He cast his first Presidential vote for R. B. Hayes, and is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He still remains a bachelor, and in him his widowed mother finds her chief support and comfort. He gives his attention principally to general agriculture, although having a fair assortment of live stock, and his farm buildings are fully adapted to all the purposes of rural life.

By her second marriage the mother of our subject has three children, namely: Richard H., William W. and Ella. The boys make their home with their mother, and the daughter is now the wife of W. J. Pierce, of Warren County, Ind.

EMIL REIBER, dealer in dry-goods, gentlemen's furnishing goods and groceries, is transacting a thriving business on Central avenue in the business portion of Nebraska City, and is regarded as one of its leading men. He is not only of excellent business capacities and sound judgment, but a man possessing a good education, and of great natural refinment. A native of the Kingdom of Saxony, he was born near the city of Frankenhausen, Sept. 19, 1842, and in common with the children of his native Empire, began a thorough education, which, however, was interrupted while he was a little lad by the emigration of his parents to America.

John F. C. and Mary Elizabeth Reiber, the parents of our subject, were of pure German ancestry, and the father a farmer by occupation, which he carried on in a skillful and intelligent manner, and while cultivating the soil allowed neither his own mind nor that of his children to run to waste. The household circle consisted of seven sons and one daughter, who were all born in the Fatherland, and in 1850 they all started for the United States. Soon after landing upon American soil they made their way to Washington County, Ohio, where the father became owner of forty acres of land, and where our subject was reared until a young man of twenty years. The death of the mother took place

at the homestead in Ohio in October, 1870. The father is also dead, having died in 1885 at our subject's home; the other children are all dead.

When twenty years old our subject started out on his own account, purchasing a farm in Ohio, and the year following was married, Feb. 1, 1862, to Miss Catherine, a sister of Hon. Paul Schminke, of Nebraska City, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Reiber, like her husband, is a native of Germany, and was born in 1843. She was a little girl eight years of age when her parents came to America, they settling first in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. Later they removed to Washington County, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Reiber began life together at their farm, but a year later, our subject not being satisfied with the outlook, accepted a clerkship in a store at Marietta, Ohio, and was thus occupied two years. He then started in business for himself on a small scale at Marietta, having been left almost without means by the failure of the firm by which he had been employed. Fortunately, however, his farm lay within the oil regions spoken of, and in the midst of the great excitement of that time he disposed of it to good advantage before starting in business, and was thus placed upon a substantial footing. He devoted himself assiduously to his business, but as a natural result his health suffered greatly, and he felt compelled to make a change of occupation and location.

Mr. Reiber accordingly, in the spring of 1874, accompanied by his wife and family, started on a pleasure trip for the West, with the intention of settling somewhere in the region of the Mississippi in case he could find a desirable location. He was cordially welcomed to Nebraska City by his brother-in-law, and found after remaining here for a time that his health was perceptibly improving. In the meantime his agents had disposed of his business interests in Ohio, and everything seemed favorable for his settlement in Nebraska City. He was taken into partnership with Mr. Schminke in the milling business, and from that time has been making fine progress, being now numbered among the popular business men of the place, and forming no unimportant factor in the development of its most important interests. He has a beautiful home with an amiable wife and two intelligent children, J. W. and Clara M., both of whom remain at home with their parents. One daughter, Dorothea, died when four years and eight months old.

In the latter part of 1887 Mr. Reiber abandoned milling and invested a portion of his capital in a stock of general merchandise. He has always made it a rule to pay cash for his goods, and can thus afford to dispose of them at a price which has resulted in an extended and constantly increasing patronage. He enters upon his second year of business in Nebraska City with an increased capital, and with the vigor and energy which can only be experienced by a successful and happily situated man. He was for a period of twelve years the partner of his esteemed brother-in-law, during which time he had charge of the business, while Mr. Schminke filled an important position under the Government.

Mr. Reiber, politically, is an earnest Republican, has been Acting Mayor of the city and a Councilman for a number of years. He filled the office of Mayor after the death of Dr. N. B. Larsh, and was nominated for the regular election, but declined on account of his own pressing private interests. He is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., having been through all the Chairs of his lodge, and is at present Past Commander of Frontier Lodge No. 3. He is also a K. of P., and officiates as Treasurer.

WILLIAM KUHN. The subject of this record occupies a leading position in the farming community of McWilliams Precinct, where he owns a fine estate on section 10. Although carrying on general agriculture to a considerable extent, he is mostly interested in stock-raising. His homestead is 200 acres in extent, the larger part of which has been brought to a good state of cultivation. The buildings are in keeping with the spirit of enterprise which is characteristic of the proprietor, being first-class in every respect.

Mr. Kuhn came to this county in the spring of 1874, and located upon a tract of wild land from which he has eliminated the farm which to-day is the admired of all observers. He moved here from

Page County, in the southwestern part of Iowa, where he had lived two years, and to which place he had migrated from Martin County, Wis. In the Badger State he had farmed and worked in the lumber regions, settling there upon his emigration from the Fatherland, about 1853. He was born in Posen, Prussia, Jan. 2, 1828, and is the son of Christian and Mary (Ledenan) Kuhn, and his mother died when he was seventeen years of age. He accompanied his father to the United States in 1853, bringing with him also his wife, Mrs. Rose (Krintza) Kuhn, and their two children. One of the latter died a few weeks later at Michigan City, Ind. They were obliged to leave the remains of the little one in the cemetery at that place, and with sore hearts pursued their onward journey. They settled in Martin County, Wis., and there the father died in 1869, at the age of seventy-six years.

To our subject and his wife there were born six more children after they became citizens of the United States, and they now have seven living. The eldest daughter, Augusta, is the wife of Claus Peterson, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, this county; Charlotte is the widow of Jacob Haberne, and lives in the city of Lincoln; John is married and living on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Frederick, also farming in this precinct, married Miss Katie Schudler; Bertha, Daniel and Julia are at home with their parents, and all are members of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Kuhn cast his first Presidential vote for Horatio Seymour, but exercises the right of a free American citizen, being independent and supporting the men whom he considers best qualified for office.

ROBERT C. FERGUSON has for the last fourteen years occupied a snug homestead of eighty acres on section 20, Wyoming Precinct, and is the owner of 160 acres in its vicinity. He has been a resident of Nebraska for a period of twenty years, having crossed the Mississippi in the spring of 1869. In addition to general farming he has been very successful as a stock-raiser, and, as a prominent man in his community, represents a goodly proportion of its real estate, and has made for himself a good record as a citizen.

Erie County, N. Y., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place Jan. 4, 1851, under the modest roof of his parents, William and Agnes (Crystal) Ferguson, who are natives of Scotland, and born near the city of Glasgow. They were of pure Scotch ancestry, which they traced back several generations, and which they look upon with pardonable pride. The parents each came to the United States early in life. They were then the parents of four children, and settled at once in Erie County, N. Y., where the father established himself upon a tract of land, and made a comfortable living for his family until the spring of 1869. They then all came to Nebraska, locating in Wyoming Precinct, where the death of the father took place in 1876, at the age of sixty-nine years. William Ferguson was a good man in the broadest sense of the term, being kind, charitable and hospitable, and assisting those around him whenever opportunity afforded. He became the center of a large circle of warm friends, and is always spoken of as one of the best citizens ever coming into Otoe County.

From New York State the family went to Guernsey County, Ohio, and there the death of the mother took place when she was fifty-two years old. She was a woman remarkable in some respects, being more than ordinarily attached to her family, and rearing her children in the most careful and conscientious manner. She, with her husband, was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, in the doctrines of which they had been reared in their native Scotland.

Robert C. Ferguson, our subject, was the first child of his parents born in this country. Of the parental family five children are yet living, four sons and one daughter. Robert continued a member of the parental household, and soon after reaching his majority began farming on his own account, and was quite successful from the start. He has performed creditably all the duties of life with one exception, namely, that he still clings to single blessedness, making his home with his sister Lizzie,

John McCarthy

Mrs Emma McCarthy

also unmarried, a very intelligent lady of most estimable qualities and a good housekeeper. Both are members of the Presbyterian Church, like their honored parents.

JOHN McCARTHY, deceased. The McCarthy homestead, which is located in the northeastern part of Wyoming Precinct, and which was built up by the subject of this sketch, now deceased, stands prominently among the other farms of note in this county as the monument erected by the hand of perseverance and industry, the result of the labors of a self-made man. Mr. McCarthy began life dependent upon his own resources, and his labors, continued for a series of years, met with their legitimate reward. He left at his death, which occurred Feb. 3, 1888, a valuable estate, embracing 600 acres of land in this county, and eighty acres in Cass County. The place where he made his home is provided with suitable farm buildings, the improved modern machinery necessary for successful agriculture, a goodly assortment of live stock, and all the other comforts and conveniences of the modern country estate.

Mr. McCarthy came to this county as early as 1857, and in 1864 took possession of the land which constituted his homestead, and where he spent the remainder of his life. It was then an unbroken stretch of prairie, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. Mr. McCarthy worked early and late, through storm and sunshine, for many years, keeping steadily in view his purpose of acquiring a comfortable property for his family, combining general farming with stock-raising, and in due time realized the reward of his labors. He brought the greater portion of his land to a good state of cultivation, and around the dwelling planted shade trees and shrubbery, an apple orchard and trees of the smaller fruits, and gathered together those little comforts which have so much to do with the happiness of a household.

Our subject was born in the county of Leeds, Province of Ontario, Canada, Jan. 5, 1831, the home of his parents being at that time in Elizabeth Township. He came of pure Irish ancestry. His father, Florence McCarthy, was born in the city of Cork, Ireland, in 1798, of a family of high standing, and was educated for the priesthood. He possessed more than ordinary intelligence, but declining holy orders, emigrated when a young man to Canada, and for twenty-six years thereafter was a teacher in the schools of Leeds. There also he was married, March 30, 1830, to Miss Elizabeth Moore, a highly intelligent and religious lady, and spent the remainder of his days in Canada, having purchased a farm in Kitley Township, where his death occurred March 25, 1862. He departed considerably from his early religious teachings, having united with the Methodist Episcopal Church some years before his death.

In 1867, five years after the death of her husband, the mother of our subject came to the United States, joining her children at Ames, Story Co., Iowa, where, twenty years later, her death took place, July 12, 1887. She was a lady of deep piety, active and intelligent, and, like her husband, exercised a great influence upon those around her, and one which was always for good. The parental family included nine children, five of whom are living.

Mr. McCarthy was the second child of his parents, and was reared in his native county, where he received a common-school education. Before attaining his majority he set out to earn his own living, and not long afterward, about 1848, crossed over into the States, and traveled over a considerable part of New England. Finally turning his steps westward, he purchased land near Marshalltown, in Story County, Iowa, but early in the sixties made his way to Nebraska, of which he was afterward a resident until his death.

Mr. McCarthy, in 1864, with his own team, started from Nebraska City on a freighting trip across the plains to Denver; that business in those days proved to be very profitable. He continued to add team after team until he owned a train of seven teams. He made his last trip in 1866, accompanied by his wife. They started from Nebraska City May 24, 1866; two wagons were drawn by six mules each, the other teams by oxen. On the return trip Mrs. McCarthy drove a team of six

mules, and as she says paid her way coming back. The trip to her was a very pleasant one, and she refers to it as one of the pleasant summers of her life. They returned landing at home August 13. In these business ventures Mr. McCarthy accumulated what was practically his substantial start in life, which enabled him to purchase the broad acres which he has left to his wife and children.

Mr. McCarthy not long after coming to this county, and finding himself on the road to prosperity, evidently able to earn a living and more, took unto himself a wife and helpmate, Miss Emma Grosjohn, to whom he was married March 4, 1866. This lady was born on the banks of Wood River, in Madison County, Ill., March 22, 1851, and is the daughter of Peter F. and Sophia (Perry) Grosjohn, who were natives of Switzerland, and of French and Swiss ancestry. Both had left their native country quite young in life, and coming to the United States with their parents settled in Madison County, Ill., where they were married. The father first located upon a farm, but later engaged in merchandising at Cave Spring, that county, near Alton, Ill. Finally, selling out, he came to Nebraska, and located in what was then the old town of Wyoming on the Missouri River, and which has seen its best days. There also he engaged in trade, and was Postmaster for six years. Later he again resumed farming in Wyoming Precinct, and his death took place at the old homestead there, May 17, 1876, when he was sixty-two years old. He was a man of decided views, and politically, a stanch Democrat. The wife and mother is still living, making her home with her children, and is now sixty-eight years old.

Mrs. McCarthy was but six years of age when she came with her parents to Nebraska, and she was educated in the schools of Wyoming Precinct. She is a very intelligent and capable lady, and since the death of her husband has managed the farm and the various interests connected with the estate in a most admirable manner. Of her marriage with our subject there were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy. The survivors are, Lycurgus F., Lola Montez, Annette, John E., Percentia E., Florence, Charles and Dolly E. The eldest of these is twenty-one years of age, and the youngest four, and they all remain with their mother at home, being given a good education and careful training. Mr. McCarthy, politically, was independent.

In connection with this sketch we present the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy.

IRA P. CONGER. The city of Syracuse has come to the front chiefly by reason of its business men and its surrounding agriculturists, among the most honored, enterprising and prosperous of whom is the gentleman whose life is herein briefly sketched. Mr. Conger settled in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, in June, 1865. He is a native of Ohio, and was born in Huron County of that State upon the 10th of August, 1836, and is a son of Christian and Lydia (Westfall) Conger, who were natives respectively of Albany County, N. Y., and Essex County, N. J. The Conger family resided in the New England States for several generations, and James Conger, the grandfather of our subject, made his home for the greater part of his life in New York State, and at the time of his death was a resident of Cayuga County, N. Y. The family originally was French, and all the members thereof this side of the Atlantic are descendants from two brothers who came to America in an early day.

The father of our subject followed as his chosen calling in life the pursuit of husbandry. He was married in Cayuga County, N. Y., and there settled, making it his home until 1831, when he removed to Ohio, and became one of the pioneers of Huron County, where he settled upon a tract of heavily timbered land. At that time its echoes had never been awakened by the woodman's ax and agriculture was an impossibility. In order to do this, however, he quickly began a clearing. He felled the trees, provided the material for the first house, and it was not long before the family were settled in comparatively comfortable quarters. He became the owner of 130 acres, and as soon as the farm was well established he provided a more substantial, commodious and pleasant home for his family, and erected good farm buildings for his stock, etc. In 1863 the parents moved to Michigan, our subject

accompanying them. There they settled in Calhoun County, and there the father died in 1864, at the age of fifty-nine years. The mother of our subject survived her husband, and later removed to Nebraska, where she died on the 14th of November, 1866, aged fifty-seven years. She was the mother of two children, our subject and his brother James W., now a resident of Omaha, where he enjoys an extensive and profitable practice as a physician and surgeon.

The subject of our sketch was reared upon the farm of his father. The educational facilities of his youth were conspicuous by their inadequacy and inefficiency, and he was only able to obtain from such sources the rudiments of learning, but upon that foundation he has been careful to build a substantial and not inelegant superstructure, and takes his place now among the best informed on all practical subjects, and is by no means a stranger to those that are commonly supposed to be for the purposes of polish in education. At an early age his youthful strength was brought into requisition upon the farm, where he first had experience in that department of labor.

In the year 1859 Mr. Conger was married; the lady upon whom his choice fell was Henrietta Place, the estimable daughter of Solomon and Abigal (Shaw) Place. This lady was born in Huron County, Ohio, where her parents had been among the early pioneers. In 1863 Mr. and Mrs. Conger removed to Michigan, where our subject purchased a farm from his brother, who had commenced the study of medicine. Two years later they came to Nebraska, and at first purchased 240 acres of land and resided upon the same until 1879. During that time he effected many improvements, and brought the greater part of the land to a very desirable condition from the agriculturist's standpoint. In 1879 this property was sold and his present farm purchased. This was done chiefly that his daughter might enjoy the advantages of the school.

Mr. Conger now owns 160 acres of land adjoining the city limits of Syracuse. This he has brought to a high state of cultivation and has provided excellent farm buildings for the various requirements. He is also the owner of a farm of 160 acres in Iowa, and also some property in Syracuse. All that he has been enabled to do in the advancement of the interests of himself and family generally has been upon the same line as that of his education. There was no one to give him a start in life to any extent, and therefore he made his own; there was no one to help him along in life, and therefore he helped himself; and whatever he is to-day in finance, influence or otherwise, is the result of his own continued earnest effort, in which he has ever been sustained and encouraged by the faithful companion of his life, who has at all times and under all circumstances been a source of inspiration and helpfulness.

Mr. and Mrs. Conger are the happy parents of one daughter, to whom has been given the name of Eda. In social circles our subject and wife are held in high regard and are always assured of a welcome as a natural result. Mr. Conger is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of both the Blue Lodge and Chapter. He is also one of the Knights of Honor, and is attached to the local assembly. In all questions of political economy he is one of the Democratic party, but at the same time attaches much importance to the question of the candidate and his principles as well as the party to which he is attached, believing that it is but right that such men as will best serve the interests of the people should hold office, and consequently lends his influence to that end.

CHARLES D. RICHARDSON and his estimable wife, of Palmyra Precinct, are the only members of a colony of Eastern people who located here in October, 1872. They had made the journey from Massachusetts to Nebraska accompanied by five other families, and bringing with them their two children. This part of the county was at that time in an unsettled condition, and all the others becoming discouraged left for other parts.

Our subject, however, determined to give Nebraska a very thorough trial before turning his back upon it, and has since had reason to congratulate himself on his decision. He battled with the

difficulties and hardships of pioneer life, and in the course of a few years began to reap his reward. He is now numbered among the most prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of this region, and his homestead is one of the most valuable in Palmyra Precinct.

Mr. Richardson was born in Lowell, Mass., Oct. 4, 1841, and is the son of Dana and Emily (Sweet) Richardson, who were also of New England birth and parentage. The father was a farmer and real-estate dealer by occupation, and with his excellent wife spent his entire life in his native State, his death taking place about 1871, when he was sixty-two years of age. The mother had died in middle life at the age of forty-two. They were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, of whom Charles D. was the fourth in order of birth. Those surviving are residents of Massachusetts, New York, Mississippi and Nebraska.

Our subject, reared upon a farm, was given a very good education, completing his studies in the academy at Andover. He was a young man of nineteen years at the outbreak of the late Civil War, and in November, 1861, enlisted in Company C, 30th Massachusetts Infantry, going into Camp Chase for drill, and thence accompanying his regiment to the Gulf, being assigned to the Army of the Gulf. He first saw the smoke of battle at Fts. Jackson and St. Phillips, and afterward participated in many of the important battles of the war, namely: Plain Store, La., May 21, 1862; the sieges of Ft. Hudson and Forlorn Hope, and was at Cock's Plantation in July, 1863. On the 19th of September, 1864, he was at Winchester, Va.; he was also at Fisher's Hill. On the 19th of October occurred the battle of Cedar Creek, and our subject was afterward engaged in many other skirmishes, escaping unharmed. He remained with the army for some time after the close of the war, being appointed Quartermaster Sergeant at Sumter, S. C., on the 1st of March, 1866.

After receiving his honorable discharge at the close of his first term of enlistment, Mr. Richardson veteranized, Jan. 1, 1863, and remained in the army until July 5, 1866, when he was mustered out with the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant, after having given to his country his service of four years and eight months. In the autumn following, having returned to his native town, he made the acquaintance of a lady, Miss Sarah T. Whittier, to whom he was married Sept. 11, 1867. Mrs. Richardson was at that time visiting at Lowell, Mass. She was born in Northfield, N. H., Sept. 23, 1841, and is the daughter of Isaac and Fanny P. (McQuesten) Whittier. On the paternal side of the house she is a relative of the poet, John G. Whittier. Her brothers and sisters were: Francis, Isaac N., Daniel B., William P., Lizzie M., Curtis C. and M. Woodbury. William P. and Curtis C. served during the late war in a New Hampshire regiment, and the former died at his brother's in Massachusetts. Her parents were natives of New Hampshire, and are now dead. The mother was an invalid for many years, and her daughter Sarah was at an early age called upon to assume the management of the household. She, however, acquired an excellent education, completing her studies in the college at Silton in company with her sister. She also attended New Hampton Seminary. Her father, Mr. Whittier, was a merchant of thirty years' standing, carrying on business in Londonderry, Goffstown, Union Bridge and Northfield. In the latter place Mr. and Mrs. Richardson were married. Mr. Whittier was a very capable and intelligent man, and served as Justice of the Peace for many years. He died at Northfield in October, 1878, at the age of seventy-eight years. The mother survived her husband six years, her death taking place at Lowell, in 1884, she being also seventy-eight years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson lived in New England five years after their marriage, and then came directly to Nebraska. They are the parents of three children, Lilla Gertrude, Fannie May and Lizzie, the latter of whom was born in this State, and died when six weeks old. Their eldest daughter is the wife of S. S. English, a merchant at Eagle, and the mother of one child, a son, Charles Herbert. Fanny, an interesting girl of eighteen years, is attending the college at Crete, Neb.

Mr. Richardson votes the straight Republican ticket, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church at Eagle. Both are active workers in the Sunday-

school, and Mrs. R. is President of the Ladies' Aid Society. The latter has been especially efficient in church matters, being a practical worker, and aiding greatly in the furnishing of the building, the audience room and the Sunday-school room.

Mr. Richardson commenced at first principles in the building up of his homestead, there having been very little attempt at improvement on his land when he first became owner. Of late years he has given considerable attention to stock-feeding, and ships annually numbers of cattle and hogs. He is Past Commander of the G. A. R. Post, of Palmyra. He is also President of the New England Veteran Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, of Nebraska. One of the most useful members of his community, he has naturally gathered about him a large circle of friends and acquaintances, is a man whose integrity is unquestioned and whose word is considered as good as his bond.

HON. WILLIAM P. BIRCHFIELD is engaged in the grocery business in company with his son in Nebraska City. He was one of the pioneers of 1854, and was an important factor in the early development of Otoe County, taking an active part in public affairs, and it was through his wise and vigorous course while serving as Sheriff of the county, that law and order were maintained, and peaceful citizens were protected in their rights in those Territorial days. He was at one time a member of the Territorial Legislature, and in him his constituency found an able representative, who looked well after the interests of the county and State.

Our subject was born July 4, 1824, in Franklin County, Mo., to John and Rebecca (Hamilton) Birchfield. His mother was a native of Georgia, and a daughter of William Hamilton. She died in 1837, leaving in the minds of her friends the memory of a true woman, a faithful wife and a devoted mother. The father of our subject was, it is supposed, a native of Kentucky. He removed from that State to Illinois in its Territorial days, and after the War of 1812, in which he took an honorable part, he again made a move and penetrated to the wilds of Missouri and located in Franklin County. In 1833 he went to another part of the State, and became a pioneer of what is now known as Taney County. He took up some timber land, entered it from the Government, and at the time of his death in 1844 had cleared a large tract. He was a man of enterprise and good judgment, and acquired an extensive property.

William Birchfield was nine years old when his parents went to Taney County to reside, and there he grew to manhood. There were no free schools, as they were conducted under the subscription plan, and in such a one he acquired a very good education, and taught two terms himself. His education and well-known ability made him influential in public affairs, even before he had attained his majority. When he was twenty-one he was elected Assessor of Taney County, and for four years discharged the onerous duties of that office to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. He married at nineteen years of age, and his father gave him a tract of land, on which he erected a log house, and in that he and his young bride commenced housekeeping. The house had a puncheon floor, and as they moved into it before the chimney was built, his wife did the cooking over an improvised fireplace outside for a time, and even after that he had no stove for some years, as they were almost unknown in that part of the country at that time. His wife was an adept at spinning and weaving, and made all the cloth for herself and husband. In 1850 Mr. Birchfield sold his property in Taney County and moved to Holt County, Mo., where he lived until the spring of 1854, at which time he identified himself with the pioneers of this then Territory of Nebraska. He made a claim one and one-half miles southwest of the present site of Nebraska City, which at that time contained only the log buildings of the abandoned fort of the Government, and the ferry house near the river, the first permanent habitation in the city or county, built by John Boulware. The land was not then surveyed, as the Indian title to it had not been extinguished. Mr. Birchfield built a log house on his claim, and had it ready for occupancy on the 4th of July, and on the day following our National holiday he returned to Holt County, Mo., for his

family, and on the 17th of August arrived with them at his cabin, the farthest settlement from the city at the time, the removal being made with an ox-team. Indians were plentiful here then, and he made peace with them by paying the interpreter $10, with the agreement that his stock was to be protected from the raids of the savages, and that they should not beg from him during the winter. Mr. Birchfield had but twenty-five cents left after his private treaty, but by industry and good management he managed to keep the wolf from the door. In the fall of 1854 and the spring of 1855 he broke forty acres of his land, and in the latter year sold his claim, as the land had not been thrown on the market, and moved into the city to live, having taken as part payment for his land a house and lot situated on the northwest corner of Eighth and Second Corso streets, and he soon after bought the land now occupied by the Government building. He was elected Sheriff of the county in 1855, and was twice re-elected, thus serving three full terms. In the fall of 1861 he was elected a member of the Territorial Council, or Legislature. In 1862 Mr. Birchfield returned to Holt County, Mo., where he spent the succeeding three years. He then returned to this city and opened an auction and commission store, which he managed very profitably until, on account of ill-health, he was obliged to retire from the business in 1880. He went to Burlington Medical Springs, in Nodaway County, Mo., to recuperate, and while there kept a hotel two years. He subsequently went to Holt County and engaged in the mercantile business for two years. At the expiration of that time we find him once again in Nebraska, this time in Nemaha County, where he opened a museum of living curiosities, and traveled with that a year and a half. In 1887 he located once more in Nebraska City, and established himself in the grocery business with his son. They have a well-appointed, well-stocked store, and have already built up quite an extensive trade among a good class of customers.

Mr. Birchfield has been three times married. In 1843 he was united to Mary N. Bledsoe, a native of Indiana. She died Sept. 2, 1865, leaving three children: Sarah, wife of Thomas Dickinson, lives in Philadelphia; James lives in Johnson County, Neb.; Richard, who is in company with his father. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1867, was to Mary J. (George) Cooksey. She died eleven months later. Mr. Birchfield was married to his present wife, formerly Miss Margaret McNamara, a native of Indiana, in 1868. Of this marriage one child, Pearlie, is living.

Mr. Birchfield is a pleasant talker, and can tell many a good story illustrative of life on the frontier in the fifties. He was a great sportsman and keenly enjoyed the hunt, and in November, 1855, he was out one day in search of game, and discovered an animal which he thought to be a wolf. He returned to the house for his dog and horse, intending to give it the chase. On his return he soon found that he had made a mistake, and had started a bear. He followed it out toward the open prairie, around the hills and bluffs, and back again into the heart of the city. A bear so near to the habitations of man was a novelty, and all the citizens in the town turned out to join in the chase, and all the dogs in town went after Mr. Bruin, but after getting one lick from his huge paw were glad to retreat. The animal was finally treed near the cemetery, and all gathered around, and our subject was delegated to do the shooting. He fired and broke the bear's shoulder, which loosened his hold on the tree and he tumbled to the ground and rolled into a ravine, which was partly filled with water. There the two dogs that had not been frightened away tackled him. He soon got the better of one of the dogs, and was about to squeeze him to death, when the owner of the dog went to his rescue, jumping into the ravine with a spade in his hand. Thereupon the bear turned his attention to his human assailant, who in his excitement tried to climb the embankment backwards. Then the remaining dog made a vigorous attack from the rear, and the bear was soon rolled into the water and drowned. A council was then held to know what should be done with the bear, and it was decided that Mr. Birchfield should skin the animal and sell it, not letting any one have more than two pounds, so that each one should have a share. He, however, distributed it gratuitously, and that was the last bear seen in this vicinity.

Mr. Birchfield relates that in the summer of 1855

the surveyors encountered a band of Indians several miles west of the city, and deeming them hostile, were frightened and returned to the river settlements for help. The whites turned out from the various settlements, our subject going with the Nebraska City force, and they wended their way to Salt Creek, where the Indians were encamped. They found the supposed bloodthirsty savages to be peaceably disposed, and the red men shared their provisions with their visitors, and thus the dreaded encounter was turned into a sort of a picnic, and the settlers returned without trouble.

GEORGE LOCKIE, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct, owns 200 acres of land on section 4. He is of sturdy Scotch ancestry and parentage, and was himself born among the lowlands of Roxburyshire, in June, 1829. He received his early education in the schools of Roxburyshire Parish, and was trained by wise and sensible parents to those habits of honesty and industry which have served him well in all his later years.

Mr. Lockie has seen much of life, and traveled long distances on old ocean, being a seeker of gold in the Australian mines six years. That period of his life was necessarily spent among a rough class of men, but he did not suffer himself to lose sight of the principles which had been taught him in his boyhood. His father was a miller by occupation, and George remained under the parental roof until twenty-eight years of age, when he was seized with the Australian fever, and set out from Liverpool for Port Philip on the steamer "James Chancellor," in 1851. During a violent storm it was supposed the ship would go down with all on board, but the gallant vessel finally weathered the winds, and landed the crew safely at their destination, 103 days from the time of starting. This was on the voyage to America.

Our subject went at once into the mines, taking a claim for himself, and four years later returned to his native Scotland with quite a little fortune. Two and one-half years later, in 1861, he set sail for America on the same "Chancellor," and after being tossed about on a stormy sea for a period of five weeks, landed in New York City. Thence he emigrated to Delaware County, Ohio, where he operated on rented land for a period of seven years.

In the summer of 1868 Mr. Lockie, accompanied by his family, set out overland with one team for the new State of Nebraska. He crossed the Missouri River on a flatboat, and, coming to Russell Precinct, this county, homesteaded eighty acres of raw prairie. His first business was to put up a shelter for himself and family, and he then commenced breaking the soil and effecting the improvements suggested by his necessities. In due time he planted forest and fruit trees, and has now two fine groves and seven acres in an orchard of 100 bearing apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. His fields are separated by beautiful hedge fencing, and the land is supplied with running water. As soon as his means justified Mr. Lockie added 140 acres to his first purchase, this latter lying on sections 3 and 4. Of late years he has turned his attention largely to stock-raising, and ships annually one or two carloads of cattle and swine.

Mr. Lockie was married, June 4, 1861, in New York City, to Miss Barbara, daughter of James and Barbara (Oliver) Bast. Mrs. Lockie was born Jan. 10, 1830, in Scotland, and, like her husband, is of excellent Scotch ancestry. Her parents were born in Roxburyshire, and her father was shepherd for a firm who did an extensive business in sheep. The father died in his native shire, the mother in Canada. There were only two children, both daughters. Agnes, the younger, is in Scotland.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lockie there have been born six sons and three daughters, namely: Agnes, James, Mary, George, Thomas; Barbara, who died when four years old; John, Robert and William. Agnes is the wife of Thomas Burrell, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct, and the mother of three children. The others are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. L. are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject votes the straight Republican ticket.

The parents of our subject, James and Mary (Wilkins) Lockie, were natives of Roxburyshire, Scotland, where they were reared and married. They spent their entire lives upon their native soil, and the father, from the time of his early manhood,

followed milling until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age. The mother died at the age of seventy-eight. Of their five children the record is as follows: Bettie resides in the city of Edinburgh; Isabelle also continues in her native Scotland; James, John and Joan came to America about 1880; the former is farming in Cass County, this State, and the latter fills the position of housekeeper. George, our subject, was the youngest of the family. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and is a worthy representative of one of the best nationalities on the face of the globe.

JOHN H. MOHRMAN, of the little village of Talmage, is prominently identified with its grain trade, having been buying and selling at this point in the interests of O. T. Hulburt some years. He came to Talmage during the first inception of the village, six years ago, and first established himself in the farm implement trade, being the pioneer of this business here. He was thus occupied a number of years.

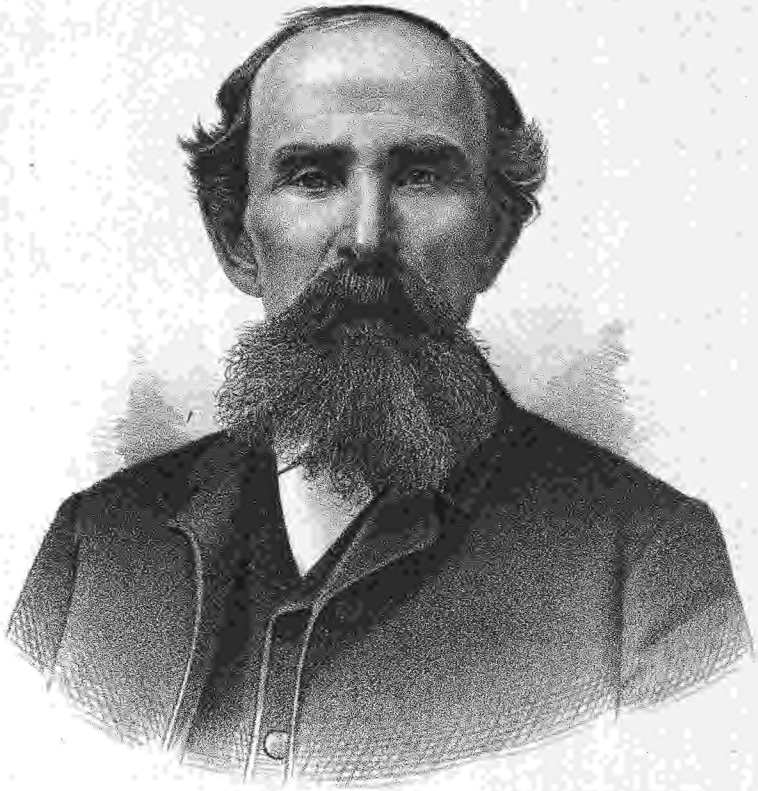
Previous to his settlement in this part of Otoe County Mr. Mohrman had been a resident of Nebraska City, to which he had removed from Clayton County, Iowa. He had been a resident of the Hawkeye State for a period of twenty-five years. His boyhood days were spent in New Bremen, in the State of Ohio, he having been born in Auglaize County, Sept. 17, 1847. His father, John C. Mohrman, was a native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, from which he emigrated early in life with his parents to the United States. They settled in Ohio, of which they were residents for a number of years. The paternal grandfather, Herman Mohrman, lived to become a resident of Iowa, and died in Clayton County when over ninety years of age. His wife had died in Ohio when ripe in years.

The father of our subject was reared and married in Auglaize County, Ohio. His wife, who in her girlhood was Miss Rebecca Willenbruch, was also a native of Germany, and was brought by her parents to the United States when a little girl seven years of age. They settled near Cincinnati, Ohio, where they lived a number of years, and where the father engaged in the mercantile business. Later they also removed to Auglaize County, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. After marriage the parents of our subject took up their residence in New Bremen, Auglaize County, where the father engaged in general merchandising until his removal to Iowa. In the Hawkeye State he commenced farming, and was thus occupied successfully for a number of years, at the expiration of which he once more changed his residence, this time to Nebraska City, this State, where he died in 1879, at the age of sixty-five years.

The father of our subject was a man of much force of character, a Lutheran in religious matters, and in politics a sound Republican. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her son Fernando, in Nebraska City; she is now fifty-eight years old, and is also connected with the Lutheran Church. John H. was the second of their eight children, the parental household comprising three sons and five daughters. Seven of the children are still living, and with the exception of the youngest daughter are all married and settled in comfortable homes of their own.

The education of our subject was completed in the common schools of Clayton, Iowa, where he arrived at man's estate and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He came to Nebraska a single man, and made the acquaintance of his future wife, Miss Mary A. Brown, in Nebraska City, where they were married March 6, 1879. Mrs. Mohrman was born in Saline County, Mo., Feb. 28, 1854, whence she came with her father to the above-mentioned city. The latter, Strawther Brown, secured possession of a tract of land and established himself as a farmer near the city, where he is still living. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Mohrman, died in Four Mile Precinct, this county, some years ago. Mr. Brown was subsequently married to Miss Mary Jefferies, a native of this State, who is yet living.

The education of Mrs. Mohrman was completed in the schools of Four Mile Precinct, and she remained a member of her father's household until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children—Ada L. and a babe named Kenneth. The former is an interesting



Jesse Campbell Jonathan R Swalley

little girl of eight years, attending the village school in Talmage.

Mr. Mohrman, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. In religious matters he is a devout member of the Lutheran Church, and his wife of the Southern Methodist Church. He has been quite prominent in public affairs, serving as a member of the School Board and the City Council, and making himself useful as opportunity occurs in advancing the social and moral status of the community.

JESSE CAMPBELL. The subject of this biography came to Nebraska Territory from Moniteau County, Mo., in the fall of 1861, with his parents. Since that time he has been mostly a resident of this county, and is now proprietor of one of the best farms of Wyoming Precinct, embracing 160 acres of land on section 6, while he also owns 120 acres in Liberty Precinct, Cass County. He has fair improvements, including a neat and substantial dwelling, together with a suitable barn and out-buildings, adapted to the storing of grain and the shelter of stock.

Our subject, a native of Ohio, was born about twelve miles from Mt. Vernon, Knox County, March 6, 1848. His father, Robert Campbell, a native of Pennsylvania, was the descendant of an excellent old Scotch and German family, from whom he inherited those qualities of character essential to good citizenship and an upright life. He was reared to manhood in his native State, receiving a common-school education and being employed mostly in farming pursuits. He took for his wife a lady of his own county, Miss Mary McClure, who was born and reared in Washington, the county seat of Washington County, Pa., and was of Irish descent. Her birth took place Feb. 1, 1813. Her parents lived and died in Washington County, Pa. Robert Campbell and wife after the birth of a part of their family removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where two more children were added to the household circle, our subject and his brother Robert.

In August of 1854 the Campbell family, gathering together their household effects, the father having disposed of his property, started for the farther West, crossing the Mississippi and locating in Moniteau County, Mo., where eventually the father became owner of 220 acres, and where they lived for a period of seven years. They were not satisfied, however, with their surroundings and the prospect for the future, and accordingly resolved to cast their lot with the people of Nebraska. The father became possessor of another farm in Wyoming Precinct, located on section 6, where he built up a good home, and where his death took place July 19, 1869, when he was fifty-nine years old. He was a very intelligent man, and a citizen held in high respect in his community. Politically, he had been a member of the Republican party since 1860, having voted for President Lincoln. The wife and mother is still living, making her home with her son Jesse, our subject. Although seventy-five years old she retains her faculties, mentally and physically, in a remarkable degree, and is able to tell many an interesting tale of pioneer life across the Mississippi, as well as in Ohio.

Jesse Campbell had only the advantages of a common-school education, but he is a man who has kept his eyes open to what is going on around him in the world, and is more than ordinarily intelligent and well informed. He is a reader and thinker, and keeps himself well posted upon current events by the perusal of instructive books and newspapers. With his excellent mother, he is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. By his father he was naturally imbued with Republican principles, but his warm interest in the temperance cause has made of him a Prohibitionist.

In this connection is shown a portrait of Mr. Campbell.

JONATHAN R. SWALLEY. The subject of this biography is proprietor of one of the most beautiful farms in Otoe County, occupying an elevated situation overlooking the Missouri River. It embraces 200 acres of highly cultivated land, upon which have been erected a handsome residence and other convenient farm buildings. Mr. Swalley settled here in June

of 1868, and there is ample evidence of the industry and perseverance with which he has labored. He, however, settled in Nebraska City in April, 1855.

Besides the property above mentioned our subject also owns valuable land in Syracuse Precinct. He came to Nebraska ten years before it was transformed from a Territory into a State, and when the land which he now occupies was but little removed from its primitive condition. He made the journey overland from his native State of Ohio, landing in this county on the 10th of April, 1855, and operated on land in another part of the precinct two years before making his purchase. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1833, and is the second son and fourth child of Solomon and Elizabeth (Miller) Swalley, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and of substantial Dutch ancestry. The father was a farmer by occupation, and after his marriage and the birth of three children, migrated with his little family to Crawford County, Ohio, where Jonathan R. was born not long afterward. In due time eleven more children were added to the family circle, which eventually included six sons and nine daughters. Of these five sons and seven daughters are still living, and all have been married.

Our subject was reared to manhood in the Buckeye State, where he became familiar with agricultural pursuits and acquired a common-school education. In the meantime he learned the trade of carpenter, and thus, armed with a good trade and a knowledge of farming, crossed the Mississippi, and soon afterward began to carve out his fortune among the pioneers of Nebraska Territory.

Mr. Swalley, after laying the foundation for a future home and competence, was united in marriage with Miss Nancy J. Holmes, who was born in Howard County, Mo., Dec. 9, 1844. Mrs. Swalley is the daughter of George and Susan (Ethell) Holmes, natives of Boone County, Mo. Her father died when she was quite young, and she was taken into a good home in Davis County, Iowa, where she was reared to womanhood, and soon afterward came to Nebraska with her mother and stepfather. She is a very intelligent and capable lady. Of her union with our subject there were born three sons, two of whom are deceased, George E. and an infant unnamed. The former was born Aug. 30, 1869, and died April 7, 1874. Herbert B. was born Nov. 29, 1873, in Wyoming Precinct, and is now a promising boy, making his home with his parents.

Mr. Swalley is a Republican, politically, and is esteemed among his neighbors as a man whose word is considered as good as his bond. Quiet and unobtrusive in his habits, he has never sought office, although keeping himself well posted upon current events, and encouraging the enterprises calculated to advance the people socially and financially. The Swalley homestead invariably attracts the attention of the traveler along the northern line of this county, being not only one of the most beautiful, but one of the most valuable in its precinct. Everything that the hand of industry could accomplish and taste could suggest, has been done to fulfill the idea of the modern country estate. A portrait of Mr. Swalley accompanies this sketch.

JOHN H. TETEN, SR., one of the most thrifty German farmers of Rock Creek Precinct, has been for the last twenty-one years successfully cultivating 160 acres of land on section 29. Here he established himself in the midst of an unbroken stretch of country, when his neighbors were few and far between, and when what is now a populous district of intelligent and enterprising people was then inhabited principally by wild animals and roamed over by Indians. Not only had Mr. Teten come to the wild West, but had journeyed across the ocean to a strange country, from his native Province of Hanover, in Germany, which was a Kingdom at the time of his birth, which occurred on the 15th of August, 1831.

The father of our subject, John Henry Teten by name, accompanied the latter hither, and died six months after his arrival at the home of his son in Rock Creek Precinct. The mother, Mrs. Gesche Teten, had died in her native Germany. John H. was one of the younger members of the household, and, like most of the children of Germany, received a thorough education. Upon reaching manhood he was married to Miss Sophie C. Ekhoff, also a native of Hanover, and who was born April 10,

1826. They came to the United States after the birth of five children, and after their arrival here one more child was added to the household circle. These children are all living: J. Henry, Jr., married Miss Margareta Walken, who was born in Germany and came to the United States when a young woman, three years before her marriage. They have two children—John H. and an infant named Gerhard A. This son and his family live with our subject, and assist in the management of the farm. He is a very promising young man, fully as energetic and industrious as his father. John J. married Miss Barbara Orban, a lady of German birth and parentage, and is in the drug business in Nebraska City, and City Clerk; Herman is farming for himself in Otoe County; H. Christina is the wife of Herman J. Neemann, who is engaged in farming in Russell Precinct; Talka M. and Anna Z. are at home with their parents.

Our subject and his family all belong to the Lutheran Church, to the support of which they contribute cheerfully and liberally, and in which Mr. T. is a leading member and one of its pillars. He is an earnest advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and Vice President of the Democratic Club of Rock Creek Precinct.

CAPT. H. H. CHILDS, who represents the lumber trade in Talmage and Douglas, dealing largely in every variety required in every department of house building material, has been identified with the business interests of Talmage since its foundation in 1882. He is a successful business man, and a much valued citizen. He first carried on the yards established by W. H. Hassett, of Tecumseh, for seven months, and then continued the same for the successors of that gentleman, Stewart, Chute & Co., remaining with them until he purchased the yards and became sole proprietor. He threw himself into this business with his usual ardor, and considerably extended it, opening the yards at Douglas in order to meet his growing trade. Latterly his business represents an annual total of $15,000.

Prior to engaging in the lumber business Mr. Childs had followed agricultural pursuits in Spring Creek Precinct, Johnson County, where he took up land in 1870, and until he came to this place continued to operate his farm, which comprised 160 acres of fine, arable, fertile land. He first came to Nebraska in 1866, and lived about fourteen miles north of Lincoln, but after three years moved to Saline County, and ran a saw and grist mill quite close to where Crete now stands. In 1869 he sold his interest in this, and moved to the above-mentioned farm.

Until coming to Nebraska Capt. Childs had lived chiefly in Wisconsin since he was about ten years of age, at which time his parents removed from the township of Messina, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where he was born. He is a son of Elijah and Sabrina Childs, who gave him the best opportunity possible to obtain an education, and were very careful to bring him up so that his life and character might end in a right direction.

Our subject was living in Juneau County, Wis., upon the farm of his father, when the first call for 300,000 troops was made by President Lincoln, in April, 1861. He at once presented himself, and became a private in Company A, 6th Wisconsin Infantry, which became part of the Army of the Potomac, under the command of Gens. McClellan and McDowell. Our subject served at the second battle of Bull Run, but previous to the engagement he had been transferred to the 4th United States Light Artillery, and served in Company B. The 2d, 6th and 7th Wisconsin, 19th Indiana and 24th Michigan Infantry comprised the "Iron Brigade" of the Army of the Potomac. He served in that battery at the battle of Rappahannock Station, Aug. 20, 22, and 23, 1862, at Warrington Springs on the 26th of August, at Gainesville on the 28th of August, Bull Run on the 29th and 30th, and South Mountain on the 14th of September; three days later he was wounded at the battle of Antietam, Md., by a gunshot wound through the right shoulder, and was in the hospital at Chester, Pa., after lying upon the battle-field for ten days. He was discharged on the 7th of February, 1863, from the hospital on account of the wound having disabled him from further service at that time; therefore he returned to his home in Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1864, being completely restored to health, our subject re-entered the army, joining Company E, 41st Wisconsin Infantry—in fact, he raised the company. He received the commission of Captain at once from the Governor of the State, and then at the head of his company, and, of course, with his regiment, he went to the front. They served in the Army of the Cumberland, and were in the engagement at Memphis, Tenn., under General Commander Washburne, who opposed the Confederate forces under Forrest. After six months' fighting here and there, he was discharged on account of the expiration of his term of enlistment, and returned with his company to Wisconsin in September, 1864. Feb. 20, 1865, he and a Mr. C. W. Farrington started to raise another company. This was effected within twenty days, and our subject was commissioned Captain of the same. It was assigned to the 49th Regiment, under Col. Samuel Fellows, now of Chicago. The regiment became part of the Army of the West, and served chiefly on detached service and Provost Marshal duty at Rolla and St. Louis, Mo. Capt. Childs held the position of Assistant Provost Marshal while on duty at the former place, and was retained in St. Louis until February, 1866. During the latter month he was called to do duty on a court-martial and commission, of which Gen. Beverly, of Illinois, was the President. A commission was appointed to try the boat burners of the Mississippi River, and was appointed by the Secretary of War.

Shortly after his final severance from military service Capt. Childs came to this State, and has since been a resident almost continuously. He is one of the leading and valued citizens of this district, and an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R., and was attached to the Talmage Post. He has frequently been called upon to fill different offices, and is at present one of the Village Board of Talmage. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist, and is one of the energetic workers in the campaigns where special effort is desirable.

Capt. Childs was married in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., to Miss Luthera Atwood, who was born at Massena, in that county, and was there brought up and educated. Subsequently she became a teacher in the county, and otherwise identified with that place. Her father, Franklin Atwood, is still living there, and has reached an advanced age. Her mother died when Mrs. Childs was a little girl of about two years. Two children have been born to our subject, one of whom, Albert, died when three years of age; the other, Frank L., manages the Douglas department of his father's business, and in doing so evinces an ability most gratifying. He is well educated, having attended the State University, and also the State Normal School at Peru.

MARTIN BROWN. Germany, which has given so many of her sons to the development of the western portion of this hemisphere, holds the birthplace of the subject of this sketch, where he first opened his eyes to the light Sept. 9, 1832. His childhood home was in the little Kingdom of Wurtemberg, of which his parents, Joseph and Barbara (Seubert) Brown, were also natives, and where they spent their entire lives.

The father of our subject was twice married, having seven children by each union, and Martin was the third child of the first marriage. He was given good educational advantages, and served a regular apprenticeship as a stone cutter and mason. He was thirteen years old at the time of his mother's death, and shortly afterward was taken to the home of his maternal uncle, Michael Seubert, a contractor and builder, with whom he lived until attaining his majority.

Young Brown became an expert in his calling, and as the employe of his uncle assisted in the erection of many public buildings and important works in his native Empire. Among these was the bridge at Makmiel, and one extraordinarily large culvert in Italy by direction of the Italian Government. Soon after becoming his own man, however, our subject resolved to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, in March, 1853, he boarded a sailing-vessel at Havre in company with an aunt, and five weeks later landed in New York City. Finding difficulty in procuring work at his trade he wisely accepted whatever else he could find to do, employing himself as a gardener

and coachman, and thus wisely spending no idle time.

After about one year thus occupied, Mr. Brown engaged as fireman on an ocean steamship, and during the voyages of two years thereafter, visited the principal ports of England and France, Africa, Cuba and Panama, and finally San Francisco. This proved a rich experience, which he has never regretted. When again becoming established on terra firma he began farming in Lee County, Ill., which brought him up to about the time of the breaking out of the Civil War. Having become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and understanding the importance of an undivided Union, he enlisted in Company G, 8th Illinois Cavalry, for three years, or during the war. He was under the command of Gen. Sherman, and joined in the famous march to the sea. He had the satisfaction of witnessing the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, and bears an honorable scar from a wound received in a sabre charge. He had a horse killed under him by the explosion of a shell, but aside from these hairbreadth escapes came out uninjured. He was present in the grand review at Washington, and mustered out there in July, 1865.

After returning from the army, Mr. Brown took up his residence in DeKalb County, Ill., and engaged in farming. He was married in November, 1859, to Miss Martha Giffin, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1834. Her parents, Robert and Sarah (Osborn) Giffin, were natives respectively of England and Pennsylvania. The father was a cooper by trade, but met his death by drowning when comparatively a young man. The mother later took up her residence in Perry County, Pa., and spent her last years in Petersburg, Pa. She was a widow at the time of her marriage with Mr. Giffin, having been married first to a Mr. Anderson, by whom she became the mother of two children. Of her marriage with Mr. Giffin there were also born two children—Martha L. and her brother Henry, older.

Mrs. Brown when a young girl went to Illinois with her guardian, and lived in DeKalb County until her marriage with our subject. Of this union there were born six children, namely: Mary C., Sarah A. E., Clara B., Susannah M., Harry M. P. and Sherman. In the year 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Brown were visited by a terrible affliction in the loss of their three youngest children of diphtheria within a period of two weeks. The light seemed well-nigh shut out of their household, but they received the sympathies of many kind friends, and their affections have naturally twined closely around those remaining. The elder of these, Mary C., is now the wife of Lloyd Gibbens; Mr. G. is a well-to-do farmer of Nemaha County, Kan., and they have five children—Estella May, Henry Otis, Ethel, Charles and Martha. The other daughter, Sarah A. E., is the wife of William S. McCarthy, and they reside in Sandwich, Ill.; Mr. McC. is a painter by trade, and they are the parents of four children: Clarence B., who died when two years old; Jerdie, Ida and a babe unnamed.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown settled on a farm in DeKalb County, Ill., where our subject operated as a tenant several years. Subsequently he purchased land in Lee County, upon which he lived until 1878, then came to Nebraska. Here he has effected great improvements, having his land now under a fine state of cultivation, a tasteful and comfortable residence, a barn with good cattle sheds, and other structures necessary for his profit and convenience. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and held in the highest esteem by his fellow-citizens.

NICHOLAS A. DUFF, President of the First National Bank, of Syracuse, and holding the same position in relation to the Bank of Unadilla, is also senior member of the firm of N. A. Duff & Co., dealers in grain, and owning eleven elevators in as many different towns, embracing, with one exception, all the elevators in Otoe County. His connection thus with the most important interests of the county is sufficient evidence of the enterprising character of the man, and his course has been that which has secured for him the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has had dealings.

Mr. Duff is the pioneer grain merchant of Syracuse, having been established in business here as early as 1872. He was born near the little town of New Diggings, in LaFayette County, Wis., Sept. 9,

1852, and is the son of Christopher and Ann (McNulty) Duff, who were born and reared in County Dublin, Ireland. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and the parents emigrated to America after their marriage, settling in New Jersey about 1835. Thence they removed later to the Territory of Wisconsin, locating at New Diggings, where the father followed his trade until his death, which took place in 1854. The mother is still living, making her home with her son, our subject, in the city of Syracuse.

Six children comprised the family of the parents of our subject, three of whom grew to mature years, and are now living, the two besides our subject being Michael E., a grain dealer of Nebraska City, and Christopher J., a stock commission merchant of Denver, Col. Nicholas A. was but two years old at the time of his father's death, and was reared by his mother, receiving a good education, and completing his studies in that well-known institution, the College of Notre Dame, at South Bend, Ind. Upon leaving school, being then eighteen years old, he came to Nebraska City, this State, and engaged in the grain trade in company with W. A. Cotton, continuing here for two years. Mr. Duff then began operating in Syracuse, putting up an elevator, and from time to time built elevators in other towns. The firm of Cotton, Duff & Co. continued for a period of fourteen years and until 1886, at which date M. E. Duff succeeded Mr. Cotton, and the firm became Duff & Co., and thus continues. In 1882 Messrs. Cotton, Duff & Co. organized the Farmers' Bank, of Syracuse, and in the fall of 1883 reorganized under the National Banking Laws with a capital of $50,000, Mr. Duff being the principal stockholder. He was also at that time chosen President, a position which he has since occupied.

Mr. Duff, in February, 1888, organized the Bank of Unadilla, with a capital of $25,000, of which N. A. Duff & Co. are the principal stockholders. Our subject is also a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' Insurance Company in Lincoln, this State. He came empty-handed to Nebraska City, and his accumulations are the result of his own industry, enterprise and good judgment. The firm of Cotton & Duff commenced operations on a capital of less than $1,000. Mr. Duff has wisely invested a portion of his surplus capital in farming lands and residence property in Syracuse. He has studiously avoided meddling in politics, and aside from casting his vote with the Democratic party, and discharging, unpaid, some of the duties of the local offices, takes little interest therein. He has served as President of the Village Board, and socially, is a member of the Knights of Honor. Genial and courteous, he is a general favorite in social and business circles, and is one of those rare characters, a perfect gentleman, both in the home circle and among his business associates.

Mr. Duff while a resident of Syracuse was united in marriage with Miss Mary, daughter of W. J. Armstrong, the wedding taking place May 21, 1878. A sketch of her father will be found elsewhere in this volume. Of this union there are three children—Nora, Ralph and Gertrude.

HERMAN NEEMANN. In Rock Creek Precinct there are few more thoroughly practical and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers than the subject of this sketch. He owns a very fine and improved farm of 150 acres on section 30. This is the home farm; besides it he has one-sixth interest in 160 acres on section 31, that is not at present so well-improved, but is useful for his stock in its present condition.

The subject of our sketch came to this district with the first settlers in 1859, and since that time has resided almost continuously on his present property, having entered his land at that time, and progressing with his improvements. His residence is among the finest farm dwellings in the county, being constructed of the best brick obtainable, and not without some pretensions in the way of design. Of the farm proper it is only necessary to add that it is well cared for and highly cultivated, while his pastures and cattle sheds show at a glance the foundation of considerable wealth in prospect if all goes as well as is to be hoped.

Mr. Neemann came to this place from Madison County, Ill., where he had resided about a year; previous to that time his home was in his native

Fatherland. He was born in Hanover, Nov. 16, 1833. His father it was his misfortune to lose while he was but a lad. The name of this gentleman was Albert Neemann, and almost until the time of his death, which occurred when he was seventy-two years of age, he continued to support himself and family as a farm laborer. He was a devout member of the German Lutheran Church, as was also his wife.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Margret Berns. In the early months of her widowhood she came to the United States with her children, but only lived for about eighteen months after arriving in this county. She was then about sixty-two years of age, and had been a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church. She was in every sense of the word a wife and mother, and allowed no opportunity to pass without improving it that promised good for her family.

Mr. Neemann is one of the younger of seven children who comprised the home circle. He was about twenty-five years of age when he came to the decision that he would come to this free land. When he attained that age he, with his brother, Dick A. Neemann, came to this country to make a permanent home, which they did in the above precinct. This was in the year 1859. He was married here to Agdie Bruns. She was born in Hanover, Germany, and was twelve years of age when she came with her parents and settled in the above-mentioned district. Mrs. Neemann from that age was brought up in McWilliams Precinct until she came to womanhood, making her home with her parents. She has presented her husband with nine children, of whom her son Ockie died at the age of eleven years, but the remainder of the family are still living. These bear the following names: Mattie, Fannie R., Albert J., Hannah C., John G., George F., Lena W. and Henry C.

Mr. and Mrs. Neemann and family are active members of the Lutheran Church, into which they were brought in early years. Our subject is one of the church Directors, a position he has held for five years. He has several times been callled upon to hold several of the school offices, and is much interested in educational work. He has made it his business to understand the institutions of his adopted country, and gives no little thought to political matters, usually voting the Republican ticket. He is a man of fine reputation, and one of the capable and worthy citizens of the district.

GEORGE W. HAWKE has been a resident of Nebraska City since 1862, and was for several years prominently identified with its mercantile interests. He is a native of the county of Carroll, Ohio, born one mile from the town of Malvern. He is of Irish ancestry, his grandfather, William Hawke, being a native of Ireland, as was also his father. The former was reared and married in the old country, and about 1811 came to America, with his family. He cast in his lot with the early pioneers of Stark County, Ohio, and there bought a tract of heavily timbered land, and cleared a good farm from the wilderness, where he dwelt the remainder of his days. He was a man of remarkable vigor of both mind and body, and lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and two years, and up to within two weeks of his death was able to walk to town, two and one-half miles distant. His wife was likewise a native of Ireland, and five of the children of their marriage grew to maturity, namely: William, Jane, Eliza, Robert and James.

William, the father of our subject, was their eldest child, and he was born in Ireland, May 12, 1799. He was twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents to this country, and he was reared on his father's homestead in Stark County, Ohio, and remained with his parents until his marriage with Eliza Jane Farra, who was born of Southern parentage Sept. 25, 1805. After his marriage he settled near the home farm across the line in Carroll County, where he bought a tract of timber land, on which he erected a log house, in which humble abode the subject of our sketch was born. Mr. Hawke cleared a farm, felling the tall old trees of the primeval forest which covered his land, and rolling the large logs together, that would now be very valuable, and burning them. The nearest market for grain and produce was at Wellsville, thirty-six miles distant, and Philadel-

phia, Pa., was the market for live stock. There being no railway at that early day, horses, mules, cattle, hogs and sheep that the Ohio farmers raised were driven all the long way to that city. Mr. Hawke sold that farm in 1842, and moved to Holt County, Mo., going by team to Wellsville, and thence with his team and all on a boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Rubedeux Point, now St. Joseph, and there disembarked with his team, and he and his family proceeded to Holt County, of which he became a pioneer. He selected a suitable location, and entered the tract from the Government; his land was partly prairie, and the rest timber, bordering on the Missouri River. The nearest store or mill was at Rubedeux Point, which was a mere trading-post kept by a French Canadian for the purpose of bartering with the Indians, there being no white settlers there. In 1844 Mr. Rubedeux laid out the present city of St. Joseph on the site of his post. There being no markets in that part of the country Mr. Hawke found it to be of little use to do much farming, so he left the farm work to his sons, and he turned his attention to his trade of brickmason. He built the first brick house ever erected in Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa, and was busily employed at his trade in different places. A few days after the arrival of the family in Missouri, and before they had scarcely had time to settle in their new home, the shadow of death fell over them, and Sept. 9, 1842, the devoted wife and tender mother, who had sickened on the journey, passed away from the scenes of earth. In 1846 Mr. Hawke established himself in the mercantile business in Kanesville, becoming one of the early merchants there. He continued as a merchant there, and at Hemmie's Landing until 1850, when he sold out, and started westward with a party bound for California. He engaged in the mercantile business at Jacksonville, that State, and continued there until his death, March 1, 1855. The following is the record of the eleven children, nine of whom grew to maturity, who were born to him and his wife: Robert was born Jan. 25, 1826, and died in Nebraska City, May 2, 1887; Jacob F. was born Feb. 16, 1829, and died in Nebraska City, Feb. 14, 1876; John was born Aug. 20, 1830, and died in California, Sept. 27, 1867; Hamilton was born Feb. 15, 1832, went to California with his father, returned a few years after, went to California again in 1859, and was last heard from in 1862; Whiting was born Nov. 24, 1834, and died in Holt County, Mo., Feb. 14, 1856; Nancy was born July 25, 1835, married John Brusha, and now resides in Clay County, Neb.; George W., our subject, was born April 19, 1837; Mary was born Jan. 11, 1839, married Huston Nuckolls, and now lives in Crete, Neb.; Hannah was born Dec. 22, 1841, married William E. Dillon, and lives in Nebraska City.

George W. Hawke was five years old when his parents moved to Missouri, and his mother dying a few days later, the care of himself and his young brothers and sisters fell on the older members of the family. In 1848 he and his three sisters were taken to Carroll County, Ohio, and there George and one of his sisters made their home with their uncle, Robert Hawke, and the other sisters with an aunt. He made the best of his opportunities to gain an education, attending the district school, two miles distant. While not in school he assisted on the farm until 1856, when he returned to Missouri, and engaged as a clerk in a general store at Hemmie's Landing. At the end of a year he left the store and came to Nebraska, which was then under Territorial Government, and took charge of his brother's store at St. Stephen's, Richardson County. He managed the store successfully for a year, and in the spring of 1858 entered into partnership with his brother Jacob, and opened a store at Rockport, Atchison Co., Mo., under the firm name of J. F. & G. W. Hawke. In the fall of 1859 they moved their business to Glenwood, Mills Co., Iowa, where he resided until March, 1862. He established himself in the mercantile business here, and conducted it with great financial success until the 4th of March, 1872, when he sold out to his brother Robert. He then bought a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, and turned his attention to the improvement of a farm. He still continued to reside in the city, however, and for the past few years has not been actively engaged in business, aside from looking after his private interests, until his brother Robert's death, when he was selected to settle the estate.

To the good wife who presides over his home, our subject was united in marriage May 24, 1859. She was formerly Miss Susan, daughter of John L. Dozier, a native of Kentucky, and a pioneer of Holt County, Mo., where she was born. Six children survive the union of our subject—Leone, Edna, Georgia, Farra, Nellie and Robert. Birdeau became the wife of A. B. Browne, and died Feb. 24, 1888, leaving one daughter, Lillian. Mrs. Hawke and three of her daughters are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are zealous workers in the cause of religion. Mr. Hawke takes a warm interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his city or county. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is now Deputy Revenue Collector. He is well liked in this community, and his neighbors find in him a true friend.

HON. GEORGE W. SROAT is distinguished as a pioneer of Nebraska, he being one of the early settlers of Nebraska City, of which he is still an honored resident, and we are pleased to be enabled to represent him in this ALBUM. He was born in Jefferson County, Ky., Aug. 3, 1829, his father, Peter Sroat, having been a native of the same county. His grandfather, also named Peter, was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and removed from there to Kentucky previous to 1800, the removal being made by way of the Ohio River on a flatboat. He landed at Louisville, which then comprised only three buildings, one of hewed logs and the other two of round logs. He did not tarry there, however, but pushed on into the depths of the primeval forests fourteen miles distant, and settled on Floyd's Fork of the Salt River, where he took up a tract of timber land, adjoining the present site of Fishersville. He built up a log cabin in the woods and lived there with his family, clearing a good farm, and dying there, having rounded out a useful life of seventy-seven years. Bears, deer, and all other kinds of wild animals common to the country abounded in the forests near his home, and the savage Indians were numerous and ofttimes troublesome. There were no markets in those days, and they were practically dependent on home supplies, raising all their provisions, generally using rye for coffee. Mr. Sroat raised flax and cotton and kept sheep, and his wife spun, wove, and made all the clothes for the family. She was a woman of uncommon energy and force of character, and was endowed with good nerves and a courageous spirit. She was an expert in the use of the rifle, and when over eighty years of age shot a wild turkey. She died on the old homestead in Kentucky at the remarkable old age of one hundred and one years. Her maiden name was Catherine Lethermann, and she was a native of Germany. Her father, the great-grandfather of our subject, came to America from Germany and settled in Maryland, and his was the first barber-shop opened in Hagerstown, the place where he resided.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, learned the trade of millwright, and resided there until 1846. He then went to East Tennessee and located in Henry County, where he bought land and engaged in farming and stock-raising. He died in his new home about a year and a half after his removal to it. He was a man of great worth, industrious in his habits, and was highly thought of by all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Conn, and she was born in Jefferson County, Ky., where her death afterward occurred about 1833. Her father, the grandfather of our subject, Edward Conn by name, was a native of Maryland, and an early settler of Jefferson County, Ky., where he improved a farm.

George W. Sroat was reared in his native county until he was seventeen years old, when he accompanied his father to Tennessee. He lived there three years, and then returned to his native State to learn the trades of plasterer and brick and stone mason. He resided in Kentucky until 1855, when the same bold, enterprising spirit that had made of his father and grandfather pioneers, determined him to seek the broad prairies of the then but little known Territory of Nebraska. Accordingly, he traveled this way on the waters of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, there being no railroad west of the Mississippi River, and all transportation was done by water or with teams overland. He

located in Nebraska City, which at that time had a population of less than fifty people, and the country all around was in a rude, unsettled condition. The old block house built by the Government was still standing and occupied by the settlers, as was the Government Hospital, and there were but a few houses besides, and but one brick building. There were no villages in the interior of Nebraska at that time, although some venturesome settlers had taken up claims a mile and a half west of the city, and all the land was owned by the Government. Indians were much more plentiful than white people; deer, elks and antelopes abounded, and also a few bears, wild turkeys and wolves were to be seen.

Our subject relates that the first morning after his arrival here he was awakened about daybreak by the howling of wolves, and looking out of the window he counted twenty-eight wolves in front of where the court-house now stands. Mr. Sroat immediately took up a claim of land a mile and a half south of the city, built a log house thereon, and kept a bachelor's establishment throughout the following winter. In the spring he commenced to work at his trade as contractor and builder, and the growth of the city being quite rapid during the next few years, he did an extensive and profitable business; he being a master of his trade, his work was always in demand. In 1860 he abandoned the building business to deal in real estate, which he has conducted ever since, and he has thus in another manner contributed to the development of the city and its interests, and is numbered among its prominent citizens.

Mr. Sroat has built up a commodious and comfortable home, in which he has been greatly assisted by his estimable wife, to whom he was united in marriage Oct. 21, 1861. Mrs. Sroat was formerly Miss Georgenia North, daughter of George and Maria E. North, natives of Ireland. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sroat has been blessed to them by the birth of nine children, namely: George N., Frederick (who died in infancy), Arthur (who died in infancy), Grace E., Paul H., Bertha, Irving, Edith and Alice C.

Our subject has always been a firm adherent of the Democratic party, and he is influential in political and public affairs, and has held some of the highest and most responsible offices in the county and city, discharging their onerous duties in such a manner as to reflect credit on himself and his constituency. In 1860 he was appointed Sheriff to fill a vacancy, and in 1861 he was elected to that office, to which he was re-elected in 1863. After that he served as Deputy Sheriff for two years. In 1866 he was elected Representative to the Territorial Legislature, and served with great ability in that capacity for two sessions. His wide experience, trustworthiness and practical sagacity have rendered him an invaluable civic officer of this municipality, and he has been a member of the City Council, Justice of the Peace and City Marshal. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sroat are influential members of the Baptist Church, in whose organization he zealously assisted, and he has served as Trustee and Deacon. Socially, Mr. Sroat is identified with the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.

BUCEPHALUS WOLPH, a very intelligent and well-educated gentleman, and a graduate from the classical department of Doane College, at Crete, finds his chief pleasure and pride in skillful agriculture, and is proprietor of one of the best stock farms along the banks of the Weeping Water. He is the son of one of the wealthiest men of Cass County, and has been given all the advantages incident to refined and cultivated life. His home is presided over by a very estimable and amiable lady, who in the adornings of her dwelling and the management of her domestic affairs, has the true perception of those things which conduce to the comfort and happiness of the household circle.

The parental history of our subject is in the main as follows: His father, Hon. Henry C. Wolph, was born in Richland County, Ohio, and married Miss Esther Bevier, a native of the same. The paternal grandfather emigrated to Ohio during its pioneer days, locating near Rome, where he carried on farming successfully, and spent his last years in Nebraska. The maternal great-grandparents traced their ancestry back to the French Huguenots, and

emigrated from their native France to the United States, settling in New York State, where they carried on agriculture successfully, and where they spent the remainder of their lives.

The Wolph family is of German descent. The father of our subject left the Buckeye State in 1849, and journeyed overland to California, where he worked in the mines three years with good success, and then returned home, making the journey via the Panama route. Not long afterward he was taken ill, and, in addition to having lost an eye in California, suffered a long time, but finally partially regained his health. All this time he had been unmarried, but after his wedding, which took place in Ohio, he went with his young wife immediately to Glenwood, Iowa, where he lived a year, and then removed to the vicinity of Mt. Pleasant. There he purchased 160 acres of land, upon which he labored two years, and then took up his line of march to this county.

In Berlin Precinct the father of our subject purchased 360 acres on section 2, which he improved, and where he made his home for a period of twenty years. In the fall of 1874 he removed to Crete; he is now residing in Cass County, and has accumulated a fine property. His farm comprises 400 acres of valuable land, and he is chiefly engaged in stock-raising. He served one term in the Nebraska Legislature before the Territory was made a State, and one afterward. In early manhood he identified himself with the old Whig party, but upon its abandonment cordially endorsed Republican principles. He is a man enterprising and public-spirited, and a member in good standing of the Congregational Church at Eagle. He is now sixty-five years of age, and the mother is the same. The parental family consisted of three children, who were named respectively: Our subject, Bucephalia and Shasta.

Our subject, a native of this State, was born in Mt. Peasant Township, Oct. 8, 1859. He was two years old when his parents came to this county, and his first recollections are of the log house on the uncultivated prairie land. He lived at home with his parents until sixteen years of age, and then entered the college at Crete, from which he was graduated six years later, in 1878. He began teaching in Cass County, and subsequently followed this profession at Nehawka for three years, and at Eagle for one year. This confinement, however, was far from being conducive to his health, and he returned to the farm, working again with his father two years.

In the spring of 1884 our subject purchased 160 acres of land in Cass County, and forty acres in Otoe. In 1886 he bought 320 acres of land, and in the summer of the year 1888 moved to his present place, in Berlin Precinct, which adjoins the latter. Here he has erected good buildings, and this land is amply watered by Sand Creek and the Weeping Water. He has 170 acres of valuable timber, and has planted an apple orchard with trees of the smaller fruits. The fields are enclosed with neat wire fencing, and the live stock comprises excellent grades of cattle, Poland-China swine and good horses. In addition to what he raises Mr. Wolph is also engaged in the buying and feeding of cattle, and ships numbers annually.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married April 2, 1884, at her home in Cass County, was formerly Miss Gertrude Sheldon. Mrs. Wolph was born in Nehawka, Neb., in July, 1861, and was given a thorough education, completing her studies in the State University, at Lincoln. She has considerable musical talent, and is quite proficient in the art. Of this union there have been born two children, daughters, Julia E. and Mabel E. Mr. Wolph is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church. Politically, he is a stanch Republican. Mrs. Wolph is the daughter of Lawson and Julia (Pollard) Sheldon, who were natives of Vermont, and are now residents of Cass County. Her father is a farmer by occupation, and a man who by his thrift and industry has accumulated a fine property.

EDMUND E. WOOLSEY. This gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Wyoming Precinct and Otoe County, being one of the wealthiest men of this county, and one who has taken the lead among its agricultural interests. He is the owner of 2,000 acres of land in Otoe County, and is an extensive cattle raiser,

making a specialty of graded Durham stock, while he also is a breeder of Poland-China swine, and his stables contain some remarkably fine horses, mainly Hambletonians. The homestead lies on section 14, and in all its appointments is indicative of the cultivated tastes and ample means of the proprietor and his wife. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and the farm buildings and machinery are of first-class description, erected after the most approved plan, and thoroughly adapted to the requirements of the scientific and progressive agriculturist. The residence, "Prairie Home," is built in modern style of architecture, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country, and a living stream affords abundant water, being a never-failing branch of the Squaw Creek. Adjacent to the building is an orchard of 400 bearing apple trees, and there are varieties of the smaller fruits in abundance, besides shade trees and shrubbery, which add greatly to the value and beauty of the property.

Perhaps that in which Mr. Woolsey takes most pride is the stable of fine horses, at the head of which is Black Hawk Harry, who was raised by our subject and is now ten years old. He has acquired a reputation as one of the most valuable roadsters and general purpose horses in this part of the county, and is kept at the homestead proper, which embraces 160 acres of choice land, and to which Mr. W. has naturally given the greater part of his time and attention. His lands are in Wyoming, Belmont and Delaware Precincts. He has been a resident of Wyoming Precinct for a period of thirteen years, and to which he came in February, 1876, from Cass County.

Edmund E. Woolsey was born in Ulster County, N. Y., March 16, 1834, and is the son of Elijah and Ruth (Hawkins) Woolsey, who were natives of Orange County, that State. There they were reared and married, and took up their residence in Ulster County, where the father carried on farming until his death, which occurred July 7, 1881, when he was seventy-three years old. He came from an excellent family, had been taught habits of industry, and was an industrious worker all his life. The mother is still living, and makes her home with a younger daughter, Ida, Mrs. Deyo, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. She is now seventy-five years of age. Her father, Jonathan Hawkins, was a soldier and a patriot, doing good service in the War of 1812. He spent his last years in Orange County, N. Y.

Our subject was reared to manhood on his father's farm, and acquired a common-school education. He came to the West a single man, crossing the Missouri in May, 1857, and settling in Cass County, near Mt. Pleasant, in Rock Bluff Precinct, where he operated on rented land a year, harvesting his first crop in the summer of 1858. He finally pre-empted 160 acres, and soon bought 160 more, it being the north half of section 34, Rock Bluff, Cass County, upon which he resided until 1876, and where he effected such improvements as enabled him to sell for the snug sum of $10,000. He then transferred his interest to this county, of which he has since been a resident.

Mr. Woolsey after coming to this State made the acquaintance of Miss Helen M. Tuxbury, to whom he was united in marriage in Nebraska City, Dec. 9, 1867. Mrs. Woolsey was born near Windsor, Vt., April 15, 1838, and is the daughter of Albert and Harriet (Gallup) Tuxbury, who were natives respectively of Vermont and New Hampshire, and who, leaving New England in June, 1854, first settled in Rock Island, Ill., and several years later came to the Far West, locating in the eastern part of Otoe County, on the present site of Nebraska City, which was then a hamlet of but a few houses. The father after a time assumed the management of the Morton House, following the calling of "mine host," to which he had been accustomed from early manhood. He was a very popular landlord, and naturally made the acquaintance of a large number of travelers passing through the country, who, whenever possible, never failed to put up with him when stopping at this place. The mother died in Nebraska City, Oct. 20, 1875, when about seventy years of age. Mr. Tuxbury survived his wife a few years and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Woolsey, in Wyoming Precinct, Oct. 8, 1882. The parental family consisted of four children, and Mrs. Woolsey is the only survivor of the family.

Mrs. Woolsey received a good education, com-

pleting her studies in the academy at Greenfield, Mass. Under the training of an excellent mother she became familiar with all household duties, and like the women of Scripture, looks carefully after the needs of her family. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, two of whom, Lewis E. and Charles B., died at the ages of three and ten years respectively. Little Lewis was drowned by falling head foremost into a barrel of water, being unable to extricate himself. Their eldest living son, Fred A., is a very intelligent and well-educated young man, having completed his studies in Doane College at Crete. The two daughters, Ida and Harriet, bright and interesting girls, are at home with their parents. Mrs. Woolsey is a devout member of the Episcopal Church, while our subject, politically, is a sound Republican. He has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, preferring to give his time and attention to his extensive farming interests. He is a man of decided views, one who keeps himself well posted upon current events, and one whose opinion is held in universal respect.

JOHN W. TANGEMAN. This gentleman is a member of the firm, well-known in business circles throughout the county, of Becker & Tangeman, doing business at Talmage, McWilliams Precinct. They are handling all kinds of hardware, both for farm, household, and other purposes, agricultural implements, etc. The firm was established in 1882, and succeeded the business house of T. E. Farnsworth. The trade is quite extensive, and has grown to represent a business of about $60,000 annually. This year promises to go some thousand above that figure, for although their patrons are chiefly local, yet the territory drawn upon is very large. The reputation of the firm and their excellent stock account for the large business done.

Previous to engaging in his present business Mr. Tangeman followed agricultural pursuits in Osage Precinct of this county for about one year. His residence in the county dates from the year 1868; the greater part of the time he made his residence in that precinct with his father, John G. Tangeman, who was an extensive farmer, and our subject remained until he attained his majority, when he started out for himself.

The subject of our sketch was born in Clayton County, Iowa, Nov. 17, 1851. He is the second child of six born to his parents. His father was a native of Hanover, Germany, when ten years of age accompanying his parents to this country. They located in Auglaize County, Ohio, removing subsequently to Clayton County, Iowa. There they continued to live for about thirty years. There also are laid the scenes of youth and early manhood of Mr. Tangeman, Sr., and also that of his marriage; his wife, like himself, was born in Hanover. She was but five years of age when her mother brought her to America, and their home was made in the city of Cincinnati. Her father died in Germany about three years prior to the emigration of his widow to this country. From Cincinnati the mother removed to Clayton County, her daughter of course accompanying her. After about one year the mother died at her home, and later the daughter united her fortunes and life with that of our subject, as above mentioned.

The parents of our subject are now living in Jennings, La., having gone South in the spring of 1888. They had been residents of Otoe County for eighteen years. The father had been interested in milling and farming, and still owns an interest in the flouring-mill in McWilliams Precinct. He is, however, retired from active participation in business affairs. In the Lutheran Church the father and mother are active and respected members, and have so continued throughout their lives.

The subject of our sketch was educated in Blairstown, Benton Co., Iowa, and received a thorough, serviceable, English education. He came to Nebraska before he was of age, and married Miss Lizzie O. Risser in Osage Precinct, Otoe County. This lady was born in Lee County, Iowa, on the 4th of December, 1858. She is the daughter of David and Christina (Hubach) Risser, both of whom look to the Fatherland as the place of their nativity. There also they were brought up, educated and married, but came to the United States almost immediately after that important and interesting in-

cident. They also at first made their home in Ohio, but removed thence to Lee County, Iowa, where they lived upon a farm until 1870, from there removing as a family to Osage Precinct in this county, where they have since continued to follow husbandry. They also are attached to the German Lutheran Church, in which they were brought up.

Mrs. Tangeman, the wife of our subject, was educated after she came to this county. She is now the mother of two children, who have received the names of Elmer and Ella. These are now receiving instruction in the schools of Talmage, and with the additional advantages which are theirs in this direction, doubtless their future will be brightened by the roseate halo of successful life. Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church. Mr. T. indeed holds the office of Deacon, which he has filled since 1888. Politically, he is a Republican, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellows and the community at large.

FRANK P. IRELAND. Among the lawyers of Nebraska Mr. Ireland has a reputation that places him in the front rank. He is a member of a good family, justly esteemed, and takes laudable pride in the fact. The highest regard of which he is capable is given to his family and his profession. Everywhere he is much respected, and as a lawyer enjoys the well-nigh perfect confidence of the people. Political honors have no attractions for him, and the only office he would ever accept was that connected with the Board of Education, of which he is Secretary. The duties connected with that department are to him a pleasure because he is devoted to children and everything that concerns them, and especially such fundamental matters as those that look to their education, and among the young people he is intensely popular, they being quick to recognize in him a true friend.

The subject of our sketch was born in Newburyport, Essex Co., Mass. His birth occurred Dec. 6, 1851. His father, Jere R. Ireland, engaged in various pursuits, largely as a shipping merchant at Newburyport. The family of which he was a member was originally of English blood. The first representative thereof to come to this country was John Ireland, who was the great-great-grandfather of our subject. He came from England in company with his brother Nathaniel, and settled in New Hampshire about the year 1710. His brother made his home in New Jersey, and his children scattered and settled at various points in the South and West, while those of John Ireland inclined to make their homes in the North and East, and in later years in the West.

The father of our subject was born at Newburyport, May 11, 1823, and lived to attain the age of sixty-five years; by his occupation, that of shipping merchant, he was enabled to accumulate a competency. His death occurred April 21, 1888, at Newburyport, Mass. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Eliza B. Pickett. She is still living on the old homestead. Their family circle included four children, viz: Charles W., Frank P., Ben P. and Jere R. Charles is a resident of Syracuse, in this State; Ben is upon the old homestead, and the youngest son is in New York City and occupies the position of agent for the Monumental Mills of Housatonic, Mass.

The education of our subject was obtained in the common schools, supplemented by a High School course, being graduated from that institution at the close of the course, when he was about fifteen years of age. He then entered the Bowdoin College to take the classical course, but at the close of his junior year he entered upon a course of legal study under Col. E. F. Stone, of Newburyport, with whom he continued for three years. In the meantime he also took a course in the law department of the Boston University. He was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts after a careful examination, and began the practice of his profession in connection with his former preceptor, and continued the same until he came to Nebraska City, in the spring of 1874. In this place he opened his office on what is now Central avenue, and from the first made a most favorable impression. At the close of the first year he entered into partnership with G. B. Schofield, which continued for about four years.

On the 14th of November, 1878, the subject of our sketch was united in the bands of wedlock, at

Nebraska City, with Miss Eloise Coe, the only daughter of Gen. Isaac Coe. (The reader is referred to the sketch of this gentleman to be found on another page). This most excellent lady was born in Middlefield, Conn., July 14, 1852. There has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ireland one daughter, who received the name Sarah Coe, and has manifested, as the years have passed, the foundation of a character and a disposition unusually attractive.

Mr. Ireland was admitted to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts in April, 1872, and to that of Nebraska in 1876; to the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, on the 14th day of November, 1876, and to the Supreme Court of the United States on the 8th day of May, 1882. He was appointed United States Examiner in Chancery by the District Court of the United States in 1877. In 1876 Mr. Ireland offered himself for District Attorney, and ran far ahead of his ticket, which was Democratic. Upon three different occasions Mr. Ireland has presided with much ability over the Democratic State Convention for Nebraska, viz: in 1880, 1881 and 1884. Religiously, he is most thoroughly in favor of the teaching of the Unitarian Church, and is an able and generous supporter of the same. He has the greatest possible faith in the future of Nebraska City.

SACKETT C. CASE, M. D., was one of the first physicians to locate at Syracuse. His native place was Binghamton, Broome Co., N. Y., where his birth took place Feb. 2, 1842. His parents were Covell and Minerva (Sackett) Case, who were natives of New York. The father died in Philadelphia in 1886, and the mother resides in Michigan.

To Covell and Minerva Case there were born five children, and the family lived on a farm near Binghamton, where our subject grew to manhood and received his literary education. At an early age he had decided upon his future calling in life, and soon after leaving school commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Hart at Binghamton. Later he attended lectures at the medical department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, and was graduated from the Medical University of Iowa City, and commenced the practice of his profession at Omaha, Neb., about 1866. He subsequently removed to Decatur, Neb., and in 1869 to Nebraska City. In the latter place, abandoning the regular profession for a time, he confined himself mostly to the insurance business.

Dr. Case in the fall of 1874 took up his residence in Syracuse, and from that time on gave his close attention to the practice of his profession until his death, which occurred March 27, 1879. At the time of his coming here the country around was thinly settled, and he rode over a large extent of territory. His promptness in attending to the calls of duty, and his conscientious methods of treatment, secured for him a large and lucrative patronage. He meddled very little with political affairs, although a strong advocate of Republican principles, and at different times was persuaded to discharge the duties of the local offices. He thus enjoyed a large acquaintance with all classes of men. He was of studious habits and literary tastes, and was a frequent correspondent both of the local and Eastern papers. In this capacity he chronicled the early history of Syracuse, a paper which possessed much interest for those most nearly concerned. Socially, Dr. Case belonged to the Masonic fraternity and the Good Templars.

Mrs. Mary C. (Warner) Phillips was wedded to Dr. Case Nov. 27, 1870, at Nebraska City. Mrs. Case is a daughter of Seth O. and Sarah (Warner) Warner, although no relative of her husband before marriage. She was born in the town of Clay, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Sept. 11, 1835, and completed her education in the seminary at Fulton, Oswego County. In 1858 she was married to Augustus Phillips, a native of LeRoy, N. Y. He, during the Civil War, enlisted, in 1861, in the 24th New York Infantry, served two years, and was mustered out with the rank of Captain. Later he re-enlisted, in the 184th New York Infantry, and met his death at the battle of Cedar Creek, from which Gen. Phil Sheridan accomplished his famous ride to Winchester.

Mr. Phillips had participated in many of the important battles of the war, being with the Army of the Potomac. Of this marriage there was born one

child, a daughter, Maude A., who is now the wife of D. T. Cornell, of Nelson, Neb. To Dr. and Mrs. Case there were born two children: Ernest S., May 14, 1872, and Leonora, March 15, 1876.

Mrs. Case, with tastes similar to those of our subject, had since her girlhood been interested in medicine, and after her marriage with him spent her leisure time reading and receiving instruction from him. She frequently told him "When the babies are grown up I will assist you in your practice." But alas for human calculations, the father died before this could be accomplished, and she was left with the care of a little family. She persistently clung to her first purpose, however, and continued her reading of medical works under the tutorship of Dr. Littlefield, the successor of her husband. In the winter of 1883 she took a course of lectures in the medical department of the State University at Lincoln, Neb., from which she was graduated with the class of '85, and entering upon the regular practice, has been very successful. She was thus enabled to support and educate her children in a manner approaching her desires. She became a resident of Nebraska City soon after the death of her first husband, removing thence to Syracuse at the time of her marriage with Dr. Case. She is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church, and in her practice exercises that conscientious care which has gained her the confidence and esteem of the community.

MARTIN R. WALBRIDGE, deceased. This gentleman was for twenty years one of the esteemed citizens of Wyoming Precinct, and one of the progressive and prosperous farmers who had grown up with the country. He was born in Vermont, on the 27th of April, 1826, and was the son of John and Polly (Reynolds) Walbridge; while yet a child our subject was left motherless. Shortly after this event the father left Vermont and emigrated to LaPorte County, Ind., where he resided for the remainder of his life, which, however, was not of long duration. Thus in early youth our subject had to face the world an orphan. Remembering the innumerable difficulties consequent upon the above-mentioned condition, the success that afterward became his reflects to greatest credit upon our subject. He began the struggle for existence not only orphaned but poor, and was compelled to work hard for his living. He did not, however, neglect schooling, which happily it was within his power, as it is within the power of every American child, to obtain in the usual institution. When about eighteen years of age he sold all his earthly possessions in order that he might start West. He first purchased a good cow, and then started for Wisconsin, where he located in Iowa County, not far from Madison, at which place he had a brother, who had gone there some time previously, and was engaged in farming and was doing well.

After a few months our subject returned to LaPorte County, Ind., and there entered into his first matrimonial alliance. This deeply interesting event occurred upon the 17th of February, 1853, the lady being Sarah A. Thurber. She was born in LaPorte County, and there also brought up and educated. The day of her nativity was the 31st of August, 1834. She came of good family, and her home training was such as to make her a true help to her husband. She was a lady of great personal worth, prepossessing and of splendid disposition. Of this union five children were born; of these two are now deceased, viz: Ida M. and Ross W. Those still living bear the following names: Jessie, who is married to Montgomery Robb, of Wyoming Precinct; Charles P., who is living in New Mexico, was married, in September, 1883, to Miss Louisa Yard, of Princeton, Ill.; Carrie A., who is living in South Bend, Ind., where she is a prominent and well-established teacher of music, and is a graduate from Central Music Hall Conservatory, Chicago, Ill. On the 20th of June, 1874, Mrs. Walbridge died at the old homestead in Wyoming Precinct.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in Wyoming Precinct, April 27, 1876, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Ellen Cherry, *nee* Jones, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, Aug. 21, 1837. She is the daughter of Filander H. and Lydia A. (Jewett) Jones, who were natives of Vermont, where they were brought up and educated.

They were married at Detroit, Mich., and Mr. Jones there entered the profession of teaching, having been thus engaged in early manhood. He continued thus employed in Michigan for many years, and later went to Indiana. He is now seventy-five years of age, is retired from active work, and makes his home in Weir City, Kan. His wife is seventy-one years of age, and is still the light and brightness of their home. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist Church, and he has been a stanch Republican in political affairs for more than a quarter of a century.

The wife of our subject was the first of the children born to her parents. She was educated in Indiana, and until her marriage with Mr. Cherry made her home with her parents. This important event occurred Sept. 11, 1858, the name of her husband being R. W. Cherry. This gentleman was born in Marion County, Ohio, April 19, 1835. He had been carefully trained by his parents and well educated, and was engaged subsequently in mercantile pursuits. For two years he served gallantly as a soldier in the late Rebellion, and was finally honorably discharged, owing to disability. He served in Company I, 29th Indiana Infantry. His death occurred in Rochester, Fulton Co., Ind., Nov. 20, 1872. He was a good, honorable and intelligent man and an esteemed citizen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cherry were born four children, two of whom, Adelbert and Minnie, are now deceased. The living children are: May L., who is a successful teacher in the public schools of Cass County, and a member of the Otoe County Teachers' Association; Nellie D. is happily married to C. M. Fenno, a successful farmer in Thomas County, Kan.; they have two little ones, named Ellen M. and John R.

The subject of this sketch attained to the advanced age of sixty-two years before he passed to his place with the silent majority. He died deeply regretted by all who knew him, at his home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 10th of May, 1888, where he had lived since the year 1867. In his politics he was a sound Republican, and was at all times a truly loyal and upright citizen. Mrs. Walbridge is a devout member of the Baptist Church, and attends with the congregation meeting at Nebraska City. With her two sons, Frank B. and Eugene M. Walbridge, she resides upon the farm which has so long been her home; it comprises 160 acres of fine agricultural land, and is situated on section 15 of the above-mentioned precinct.

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, a farmer and carpenter combined, claims to have put up one of the first dwelling-houses in his neighborhood in Russell Precinct, where he now lives. He is the owner of the north half of section 9, and is one of the most prosperous of the early pioneers of this county. Much of the time he has operated as builder and contractor, and some of the best structures in his community are the result of his taste and skill. His own residence is more than ordinarily attractive and convenient, and its surroundings are indicative of cultivated tastes and abundant means.

Our subject is the offspring of an excellent New England family, Jedediah and Mehetabel D. (Clark) Johnson, who were natives respectively of Middletown and Chester, Conn. Both the grandfathers, Freelove J. Johnson and Girard Clark, were old Revolutionary soldiers, and a book entitled the "History of England," found by Grandfather Johnson many years before his death, is still preserved with great care by some of the members of the family living in Connecticut.

Later in the history of the United States, Jedediah Johnson, the father of our subject, served in the War of 1812, being present at the battle of New London. After laying down his musket he took up the implements of agriculture, and tilled the soil of his native Connecticut until the final illness which resulted in his death on the 19th of May, 1863. He was then seventy years of age. The mother, who was considerably younger than her husband, survived him a number of years, her death taking place in 1875, when she was seventy-six years old.

Of the fourteen children comprising the parental family, eight lived to mature years, namely: Hamlin F., Sarah S., L. Janette, Nancy J., Samuel S., William Henry, Edwin R. and Ellen R., the two

latter twins. With the exception of Samuel S. and our subject, William H., the living are residents of New England. Edwin R. died in 1873, leaving two children.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 1, 1832, on the banks of the Connecticut River in Middlesex County, Conn. He grew up on the farm, and remained a member of the parental household until twenty-six years of age. He then learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a period of twenty years. In his native State he put up the Custom House and State House at Middletown, and a large number of other buildings, including some fine private residences.

In the spring of 1860 Mr. Johnson, leaving New England, went to Licking County, Ohio, but not being satisfied with this experiment, after nine months returned home. In the meantime he had accumulated considerable property, and in the summer of 1878 again turned his face toward the setting sun. Upon coming to this State, the outlook impressing him favorably, he made his way to this county and purchased a tract of railroad land, paying cash down. Russell Precinct since that time has been the scene of his operations, and his fine large farm of 320 acres is one of the most valuable in the western part of this county.

June 6, 1883, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Catherine G. Raymond, who, like himself, is a native of Connecticut, and born in West Hartford, Aug. 12, 1848. The parents of Mrs. Johnson were Josiah and Fanny A. (Hurlbut) Raymond, natives of Connecticut, where the father spent his last years. The mother makes her home with our subject. The father traced his ancestry back to Richard Raymond, who landed at Plymouth Rock with his two nephews, William and John, in the year 1622. From these sprang the Raymond family in the United States. They were the scions of an energetic and enterprising race of people, and became closely identified with the early history of New England. Grandmother Raymond was a niece of the Hon. James Hillhouse, who is frequently mentioned in the history of those times. The father of Mrs. Johnson during the session of 1858 was a member of the Connecticut Legislature, and died in 1862, at the age of forty-seven years. The mother is still living, making her home with her daughter Catherine, Mrs. Johnson; she is now sixty-eight years of age. The seven children in the parental family, of whom Mrs. J. was the eldest, were named respectively: Catherine G., Robert O., John F., James H., Fanny E., Charlotte H. and Henry J.

Mrs. Johnson received a good education, completing her studies in the High School at Hartford, and was for some time engaged as a teacher there, She came to Nebraska with her mother's family in the spring of 1879. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children, a babe unnamed and Henry Raymond, both of whom died in infancy. They have now an adopted daughter, Emily Catherine, four years old. Mr. Johnson has been identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church a number of years, and Mrs. J. seeks religious consolation among the Presbyterians. Our subject votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has steadily refused becoming an office-holder.

HON. J. O. MOORE, an ex-member of the Nebraska Legislature and one of the most prominent citizens of Otoe County, is still a gentleman in the prime of life, and it is to be hoped has yet before him many years of usefulness. He became a resident of Palmyra March 4, 1872, and has become closely identified with the interests of Southern Nebraska.

Our subject is the offspring of an excellent family, being a son of Kimber A. and Nancy J. (Speer) Moore, natives of Pennsylvania, the mother born in Franklin County. The paternal grandfather, also a native of the Keystone State, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life there. The great-grandfather did good service as a Major in the Revolutionary War. He was a native of Scotland, and crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days, settling after the war in Pennsylvania. Grandfather Speer was a native of Ireland. He was a merchant, and spent his last years in Bedford County, Pa.

The parents of our subject, after their marriage, settled on a farm in Fulton County, Pa., where the

father, in addition to the successful pursuits of agriculture, achieved local fame as a politician. He was a Whig until the abandonment of the old party and then cordially endorsed Republican principles. After the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a Union soldier, being the eldest of eight brothers, all of whom gave their services in a like manner to their country.

Kimber A. Moore emerged safely from the dangers of warfare, and leaving his old home in Pennsylvania in the fall of 1868, crossed the Mississippi to this State, and settled on a tract of land in Gage County. He is still living but now retired from active labor, being seventy years of age, and making his home in Adams, Gage County.

The parental household included eight children, namely: John O., our subject; Ella, D. H., Augustus, Etta, Gertude V., Union L. and Ernest. The latter died when a lad of thirteen years. The survivors are mostly residents of Nebraska. John O. was born near New Grenada, Fulton Co., Pa., March 10, 1844, and after emerging from the district school, pursued his studies in a select school in Wells' Valley for several terms. He then began to work in the coal mines of his native county, and during the eight years in which he was thus occupied filled every position from mule driver and office boy to that of waymaster. He was holding this position upon a good salary at the breaking out of the Rebellion. The year following he was constrained to follow the example of his honored father, and accordingly enlisted as a Union soldier, Aug. 7, 1862, in Company F, 125th Pennsylvania Infantry, going in as a private under the command of Capt. J. J. Lawrence. The latter had been a railroad Superintendent, and they entered the service in response to the nine months' call.

This regiment was drilled at Ft. Bernard and Arlington Heights. They left the latter place on the 6th of September, 1862, and first saw the smoke of battle at South Mountain. On the 17th of the same month they were at Antietam, where their regiment suffered a loss of 162 men within the space of ten minutes. Mr. Moore was wounded by the explosion of a shell, although not seriously. He was, however, rendered insensible, but upon regaining consciousness resumed his position in the ranks. After lying thirty days at Maryland Heights, this regiment with others went to Loudoun Valley, Va., and thence to Fairfax Court House, engaging in the conflict there. The scene of their next engagement was at Stafford Court House, where they remained in camp thirty days, and in due time met the enemy at Chancellorsville. They moved on to Harrisburg, where our subject, with his comrades, received his honorable discharge on the 23d of May, 1863, having served nine and one-half months.

Mr. Moore now returned to his native county, and resumed his former position as waymaster until the 1st of March, 1865. He next repaired to Washington, attended the inauguration of President Lincoln, and was appointed Superintendent of the Government stables at a point in Virginia. He was occupied with the duties of this position until the 1st of October, then going back to his native State engaged in farming until the fall of 1867.

Our subject now began making preparations for settlement in the West, and in the spring following came to Nebraska, arriving in Adams Precinct, Gage County, on the 10th of March, 1868. He at once took up a homestead claim, and while carrying on to a limited extent the improvement of his property, also taught school and engaged in breaking prairie for other parties. In the fall of 1871 he took up his residence in the embryo town of Bennet, where he engaged in the lumber and grain trade, at the same time having charge of the freight and express business of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and also the post-office.

In March, 1872, Mr. Moore changed his residence to Palmyra Precinct, of which he has become a resident. Here he also engaged in the lumber and grain business, establishing the first yard in the town of Palmyra and operating with a partner, the style of the firm being Hill & Moore, In 1874 they disposed of their lumber business and purchased a flouring-mill in Palmyra, which they operated in connection with their grain business successfully until 1883. Mr. Moore then forming a partnership with J. R. McKee, began dealing in live stock, and was engaged in buying and shipping three years. In July, 1884, he became manager for a Chicago lumber company, and still holds the posi-

tion. In 1880 the heavy rainfalls caused a general washout, doing great damage to mill property by the carrying away of dams, and there also occurred great loss of stock by drowning, and depreciation in value to the extent of $5,000. The credit of Mr. Moore, however, remained unimpaired, and in due time he recovered from his losses.

Our subject, on the 15th of June, 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Mary R., daughter of William and Catherine Blachart, who at that time were residents of Adams Township, Gage County, where the wedding took place. Mrs. Moore was born in Blairsville, Pa., Aug. 26, 1835, and was a maiden of sixteen years when she came with her parents to Nebraska. In the meantime, however, they had removed from the Keystone State to Mercer County, Ill., where she lived from a child of five years until the age mentioned. She received a common-school education, completing her studies in Gage County. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and are now living in Gage County, this State.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Blanche, died at the age of three and one-half years. Lillie G., Myrtle M. and Darley are at home with their parents. Mr. Moore has always taken a warm interest in the progress of his adopted county, and has been identified with many of its leading enterprises. At the incorporation of Palmyra Village, on the 5th of May, 1882, he was elected President of the Village Board, in which office he served two years. He had been elected to the State Legislature in the fall of 1880, and served through the special session held in May, 1882. He introduced Bill No. 71, providing for a license of $1,000 for selling spirituous liquors. By agreement with Hon. Mr. Slocum, he permitted the bill to go by default, as one introduced by the latter had practically the same provisions. To Mr. Moore is fully due the honor of introducing the first high license bill in the Nebraska Legislature.

Mr. Moore was also actively interested in several other bills in connection with his county and constituency. He has filled many positions of trust and reponsibility, and for a number of years has been sent as delegate to the various conventions of his party. As an ex-soldier, he is naturally interested in the perpetuation of the G. A. R., with which he is prominently connected, being a charter member of Mansfield Post No. 54, at Palmyra. Of this he is now Commander, which office he has occupied three years, and which is in a very prosperous condition. He also belongs to Palmyra Lodge No. 45, A. F. & A. M., having passed all the Chairs, and has several times been a representative to the Grand Lodge. In the I. O. O. F., with which he identified himself in 1866, he has been a District Deputy of the Grand Lodge, has passed through all the Chairs in this likewise, and is Treasurer of the lodge in Palmyra. In religious matters, with his estimable wife, he belongs to the Baptist Church at Palmyra, being Treasurer, and one of the most liberal and cheerful contributors to its support. Mr. Moore and his family occupy a tasteful and comfortable home, their own property, and enjoy the acquaintance of a large circle of friends.

ELIJAH D. MARNELL, a young man of exceptional talent and ability, is the well-known Secretary and General Manager of the News Company, and assistant editor of the Nebraska City *Daily News*. He is a native of the city of Hannibal, Mo., March 5, 1855, being the date of his birth. His father, James E. Marnell, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., where his father, who was a native of Ireland, had settled after coming to America in early manhood. He, the grandfather of our subject, married in the City of Brotherly Love, and seven years later moved with his family to Kentucky. He located in Bardstown, and there pursued his trade of hatter until his death, which occurred in 1854.

The father of our subject was an infant when his parents moved to Kentucky, and there he grew to manhood. He learned the trade of tinner, and in 1843 established himself in business in Hannibal, Mo. When the Mexican War broke out he sold out and went to Mexico with Shepard's Regiment, 2d Missouri Cavalry, and was in quite a number of the most important battles, including that of the City

of Mexico. He was discharged with his regiment at the close of the war, and in 1850 made an overland journey to California, where he engaged in mining until the spring of 1853. He then returned to Missouri, by the Isthmus and New York, and was married there, in December of that year, to Miss Kate Hawkins, a native of Maysville, Ky. After his marriage Mr. Marnell opened a stove and tinware store, at that time the only establishment of the kind in the city of Hannibal. He also ran a line of boats to New Orleans in company with his brothers-in-law. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil War he closed his business, but continued to be a resident of Hannibal until his death, June 14, 1870. He was a man of more than usual intelligence, and he inherited the genial, frank manners and ready tact of the Celtic race from which his paternal ancestry sprang, so that he made friends wherever he went. The mother of our subject is still spared to bless her children, and makes her home in Nebraska City. To her and her husband were born six children, namely: Elijah, Edward, Mary, Laura, Frank and Robert.

The subject of our sketch received his early education in the city schools of Hannibal. When he was fifteen years old he began a life of self-dependence in the office of the *Watchman* in Hannibal. He worked there three months, and then engaged as a clerk in the drug-store of J. B. Brown in his native city. He was employed there four years, and the following two years was in the same business with D. B. Barnes. After that he was engaged in the drug business for nearly a year in Illinois on his own account. He then sold out, as his health was not good, and spent eight months among the mountains. In October, 1877, he came to Nebraska City to make his home, that he might enjoy its salubrious climate and its many business and social advantages. He immediately engaged in the office of the *Daily News*, and has been connected with that paper ever since in various responsible capacities—was editor until 1882, and has been assistant editor and manager ever since. In February, 1887, the News Company was formed, and he was elected its Secretary and General Manager. He has been very successful in the management of the affairs of the company, which are in a very prosperous condition, as he pays strict attention to his business, and is zealous and faithful in looking after the interests of his associates. The *News* is a popular sheet, a Democratic organ, and is all that its name implies.

Mr. Marnell was married, Aug. 5, 1880, to Miss Ida Hawley, a native of Nebraska City, and a daughter of Martin and Elizabeth B. Hawley. Their pleasant home has been brightened by the birth of one child, Frank by name. Mr. Marnell has been an enthusiastic Democrat ever since he was old enough to vote, at which time he cast his first Presidential ballot for the Hon. S. J. Tilden. He occupies a prominent position in many social organizations of this city. He is Receiver of Nuckolls Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W.; Commander of Nebraska City Legion of Select Knights of the A. O. U. W. of Nebraska City, and he is Past Master Workman and Venerable Sage of Foster Assembly, K. of L., No. 8,248, and a member of Ramplin Camp No. 331, M. W. A.

JOHN MATTES, of Nebraska City, is well known among its most prominent residents, where he occupies a good position socially and financially. His business is that of a brewer, and he represents a fine amount of property, while at the same time he is public-spirited, liberal, and warmly interested in the welfare of his adopted city and State. Mr. Mattes came to Nebraska City with his family in July, 1886. He was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, June 4, 1847, and was the youngest of six children, the offspring of Frank and Frances (Sperry) Mattes, who were also of German birth and ancestry, and the father a large land-owner and farmer in his native Province. The brothers and sisters were named respectively: Rosa, Xavier, Aloes, Alex and Paul.

Young Mattes was given a thorough education in the common schools, and in addition to becoming familiar with farm pursuits, also learned the trade of wagon-maker. Three of his brothers, one in 1853 and two in 1864, emigrated to the United States, settling in Burlington, Iowa, and our subject joined them in 1866, when a little over eighteen

years of age. He worked at wagon-making in that place two years, then, in company with his brothers, began operating a brewery at Des Moines, where he lived until the spring of 1886.

Mr. Mattes was married in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1875, to Miss Mary Hummel, of Monroe, that State, and who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in January, 1853. Her parents, Michel and Josephine Hummel, were natives of Germany, and emigrated to Iowa in the spring of 1854, when their daughter Mary was less than a year old. They are still living in Iowa.

Our subject had, in company with his brother Paul, put up a brewery in Des Moines, and they were very successful. In 1880 he sold out his interest and rented a brewery in the same city, where he remained until coming to Nebraska City. Here he has since invested a portion of his capital in his brewery, and also has some valuable real estate. Politically, he votes the straight Democratic ticket. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and one thoroughly reliable as a business man and citizen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mattes there have been born eight children, three of whom, Josie, Mina and Frank, died in infancy. The survivors are: Josie (2d), Louis, Rosa, Carl Grover C. and Alexander. The eldest is twelve years of age and the youngest two; they are a bright and interesting group, being carefully trained and educated, and the parents may be pardoned for looking upon them with pride. Mr. Mattes cast his first Presidential vote for Greeley, when a resident of Iowa, and since coming to this country has been a conscientious member of the Democratic party.

S. H. MASON. In the career of the subject of this biography we find that of a man whose course in life has been such as to commend him in a marked manner to the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. Upright in his dealings, generous and public-spirited, he has been a member of a community exerting a good influence around him and furthering the enterprises calculated to upbuild the moral and religious elements of society. In this praiseworthy labor he has been encouraged by one of the best of women, a lady possessing rare qualifications, and one who has assisted in drawing around herself and her family the best social elements of the community. We thus find a home, which, without pretensions to elegance, is encircled by an air of culture which makes it a most delightful resort.

The Mason homestead occupies the southwest quarter of section 7, in Otoe Precinct. Before going any further we give a brief glance at the ancestry of our subject. The family is supposed to have been of English ancestry, and the parents of S. H. were Abraham and Elizabeth (Gartin) Mason, the father a native of Albemarle County, Va., and the mother born in what was then Washington County, now Marion County, Ky. Abraham Mason received careful parental training, and during his early manhood served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Afterward he took up his residence in Washington County, Ky., where he was married. Not long afterward he started for the farther West with his young wife, and they settled on a tract of land in Monroe County, Mo. The father purchased 160 acres which now lie in the vicinity of the flourishing city of Paris, which at that time gave no indication of a town. There his death took place in 1849, when he was sixty-one years old. The mother survived her husband twenty years, remaining a widow, and died in 1869, at the age of seventy-seven.

The parental household included eleven children, namely: Perry L., George G., Uriah G., Martin F., Abraham G., Amanda G., Nathan W., Stephen G., Sylvester H. (our subject), Mary H. and William H. The mother of our subject was a child of one of the first families of Kentucky, and many of her relatives are to-day prominent as politicians and professional men, and almost invariably people of wealth and position. Sylvester H. was born near Paris, Monroe County, Mo., on the 28th of September, 1838, Among his first recollections is that of the Presidential election of 1848, when Harrison was seated in the National Executive Chair. Even at that early day the educational advantages of that locality were very good, but young Mason was unable to avail himself of them to the extent he desired on account of an affection of the eyes. This, however, he overcame in due time, and when a youth of

seventeen years went into the office of the *Mercury*, at Paris, to learn the printer's trade. The close application required brought on his old trouble, and he was obliged to abandon his labors in this direction. His brother, Abraham G., also had a taste for newspaper work, and was a man of much literary merit, becoming one of the noted journalists of Missouri. His death took place at Shelbina, Mo., on the 23d of April, 1887. Martin F., another brother, and the only one living besides Sylvester H., is engaged at farming, and continues his residence near his old home in Paris, Mo.

Young Mason after leaving the printing-office embarked in the livery business, setting up in business for himself at Paris, Mo. Upon the outbreak of the Rebellion he sold out and removed to Douglas County, Ill., where he engaged in farming a period of four years, and thence removed to Cass County, Ill., locating on a farm. Before leaving Missouri he had been married to Miss Laura Bounds, who only survived her wedding about ten months. This was a sore affliction to Mr. Mason, and for a time thereafter he felt unable to go on with the duties and labors of life.

After going to Douglas County, Ill., Mr. Mason entered the employ of a very excellent man and an extensive farmer, and in due time, on account of his honesty and fidelity to duty, was given the supervision of a part of the land. After removing from Douglas to Cass County, he made the acquaintance of Mrs. Annie Jenkins, whose home at that time was in Peru, Nemaha Co., Neb., but who was visiting her parents in Illinois. This acquaintance ripened into a mutual affection, and on the 8th of October, 1873, Mrs. Jenkins having returned to her home, our subject joined her there, and they were married.

Mrs. Annie Mason was born in Ohio, in Coschocton County, Oct. 10, 1839, where she lived until a young girl fifteen years of age, and then accompanied her parents to Illinois. She was there married, Aug. 11, 1861, to Henry F. Jenkins, a Virginian by birth, and a farmer by occupation. They came to Nebraska in 1863, settling in Nemaha County, subsequently moving to the present farm in Otoe County, Neb., where the death of Mr. Jenkins occurred Oct. 17, 1869. Of this union there have been born three children—Mary H., Olive T. and Verda A. Mary H. is now the wife of T. S. Mason, agent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Holliday, Mo.; they have one child, Henry M. Olive T. is the widow of George E. Smith, and the mother of two children, Annie M. and Neola G., and lives in Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb.; Verda A. is employed as a typewriter in Kansas City, Mo.

The parents of Mrs. Mason were Elijah and Jane (Hankins) Duling, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. The Dulings were of Scotch and English ancestry, and were largely represented in the early days in Ohio, being prominent in the Methodist Church, and many of them ministers. They, like the Hankins family, were of English and Scotch ancestry, an admixture of two of the best nationalities on the face of the globe. Mr. Duling was a farmer by occupation, and the parents after their marriage lived in Ohio for a period of twenty-one years. Thence they removed to Cass County, Ill. Before his marriage to the mother of Mrs. Mason Mr. Duling had by a previous alliance become the father of three children, two of whom survive—Nathan McKendry and Syvilla. Of his marriage with Miss Hankins there were born the following children: Laban, William, Annie (Mrs. Mason) Anderson, Elijah, Amelia and John. Mrs. Jane Duling died about 1846, in Ohio, and Mr. D. was the third time married, and became the father of three more children. His third wife was also the mother of three children by her former marriage. An older brother of Mrs. Mason died and left a little girl. They all lived together, so at one time the father's roof sheltered five different sets of children. In 1854 they all removed to Cass County, Ill., where the father carried on farming successfully, and lived to be seventy-eight years old, his decease taking place in July, 1876. He was a man possessing all the better qualities of character, beloved and respected by his neighbors, popular, public-spirited, charitable and kind to all who came within his reach. In early manhood he had identified himself with the old Whig party, and upon its abandonment cordially endorsed Republican principles. The members of that large family are scattered in different States.

To our subject and his present wife there have

been born two children, daughters, Edna J. and Annie B., who attend school and constitute the light and joy of the household circle. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mason are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending regularly at Harmony. They have both been active workers in the Master's vineyard, Mr. Mason officiating as Secretary and Trustee of his church, and both largely instrumental in the organization of the Zion Sunday-school at Zion, in 1888, and where Mrs. Mason officiates as a teacher. She is also prominently identified with the W. C. T. U. at Harmony, which enjoys a membership of forty persons. Of this Mrs. M. is the librarian, and a most efficient laborer in this good work. Mr. Mason, politically, votes with the Prohibitionists, and has served a period of nine years on the School Board of his precinct.

CANNOY HANKS is among those pioneers of Nebraska who have give her reputation as a great agricultural State, and who now rank among her most extensive farmers and stock-raisers, his claim to this distinction being based upon the fact that he owns one of the largest farms in the county, located in Otoe and Hendricks Precincts, and has large herds of fine graded cattle.

Mr. Hanks was born in Carroll County, Va., Feb. 10, 1830. His father, Thomas Hanks, was a native of the same county, and his grandfather, Joshua Hanks, was for many years a resident of that county, where he was engaged as a farmer, and he died there.

Thomas Hanks was reared in his native county, and there married to Jane Moore, a native of Surrey County, N. C., where her father, George Moore, so far as known, spent his entire life. Mr. Hanks bought a tract of land in his native county, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying about 1840. His wife, the mother of our subject, died about 1850. They were the parents of eight children, namely: David, Edward, Hallie, Lee, Cannoy, Hugh, Thompson and Susan.

Cannoy Hanks, of whom we write, was reared in his Virginian birthplace. He was ten years old when the sad death of his father left his mother with a family of small children to care for. She nobly performed her task, carefully training them to habits of industry and self-reliance, and as soon as old enough our subject and his brothers and sisters went out to work to assist in the support of the family. The summer after his father's death our subject, then only a small lad of ten years, went to work on a farm, receiving eight cents a day for his services. As he grew larger his wages were increased, until when he was man grown he was paid fifty cents a day during haying and harvesting. He was prudent and saved his earnings, until finally he had saved money enough to engage with his brother in trading horses, mules, wagons and tobacco, making two trips to Georgia every year for that purpose, between the months of September and April. In the summer seasons they were engaged in farming. In 1855 Mr. Hanks concluded to come West, and in the fall of that year started with a team from his old home in Virginia, and drove the entire distance across Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri, to his destination in Nebraska. He arrived at Rockport, Mo., after forty-eight days of travel, spent one night there, then came on to Otoe City, and from there to Nebraska City. For awhile he engaged in teaming between the latter point and Hamey Landing and Sioux City. In 1856 he bought the claim to the land where he now resides in Otoe Precinct, built a log cabin thereon, and, when the land came into the market entered it from the Government in the land-office at Omaha. He farmed one year, and then, in 1857, went to the mountains to engage in mining some twenty-six miles northwest of the present site of Denver, which was not founded until the following year. At that time there were no railways across the plains, and all transportation was done with teams. Mr. Hanks mined in Colorado until the fall of 1861, when he returned to this State, and resumed farming and stock-raising, in which he has since met with more than ordinary success, having increased his real estate to 2,080 acres, and large numbers of cattle of high grades, among the finest in the State, roam over his rich pastures. He has all the conveniences for carrying on agriculture after the most approved methods, and his farm is provided with neat and substantial buildings.

Julius Normand

Margret Normand

Mr. Hanks was married, in 1864, to Miss Martha Wilkinson, a native of Carroll County, Va., and a daughter of James and Mary (Lyon) Wilkinson, natives of Virginia. Her father was born in the same county as herself, and his father, Thomas Wilkinson, is supposed to have been a native of Virginia, and to have passed his entire life there. Mrs. Hanks' father was reared and married in his native county, and resided there until 1857, when he moved to Lafayette County, Mo., bought a tract of land there, and has made it his place of residence ever since. His wife died in the old home in Virginia in 1847.

In their marriage Mr. and Mrs Hanks have been blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows: Mary S. is the wife of Charles Bickle, and they live in Omaha; Lee, Currenner, Huston; Stella died in 1877; Gilbert; Cannoy, Jr., died in 1880, and Lola.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanks are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they are foremost in elevating the religious, moral and social status of the community. Mr. Hanks is a man of strong character, possessing superior judgment and foresight, and he is, moreover, one in whom his fellow-citizens place absolute confidence. In politics he is and always has been a strong supporter of the principles of the Democratic party.

JULIUS NORMAND. The subject of this biography occupies a leading position among the extensive land-owners of Rock Creek Precinct, being the proprietor of 1,400 broad acres, lying on sections 5, 7 and 8, the homestead being on section 7. Mr. Normand came to the Territory of Nebraska on the 1st of May, 1858, and secured first 160 acres by pre-emption. His present surroundings and the extent of his possessions indicate the perseverance and industry with which he has labored.

There are comparatively few pioneers who have been so noticeably fortunate in their labors amid the difficulties of a new settlement as Julius Normand. Nature endowed him with those qualities most necessary to success, and a praiseworthy career. Not only has he been diligent and economical, prompt to meet his obligations, conscientious as a man and a citizen, but in building up one of the most valuable estates in Southern Nebraska has thus been no unimportant factor in the development of its resources. This has not only been an advantage to himself, but has resulted in attracting to this county an intelligent and enterprising class of people, who would not do otherwise than settle in a community promising something for the future, morally, socially and financially.

Mr. Normand prior to his arrival in Nebraska had been a resident of Scott County, Iowa, for a period of three years, having removed there from Blair County, Pa. In the latter he was born Feb. 14, 1830, his early home being in the vicinity of the city of Pittsburgh. The Normand family is of French ancestry. The parents of our subject, James and Catherine Normand, were natives respectively of France and Germany, and spent their last years in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Their family consisted of seven children. Our subject was reared and educated in his native city, where he attained his majority and married Miss Margaret Kylor.

Mrs. Normand was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., Jan. 22, 1833, and is the daughter of George and Mary (Carcon) Kylor, who were also natives of the Keystone State, where they spent their entire lives. The mother died when her daughter Margaret was a little child five years of age, and the latter as soon as old enough began earning her own living. She thus acquired those habits of industry and self-reliance which have enabled her to be a most worthy and efficient helpmate of her husband, by whose side she has labored early and late, working equally with him in securing their valuable property. Of their union there have been born ten children, three of whom died in infancy. Of the survivors the record is as follows: James married Miss Mary Hawn, and is occupied as a butcher in Ft. Byron, Ill.; Augustus wedded Miss Hattie Wilcox, of this State, and lives on a farm in Saline County; Catherine Josephine is the wife of H. A. Crandall, who is engaged in farming near Unadilla, this county; Belle, Mrs. George Barth, lives on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Julia is the wife of Nelson Tary, and they live on a farm in Johnson

County; Julius and Levi remain at home with their parents.

Mr. Normand cast his first Presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, and is a stanch supporter of Democratic principles. He presents the picture of a man firm in the support of his convictions, and one who is not easily moved after he has once made up his mind. This characteristic has been noticeable all through his career, and has doubtless been the secret of his phenomenal success. His has been a record which his children may look upon with pride, and in the establishment of his homestead and the estate he has built up for himself a lasting monument. Of this latter we are pleased in being able to give an extended view, and also the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Normand. Otoe County may point to them with pride as being among her best citizens, representing her best interests, and being identified with her wealth and progress.

ANTHONY A. JAMES. The name of this gentleman, who departed this life at his home in Wyoming Precinct, May 10, 1870, is held in kindly remembrance by a large circle of friends and acquaintances as that of an honest man and a good citizen. As a farmer he was thorough and skillful, and as a member of the community contributed his full quota toward advancing its general interest.

Mr. James was a native of County Donegal, in the North of Ireland, and was born in December, 1830. His father, William James, a farmer by occupation, was also of Irish birth and ancestry, and died in middle life in County Donegal. Anthony at the time of his father's decease was a lad of thirteen years, and a few years later accompanied his mother and the younger members of the family to America, joining some of the elder ones in Butler County, Pa. There they engaged in farming, but a year later changed their residence to Mercer County, Pa., where our subject was reared to manhood. He received a common-school education, and when ready to establish a home of his own was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Burrows, a native of his own country. They lived for a year in the Keystone State, then concluded to try their fortunes in the regions beyond the Mississippi.

Our subject arrived in this county in the spring of 1860, and purchased 200 acres of land on section 16, in Wyoming Precinct, in the improvement and cultivation of which he was engaged until resting from his earthly labors. He was prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, but for some time before his decease suffered from a wound which he had received while serving as a cavalry soldier in the White Rock Hills, Dak. Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War he had enlisted in Company F, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, the regiment being chiefly employed on the frontier. In this, as in all other duties in life, Mr. James fulfilled each duty conscientiously, being always at his post when needed, and upon two occasions received quite serious gunshot wounds. He participated in considerable hard fighting, and was always spoken of as a brave and faithful soldier, who received the approval of his superior officers and the respect of his comrades.

To Mr. and Mrs. James there were born six children, two of whom, Sarah B. and John N., died at the ages of seventeen months and seven weeks respectively. Besides these two infants died unnamed. William G., the eldest son living, married Miss Clara A. Swan, who was born in Liberty Precinct, Cass County, June 1, 1865, and is a very intelligent lady, with an excellent education; the younger son is named Robert, and both are very intelligent and enterprising, carrying on the homestead in a manner similar to that with which it has always been conducted, and doing honor to their training. The boys are stanch Republicans, politically, as was their honored father

Mrs. Eliza (Burrows) James was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, Dec. 29, 1830, and is the daughter of George and Mary (Burrows) Burrows, who were of Scotch ancestry, the latter having been among those who fled from Scotland to the North of Ireland on account of religious persecution. The parents of Mrs. James were also natives of County Tyrone, and Protestants in religion. After marriage George Burrows and his wife settled upon a little farm in their native county, where were born a son and daughter. In the spring of 1834, leaving their eldest child, Eliza, with her maternal grand-

parents, they emigrated to America, bringing with them the younger, and located first in Trumbull County, Ohio. Later they removed to Mercer County, Pa., settling in New Vernon Township, where the father improved a farm from a tract of uncultivated land, and where he spent the remainder of his days, his decease taking place in February, 1883, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. Both parents had identified themselves with the Methodist Church at an early period in life. The mother is now seventy-nine years old. She still lives on the old homestead in New Vernon Township, Mercer Co., Pa., with her son John N.

To the parents of Mrs. James there were born seven children after coming to the United States, and of the nine comprising the parental household all are living but one. These are mostly residents of Pennsylvania. Mrs. James remained with her grandparents in Ireland until a maiden of seventeen years, then came to America accompanied by her aunt and uncle, Hugh Burrows. The meeting with her parents after the long separation was most pleasant and gratifying, and she afterward made her home with them until her marriage.

OLIVER C. WIGGIN, M. D., is a descendant of one of the good old New England families, whose name is graven upon the very foundation stones of early New England history. The originator of this family in America was Thomas Wiggin, who had emigrated to this country in 1634, returned to England, and finally returned with his family in 1636, and arrived in the midst of the struggles of the early colonies for an existence and foothold on the Western Continent. He received from his Sovereign a patent of Governor of the North Plantations, which comprised the district now embraced in the State of New Hampshire. This position, that of Governor, he held for several years, and in that time did much to establish the Colonists and bring to them the position of independence and brightness of prosperity that fairly started the young colony on its way. He was the first Governor. The descendants of this illustrious gentleman, Thomas Wiggin, for several generations married into the families of the Massachusetts Governors Bradstreet, Dudley and Winthrop, besides others equally well known that might be mentioned, representing men of worth and note in the higher circles of thought and action in life.

The subject of our sketch is one of the ninth generation from the above-mentioned gentleman, and is the second son of the Hon. John M. Wiggin, of Meredith, N. H. He was born in July, 1810. In his early life the father of our subject manifested no little ability as a student. From his boyhood he had been devoted to earnest thought and careful study, and this he followed from his youth up, always engrossed in a never satisfied effort to assauge his thirst for knowledge. While yet a young man he became instructor in the public schools near the home of his boyhood. Later he turned his attention to the business of architect and contractor, and while his sons were growing up he lived upon a farm in order that they might have such surroundings as would tend to make them true men, that he might the better instruct them in such a manner as would bring out the very best that was in them as regards character and disposition.

Mr. Wiggin was elected by the people of his county (where he had well-nigh innumerable friends, for he was much respected and was very popular) for three consecutive terms to the New Hampshire State Legislature, where he served, as had been expected, the interests of his constituents in a most self-forgetful spirit and with a single eye to their welfare. When about seventy years of age he went to live with his children in Providence, R. I., and there died three years later. He was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church, and was for some years a Deacon in that communion, as his father had been before him. The family for several generations had held its membership within the same church. His wife, whose maiden name was Polly (Fox) Wadleigh, was a descendant of another of the old families of position of New Hampshire. She was a brilliant and yet thoughtful woman, true to herself and to all to whom she was related. She also reached the good old age of seventy-three

years, and died about the same time as her husband.

Dr. Oliver C. Wiggin was born May 3, 1839, in Meredith, N. H., spent the first eighteen years of his life upon a farm, and received his education at the school-house. The institutions of learning of that day were not of course so complete, either as regards the instruction or appointments, as they are to-day. As soon as he was sufficiently advanced to so do he entered Brown's University, at Providence, where he remained for some time, and then entered the Harvard Medical College, being graduated from that institution in the class of '66.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Wiggin engaged in the practice of medicine, locating in Providence, where he remained for about twenty years, becoming long before that term had expired one of the most prominent physicians and surgeons of Rhode Island. He was very largely successful in his practice, and perhaps for the reason that it has always been his custom to enter into every transaction giving his whole mind and power to the engagement, whatever that might be, that demanded his attention. During that time he was elected President of the Rhode Island Medical Society, and was also President of the Providence Medical Association, and also President of the Lying-in Hospital of Providence, of which he was the chief promoter and founder. For ten years he continued visiting physician to the Rhode Island Hospital and consulting physician at Dexter Asylum and the Home for Aged Men, and also that for Aged Women.

The marriage of Dr. Wiggin and Mrs. Helen M. Jenckes, eldest daughter of Hon. Charles Nourse, was celebrated Dec. 3, 1878. Her father is now deceased. He was formerly a successful cotton manufacturer in Woonsocket, R. I., and occupied a high position in the community, being prominent in the social, political, religious and educational circles, as well as the business world. His daughter Helen received the best possible education, and was conversant with all the usual subjects then taught, and was also endowed with several accomplishments as then considered, and was fitted by these and her careful home training for any position in life. She became connected with most of the prominent religious and educational societies, including the widely known Rhode Island Women's Club. It has been a principle of her life to make others happy and to spend herself in helping those who need aid, and she is worthy of rank among the first ladies of the State.

From boyhood Dr. Wiggin has taken the greatest possible interest in fine cattle and graded stock, of which there were several upon the home farm, In 1883 he found his failing health would not permit of his continued practice of medicine, and because of the above-mentioned desire and natural liking for stock, he decided to take up the breeding of blooded stock, and determined only to handle the pure Holstein stock, and in October, 1882, he imported a choice herd of the most noted strains from Holland.

Dr. Wiggin found himself well prepared to keep fully abreast of the times in his new occupation. He began in Providence, but the necessity of seeking broader fields led him to turn his mind to the Western prairies, and in 1886 he transported his cattle and interests to this State, locating in Wyoming Precinct of this county, about nine miles north of Nebraska City and three and a half miles from Union, which is his post-office and is a station on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. His property is splendidly located, and admirably adapted for his purpose. It is known as the "Crown Bluff Stock Farm." Since the transfer to Nebraska the head of the herd has been superseded by a son, an exceptionally fine animal, who is named "Netherland Standard," and the farm is most thoroughly stocked, the herd numbering about fifty.

Partly associated in the business with Dr. Wiggin is a younger brother, whose given name is Charles D. Wiggin, M. D. He also is now a resident of Wyoming Precinct, and is connected with his brother in his stock interests, and at the same time is a practicing physician and surgeon. He was born upon the old homestead in New Hampshire. After obtaining the principles of an education he entered Brown University, at Providence, completing the curriculum of study and being graduated in the class of '68, subsequently receiving the degree of A. M. He then came West, and spent four years in Nebraska on the present farm, which his father had some time before purchased. At the end of

that period, in 1872, he decided to return East. This he did, and entered the Yale Medical School, and devoted himself to hard and faithful study, being graduated with honors in the class of '74, receiving the degree of M. D.

From Yale Dr. C. D. Wiggin went to Providence, R. I., and began the practiee of medicine, continuing there until 1886, when he came to this State and joined his brother, our subject. He has since resided on the Wiggin property at "Crown Bluff, continuing, as above mentioned, the practice of his profession. He was united in marriage to Miss Adelaide Buckley, the daughter of John Buckley, of Providence, R. I. She was well educated, and previous to her marriage had been a most successful teacher in the public schools of Rhode Island. While yet in the prime of life she died, leaving two daughters, Marion and Hope.

A second marrriage was entered into by Dr. C. D. Wiggin. The maiden name of the lady who united her life interests with his upon that occasion was Lucy D. Bucklin, the daughter of Samuel Slater Bucklin, of Providence, R. I., where she was born. Previous to her marriage she had been engaged for some years as a teacher in the grammar schools of Providence, and in her present position in his home gives abundant evidence of her every qualification for that or any other she might be called upon to occupy.

Our subject and his brother combine the industries of the dairy with their stock farming, and their goods are such as to command a steady market at Omaha. They also have choice family pork products. Their cattle are the most perfect dairy stock that could be found, so far as breed is concerned, their cows coming of the celebrated families of Netherland, Aggie, Alexander, Texelaar, Operdoes, and others equally valuable. It is a frequent thing for them to obtain as much as eighty-seven pounds of milk per day from several of their choicest cows, some of the two-year-olds averaging fifty pounds per day.

Dr. Oliver Wiggin is an acknowledged expert and authority in matters pertaining to cattle breeding, raising and feeding. His arrangements for the sheltering and feeding of his stock are all of a model character. He uses only the best obtainable feed, supplying them with the ordinary forage as long as it remains green; following that with ensilage, for which he has silos with a capacity of 160 tons, which enables him to feed at the small expense of fifty-four cents per ton, which is a practical demonstration of the utility of this method. For grain feed he gives corn-meal, bran, oatmeal, ground oats, and cottonseed meal in their proper proportions.

Sufficient has been said to portray the position, high character and personal worth of our subject and those associated with him, and we leave the sketch to make its own impression in this regard. Suffice it here to say that the Doctor is most highly esteemed by all who know him. He is a member of the Baptist Church, and as a true and loyal citizen, is a member of the Republican party.

O. A. SEVERE. The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch is one of the most prominent cattle dealers of Palmyra Precinct, and a man who, beginning at the foot of the ladder in life has made his way by his own unaided efforts to a good position socially and financially. His farm of 280 acres is finely located on section 13, and forms one of the most desirable homesteads in this region. Upon it is a neat and substantial farm dwelling, and adjacent are the barns, sheds, scales, and all the other appliances adapted to the modern stock-raiser, while for the comfort of the family is a fine orchard and trees of the smaller fruits. A beautiful grove forms another attractive feature of the premises. The household is presided over by an intelligent and accomplished lady, the wife of our subject, and one child, a bright little boy, Harry, who was born April 8, 1883, completes the happiness of the home.

Mr. Severe, a native of Knox County, Ohio, was born in Liberty Township, Jan. 29, 1854, and is consequently still a young man. He was a lad of nine years when he left his native State, and accompanied his parents to Harrison County, Mo., where they lived on a farm a period of six years. Our subject in September, 1869, came to Nebraska and purchased 120 acres of land, to which he added a

like amount a few months later. While a resident of Missouri he was married, Jan. 18, 1877, to Miss Martha E. Morgan, also a native of Ohio, and who was born Sept. 23, 1858. Her parents, Amos and Jane (McCammon) Morgan, emigrated from the Buckeye State to Harrison County, Mo., when she was a young girl twelve years of age. Her parents were natives of Ohio; the father is living in Missouri, and the mother is deceased. Mrs. Severe, a lady who is greatly respected in her community, is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Palmyra.

Mr. S. identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1883, and is now a member of Lodge No. 64, at Palmyra; he also belongs to the Knights of Workingmen, and politically, votes the straight Republican ticket.

The parents of our subject were Bethel and Charlotte (Conway) Severe, who were natives of Ohio and Virginia, and are now living with our subject. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parental household included two sons and three daughters, of whom one sister of our subject is living.

ALEXANDER McINTYRE. It were hard to find a more worthy and honorable representative of the business world of Palmyra or indeed of Otoe County than the well-known gentleman and much valued citizen whose history is here recorded. Mr. McIntyre is in the dry-goods and general mercantile business, and has established a reputation that is beyond question, and in his daily life manifests a character that is of the highest order.

Mr. McIntyre is the son of Duncan and Catherine McIntyre, of Argyleshire, Scotland. His father was a shepherd all his life. He came to America to join our subject, who had previously settled in this State, and died in Russell Precinct in this county, in 1873, aged seventy-three years. His mother resides in Kansas, with her daughters, and has attained the advanced age of eighty-four years. The family circle includes five children, who received the following names: Archibald, Alexander, Mary, Donald and Catherine.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 2d of October, 1839, in Argyleshire. His experience was common to that of boyhood in Scotland; his education obtained in the parish schools was thorough and practical, such as would do him good service in the ordinary affairs of life. At fourteen he was apprenticed as clerk in a dry-goods house in Edinburgh, where he continued for three years. This was his business college, and the practical education and training there received are with him in effect to-day, and his customers in this county may trace his efficiency in business back to that time.

In 1856 Mr. McIntyre went to Worcester, England, and there he served for several years in the dry-goods business, thus making, properly speaking, his first start in life, for at Edinburgh, as above mentioned, he was simply an apprentice. On the 1st of September, 1863, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. McIntyre with Sarah, the estimable daughter of Joseph and Ann (Burden) Grainger. The parents of this lady were English, her father being a native of Worcester and her mother of London. Mr. Grainger was in business as a grocer at the above city, and there met our subject. He is still living, and is seventy-five years of age. His wife died in 1875, being sixty-three years of age at the time of her demise. Of thirteen children born to them six grew up, of whom three were girls and three boys. The wife of our subject, who was born on the 24th of February, 1840, is the eldest of the surviving children. Her education was received in private seminaries and is complete.

Four years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre set sail for America. They left Liverpool on April 3, on the steamship "Louiscana." He took a homestead of 160 acres, and in 1867 purchased an adjoining 160. He now found scope for all his experience, and plenty of work that demanded just such determination and muscle as is usually found in natives of Scotland. He continued prosperously as a farmer for seventeen years. On the 3d of January, 1884, he came to Palmyra and engaged in mercantile pursuits, buying out Mr. R. Oakley, who had formerly carried on business here.

Mr. McIntyre is a prominent member of the A. O. U. W., and is at present the Financier of the Local Assembly, of which he is one of the charter members. In religious circles he also occupies a

high position. From his youth he has been much attached to the Presbyterian Church, and of that communion his wife and he are members. He is one of the pillars of the church at Palmyra, and serves it both in the office of Elder and that of Sunday-school Superintendent. In these relations as in every other he is held in the highest possible esteem and regard, sentiments that are accorded in like measure to his wife. In his position as a citizen Mr. McIntyre supports the Republican party, and is now a Councilman of Palmyra, where his manliness of character, his shrewd sagacity and business habits, enable him the better to represent his constituents.

JOHN KASBOHM. The northeast quarter of section 29, in Wyoming Precinct, has been most effectively utilized by the subject of this sketch in the building up of one of the best regulated homesteads of this part of the county, to which he came in the spring of 1879. His land at that time had undergone very little improvement, there being upon it at the time of its purchase by Mr. K. small buildings and no fences. It is hardly necessary to state in viewing his present surroundings, that he has employed his time in the most industrious manner, and invested his capital where it would do the most good.

The buildings of the Kasbohm farm are especially noticeable as being tasteful, compact, and erected in that substantial manner which insures the protection of both man and beast. Mr. K., in addition to general farming, has given considerable attention to live stock, having a good assortment of horses, cattle and swine. He has an orchard of flourishing apple trees, besides the smaller fruits, and has gradually gathered about himself and his family those little comforts and conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness of a home.

Our subject, a native of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, was born Aug. 22, 1839, and was the third child in a large family, the offspring of Jacob and Fredricka (Clocksim) Kasbohm, who were of pure German ancestry, and spent their entire lives upon their native soil. The father earned an honest living as a laborer, and died at the age of sixty years. The mother passed away in middle life. They were members of the Lutheran Church, in the doctrines of which they carefully trained their children. Six of the latter are living, three sons and three daughters, and are residents of the United States.

Mr. Kasbohm, in common with the children of his native Empire, was placed in school at an early age, and made his home with his parents until twenty-four years old. He then decided to cross the Atlantic and try to accomplish in America what there seemed little hope of his becoming in Germany—a man of property and influence. He realized that he must make his way by slow degrees, but he possessed largely the qualities of persistence and resolution, handed down to him from his ancestors, and accordingly, after landing in New York City, was ready to employ himself at whatever he could find to do. There and in the city of Brooklyn he lived for the following nine years or more, becoming in the meantime established in a putty and paint house, of which he was a trusted employe. In the spring of 1879, however, he resolved to cross the Mississippi and see what lay beyond.

Mr. Kasbohm has certainly had little reason to regret crossing first the Atlantic and then the Father of Waters. He had little capital upon landing in this country, being thrown upon his own resources in a strange land, but his inherent integrity and his willingness to employ himself at anything which would make him an honest living, soon secured him friends, which he has never lacked to this day. One of the earliest of these was a most estimable young lady, Miss Catherine Maefort, with whom he became acquainted in New York City, and to whom he was married there in 1866.

The wife of our subject was, like himself, born in Germany, on the 18th of October, 1841. She came with friends to the United States, and, like her husband, commenced independently to earn her own living. Their wedded life began in New York, and a few months later they bid adieu to the metropolis and came to the young State of Nebraska. They have been steadily advancing since

making the experiment of life in a new country, and have contributed their full share to the prosperity of Otoe County. Of their union there was born one child only, a boy, whom they named John, and who to their great sorrow died when ten weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. K. are both members of the German Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a solid Republican.

ORLANDO J. DAVIS is one of the prominent citizens and enterprising stock-raisers and farmers of North Branch Precinct, and resides on section 35, where he settled in 1880. Mr. Davis was born on the 26th of December, 1844, in North Carolina, of which State his parents, Ruell R. and Biddy (Hobson) Davis, were also natives. The family removed from that State to Nebraska, settling at Mt. Pleasant, in Cass County, in the year 1856. There the father entered land and improved a farm, giving his careful and undivided attention to the cultivation of the same for the remainder of his life, which closed in the year 1864. Mrs. Davis is still living in Cass County, and has reached the age of sixty-three years.

The family circle of which our subject is a member included nine children, of whom but seven are living: Stephen, now a grain merchant at Plattsmouth; Orlando J., our subject; Bradley H., a resident of this county; Wesley A., of Weeping Water, this State; William R., who still lives at Mt. Pleasant; Julia A., the wife of William Jameson, and John H., both of Weeping Water. Eunice, died in the year 1861, at the age of eighteen years.

The subject of our sketch was twelve years of age when the family settled in this State, and can well remember many of the more striking features and incidents of their pioneer life. The journeys his father was compelled to take when any trading or marketing had to be done, either to Plattsmouth or Nebraska City. His father had an unusually fine advantage in settling, being possessed of over $1,000 in money, besides teams and household goods.

As a lad, Orlando Davis spent his early days upon the home farm, and his recollections cluster around and are filled with the simple, healthful life at the home. He was from his youth acquainted with agricultural pursuits and farm life, so that it was no difficulty for him to take charge of similar work on his own account. The year 1867 witnessed his marriage with Elizabeth Howard, the daughter of William H. and Julia A. Howard, who were natives of Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard were married in Parke County, Ind., and settled in Vermillion County, where their daughter Elizabeth was born on the 3d of June, 1848. Later they went to Hancock County, Ill., where they lived until 1863, and then came to Cass County, where, two years later, Mrs. Howard died, leaving her husband and six children. Mr. Howard is still living, but is a resident of Lancaster County, Neb.

The subject of our sketch and his young wife continued to make their home in Cass County until 1870, when they migrated to Butler County, Kan., and pre-empted 160 acres of the Osage Trust Lands, which he improved by cultivation, setting out a large number of fruit trees, and erecting good buildings. After awhile he purchased an additional eighty acres, making him the owner of a total of 240 acres. In the year 1873 he lost his crop by grasshoppers, but did not require aid, as he had provisions in reserve, the result of more prosperous years.

Mr. Davis continued his residence in Kansas for a little over ten years, but was not infatuated with the State and did not like the climate, consequently he removed and came to Nebraska, where he purchased his present farm, comprising 160 acres of excellent land, on which he has put up two sets of good buildings for stock and farm purposes. He feeds about fifty head of stock annually, and is the owner of some fine animals. In the vicinity of the house there are two flourishing orchards, filled with fruit trees of diverse kinds of choice variety, and all excellent bearers.

The family of our subject and his wife numbers eight children, whose names are as subjoined: Mary Eva, Frank V., Milton C., Howard O., Winford W., Pearl Ethel, Edward C. and Hannah A. The home is one of the most complete and pleasant that can be found within quite a large distance, and the children reflect the high moral tone of their parents in

their own lives. In the Methodist Episcopal Church Mr. and Mrs. Davis find that which is congenial from a religious standpoint, and their family have been instructed in the same faith.

The subject of our sketch is an old member of the I. O. O. F., and is also affiliated with the Society of Modern Woodmen of America. He thinks strongly and independently upon the temperance question, and is quite a worker in the cause. He has been called upon to hold several local offices, and was also appointed to take the State census for his district in 1875. He is an active worker for the Republican party, which he has continued to support from the time he had the privilege of franchise. He is a member of the Central Committee, and has frequently been called upon to act as a delegate to conventions. As a man he is highly respected, and has the confidence of his fellow-citizens to a marked degree.

MICHAEL HENG, a very prosperous farmer of Belmont Precinct, and one of its most extensive land-owners, is the proprietor of 410 acres of valuable land, all of which is under a fair state of cultivation. It is chiefly devoted to stock-raising, his animals including Short-horn cattle of excellent breeds, Berkshire and Poland-China swine and first-class draft horses. These latter, however, he makes use of mostly on his hand. He has operated with that genuine German thrift and prudence which are among the most distinctive characteristics of his nationality, and is not only in the enjoyment of a competence for the present, but will have sufficient to surround himself with all the comforts of life in his declining years.

Our subject was born in the Province of Alsace, which now belongs to Germany, but was at that time a Province of France. He first opened his eyes to the light Sept. 21, 1834, and is the son of George and Magelend (Saner) Heng, who were natives of the same Province. Michael when a youth of twenty years left his native land in April of 1855, and thereafter for one year was a resident of Shelby County, Ohio. Thence he emigrated to the city of Dayton in that State, but from there emigrated to Greene County, Ohio, where he lived three years.

Mr. Heng came to Nebraska Aug. 18, 1859, while it was still a Territory, and settled upon land which is now included in his present farm. Of this but thirty acres had been disturbed by the plowshare, and there had been built a limited amount of fence. There was no house, and the scene around presented one extremely wild and desolate, with not the habitation of a white man in view. Our subject, however, was born with that courageous element which did not allow any ordinary matter to discourage him, and he set to work with a will to build up a home and improve his land. His first years were spent in the manner common to the early pioneers, laboring with limited market facilities, imperfect transportation, and amid all the other difficulties which beset the pioneer farmer. In the course of a few years, however, his labors met with their legitimate reward, his farm began to yield in abundance the rich products of Southern Nebraska, and he had gathered around him the various modern improvements which become necessary to the intelligent and progressive farmer. He is now numbered among the most prosperous men of his precinct, and is one of its most valuable and reliable citizens.

After laying the foundation of a future home our subject was married, on the 8th of February, 1865, to Miss Jane Hoffman, who was born in January, 1845, in Germany, and is a daughter of Joseph Hoffman, who, with his wife, was a native of Germany. Both parents spent their last years in Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heng there were born nine children, namely: George, Mary, Michael, Katy, Wilhelmina, Phelimina, John, Jennie and Sally. Mary is the wife of Mattis Meyer, of Cass County, this State. The other children are at home. The mother of these departed this life at the homestead in Belmont Precinct, June 17, 1884.

Our subject in 1885 contracted a second matrimonial alliance, with Miss Theresa Schrider, who was born in 1850, and is the daughter of Joseph and Catrenia Schrider. Her parents were natives of Germany, and the father died about 1874, in Otoe

County; the mother Feb. 2, 1885, also in Otoe County. Of this union of our subject there are two children, a son and daughter—Frank and Theresa. The career of Mr. Heng has been signalized as that of a man more than ordinarily industrious and clear sighted. He began life without capital, dependent wholly upon his own resources, and from first principles has built up an estate of which he has reason to be proud. He votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has never sought official honors. He and his wife are members in good standing of the German Catholic Church. In the support and maintenance of this he takes a warm interest and is noted for his charities, giving largely of his means to benevolent objects. He is likewise active in his encouragement of education, believing that the young should receive every advantage in order to fit them for worthy and useful citizens. In 1864 the Indians became very troublesome, and Mr. Heng joined a company to suppress them.

WASHINGTON C. WOLF. South Branch has within its confines many thoroughly practical farmers, enterprising and prosperous stock-raisers, men of intelligence and character. Among these and worthily representing the industries is the subject of our sketch, who has 480 acres of splendid land devoted to the above interests, situated on section 30 of that precinct.

Our subject is the son of Frederick and Sophia (Clark) Wolf. His father was born of German parents, who settled in Maryland, in which State he first saw the light. His mother was born in Bowling Green, Ky., where she was married to Mr. Wolf in 1827. The grandfather upon the maternal side was of English family, and served in the War of 1812 as a private.

After some time spent in Kentucky the parents of our subject removed to Ohio, and made their home near Eaton, and at that place all their children were born. In 1832 they removed to Shelbyville, Ill., where Mr. Wolf continued farming until his death, which occurred on the 12th of June, 1879, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife died at Athens, Ill., on the 1st of October, 1858. There were thirteen children born to them, the family record giving their names as subjoined: Sarah, Louis, Nancy, Frederick, Daniel, Susan (died when three years of age), Sophia, Rebecca, Cornelius, Jacob, Washington C., Melinda and Oliver. Cornelius was in the 73d Illinois Infantry, was mustered in at Camp Butler in 1862, was taken with fever, and died at Louisville, Ky.

The subject of our sketch was born in Preble County, Ohio, on the 11th of November, 1845. Accompanying his parents to Illinois, he continued to live with them until he was thirteen years of age, attending the classes of the common schools. When his mother died he began working for himself, and at the age of sixteen years he enlisted in the 2d Illinois Cavalry, in 1861, and became a member of Company B. He was mustered in at Camp Butler and served under Gen. Banks. He took part as an active combatant in the siege of Vicksburg, the raid up the Red River, the battle of Memphis, Jacksonville and Baton Rouge, besides many smaller battles, skirmishes and conflicts, and was mustered out after a service of three years at Camp Butler, and there received his honorable discharge.

Hanging up his saber and doffing the Union blue, Mr. Wolf returned to the more peaceful avocation of husbandry. In beginning he started in Township No. 19, Logan County, continuing there until he came to this county in 1879. At that time he settled on his present property, which was at the time entirely unimproved, and offered an inviting field for intelligent industry, unflagging perseverance and resolute energy. The reward of his labor is his.

Mr. Wolf has been twice married; first on the 8th of August, 1867, while residing in Illinois. The maiden whom he sought for his companion in life was Mathilda Donovan, daughter of David and Sarah (Martin) Donovan, who were both born in the Buckeye State. She was the youngest of five children, and was born on the 15th of November, 1848, in Logan County, Ill., and prior to her marriage ably filled the position of schoolmistress. She died on the 24th of November, 1865, leaving her husband their son Charles Edward, as a pledge and memorial of their affection.

The second alliance in matrimony of our subject

was with Mrs. Mary Farrall, relict of Francis Farrall, and was celebrated on the 11th of November, 1885. The first husband of this lady was born in Ireland, and came to this country when a young man, settling in Illinois in Cass County. He then went to Kearney. After seven years they removed in 1875 to this county, where he died on the 17th of March, 1884. He was the father of three children, named John, Lucy and Maggie. Mrs. Wolf was born in Queens County, Ireland, May 22, 1845, and is the daughter of Charles and Bridget (Butler) Flinn. She came to America alone when sixteen years of age.

The farm of Mr. Wolf, which lies partly on section 13 and partly on section 31, comprising as above noted 480 acres, is carefully kept and worked. From house to field, barn to orchard, the improvements are the work of the proprietor. The fields are fertile and very productive, the cattle sheds and pens are well stocked with high-grade stock, including cattle, hogs and horses, many of them very valuable creatures and of fine appearance. Mr. Wolf is Supervisor of roads, and has held other offices, being popular, intelligent, a man of character and social position. Our subject and wife are both members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra. Although one in religious faith they differ materially in politics. Mr. Wolf is a stanch Republican; his wife, although Irish by birth, has carefully studied the institutions of her adopted country, and is very intelligent upon this and upon all general topics, and also some of the more erudite. This lady espouses the cause of the Democratic faith.

JUDGE JESSE S. MAPES is one of the most worthy and valued citizens of Nebraska City, and was born July 20, 1838, in Warwick, Orange Co., N. Y., in the same house in which Gov. Seward was born, as was also his father, Sanford Mapes, whose nativity dates the 11th of September, 1811, and his father, Jesse Mapes, and also James Mapes, grandfather of Sanford H. Mapes. The family is of German extraction. The first member of the family to come to this country was Thomas Meppes, great-great-grandfather of our subject, who was born at Elberfeldt, Germany. (In later generations the name was Anglicized, and is now spelled Mapes.) He settled in Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y., and took up a large tract of land, and clearing a plantation, made for his family a home. There he resided until his death.

The great-grandfather of our subject came with his parents from Germany, and was reared upon the above farm. He served in the War of the Revolution under Washington, after which he retired to his farm, and there made his home until his death, in 1834, when the property passed into the hands of his son Jesse, and then to Sanford H., the father of our subject, who continued to make it his home. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Little, a native of Orange County.

The father of Jesse S. was brought up on a farm, and continued to operate it. In 1838 with his wife he went to Warwick, and for a time resided on the Seward homestead; while there the subject of our sketch was born, in the month of July, as above mentioned. Mr. Mapes afterward purchased a farm at Warwick, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, March 8, 1874. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Ruth Rose Mapes, who was born in Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y. The father of this lady, Rumsey Mapes, of the same county, was a soldier in the War of 1812. The maiden name of his wife was Mary, daughter of James and Rachael (Miller) Rumsey. The first husband of this lady, Joshua Miller, was murdered by the Claudius Smith gang during the Revolutionary War. They watched for him, knowing him to be home on furlough, and discovering his hiding-place, followed his wife when she took him food, and sprang upon him and assassinated him.

There were six children born to the parents of our subject, as follows: Jesse S.; Horace was born in 1840, and died in 1862; William served in Company B, 127th New York Infantry, in the late war; he lost an eye in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, and in the battle of Deep Bottom lost a leg, and now resides in Orange County. Mortimer and Walter are both residents of the town of Warwick; Eugene is a minister in the Presbyterian Church,

now stationed at Carlisle, Pa.; he is a graduate of Union College, N. Y., also of the University at Leipsic, Germany.

The subject of our sketch received his early education in the district schools of his native place, and afterward received instruction in the "S. S. Seward" Institute, at Florida, Orange Co., N. Y., an institution endowed by the father of Gov. Seward. After being graduated he served three years' apprenticeship in order to learn the trade of carpenter. In 1861 he was appointed Deputy United States Marshal for the Eleventh New York District, and served until the close of the war, and was then appointed Deputy County Clerk of Orange County; this office he continued to fill for nine years, during which time he was a student-at-law. In 1877 he came to this State, and bought the farm on which he has resided ever since. This is a very fertile and well-cultivated property, comprising 160 acres on section 29 of Syracuse Precinct. In 1879 he was elected Assessor of Syracuse; in 1880 he became Justice of the Peace, was elected County Judge of Otoe County in 1885, and re-elected in 1887.

On the 16th of May, 1861, Judge Mapes was united in marriage with Evelyn F. Randall, which union has resulted in the birth of four children—Jessie Benton, Willie S., Lena and Bernie. Mrs. Mapes was born in New York City, on the 16th of May, 1841. Her father, Culver Randall, was born in 1804, at Goshen, Orange County, while his father, Jesse Randall, was a native of New Jersey; his father, William Randall, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Mapes, was a Welshman, who came to America in the employ of C. C. Seward in the early days of the Colonies.

The grandfather of Mrs. Mapes was a young man when his parents migrated to York State; there he built a gristmill in Goshen, and continued to do business there, at the same time running his extensive farm, upon which the father of Mrs. Mapes was reared. After he was married he went to New York City, and engaged in business there as a ship's chandler, and afterward returned to Goshen to take charge of his father's mills, which ultimately came into his ownership. There he resided until his death, which occurred in September, 1888, when he was eighty-five years of age. His wife, whose maiden name was Sophia Provost, was born in 1808, in New York City. Her father's name was Daniel Provost.

Judge Mapes has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for twenty-four years, joining at Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y., of which lodge he was Master six years, and has been a Royal Arch Chapter Mason for fifteen years. He is much interested in political matters, and is a stanch Republican. With his wife, he is a member in good standing of the Episcopal Church.

HERMAN KREIFELS. The comfortable and well-regulated homestead of this gentleman embraces 160 acres of land situated on section 10 in Rock Creek Precinct. Most of it has been brought to a productive condition, the buildings are comfortable and in good repair, and the entire premises presents a cheerful picture of rural life.

Mr. Kreifels settled upon eighty acres of his present farm in the fall of 1869, and followed the usual routine of the early settler, enduring many hardships, and being obliged to labor early and late in order to obtain a foothold. He has been fairly prosperous in his labors and been able to surround himself and his family with many comforts. Prior to his arrival in Nebraska he had been a resident of Stearns County, Minn., for a period of fourteen years. To that place he had migrated from Osage County, Mo., where he first took up his residence when coming to the United States in the early summer of 1846, taking up his residence there on the 2d of May.

Mr. Kreifels was born near the River Rhine, in Prussia, Dec. 30, 1824, and is a son of John and Sibela Kreifels, natives of the same country, where the father followed farming, and where both parents spent their entire lives. The father died when his son Herman was twelve years old, and he was then thrown mostly upon his own resources, earning thereafter his own living. He was twenty-one years of age when he decided to seek his fortune in the New World. He was married in Osage County, Mo., to Miss Margaret Bloomer, who was born in

Prussia, April 20, 1828, and came in the spring of 1840 with her father, Matthew Bloomer, to America. They also located in Osage County, Mo., where Mrs. K. was reared to womanhood, remaining under the parental roof. After her marriage with our subject her parents removed to Minnesota, and died in Stearns County.

Mr. and Mrs. Kreifels began their wedded life together on a farm in Missouri, when later they removed to Minnesota, and from there to this county. Of their union there have been born ten children, namely: Peter, Louis, Sebastian, Frank, Melcher, Joseph, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna and Helen. Joseph, Elizabeth and Mary are married, and make their homes in Otoe County. Our subject, politically, is independent, and he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Catholic Church.

STEPHEN A. HAIL is the oldest native-born citizen of Otoe County now a resident within its limits, his birth occurring in Nebraska City June 2, 1855, and ever since attaining manhood he has been identified with the best interests of his native city and county, and is now numbered among the leading business men of this part of Nebraska. He is the youngest son of William B. Hail, of whom an extended sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject received the preliminaries of his education in the early schools of this city, and completed it by attendance at Talbot Hall, an advanced school, under the charge of Prof. Diffendorf. This school was first conducted in a building erected for the purpose three miles southwest of this city. It was afterward moved to the city, and was known for some time as Nebraska College, but is now called the Nebraska City Academy, Prof. Cary being the proprietor. Our subject was a student of the college after its removal to the city. When he was twenty-four years old he entered upon the mercantile business as a clerk in the store of S. B. Eastman, and was employed in that establishment for two years. He then went to Omaha and kept books for a lumber firm in that city two years. At the expiration of that time he returned to this city and went into the insurance office of David Brown, and was a clerk for him until 1885. In September of that year Mr. Hail bought Mr. Brown's insurance business, and has conducted it himself ever since with marked success. He represents ten of the leading insurance companies of the United States, and his business extends over Otoe, Nemaha and Cass Counties. By his close attention to his affairs, and his prompt and systematical business habits, he has not only been exceedingly prosperous, but has won the confidence of the many who have dealings with him.

Mr. Hail was married, March 4, 1881, to Miss Anna V. Steinhart, a native of St. Louis, and a daughter of John and Anna Steinhart. In their pleasant and attractive home two children, Warren Lee and Irene, complete the family circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Hail are active members of the Presbyterian Church, and it is through Mr. Hail's efforts as leader of the choir that this church is greatly indebted for its beautiful music, as he is a fine singer and an enthusiast in music.

Mr. Hail is a fine representative of the young men of the West who have grown up within its borders, he having a full measure of the push and energy that characterize so many of them, and make them conspicuous in the industrial, commercial and other business interests of their native towns. He is earnest and sincere in his convictions, straightforward and manly in all his acts, and one upon whom friend or stranger can place the utmost reliance. He is, of course, interested in all that tends to promote the growth of his native city, and as a member of the Building and Loan Association, is an important factor therein. Mr. Hail is an ardent advocate of the policy of the Democratic party in his political views.

JOHN NUTZMANN. The subject of this sketch represents a fine property in the State of Nebraska, including 480 acres of land in Berlin Precinct, this county, and eighty acres in Cass County. His homestead is embellished with first-class improvements, including a commodious residence, a good barn and other out-buildings, and

all the appliances required for the convenience of the extensive stock-dealer, of which industry our subject makes a specialty. For his partner and helpmate Mr. Nutzmann has one of the most intelligent of wives, a lady with fine tastes, who exercises rare and good judgment in the adornment of her home, and is possessed of that genial and hospitable spirit which makes it a most welcome place for friend or stranger.

The family history of our subject is in its main points as follows: His parents, Christian and Mary (Brandt) Nutzmann, were natives of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, and Grandfather Brandt served in the wars against the first Napoleon. His son Christian followed farming on a small scale in his native Province until 1865, when he emigrated with his family to the United States. Soon after landing in New York City they took up their abode in Milwaukee, Wis., but six months later came to this county, and the father purchased 160 acres of improved land in Berlin Precinct, upon which he operated successfully, and to which later he added forty acres. He thus left an estate of 200 acres at his death, which took place in December, 1870, when he was sixty-one years old. The mother is still living at the old homestead, being now sixty-seven years old. The five children of the parental family were named as follows: John, Henry, Christ, Ernest and Frederick. They are all residents of this State, and well-to-do.

Our subject was born not far from the early home of his parents in Mecklenburg, Germany, Oct. 21, 1846. He received a limited education, and remained under the parental roof until a youth of sixteen years. He then began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, serving until making up his mind to emigrate to America with his parents. They left the city of Hamburg in October, 1865, and after a voyage of nineteen days on an ocean steamer, landed in New York City, and our subject thereafter leaving his parents in Milwaukee, worked at his trade in Chicago six months, subsequently joining them and accompanying them to this county. This journey was made by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., and thence to Nebraska City by steamer. Here our subject resumed his trade, and was thus occupied mostly for two years. In 1869, having with true German thrift and forethought saved what he could of his earnings, he purchased the quarter-section of land whereon stands his present homestead, and of which he took possession Nov. 14, 1870.

Mr. Nutzmann in starting out to develop a farm began with the raw prairie, with rude farm implements, a far-away market, and other difficulties incident to pioneer life. The provisions which he could not raise and his building material were hauled from Nebraska City. He proceeded with the cultivation of his land, and in due time set out groves of shade trees, 250 apple trees, planted hedge fences, and from year to year added something to the beauty and value of his property. About 1876 he turned his attention more exclusively to live stock. He ships annually a carload each of cattle and swine. He keeps sixteen to twenty head of graded Norman horses, and employs four teams in his farming operations. His land is supplied with running water from Spring Creek, and a fine windmill takes it to the places desired. The land is operated by modern machinery, and no pains or expense have been spared in making the farm first-class in every particular.

Our subject, among the other good things found in Nebraska, found here also the estimable lady who in her girlhood was Miss Philipena Opp, and to whom he was married Nov. 13, 1870, in Nebraska City. Mrs. Nutzmann was born in Prussia, on the 8th of May, 1853, and came to the United States with her parents in April, 1868. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, namely: Richard, Christ, Alfred, Ernest, Julia, John, Rosa and Dina. They form a bright and interesting group, none of whom have as yet fled from the home nest. Mr. and Mrs. M. are charter members of the German Lutheran Church at Avoca, to which they tender a cheerful and liberal support. Our subject, politically, is a true Republican, prominent in the councils of his party in this region, and frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He is a member of the School Board of his district, and was Supervisor two years. Socially, he belongs to Wyrum Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F., in which he has held the various offices. He has also served on the Grand Jury.

Mrs. Nutzmann is the daughter of John and Cath-

erine (Gruber) Opp, who were born in Rhenish Prussia, where the father carried on farming, and was also connected with a hotel. Grandfather John Opp was at one time a very prosperous farmer, and the owner of a good property, which he lost later. Grandfather Gruber served against the first Napoleon during the War of 1812 and thereafter. He was of Spanish birth and ancestry, and during the wars of Spain with other powers migrated to Germany, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Opp came to America with his family in 1868, and purchased land in the vicinity of Nehawka, Neb., where his estimable wife spent the remainder of her days. She died at the age of sixty-seven years. Their five children were named respectively: Peter, Jacob, Philipena, Nicholas and Catherine. The father is still living, residing in Cass County.

BURTON DORMAN. The snug homestead of this gentleman comprises eighty acres of thoroughly cultivated land, lying on section 34, in Russell Precinct. He possesses all the elements of a substantial and reliable citizen, and as an agriculturist has operated with that skill and good judgment which have resulted in the construction of one of the most desirable homesteads in the western part of the county. Everything about the premises is neatly kept and in good order, and there have been added from time to time the little comforts and conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness of a home.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, his parents being Michael and Ann (Burton) Dorman, the former of whom was a native of Worcestershire, England, and the latter of Rutland. Michael Dorman was a successful farmer and stock dealer, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, his death taking place in 1853, at the age of fifty-seven years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, dying in 1850, at the age of forty-seven. The nine children of the parental family were named respectively as follows: Elizabeth, Mary A., Fanny, Emma and William (deceased), Frederick, Burton, Charles and Thomas. Those living are residents mostly of England; Thomas lives in Sioux City, Iowa.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, also Michael Dorman by name, was born in Lincolnshire, England, and during the time of the first Napoleon served in the English army, and was present at the battle of Waterloo. He spent his last years in England. Burton, our subject, was born in Medborn, Leicestershire, England, April 23, 1836, and lived with his parents attending school until a lad nine years of age. He then commenced an apprenticeship at the butcher's trade, of which he gained a thorough knowledge in all its details, and which he followed three years in his native town. He was afterward a resident of the city of Birmingham four years, and during the time of the Crimean War. Here he started in business for himself, and was thus occupied a period of twelve years, at the expiration of which time he determined to change his location to the United States.

Mr. Dorman, in pursuance of the above-mentioned plan, engaged passage on the old ship "Denmark," and after a voyage of seventeen days landed in New York. Thence he proceeded to Chicago, Ill., and for a year thereafter was employed in the stockyards adjacent to that city. Afterward he was engaged four and two years respectively in two market houses, and then established in business for himself at No. 1168 State street. In the meantime, in the summer of 1868, he had visited this county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Russell Precinct, and of this, in the fall of 1878, he took possession, and upon it has since remained. It was a tract of wild prairie at the time he purchased it, and the groves, orchards, fruit trees, and buildings which we now behold, are all the result of the perseverance and industry of the present proprietor.

While a resident of the city of Birmingham, England, our subject was united in marriage with Jane Cartwright, on the 9th of January, 1865. This lady was born in Birmingham, Dec. 16, 1841, and is the daughter of George and Sarah (Underhill) Cartwright, natives of the same city. The father was a jeweler by trade, and carried on his own factory in Birmingham, where he accumulated a good property. There he spent his entire life, dying in 1876, at the age of sixty years. The

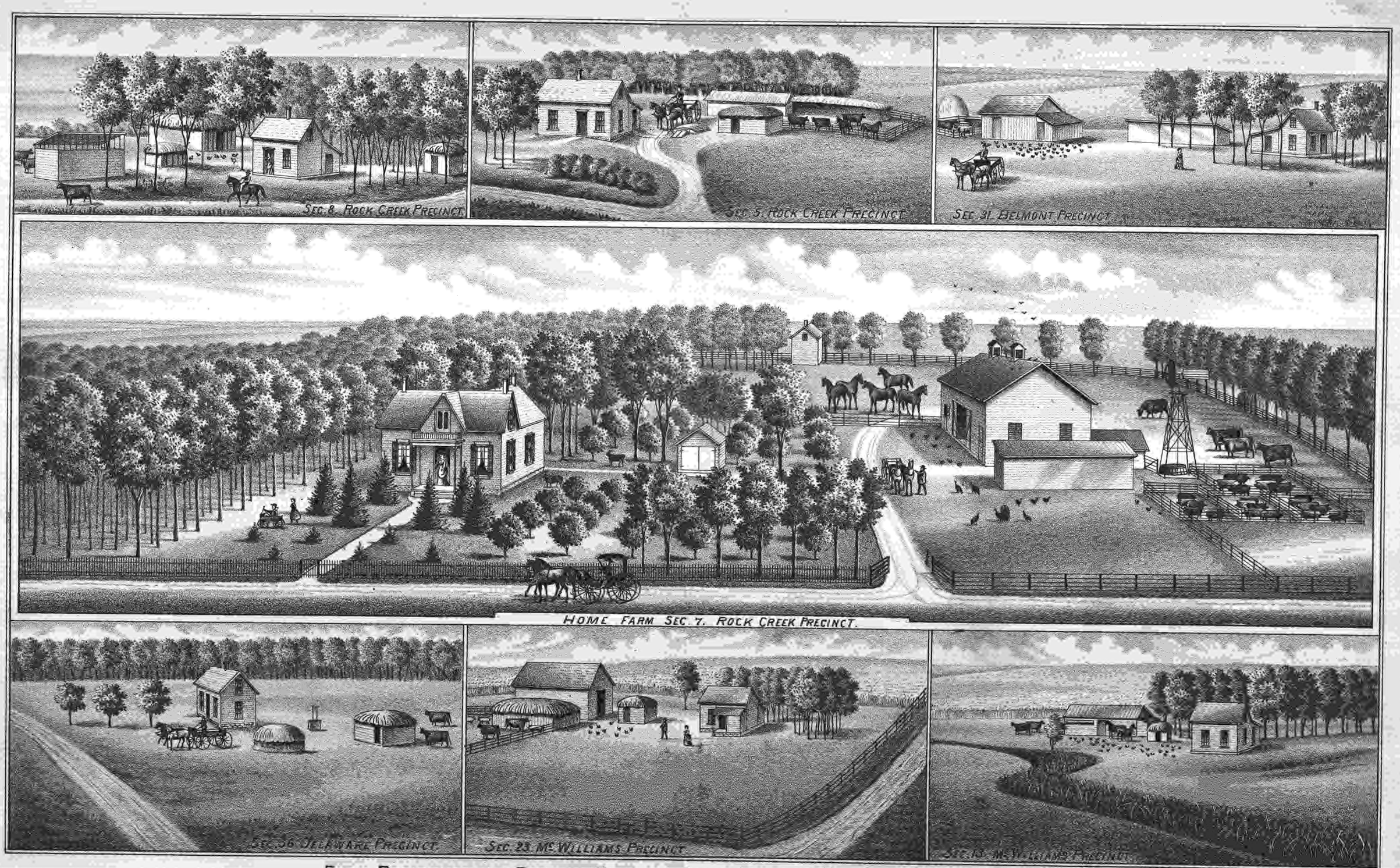
mother had passed away some years previous to the decease of her husband, her death occurring Oct. 18, 1851, when she was but forty years of age. Their two eldest sons, John and George, died at the ages of nine and forty-one years respectively, while of their two younger sons Albert is deceased, and George (2d) living in England. It will thus be seen that Mrs. Dorman and George are the only survivors of her family.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dorman there have been born three children—Elma, Fanny A. and an infant who died unnamed. The two daughters are fourteen and seven years of age respectively, and, it is hardly necessary to say, constitute the light of the household. Mr. Dorman has become thoroughly identified with the institutions of his adopted country, and uniformly votes the Republican ticket. He has served as Assessor in his precinct two years, as School Director nine years, and been otherwise intrusted with matters of importance. Religiously, he belongs to the United Brethren Church at Unadilla, in which he has served as Treasurer several years, and also as Superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is somewhat prominent in local politics, and has twice been sent as a delegate to the County Conventions at Syracuse. Mrs. Dorman is a very pleasant and intelligent lady, a genuine helpmate to her husband, and their combined efforts have built up one of the most pleasant and desirable homes which it is the lot of mortals to enjoy.

PATRICK McGUIRE, whose name will be mentioned as one who has both faithfully served his country in her hour of need, and as heartily assisted in the development and advancement of the interests of a comparatively new section of the country, is one of the esteemed citizens of Russell Precinct, at once an old settler and successful farmer. He is now operating 160 acres on section 6 of that precinct. Our subject is of Irish descent, his father, Patrick, and his mother, Katharine (McGrath) McGuire, both being natives of Ireland, and born in the same county. In the year 1838 his father, who had been a small farmer in his native country, emigrated to America, sailing from Queenstown to New York, where he worked for awhile on the railroad, then removed to Benton Township, LaFayette Co., Wis., where he rented a farm and embarked also in mining, which, however, was not in every regard a success. In 1858 he went to Iowa, and purchased 120 acres of land and improved the same. While in Wisconsin he was one of the petitioners for its admission as a State.

When the War of the Rebellion broke out Mr. McGuire, Sr., watched its progress with much interest, and in 1862 he enlisted, and became a member of a regiment of Iowa Infantry, nearly every member of which was over forty-five years of age, to which possibly is due the nickname they afterward obtained, which was that of "the Graybeards." They were sent South to do garrison duty, after having been mustered in at Dubuque. They were stationed at Nashville and St. Louis, and were at the latter city at the close of the war, but were mustered out at Nashville. Politically, Mr. McG. was a member of the Republican party; religiously, of the Catholic Church. He attained the advanced age of threescore and ten years, and died in 1876. Mrs. McGuire, who is now eighty years of age, is still living at Clermont, Iowa. She is the mother of nine children—Peter, Bridget, Patrick, James and Katherine (twins and both deceased), Rosanne, Thomas, Julia E. and Michael.

The subject of our sketch was born in Benton, LaFayette Co., Wis., on the 16th of March, 1843. He staid at home upon the farm, and attended the common school until he was about fourteen years of age. About that time his parents removed to Iowa, but he elected to remain upon the farm, and remained operating it successfully until he was about twenty-two years of age. Upon reaching that age he determined to go West, and in the year 1866 he started overland on foot to Cedar Rapids, where he took the train to Boone, Iowa, and from there walked to Council Bluffs, where he took the steamer for Nebraska City. At that time there were only sixty miles of railroad in the State of Nebraska, and considerable money was made, although sometimes at considerable risk, by the carrying of freight and passengers to different points. He entered into this business, and continued freight-



FARM RESIDENCE AND TENANT HOUSES OF JULIUS NORMAND, SITUATED IN OTOE COUNTY, NEB.

ing, as it was called, for four years, and did well from a financial point of view. In December, 1869, he returned to Iowa.

Mr. McGuire celebrated his marriage with Miss May Fitzgerald on the 18th of April, 1870, at Clermont. This lady is the daughter of Michael and Joanna Fitzgerald, who were born in Ireland. Mrs. McGuire was born in Pennsylvania in April, 1849. Her parents were natives of Ireland, and came to America in 1830, settling in the Keystone State; they farmed there for several years, but later removed to Clermont, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of land. The father continued farming until 1886, and then retired to enjoy the competency acquired. He is eighty years of age; his wife, the mother of Mrs. McGuire, died in the year 1877, being sixty-five years of age. She was the mother of three children—Michael, Katharine and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire have seven children in the home circle, viz: John, James, Emmet, Hugh, Frank, Mary and Rosa Ella. They are members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and are among the most stanch adherents. Mr. McGuire is a strict Republican, has been called upon to hold several township offices, and is at present serving on the School Board, where he has been for the past five years.

CLARENCE L. FRANCE. This young and enterprising farmer owns 160 acres of land on section 9, in Syracuse Precinct, and has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1879. He is a New Yorker by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Orange County, Oct. 25, 1858. He lived there until twenty years of age, and then, being ambitious and anxious to do something for himself in the world, came to the broader fields of the West, and certainly, apparently, has no reason to repent of the experiment. He owns one of the best farms in his precinct, where he has a good residence, with the necessary barns and outbuildings, and is apparently on the high road to a competence.

The parents of our subject were Oliver D. and Mary A. (Crist) France, who were also natives of the Empire State. The father was at one period a manufacturer of scythes, at Pine Bush, Orange County, where he accumulated a fine property, but lost it subsequently on account of undersigning notes for friends. He afterward changed his residence to Ulster County, where he died Oct. 26, 1888, not far from the county line. The mother died in Ulster County in the fall of 1874. Their seven children were named respectively: Elting, a resident of Middletown, N. Y.; Bernice O., Abbie, Clarence L.; Maria J., the wife of John Beckwith, of Frankfort, N. Y.; Theresa, teaching in this county, and Oliver, residing at home in New York.

Mr. France acquired a common-school education in the counties of Orange and Ulster, and remained a member of the parental household until the spring of 1879. He then set out for the West, with a very small amount of capital, and crossing the Mississippi came to this county, where he secured employment as a farm laborer, and was thus occupied the first year of his residence here. At the expiration of this time he purchased a team and rented a tract of land, upon which he labored successfully as a tiller of the soil until the present time. In the meantime he secured for himself a wife and helpmate, being married, Dec. 19, 1883, to Miss Evagene Andrews, at the home of the bride in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. France, immediately after their marriage, set out on a wedding tour to the old home of our subject, which he had not visited since leaving, and in the interim of four years had not met a man whom he had formerly known. Being a man of business, the visit was necessarily limited, and the young pair returned to the home which our subject had provided, where Mr. France continued farming, on land belonging to his father-in-law, where he still resides. He has purchased 160 acres of land half a mile north of the town of Syracuse, which is supplied with fairly good buildings, and upon which he expects to settle on the 1st of March, 1889.

Mrs. France was born May 6, 1863, in Onondaga County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Edwin and Diana (Weller) Andrews, who are natives of New York, and are now residents of this county. Their

family included eight children, who are now residents of Nebraska and Colorado. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born three daughters and a son, namely: Agnes, Mabel, Warren and Helen. Mr. France, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, but meddles very little with public affairs, preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests and his family.

EDWARD MITZNER, Postmaster, and engaged in general merchandising at Paul, Rock Creek, located here on the 23d of January, 1888, and established the first store in the place. He carries a full line of all the articles required in country or village, and is rapidly building up a good patronage. He is a man popular in his community, being upright in his business transactions and prompt to meet his obligations. His store occupies a corner of section 12, on which section he formerly carried on farming, and of which he still owns eighty acres of good land.

Mr. Mitzner came to Nebraska in March, 1871, and on the 23d of January, 1873, made his first purchase of land. He instituted good improvements, laying off the fields with neat and substantial fences, cultivating the soil, and putting up first-class buildings. He commenced at first principles in the development of this farm, there having been no attempt at improvement or cultivation upon it.

For a period of ten years prior to his removal across the Mississippi Mr. Mitzner had been a resident of Cook County, Ill., employing himself at whatever he could find to do as a general laborer. He was faithful and trustworthy, earning good wages, and saved up a snug sum of money. This fact is not surprising when we learn that he is of German birth and ancestry, having first opened his eyes to the light in the Prussian Province of Posen, July 3, 1848. He came to the United States when but a boy fourteen years of age. He had received a thorough education in his native tongue, and been trained by careful parents to habits of industry and economy. His father, Christian Mitzner, preceded him to America one year, and is now living on section 11, in Rock Creek Precinct, where he owns a good farm of eighty acres, which he also purchased in 1873.

The marriage of our subject and Miss Caroline Baccard took place at the home of the bride in Rock Creek Precinct, Jan. 29, 1874. Mrs. Mitzner is a native of the same Province as her husband, and was born May 15, 1850. She came alone to America a short time before her marriage, her mother having died in Germany, and her father married a second time. The latter is still living, and a farmer in prosperous circumstances in Germany.

Mrs. Mitzner received a good education, and it was understood between herself and our subject that they were to join their lives and fortunes as soon as the yonng man could provide a comfortable home for his bride. Of this congenial union there have been born seven children, namely: Molly, Gusta, August, Edward, Emma, Huldah and a babe, Louie. Both our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Mitzner is a sound Republican, politically, and was appointed Postmaster at Paul, in Rock Creek Precinct, Jan. 23, 1888.

CAPT. DANIEL M. ANDERSON. The name of this gentleman is familiar to most of the older residents of Otoe County, as that of one, who, while watching its growth and development, has been largely instrumental in bringing it to its present condition of prosperity. He is a citizen whom the people regard with both pride and respect, as he has been an honor and a credit to his community. He owns and occupies a quarter of section 23, Wyoming Precinct, which he secured by pre-emption, and upon which he has lived and labored since the year 1856, a period of thirty-two years.

Capt. Anderson, upon coming to this county, found a wild and desolate region with the cabins of the settlers few and far between, and was one of the first to locate in this part of it. His first business was to put up a shelter for himself and family, and

the next to plant a spot of ground with that which would yield most readily for their necessities. The first few years were spent in true pioneer fashion, which has been so often described in this volume, and as time passed on he began to realize the rewards of toil and sacrifice. He was particularly fortunate in his choice of a location, and has been enabled to put up a residence which commands a fine view of the surrounding country. In the distance is seen the Missouri River, and portions of Nebraska City, five miles away. His own fields too, which have been brought to a high state of cultivation, and which yield in abundance the rich crops of this section of country, form a feature of the landscape delightful to contemplate. He has good buildings, all the requisite farm machinery for prosecuting agriculture successfully, and a fine assortment of live stock. For a man who came to this section with little except strong hands and a courageous heart, his career has been one upon which he should reflect with satisfaction. He has withdrawn partially from active labor and is in the enjoyment of a competency.

Our subject was born in Orange County, N. Y., Oct. 22, 1807, and one looking upon his well-preserved frame to-day could scarcely realize that he is eighty-one years old. He has been a man of strictly temperate habits, and has implicit faith in this as a means of prolonging his life and health. In addition to this he comes of a long-lived race. His father, William Anderson, also a native of New York State, was born in Sullivan County, where he carried on farming, and spent his entire life, dying when middle aged. He had been a man prominent in his community and active in every good work, living honestly, and truly earning his bread by the sweat of his brow. The mother, Mrs. Zilpah (Martine) Anderson, was of French ancestry. Her paternal grandfather emigrated from France to this country during the Revolutionary War, and in time to participate with the Colonists in their struggle for liberty. Like his great countryman, Gen. LaFayette, he sympathized entirely with the cause of Amercan freedom, and served valiantly to bring this about. His daughter Zilpah lived to be an old lady, and spent her last days in the vicinity of Ft. Jarvis, Orange Co., N. Y.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was William Anderson, a native of the North of Ireland, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He married a lady of the same section of country, and of Holland birth and parentage, and also emigrated to America in time to serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The grandmother's maiden name was Isabella Newkirk. After the independence of the Colonists had been established they located in Sullivan County, N. Y., where they spent the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits, Grandfather Anderson dying in Sullivan County, and the grandmother in Tompkins County. He was not connected with any religious organization, but Grandmother Anderson was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church.

The parents of our subject had a family of six sons and three daughters, of whom Daniel M. was the second child. He lived with his parents both in Orange and Sullivan Counties, N. Y., their home being on the dividing line between the two counties, and near the Chewanda River. At the time of his father's death he was but thirteen years of age, and two years later set about to earn his own living. He was first employed with a company of surveyors, at the time of marking out the line of the Hudson and Delaware Canal, for a length of thirty miles. He was a well-developed lad, and about the time of reaching his majority distinguished himself in athletic exercises and hunting, and on account of his agility and strength was given the title of Captain, which has clung to him ever since.

Capt. Anderson subsequently engaged in the butcher business, which he followed in Wurtsboro, N. Y., for a period of eighteen years. In 1838 he was married, in Sullivan County, to Miss Mary Thompson, who was born there in 1805, and was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Her parents were natives of New York State, and her father, Hugh Thompson, with his wife Mary, spent his entire life in Sullivan County, engaged in farming. Of this union there was born one child, a son, James N., who married Miss Nancy Hale, and is farming in Wyoming Precinct. Mrs. Mary (Thompson) Anderson departed this life at the homestead in the year 1839.

In 1876 Capt. Anderson contracted a second

marriage, with Mrs. Hannah Rundberg, who was born in Sweden in 1829, where she was reared and first married to John Rundberg. The latter died in his native Sweden after he had become the father of two children, William and Axel. The sons and their mother came to the United States, and at once located in this county. They are now assisting Capt. Anderson in the management of the farm.

Our subject cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Jackson, and is a lifelong Democrat. He is a man of sound principles, decided views, and one whose opinions are generally respected. He keeps himself well posted upon current events, and has watched with the warmest interest the growth and development of his adopted State, contributing as opportunity has occurred to the advancement of the people around him.

JOHN F. MARTIN, whose beautiful and highly cultivated farm of 165 acres is situated on section 26 of Wyoming Precinct, is one of the older citizens, and is widely known and that most favorably throughout the county. He has lived upon his present property ever since he pre-empted it in 1856. He first came to the county when the Otoes were still in full force, and land was in its primitive condition. His experiences have therefore been varied, and not altogether without a spice of danger, nevertheless he has come through them prosperously, and rejoices in the well-nigh unparalleled progress that has been made by the State of his adoption.

The subject of our sketch was born in Venango County, Pa., on the 29th of March, 1822. There he grew up to manhood, in its schools was educated, and subsequently engaged in farming as his chosen occupation. His father being a farmer trained him to those habits of industry and honesty that are usual in agricultural communities.

The parents of our subject, John and Polly (Foster) Martin, were born in Maryland, and were married in Pennsylvania. The father was a young man and unmarried when he went to that State with his father, John Martin, Sr., a native of Maryland. They settled in Venango County, which continued to be the home of his father until his death. The maiden name of his wife, the grandmother, was Katharine Mumford, who was a native also of Maryland. They were representatives of a good old Christian family, and for very many years held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the Revolutionary War John Martin, Sr., showed himself a patriot in every sense of the word, fighting bravely and well under the flag of liberty. Like many others he exchanged all his property for Continental money, only to find that he had lost all by the money becoming worthless. He, however, survived, and when his turn came to cross the silent river he was again well-to-do, and was one of the honored and esteemed members of the community wherein he dwelt.

The father of our subject was a Captain in the War of 1812, and, like his father before him, from whom doubtless he received the inspiration, was a soldier worthy the country and cause for which he drew his sword. After his marriage he, with his wife, settled to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture in Venango County, where both continued to make their home until their death, which occurred when they were about seventy years of age.

When he became of age our subject started life by hiring out as a farm hand, and has worked his way up from that first round of the ladder. While yet in the home county he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Reynolds, who was born there on the 6th of June, 1829. They continued their life in the county for some time after marriage, and then removed to Mercer County, Pa., and lived there nine years, coming thence to this State.

There were twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin. Two of these died in infancy unnamed, and a third, Hiram A., died when about four years of age. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Fantley, who was married to Mary A. Giles, resides in Washington Territory; Anna, the wife of Robert Delard, and now living in Fillmore County, this State; Mary J. is married to Washington Giles, one of the live, wide-awake farmers of Wyoming Precinct; Lasetta is happily married to James Fort, a prosperous farmer in Thomas County, Kan.; Sarah is the wife of Stuart Heath, a grain dealer in Frontier County: Julia is

married to Mr. John Boyd, also of Wyoming Precinct; Albert, unmarried, lives in Washington Territory; George W. L. is at present on his homestead in Thomas County, Kan.; Hiram B. is still at home, and is the "best man" of our subject in his farm work.

Mrs. Martin departed this life at her home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 17th of March, 1881. She impressed all who knew her with the beauties of her character, and the happiness of her disposition. She was a noble woman and true mother, and in every way a helpmate to her husband. Throughout all their married life she was the same in her devotion and true faithfulness to her husband and family. She was the daughter of Hiram and Jane H. (Nickinson) Reynolds, who were among the worthy citizens of Venango County, Pa., where they commenced life together, and continued to live until their death. Hiram Reynolds was born in Genesee County, N. Y., and went to Pennsylvania when a young man, There he made the acquaintance of, and was married to his wife, who was a native of the Keystone State. Both were firm and devout members of the Methodist Church for many years.

The subject of our sketch is, religiously, a Methodist, and in politics has all his life been a Whig and Republican, taking the greatest possible interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the country, especially that section of it in which is situated his home. He is a man of large reserve force, determination and energy, in character upright, and of unimpeachable honor, everywhere respected and by all esteemed.

HENRY A. BUTT, Cashier of the Bank of Unadilla, is one of its most active business men, and has been largely instrumental in the building up of the town. He is Clerk of the Village Board, Notary Public, and is always in some capacity or other performing the duties of a useful citizen, and one warmly interested in the welfare of his community. He has been particularly fortunate in the choice of a wife and helpmate, Mrs. Butt, the presiding genius of the household, being a finely cultured lady, of good education, and an ornament to the social circle. Their home is one of the most attractive in the place, and is the frequent resort of a host of warm friends.

Our subject until the spring of 1878 was a resident of the Province of Hanover, Germany, where he had spent his boyhood and youth, and where his birth took place Jan. 13, 1862. His father was a farmer in modest circumstances, and Henry A., in common with the children of Germany, received a thorough education in his native tongue. After completing his studies in the High School at Bassum, where he attended three years, he studied the English language and the classics, and was in school most of his time until a lad of sixteen years. He then determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

On the 28th of April, 1878, our subject set sail from the port of Bremen, and after a two-weeks voyage landed in New York City. Thence he proceeded to Hoboken, N. J., where he procured employment in a store of general merchandise as clerk, and where he remained ten months. In March, 1879, he turned his steps westward, and soon afterward we find him engaged as clerk in a grocery store in Nebraska City.

The year following, our subject was so well pleased with America that he returned to his home and kindred, resolved to bring his father's family to this country. To this the latter were agreed, and not long afterward set sail, and our subject reached Nebraska City a second time on the 15th of May. The father located on a tract of land in Otoe Precinct, and Henry A. staid with him until the 1st of September. Then returning to Nebraska City, he entered the employ of H. H. Bartling, with whom he remained two years, engaged in general merchandise and the grain business.

Our subject had always been of studious habits and ambitious to learn, and in the fall of 1882, going to Burlington, Iowa, attended the business college there a term of six months, and perfected himself in bookkeeping. He was now prepared to take a good position, and returned to his old employer, with whom he remained this time six months. He next changed his residence to Syracuse, becoming bookkeeper for the First National Bank, with

which he was connected for four years following. In the spring of 1888 he took up his abode in Unadilla, and assisted in organizing the Bank of Unadilla, becoming a partner and also cashier. This institution is now in a flourishing condition, and patronized by the leading business men of Russell Precinct and vicinity.

The evening of the 18th of May, 1887, witnessed the marriage of our subject to Miss Katie I. Woods, who was born in Weston, Mo., May 12, 1863. Mrs. Butt is the daughter of John S. Woods, the latter a native of Kentucky. He and his wife removed from the Blue Grass regions to Missouri at an early day, where the father, as a builder and contractor, operated successfully in that region, and later put up the first building in the now flourishing city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is still a resident of Weston, and in good circumstances. The wife and mother died at her home in Missouri. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: William, John, Perry, Lee, Katie and Sadie. They are residents now of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Mrs. Butt received a good education, completing her studies in the High School at Weston, Mo. Later she learned dressmaking, which she carried on successfully before her marriage. She is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while Mr. Butt, who was reared in the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, remains loyal to the teachings of his honored parents. Politically, he is a stanch Democrat, and has been quite prominent in local affairs, serving as Clerk of the Village Board, and occupying other positions of trust and responsibility. On the 16th of January, 1888, he was appointed Notary Public by Gov. Thayer for a term of six years, and has his office at the bank. In all the leading enterprises of the community, social, moral or religious, he bears a prominent part, and is a citizen respected by all.

Henry Butt, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, in 1826, and there married Miss Anna Borchers, a native of the same Province. He carried on farming very successfully upon his native soil until the year 1880, then sold out preparatory to joining the fortunes of our subject in America. Upon arriving in this county he purchased 160 acres of good land five miles south of Nebraska City, where he has since carried on farming, and still lives with his excellent wife, his age being sixty-two years, and that of the mother fifty-five. Their eight children were named respectively: John H., William J., Mary, Henry A., Catherine, Sophia, Frederick W. and Annie. Three are married, and all are living in this county, being numbered among its most substantial and honored citizens.

JAMES C. WHITE. This gentleman is one of the old settlers and prominent farmers and stock-raisers of Russell Precinct. He is the owner of 560 acres on sections 5, 6 and 7. His father, Anderson White, was born in Albemarle County, Va., on the 4th of July, 1794. His mother, Lucinda White, was born in Orange County, Va., in 1802. The family upon the father's side is of English descent. John White, the grandfather of our subject, served as Captain in the Revolutionary War, and has left quite a good record in that connection. The maternal side of the family is of German ancestry.

Mr. Anderson White was by occupation a farmer, and also owned a large plantation, upon which he raised chiefly tobacco. The War of 1812 broke out when he was about eighteen years of age, and he served throughout the war as a private. In the late war he lost nearly all his property and otherwise suffered. He died in the year 1882, aged eighty-six years, and was survived about two years by his wife; both were for many years members of the Baptist Church. There were nine children in the family circle, all of whom came to mature years. Their names are as follows: Susan, Agnes, John (deceased), Cornelia, James C., William, Newton, Franklin and Lucinda. William, Newton and Franklin were each in the late war and served in the same regiment. Franklin died of a fever two weeks after the battle of Bull Run. Newton and our subject served in the same regiment and company.

Like his father, our subject was born in Albemarle County, Va., on the 29th of August, 1829. His education is good and the foundation of it was laid in the common schools of his native place

After leaving the school-house as a scholar he was accredited worthy to return to it as a teacher. This he continued to do for seven years, and then gave his attention to farming and became an overseer. He bought some land, but shortly after sold it again, retaining his position until he went into the Confederate Army, enlisting in the year 1861. The first year he served in Wise's Legion; the second year he was one of Company F, 10th Virginia Cavalry, and served under J. S. Davis. He took part in the Canawale Valley skirmishes, was at Little Sewell Mountains against Rosecrans; in 1862 he was at the battles of Yorktown and Williamsburg, and took part in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac and Virginia. He was wounded at the battle of Julesburg, being shot in the upper part of the arm, the shot going completely through it. Although he was only laid up one month he was unfitted for cavalry service, and until the close of the war discharged the duties of Quartermaster. He was fifteen miles from Gen. Lee when the order came to disband, upon which he returned to his home and more peaceful employment.

For three years after the war Mr. White continued in the old home county, and then removed to Nebraska, arriving on the 28th day of November, 1868. He remained in Nebraska City for about a year, then went to Russell Precinct and homesteaded eighty acres of prairie land. He found a rich but wild soil that required much labor to subdue. This he supplied, and with the buildings and other improvements he put upon the property he soon had a splendid farm. He set out large groves, had an orchard that covered three acres, besides other works in proportion.

In 1883 our subject engaged in the grocery business at Palmyra, in partnership with J. N. Foster. However, he did not like the trade as much as he had supposed he would; he then went back to farming and took the place he now owns. He is now chiefly engaged in raising stock, which he does upon a very extensive scale, buying, raising and feeding cattle of all kinds. He is now raising mules extensively and almost exclusively.

Mr. White was married on the 22d of October, 1850, while still a resident of Virginia. The lady who came to share his life was Mildred A. Hill, the estimable daughter of William H. and Sarah (Tut) Hill, both of whom are now deceased. She was the eldest of the following children: Mildred A., Betty J., Susan, Fannie, Silecia, Eddie J., Robert and William, both deceased, and J. P.

Mrs. White was born in Culpeper County, Va., on the 10th of June, 1826, and died on the 21st of January, 1886. She was the mother of five children, who are still living, viz.: Alice Susan, James A., William H., Edgar E. and Sarah S. Alice S. is now the wife of W. S. B. Chamberlin, of Grant County, who follows the dual occupation of farming and merchant; they are the parents of four children—Bertie, Abbie, Bessie and Bertha. James A. was married to Miss Mollie Martin; they have three children, who are named Cornelius, Floyd and Glenn. William H. is in Portland, Ore.; Edgar resides in Russell, and is married to Miss Jenny Koons; they also have two children, Lena and Bertie; Sarah still remains at home.

For four years Mr. White served upon the School Board. While at Palmyra he served upon the village board as Councilman, and has been spoken of for several other offices. For many years he has been a member of the Baptist Church, and is affiliated with the A. F. & A. M., holding his membership in Palmyra Lodge No. 45. Politically, he is with the Democratic party at all times, willing to do what is in his power in the interests of the same. He has seen much of both the ups and downs of life, but is a man of stamina and character, respected by all who know him in the various circles and departments of society.

HON. M. L. HAYWARD is one of the leading lawyers of the State of Nebraska and Nebraska City, and is enterprising and successful. He was born at Willsboro, Essex Co., N. Y., Dec. 22, 1840. His grandfather, David Hayward, was a native of New Jersey, but removed to New York State with his parents when quite a little fellow, and distinctly remembers walking the greater part of the journey to the new home, carefully carrying a little tree he desired to transplant, and which has now grown to noble pro-

portions. Subsequently he was extensively engaged in the lumber trade and agriculture. He died in 1832. The maiden name of the grandmother of our subject was Lucretia Chapman. She also was a native of Essex County.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his native county, engaged in the lumber business, and also operated a farm. In 1865 he moved to Wisconsin, and made his home at White Water, continuing there until 1872, when he removed to Kellogg, Iowa, and engaged in the lumber business, removing to Davenport in 1877, where he now resides. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of M. L., was Betsey Leland, who was born in Essex County, N. Y., to Thomas and Priscilla Leland, in August, 1820. This is a New England family, and its representatives may be traced for several generations. Of this marriage there were born four children—Henry, M. L., Eugene B. and Frank.

M. L. was reared in his native county, and was educated in the district schools, and afterward attended Ft. Edward Collegiate Institute, Ft. Edward, N. Y. In 1861 our subject was among the first to answer the call for defenders of the Union, and enlisted in Company I, of the 22d New York Infantry. He was subsequently transferred to the 5th New York Cavalry, and served until December, 1862, when he was discharged owing to disability. He had seen much service, and took part in the several actions up the Shenandoah Valley under Banks and Pope. In the spring of 1863 he entered the Ft. Edward Institute, being graduated in 1866, when he went to Wisconsin and read law at White Water. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1867 he came to Nebraska City, and formed a partnership with T. B. Stevenson, which was continued until December, 1875, after which he continued his business alone.

Mr. Hayward celebrated his marriage with Miss Jennie Pelton June 14, 1870. This lady was born at Cold Springs, Putnam Co., N. Y., to E. A. and Almire (Clark) Pelton, who were natives of Connecticut. She was carefully trained at home and received a good education, and was eminently fitted to take her place either in the home or in society, and is much esteemed by all who know her. There have been born to them three children, whose names are subjoined, viz: Edwin P., Mattie and William H. Mrs. Hayward is a member of the Baptist Church, and she is there very highly respected. Politically, Mr. Hayward is a stanch Republican, and has always taken an active interest in political affairs. He was appointed to fill a vacancy of Judge of the District Court, in the year 1886, and continued the office until 1887. He was a member of the State Constitutional Committee of 1875, was sent as a delegate to the State Convention on several occasions, and upon three occasions has been Chairman of the Republican State Convention. He is a man of fine character, a clear thinker, energetic worker, genial and popular.

CARL H. KORFF has been for many years prominently identified with the leading business interests of Otoe County, he being a pioneer of Nebraska City, where he is engaged as a merchant. He has also dealt largely in real estate, and has improved a number of farms in Eastern Nebraska. He is a native of the principality of Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany, his birth occurring there Jan. 29, 1830. His father, Charles F. Korff, was born in the same locality, and there grew to manhood and married, Sophia Reinne becoming his wife. In 1846, accompanied by his wife and five children, he started for America, setting sail at Bremen in October, and landing at New Orleans in the following December. From there he ascended the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where he and his family lived until 1852. He then turned his attention to agriculture, at first renting a farm in Sheridan County, Mo., and later buying one, on which he resided until his death, his wife also dying there. They were people of irreproachable character, whose integrity won the respect and confidence of all about them, and by their industrious perseverance and prudence they gained a competency, and built up a comfortable home in their adopted country. The record of their children is as follows: Carl H. is our subject; Caroline is the wife of Henry Neemeyer, and they live in Sheridan County, Mo.; Sophia is the wife of Harmon H. Meyer, of Sheridan County, Mo.; Christine is also married; Frederic,

the third child, was a gallant soldier during the late war, and died a few years later in Sheridan County, Mo.

Carl Korff, of whom we write, attended school quite steadily in Germany, and acquired a substantial education. Soon after coming to America with his parents, he engaged in a foundry in St. Louis, being employed as assistant engineer, and later, with other parties there as engineer. From that city he went to Minnesota, and assisted in building mills at the mouth of the St. Croix River, remaining there two years, ere his return to St. Louis. During that time, with wise economy and forethought, he saved his earnings, and with this capital purchased an interest in a grocery store, with which he was connected about eighteen months. He then sold out and engaged as a shipping and delivery clerk with a commission house, continuing in that capacity for the same firm until 1859. In that year he caught the gold fever, then so prevalent, and started for Pike's Peak, crossing the wild prairies of Kansas and Colorado. When he arrived there he found that there were but few chances to enter on the road for wealth, and with many other disappointed gold hunters, he started to retrace his steps across the plains, and on the 22d day of June, 1859, he arrived in Nebraska City. Being very favorably impressed with the country and the climate, he decided to locate here, and has ever since been a resident of this city. At that date the settlements in Nebraska were few and far between, simply along the streams, and but little attention had been paid to agriculture. Nebraska City, however, was a thriving town, being the headquarters for expeditions and trains going west across the plains, and boats made regular trips up and down the Missouri River, there being no railway communications then in this part of the country. Our subject very judiciously invested his money in real estate, purchasing 160 acres of unimproved land in Nemaha County, a quarter-section in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, pre-empting a quarter-section in the same Precinct; and he also purchased city property, comprising one lot on Lower Main street, three on Sixth street, one on Main, near Seventh street, and three on Ferry street. Having thus invested all his money, Mr. Korff engaged as a clerk in the establishment of Charles Vogt, who kept a full line of groceries, iron and steel, and also dealt in wool, leather and hides. In 1866 our subject formed a partnership with John H. Arends, and opened a store on the corner of Tenth and Main streets, his present location. The partnership continued until 1877, when Mr. Korff became sole proprietor. He has built up a large trade, and is regarded as one of the moneyed men of Nebraska City. Notwithstanding the care of his mercantile business absorbs much of his attention, our subject has found time to deal in real estate to a considerable extent, and he has also improved several farms, among which may be mentioned the following: a quarter-section in Nemaha County; a quarter-section in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County; a quarter-section in Delaware Precinct, and three-quarters of a section in Russell Precinct. Mr. Korff has likewise dealt largely in grain.

Our subject was married, in 1866, to Miss Tolka Mary Arends, to whom he is greatly indebted for encouragement, and for making home pleasant and comfortable. She was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America with her parents, Richie and Tolka Arends, when she was six years old. Their marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, namely: Lillie S., Maurice, Annie, Charles R. and Julia.

Both as a business man and as a private citizen, Mr. Korff is justly held in high regard, as he is in every respect an upright, Christian man, and, with his good wife, is a stanch member of the Lutheran Church. Politically, our subject favors the Republican party, firmly believing that its policy, if carried out, would be for the best interests of the country.

WILLIAM HUNT is a most worthy representative of British-American citizenship in that which pertains to character, enterprise and prosperity. He is the son of John and Mary (Poop) Hunt. They were both born in Devonshire, England, as was also their son William. The chosen occupation of Mr. Hunt was that of a blacksmith and wagon-builder. After living and working in Torrington for about thirteen years

and building up a large trade, he emigrated to Canada in the fall of 1846 with his family, and settled at London, Middlesex County, Ontario. He was twice married; by his first wife he became the parent of five children, and by the second, eleven. These bear the following names: Grace, Thomas, William, Ann, Samuel, Elizabeth, Robert, Sarah, Henry, Fannie and Mary Jane.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 5th of April, 1836. He lived at Torrington with his parents, where his father had a farm which he ran in connection with his other business. Long before he was nine years of age he had learned to work a span of horses on the farm. He was but ten years of age when he came to Canada with his parents. His father was not rich and was compelled to slight the education of his son, needing so much his help, so that in this part his life preparation was neglected.

The first three years of life in Canada were spent in the employ of Dr. Moore, of London, by whom he was engaged to take charge of his office. After that he worked at home with his father on the farm until he was twenty-one, when he began life for himself, and continued to work at home on and off until he was thirty-two years of age, when he was married, in 1869. The lady with whom he linked his life was Miss Dorotha Young, who was born in Middlesex County, Canada, and is the daughter of Warner and Christina (Mustetto) Young, who were natives of Canada.

Mrs. Hunt was born on the 7th of May, 1843, at Dorchester, Middlesex County, and made her home with her parents until her marriage. They came to Nebraska shortly after their marriage, and settled in Palmyra Precinct, of this county, in 1871, and filed upon a homestead for eighty acres, which is part of the present home farm. The remaining eighty acres he purchased in 1882. He has always been a man active, diligent and enterprising, ready to make any improvements that are at all practical, and has given much attention to his orchards and groves, as well as to the more regular agricultural duties. He carefully studied the institutions of this country, and just as speedily as the National Constitution would permit became a citizen, tand from that time has been even more anxious than before to meet every responsibility of citizenship. During the years 1865 to 1868 he worked in the lumber trade in Sand Lake County, Mich., and became a thorough expert in the use of the ax. The religious associations of Mr. Hunt and his family are in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is a Democrat. There is no family more esteemed, and rightly so, in the district than our subject, who is an honor to the community, which is rightfully proud of so good a citizen.

WILLIAM J. ARMSTRONG became a pioneer of Nebraska during the early years of its settlement, when it was under Territorial government, and was sparsely inhabited, the most of the land then belonging to the United States, and before much was known of its marvelous agricultural resources. He has thus witnessed its growth from an insignificant Territory to a powerful State, and he may well be proud to be classed among the men who made this possible by their labors and sacrifices in the days gone by. His farm adjoining Nebraska City is one of the most valuable in Otoe County, being unrivaled for location, fertility of soil, state of cultivation, fine and commodious buildings, and the various other things that go to make up a model farm.

Mr. Armstrong was born in Union Township, Warren Co., Ohio, July 26, 1819, and is a son of James Armstrong, a native of Delaware. When his father was a young man he went to Ohio and located in Warren County. He served in the Indian war under Gen. Wayne, and later, in the War of 1812 under Gen. Harrison. He was a farmer by occupation, and cleared a farm from the wilderness in Union Township, and resided there until his death in 1826. He was ever a loyal citizen, both in time of war and in time of peace, and his energy, prudence and wisdom made him respected of all men. His wife, whose maiden name was Isabella Liggett, was a native of Maryland, and her parents were pioneers of Warren County, Ohio. She died on the homestead in Union Township in 1860.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and he remembers well the incidents

of pioneer life there. His mother had no stove, and for many years did all her cooking before the open fireplace. His father kept sheep and raised flax, and his mother spun both wool and flax and made all the clothes used in the family, and used to make her own thread. He was one of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: John L., Rebecca, James, Rachel, William and Alexander. John L. and our subject are the only ones now living. The latter was but seven years old when his father died, but he continued to live on the old homestead with his mother and assisted in the farm work until he had grown to manhood. He was a resident of Warren County until 1856, when he came to this part of the country to seek a suitable location, having determined to try farming under the sunny skies of Nebraska, where were millions of acres of land owned by the Government, and since sold at $1.25 an acre. He journeyed on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Burlington, Iowa, and thence across the wild prairies of that State to Nebraska City. After buying his land he retraced his steps to Warren County, Ohio, and in the following spring started on his return to his future home on the prairies of Nebraska, accompanied by his family. They came as far as Hannibal, Mo., on a boat, from there by rail to St. Joseph, and thence to Nebraska City on a boat. At that time in the Territory of Nebraska there were no villages in the interior, the settlements being confined to the river. Mr. Armstrong resided in the city until 1864, when he settled on the farm that he still owns and occupies. At that time his land was unimproved except that a few acres were broken, and he bought a building in the city and moved it to his farm, remodeled it, and added to it from time to time, and made it his home until 1882. In that year he erected his present residence, a large and handsome brick house, of a modern style of architecture, conveniently arranged and well furnished.

Mr. Armstrong has been twice married, first in 1842, to Miss Mary Hall, a native of Deerfield Township, Warren Co., Ohio. She was a most excellent woman, and none knew her but to respect and esteem her, and her death in 1858 was a sad blow to her family and friends. There were five children born of that marriage: Isabella, wife of D. F. Benham, lives in Clarksville, Tex.; Peter lives in Syracuse, Otoe County; Melville lives in Nebraska City; Albert lives at home with his parents; Mollie is the wife of N. A. Duff, and lives in Syracuse.

Mr. Armstrong's second marriage, which took place Aug. 22, 1867, was to Miss Ann E. Stitt, a native of Deerfield, Warren Co., Ohio. She is a woman of much capability and decision of character, and of an amiable disposition, and to her sympathy, encouragement, and active co-operation in his work, her husband gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness for the comforts and pleasures of a cozy, happy home. Mrs. Armstrong's father, Isaac Stitt, was, it is thought, born in Deerfield, Warren Co., Ohio, of which his father, likewise named Isaac, a native of Pennsylvania, was an early pioneer. He cleared a farm there and spent the remainder of his life there. Mrs. Armstrong's father was reared and married in his native county, and farmed there until his death in his sixty-ninth year. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Eynon, and Cincinnati, Ohio, was her birthplace. Her father, Mrs. Armstrong's grandfather, Zebulon Eynon, was of Welsh ancestry, and was a pioneer of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Mr. Armstrong has nearly reached the seventieth milestone of life's journey, and he can look back with satisfaction upon long years well spent, wherein he has ever been true to his responsibilities both as a man and as a citizen. Since his residence here he has identified himself with the best interests of the community, and has liberally seconded every effort to promote the advancement of the city or of the county. In his political sympathies he is a stanch Democrat, and cast his first vote for Van Buren.

ROBERT H. BELL takes his place among the enterprising, popular citizens of Delaware Precinct, and is the owner of a fine and well-cultivated farm of 160 acres, which he utilizes in the line of general farming and stock-raising. It is situated on section 23 of the above precinct. The subject of our sketch was born in

Muskegon County, Ohio, on the 24th of March, 1849, and is the son of E. D. S. and Elenor Bell. Mr. Bell, Sr., removed to Marshall County, Ill., in the year 1855. Our subject remained a resident of Illinois for about twenty-five years. He received his education in the common schools. He was reared upon a farm, and from his youth has been fully conversant with agricultural employments, so that he is a practical farmer in every department of such occupation.

Upon beginning life on his own account the subject of our sketch went to Kansas and followed farming, and came to this county in the spring of 1881, settling upon the property he now owns. It was then but slightly improved, if indeed it could be called improved at all. He has, however, made it one of the most productive in the district, and is rising very rapidly in the scale of prosperity.

In order to make his life the more livable, and that his home life might be the more complete, Mr. Bell was united in wedlock with Ida M. Davidson, the estimable daughter of William F. and Harriet (Dungan) Davidson, upon the 21st of April, 1875. The parents of Mrs. Bell had in their family circle eleven children, of whom seven only survive. Their names are as follows: Earl, James F., Thomas D., Stephen, Hattie, William and Maggie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are now deceased.

Next to his home and farm our subject takes a chief interest in religious affairs. He and his wife are consistent and devoted members of the United Presbyterian Church, and both there and in the Sunday-school they are found among the able workers. They are much esteemed in this and in every other circle in which they move, and are worthy and valued members of the community.

WILLIAM D. ASHLEY. This gentleman is a member of a family that is of English extraction, but has been identified with the United States since the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and has filled very important positions in history in other years. The first settlement was effected in Massachusetts. This is also true of the maternal ancestry in every particular. The father of our subject was an agriculturist, as had been his father and grandfather before him. He was very successful in life, and accumulated a fortune of over $250,000.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 15th of May, 1834, at Springfield, Mass., to William and Eliza (Champion) Ashley. He is the third of nine children born to them, of whom but three are now living, viz: Eliza J., now Mrs. Nichols; our subject; and an elder brother Homer, who is Superintendent of the American Express Company at Boston. Mr. Ashley continued to reside with his parents until he was nineteen years of age, during which time he had been occupied in obtaining an education and becoming a practical farmer, but at that age he left home, and went to Chicopee to learn the trade of a machinist. There he remained working for seven years. At the end of that period he went to Boston for one year, then on to New York City, Bridgeport and Hartford, where he was in charge of a boiler and gasfitting works. At Meriden he had charge of making 50,000 guns for the Government, working for the Henry Rifle Company. He also worked in the Smith Rifle shops at the time when the shops were burned during the riot to resist the draft. He continued to follow his trade until 1866.

When the subject of our sketch was about thirty-two years of age his father very much desired that he should take charge of his estate. This our subject did not see his way to do, and accordingly refused, and was at once disinherited; but as he had about $1,500 in money he brought the same to Nebraska, and went to work on the homestead he now owns, and began to make varied improvements necessary. His success both here and in the cultivation of the soil has been more than could have been anticipated or hoped for. He is now possessed of a valuable farm on section 31 of Syracuse Precinct, that is operated in the line of general and stock farming.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated at Springfield, Mass., April 13, 1863. Then he became the husband of Addie B. Carpenter, who is the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Carpenter, of Brattleboro, Vt. She was born April 22, 1835, was carefully nurtured and brought up by her parents,

educated in the common schools of her native place, and finished her education in the Brattleboro Seminary, making her home with her parents until the happy day above mentioned. Of this union there have been born three children, viz: Dexter D., Luvern F. and Elsie Maud.

As a general rule ever since he has held the power to vote Mr. Ashley has supported the Republican party, but has never done so excepting when he has been convinced that the candidate put forward by that body was a capable and worthy man; otherwise he has acted independently, and in fact has so governed all his political connections. He is a man who holds a prominent place in the community, and is thoroughly trusted and respected by all.

PETER BERLET. In the present writing is presented an epitome of the history of the gentleman who holds the responsible and honorable position of President of the Bank of Talmage, which is a State institution established by James Sweet & Co. in 1883, and Mr. Berlet succeeded two years later to the business. From that time it has been run on a stock basis of $20,000, with a surplus capital of $4,000.

Mr. Berlet and his cashier, Mr. Ferrick, have both been active in the endeavor to make the bank an institution worthy of the county, and have seen no little success attend their efforts. Our subject has also an interest in cattle raising, and is the owner of 1,120 acres, which is in one ranch, and is situated in Keya Paha County, this State. The ranch is thoroughly stocked, and that only with cattle of the best breeds and of high grade. This enterprise was commenced in the year 1882, and has since been managed by Charles F., the son of our subject, who makes his home at that place.

Yet another place is owned by Mr. Berlet, and that is situated in Nemaha County, and comprises 840 acres. It was here that he settled in the spring of 1865, when the whole State was in a somewhat primitive condition, and contained few settlers. So little was that district known that it was generally believed, even at so late a date as that, that little if any rain fell west of the Nemaha River. But our subject was not the man to be scared at reports and vague rumors. He pushed out, determined to ascertain for himself, and was rewarded in his effort. His farm is one of the best in the county, which is saying a great deal. He has a fine residence and good buildings. He has never had a failure in the small grains, and only two slight and partial failures in corn throughout the twenty-three years of his occupancy. It is not, therefore, surprising that he is enthusiastically proud of his adopted State.

The subject of our sketch came to this place from Hancock County, Ill., where he had resided for the ten years previously, during that time being engaged successfully in agriculture. He was born in Franche-Comte, in the east of France, on the 15th of September, 1841, to Francis and Catherine (Senoir) Berlet. He was but a lad when his parents brought him to this country in the early part of 1857, and his experiences at that time were the reasons for his being willing to send one of his sons, the third, for service in the late war. Accordingly Charles and Frederick offered themselves. Charles was drowned in the Mississippi River while on his way to the front, and was never attached to any regiment; Frederick became a member of the 32d Illinois Infantry, and served until 1865, when he died at Orangeburg, S. C., during the progress of Gen. Sherman in his world-famed march. He had seen much active service, and had the record of being a good soldier.

After the family removed to this State the father made his home with his sons until his death, which occurred in 1886. He was then eighty-seven years of age. After coming to this country he espoused the principles of the Republican party, and so continued until his death. The mother of our subject, who is still living, is seventy-eight years of age. She lives with her son, Emile Berlet, in Nemaha County. Like her husband, she has been from youth a member of the Lutheran Church.

The subject of our sketch is the third child of a family of five, of whom our subject and his brother Emile are the only surviving members. He was first married in Jersey County, Ill., to Pauline W. Prevot, who was born in Switzerland, and was brought to this country by her parents in childhood. She died at the Nemaha County homestead

of our subject in 1876, leaving two children: Charles F., who now manages the Keya Paha ranch; and Lucille, who is the assistant cashier and bookkeeper at the bank. She is a well-educated, intelligent and accomplished young lady, and fills her position in a most admirable and complimentary manner.

The present wife of our subject gave him her hand at Neuchatel, Kan., Oct. 13, 1879. Her maiden name was Laura Jeanuret. She was born in Neufchatel, Switzerland. She came to this country alone when sixteen years of age. This marriage also has been blessed by the birth of two children, viz: Minnie and Emma, both of whom are at home.

Before the war Mr. Berlet was numbered among the stanch Abolitionists, but since the rise of the Republican party he has been one of the stanchest members of that party. He has taken a lively interest in political affairs, and has no little influence in the community, having the esteem and regard of all who know him. He has not been a central figure in political and official circles, although frequently called upon for that purpose. He has been a member of the Town Board, and while in that position labored faithfully for the interests of the people.

WILLIAM W. ADAMS. The career of this honored pioneer of Otoe County is one of more than ordinary interest. He came to the Territory of Nebraska in the fall of 1857, and secured first a tract of land in the central part of the county, upon which he effected a little improvement, but soon sold out and took up his residence in what was then the hamlet of Nebraska City, where he established a boarding-house and carried on farming combined upon land adjacent. In 1865, turning his attention more closely to the pursuit of agriculture, he selected a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, where he took up his residence, and where he has since lived. His homestead is pleasantly located on section 10, and embraces 200 acres of land, which has been brought to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Adams, feeling that he had contributed his share to the development of Otoe County, has retired from active labor. He is the occupant of a most comfortable and attractive home, and is surrounded by the good things of life, to which he is amply entitled by a long life of labor and sacrifice. His buildings are substantial and kept in good order, and adjacent is a large apple orchard, containing nearly a thousand bearing trees, while the smaller fruit trees yield in abundance for the use of the family. A goodly proportion finds its way to market. Mr. Adams, like the majority of the men around him, has been a hard worker, and no man has watched with warmer interest the growth and development of his adopted State.

William W. Adams was born in Rockport, Southern Indiana, Jan. 1, 1820, and is the son of Joseph and Mary (Flemming) Adams, who were natives of Kentucky, and the father a farmer by occupation. The parents were reared and married in the Blue Grass regions, whence they migrated to Indiana, and taking up a tract of land lived in true pioneer style, enduring the privations and hardships of life in a new settlement. After the birth of seven children, Joseph Adams was gathered to his fathers about 1822. The mother with her children then returned to Kentucky, where she resided for a period of eight or ten years. She finally decided that there would be a better opportunity for her boys upon the soil of the Prairie State, and accordingly moved to Morgan County, Ill., afterward moving to Hancock County, Ill., where they all lived upon a farm a number of years. William W. was a child eighteen months old at the time of his father's death, and was about three years old when he moved with his mother to Illinois. The mother died in Hancock County in August, 1845, after attaining her threescore years. Mrs. Mary (Flemming) Adams was a lady of more than ordinary capabilities, very intelligent, a kind and tender mother, a devoted wife and a hospitable neighbor. After the death of her husband she devoted herself to the training of her children, who in remembrance of her affectionate care hold her name in the tenderest regard. Of these two are living. Her children all became well-to-do citizens and useful members of their community.

Our subject was the sixth child of his parents, and was reared to manhood in Hancock County,

Ill., where he followed farming from his youth up, and when ready to establish a home of his own was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Sparks. This lady was born in Kentucky, in 1830, and removed with her parents when a child to Hancock County, Ill. She was given a common-school education and subjected to careful parental training, remaining under the home roof until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there were born two children, one of whom died in infancy. The mother passed away at her home in Wyoming Precinct, in May, 1881.

Nancy M., the younger daughter of our subject, grew to womanhood, was married, and became the mother of four children, two of whom, Snowden and Belle, died when young. The mother soon followed her children, her death taking place in October, 1881, in Wyoming Precinct. Her two living children, Della and Lucy, now live with their grandfather, and are bright and interesting young ladies.

Mr. Adams in early life, politically, was a Democrat, but about 1859 identified himself with the Republicans. He, however, votes independently, believing it right to support the men best qualified for office, irrespective of party. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church near Augusta, Hancock Co., Ill., in 1835, over fifty years ago, and for this long period has adorned his profession by his Christian walk and conversation. He is a man held in high regard by his entire community, a peaceful and law-abiding citizen who has built up for himself a good record.

HENRY WATHEN. Among the honored pioneers of this county the subject of this sketch is entitled to a prominent place, being one of the very first settlers of South Branch Precinct, where he homesteaded a tract of land in the spring of 1866, before Nebraska had been transformed from a Territory into a State. Then there were no neighbors within sight of the place where he erected his first rude dwelling, and the country around bore no evidence of having been trodden by the foot of a white man. A period of twenty-two years has worked vast changes, both upon his own property and that of his neighbors.

Mr, Wathen has now a well-cultivated farm, with good buildings, groves of maple, cottonwood and boxwood trees, an orchard of 200 bearing apple trees with the smaller fruits, and a comfortable dwelling, with the barns and other outhouses necessary for his convenience. He was fortunate in his selection of land, the soil being well watered by running streams, and under his wise management has become highly productive. Mr. Wathen has signalized himself as an honest, hard-working man, of good business capacities, prompt to meet his obligations, and one entirely worthy of the esteem and confidence in which he is held. In his journey of life he has been accompanied by one of the most estimable and intelligent of ladies, who has been brave in the performance of her duties as the wife of the early pioneer, and borne her full share of the heat and burden of the day. Her father was one of the first settlers of Southern Nebraska, and she, with her husband, has watched the growth and development of this now important State with the interest which can only be felt by those who looked upon it during primitive days, ere the hand of the husbandman, holding the plowshare, had begun to turn its undisturbed soil to the sun.

Our subject is the son of an old Kentuckian, George W. Wathen, who left the Blue Grass regions when a young man, and settled in Gallatin County, Ill. He was married in Gallatin to Miss Rebecca Pantier, who was born in Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Wathen, was a soldier of two wars, assisting the Colonists in their struggle for independence, and later fought during the troubles of 1812. He was a native of England, of robust frame and splendid constitution, and lived to the unusual age of one hundred and four years, spending his last days in Dubuque, Iowa.

The parents of our subject were married in Gallatin County, Ill., where the father followed his trade of cooper, and also carried on farming. His sister had married unfortunately, having a husband who abused her, and in interfering in behalf of his sister Mr. Wathen was shot by his brother-in-law, with fatal results, in 1852. The mother had died

two years previously, in 1850. Four children were thus orphaned, namely: Joseph, Henry, Rebecca and Annie. Joseph, during the late Civil War, enlisted in the 114th Illinois Infantry, and was in the midst of many a fight during his army service. At the charges of Vicksburg and Ft. Jackson he was shot four times, but recovered, resumed his place in the ranks, and was mustered out at the close, in Springfield, Ill., in 1865. The sisters of our subject are Rebecca Nelson and Anna Sikes.

Henry Wathen was born in Gallatin County, Ill., Feb. 14, 1841, and was a lad of eleven years at the time of his father's death. He was then thrown upon his own resources, and worked for farmers in his native county until reaching manhood. He was a man twenty-five years of age upon coming to Nebraska, and the year after his arrival was united in marriage, Aug. 4, 1867, with Miss Angelina, daughter of Stephen and Belle (Mapps) Powell. The wife of our subject was born Dec. 1, 1848, in Ohio. Her parents were natives of Ohio, where they were reared and married. Mr. Powell died in Nebraska about 1864. The mother is a resident of Johnson County, this State, being now seventy years of age. They were the parents of nine children, who are now mostly in Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Wathen there have been born ten children, only four of whom survive, namely: Hattie, Jefferson, Thomas and Charles. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest one, and all except one make their home with their parents. Mr. Wathen is an uncompromising Democrat, politically, but has never sought the responsibilities of office. Aside from serving as a member of the School Board one term, he has given his undivided attention to his farm and his family.

JOHN W. McCORMICK, whose farm and residence are upon section 7 of Syracuse Precinct, holds a high place among his fellow-citizens, and since his locating, in March, 1882, has been prominently identified with such projects and enterprises as have been for the advancement and progress of the district. He is of Scotch-Irish descent, and manifests the characteristic traits of those races. The grandfather of our subject, John McCormick, was a native of North Ireland, but while a young man he came with his parents to this country, settled in Pennsylvania, and made husbandry his chosen life occupation.

The father of our subject, who was born and brought up in the Keystone State, also followed agriculture, in which he was quite successful. The companion of his life was Elizabeth Anderson, a native of the same State and county. They first settled in Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Ohio, locating in Hancock in 1854. Four years later they removed to Peoria County, Ill., and in 1866 to Montgomery County, Iowa. There they spent the remainder of life. The family circle included five children, viz: James, now a resident of Hitchcock County; Thomas J., of Montgomery County, Iowa; Benjamin F., of Page County, Iowa, and John W. There is one adopted daughter, Lavina Bradley, now living in West Virginia.

The subject of our sketch was born in Beaver County, Pa., on the 17th of March, 1844; when his parents removed West he accompanied them. His education was obtained in the schools of Pennsylvania and Ohio. His marriage occurred in 1873, when he received the hand of Mary Ewalt, the estimable and accomplished daughter of Clem and Margaret Ewalt. This lady was born in Peoria County, Ill., in May, 1842. Her parents were natives of Ohio, who had migrated to Peoria County and taken land. Their daughter Mary was brought up and educated in her native place, and continued at home with her parents until the above event.

Upon their marriage the young couple made their home in Montgomery County, Iowa, until the year 1882, when that property was sold to good advantage, and the present home and farm purchased. This includes 120 acres of land, all well improved and highly cultivated, operated along the line of mixed farming. The buildings, although perhaps not so fine in appearance as those of more recent erection, are comfortable for the stock and convenient for the miscellaneous purposes incident to the farm.

The home of our subject is one of the brightest and happiest, and our subject and his true and fathful wife are happy in being the parents of three

Andreas Jessen

Mrs. Margaret Jessen

children, who bear the names Earl. Wayne and Lynn. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick are highly esteemed in the community and enjoy the confidence of all. Politically, our subject is affiliated with the Democratic party. He is a true citizen, loyal and patriotic, bearing whatever responsibilities may come to him as a citizen in a manly and most commendable spirit.

MRS. MARGARET JESSEN, widow of the late well-known Andreas Jessen, of Nebraska City Precinct, who was a pioneer of Otoe County, and was for several years one of its successful agriculturists, is a fine representative of the noble women of refinement and culture who came to Nebraska in the early days of its settlement with their fathers, husbands or brothers, and by their presence, encouragement and assistance did much not only to elevate the social and moral status of the then wild, sparsely settled Territory, but have been important factors in bringing about its present proud position as a rich and prosperous State. Mrs. Jessen may well be considered the pioneer educator of Nebraska, as in March, 1855, she commenced to teach for a term of six months in a small frame building, the first school ever taught in this part of the country south of the Platte River, and probably the first in the whole Territory.

Mrs. Jessen is a native of Indiana, her birthplace being five miles from Madison, the county seat of Jefferson County. Her parents, Solomon and Jennie (Thompson) Martin, were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Her paternal grandfather was a native and livelong resident of Pennsylvania. Her father was reared in that State, and when a young man went to Virginia and there married, and in 1826 removed to Indiana. The removal was made on the waters of the Ohio on a raft, constructed for the purpose of the lumber destined to build their new home. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land in Jefferson County, five miles from Madison, the nearest market, and he at once commenced to clear a farm from the dense, primeval forest. He succeeded in his undertaking, and lived in that place until 1852, when he sold out and started West by the way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Misouri Rivers, and after a voyage of two weeks landed at El Paso, Mo. He resided in Rockport until 1854, and in December of that year, on the 27th day of the month, sought "greener fields and pastures new" in the Territory of Nebraska. He located in Nebraska City, and from that time until his death was a resident of Otoe County, dying Jan. 23, 1873, at a ripe old age. His memory is held in deserved respect as an early pioneer of Nebraska, and also for those traits of character which won him the confidence and respect of his fellowmen. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, and had an honorable discharge from the Government. His death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jessen, at the age of eighty-six years, and his remains were buried in the cemetery at Nebraska City. His estimable wife had preceded him to the better land many years before, dying June 25, 1849, on the old homestead in Indiana. There were nine children born to them, three of whom are living: Catherine, widow of Henry Cole; Mary, widow of Charles Cole; and our subject.

Mrs. Jessen was reared in her native county, receiving a careful training in all that was then deemed necessary to make a thrifty housewife, and she thus early became an adept in spinning, weaving and knitting. Nor was her higher education neglected, as she was a fine scholar and was given all the advantages afforded by the schools in her native county, so that she became well qualified for the profession of teacher, which she adopted at the age of twenty-two. In 1854 she taught six months in Fremont County, Iowa. It was on the 3d of July of that year that she for the first time set foot in Nebraska City, coming with others to celebrate our National holiday, the first celebration of the kind ever held by the white citizens of Nebraska. The small hamlet that she then saw by the waters of the Missouri bore no resemblance to the busy and populous city that has since sprung up on the same site. There were but four white families living here then, and but two houses besides the Government buildings, and Indians were camped all over the village. She visited her brother-in-law

Charles Cole, and on the 6th of July returned to Iowa to complete the term of school. In December of that year she returned with Judge Bradford and family, crossing the river a part of the way on ice, a part of the way on the driftwood, and the rest of the way in a skiff. In March, 1855, she commenced to teach here the first school ever taught in the Territory south of the Platte River, as we have before stated.

November 20, 1855, our subject left the educational profession to take upon herself the solemn duties of a wife, as on that date she was united in marriage to Andreas Jessen. He was born in Sleswick-Holstein, Germany, Nov. 7, 1827. He was reared in his native land, and there learned the trade of shoemaker. He was a man of liberal education, speaking fluently five languages—French, Swiss, German, English and Danish. In the year 1851 he came to America and took up his residence in Davenport, Iowa. On the 3d of July, 1854, he crossed the Missouri River to locate in the Territory of Nebraska, and in the fall of that year made a claim to a tract of land on the banks of Walnut Creek. He soon sold that, however, and bought the claim on which his family now lives, and when the land came into the market entered it at the land-office, paying $1.25 an acre for it. He was from that time until his death, March 20, 1867, actively engaged in farming, and by his industry, sound judgment and able management, improved one of the finest estates in the county, comprising 320 acres of land, mostly under cultivation, with substantial frame buildings, and many other valuable improvements. In his death the community suffered a severe loss, as he was a good citizen, and in all the relations in which he was placed he was faithful and trustworthy. He was a sincere, manly Christian, always true to the tenets of the Lutheran Church, in which he was reared. His union with our subject was blessed by the birth of six children, namely: Solomon, Otto, Anna, Jennie, Paul, and Maggie, who died at the age of ten years. The three youngest are teachers in the public schools.

Mrs. Jessen is dowered with all the attributes that go to make a womanly woman. As a wife, she did all that she could to lighten her husband's burdens, and he was often guided by her counsel to successful issues. As a mother, she is wise and tender, devoting herself to the interests of her children. She is a cheerful worker in the cause of religion. She joined the Presbyterian Church in Indiana in 1848, and she assisted in the organization of the Presbyterian Church in Nebraska City, of which she is still a communicant. She seeks the good of others, and her strong religious faith has carried her serenely through the bitter trials of life.

Portraits of Mrs. Jessen and her deceased husband are shown in connection with this sketch, and that of the latter will be especially valued by his numerous friends in this county.

DANIEL T. HILL, D. D. S. This gentleman enjoys the reputation of being one of the most scientific, practical and able dentists in the State of Nebraska, and, as a natural result, his clientage is very large, and his practice quite lucrative. He located in Syracuse in 1883, and before many months had passed was well and favorably known, and his business firmly established. He is a native of Carmel, N. Y., the day of his nativity the 19th of July, 1857, whereon the home of Daniel T. and Sarah J. (Meritt) Hill was gladdened by his advent.

The parents of our subject were likewise natives of the Empire State; his father was a well-known clergyman of the Baptist denomination, who had held charges in New York and New Jersey. He was pastor of the church at Plainfield in the latter State for twenty-two years, and was accounted one of the most successful pastors and able preachers of the State. He occupied the pulpit for many years, being ordained at the age of nineteen, and continuing until he had passed his eightieth birthday, wielding an influence for good, right and the truth that will go on affecting countless homes and lives, and has been the instrument of turning thousands in the pathway leading to life. The mother of our subject died in New York in 1884, and was buried in Somers. Her husband subsequently came to Syracuse, where he died in March, 1887. They were the parents of five children, viz: Isaac N., Greek and Latin Professor in Bucknell University,

Lewisburg, Pa.; David J., formerly President of the above university, now President of the university at Rochester, N. Y.; this gentleman is the author of the well-known text-book, "Hill's Rhetoric." Elizabeth, now the wife of Samuel T. Merritt, a grain merchant of Hudson, Wis.; Lydia, wife of William L. Brown, who is cashier of the bank at Williamston, Mich.; and our subject, who is the youngest of the family.

Dr. Hill was educated at Chappaqua, N. Y., although owing to ill-health he was compelled to leave school before being graduated. Upon recovering his health he determined to study dentistry, and accordingly entered the New York College of Dentistry in that city, being graduated from that institution at the age of nineteen years. For the next five years he practiced in Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y. Next to the deep interest in his profession our subject was more attracted to the American trotting horse than anything. This has been almost a passion with him from childhood, and when he came to Nebraska he gave not a little attention to the breeding of such stock. This occupied all his time the first year he was in Nebraska, and for that purpose he purchased a stock farm of 320 acres, which was situated about three miles south of the city, and is known as the Hillsdale Stock Farm.

Life upon the farm to one who, like our subject, had always lived in cities, was very lonely and dull, in spite of the fine stock with which he had surrounded himself. This resulted in the sale of the property and the removal to Syracuse, where he purchased twenty-five acres, upon which he made such arrangements of barns, stabling, etc., as he deemed necessary for indulgence in his favorite hobby. He is the owner of twenty-five standard bred trotters. He is also the owner of the trotting horse "Young Sentinel," which he brought with him from New York, and who has a record of 2:26. He has also other horses of some note and good record, which it is impossible in the space of this sketch to mention in detail. He is one of the organizers of the Nebraska State Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, of which he holds the position of Secretary. The Doctor is not careless of his profession, and keeps fully abreast of the times in all matters connected therewith. He has a very complete and beautiful library, and in his instrument case may be found almost every appliance and instrument known or used in his profession. These the Doctor does not keep for show, but understands their use, and perfects himself in the same.

In 1877 the subject of our sketch was married to Tella H. Capron, the amiable daughter of Joseph and Hester E. Capron. She was born in Westchester County, N. Y., and made her home with her parents until her marriage, and brought to her husband all the cheering, brightening influences and inspirations that were designed by the Originator of the sacred relationship. They are the parents of three children, who bear the names here subjoined, viz: Pearl, Myrtle and Claire.

Dr. Hill and his family occupy a high position in society, moving in its most select circles, and he enjoys the high esteem of all who know him. As a citizen, the Doctor is always happy to respond promptly to every duty that is his in that relation, and usually votes the Republican ticket. As a professional man, as has been already remarked, he is among the first of his fellows. As a man and as a friend, he is honorable, courteous and affable, and one of the much valued citizens of Syracuse.

ALBERT THEIS. The subject of this biography occupies a snug homestead of eighty acres lying on section 31 in Nebraska City Precinct, where he settled in the spring of 1867, about the time Nebraska was transformed from a Territory into a State. For a period of twenty-one years he has labored industriously in its cultivation and improvement, and has been amply repaid for his labors, the land now yielding him handsome returns. It is hardly necessary to state that his management has been wise in the extreme, and his enterprise a little beyond the ordinary.

Our subject was born in Rhenish Prussia, on the 26th of January, 1835, where he lived until a man of twenty-eight years. His parents were Philip and Agnes Theis, natives of the same Province as their son, the father a cabinet-maker by trade, which he followed the greater part of his life. Both parents

spent their entire lives upon their native soil, the mother passing away at the age of forty-nine years and the father when seventy-six.

Mr. Theis when a lad of thirteen years began the trade of cabinet-maker under the instructions of his excellent father, and five years later, after a thorough apprenticeship, began working as a "jour," and was thus occupied until emigrating to the United States. He worked thereafter four years in New York City, then decided to seek his fortune in the West. After locating in Nebraska City he still followed cabinet-making for a period of nine years, then concluded to invest his capital in a farm. Since that time he has given his attention closely to agricultural pursuits, and has no reason to regret his change of occupation.

Our subject found his future wife in America, being married in Nebraska City, Aug. 7, 1859, to Miss Lona Scharp. Mrs. Theis is also of German birth and parentage, being a native of Sleswick-Holstein, where she was born Dec. 29, 1838. Her parents, James and Mattie (Hauschildt) Scharp, were natives of the same Grand Duchy as their daughter, where the father carried on farming until the spring of 1857. Then, accompanied by his family, he sailed for America, and after landing proceeded directly westward to this county. He purchased land in Wyoming Precinct and built up a comfortable homestead, which provided him a shelter until his days on earth were numbered. His death was occasioned by the running away of a team he was driving, he being thrown from the vehicle and instantly killed. The wife and mother is still living at the homestead, and is now seventy-four years old.

Mrs. Theis was a maiden of eighteen years when her parents came to the United States, and she lived with them until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, five of whom died at an early age, namely: Agnes, Mattie, Mary, Amelia and Anna. Of the surviving the record is as follows: Alvina is the wife of Henry Korff, a well-to-do farmer of Wyoming Precinct. Emma married Herman Brugmann, who is occupied in general merchandising in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Nellie, John and Lona are at home with their parents. Mr. Theis, as one of the pioneers of Nebraska, endured many hardships and privations during the first years of his struggle for existence in the West, and now, in the enjoyment of a comfortable home, and the prospect of plenty for his old age, is reaping the reward of his toil and sacrifice. He came to this county poor in purse, but with an indomitable energy that admitted no such word as fail. Not only has he accumulated property but has built up the record of an honest man and a good citizen, occupying a worthy position in the community and enjoying the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

JAMES B. NORTHCUTT, who is prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Nebraska City, is proprietor and manager of one of the oldest retail grocery houses in the State of Nebraska. He is a Kentuckian by birth, born in Millersburg, Bourbon County, Jan. 11, 1832. His father, Benjamin F. Northcutt, was born in Scotland. His parents were natives of England, who for several years lived in Scotland. They subsequently came from there to America and settled in Kentucky, and later they moved to Boone County, Mo., and spent their last years there.

The father of our subject learned the trades of carpenter and millwright when he was young. In the spring of 1836 he moved to Missouri and located in Boone County, being one of the first settlers of that section of country. There were no railways then, and he and his family made the journey to their new home with teams. That part of the country was then heavily timbered, and Mr. Northcutt bought a tract of land and erected one of the first saw and grist mills in that section. He operated the mills until 1842, when a freshet swept them away. He then moved to Nashville, on the Missouri River, but after working at his trade as a carpenter a short time, went to Buchanan County, Mo., and there built a steam saw and grist mill, which he managed very successfully until 1863, when, on account of the war, he suspended business. He is now an esteemed resident of Blue Springs, Kan., and at the age of eighty-six years still retains much of his early vigor. The maiden name of his

wife was Angeline McGuffin, and she was born in Scotland and came to America with her parents. She died in 1869.

The subject of this sketch was four years old when his parents moved to Missouri, where he was reared to manhood. There being no free schools, he obtained his education in a school taught on the subscription plan. As soon as he was large enough he commenced to work to earn his own living, his first employment being to saw wood at twenty-five cents a cord. When he was in his eleventh year he commenced to work in a brickyard at St. Joseph, Mo., receiving $4 a month for the first two years and $6 a month the next two years, as compensation for his services, working hard from sunrise until sunset. When he was fifteen years old he had his first experience of the mercantile life as a clerk in a general store in St. Joseph, Mo., receiving a suit of clothes in payment for his work. He attended Lexington College during the winter season, and thus completed an excellent business education. When his parents first settled in Buchanan County it was in a very wild condition and was sparsely settled. St. Joseph was a hamlet of but a few log cabins, and the only hotel in the city was a log house. Indians were more plentiful than white people, and one time when our subject was about nine years old he stole away from home and joined the Indians on one of their hunting expeditions and was gone thirty days.

Mr. Northcutt continued to clerk for the same firm until 1862, when he started, in the month of October, from Kansas City with a train of ox-teams loaded with freight bound for Ft. Union, N. M., 900 miles distant. He made the round trip, and arrived in Kansas City Feb. 3, 1863. He had not slept in a house during all the long journey. In May, 1863, he bought a pair of mules and a wagon, and set out from St. Joseph for the gold fields of Idaho. He crossed the Missouri River at Peru in the month of May, and from Nebraska City proceeded across the plains, via Salt Lake to Idaho City, which he reached on the 3d of July. On the same day he engaged as a miner, at $7 a day. He continued there until October, 1864, and then, after spending a few days in Walla Walla City, went down the Columbia River to Portland, Ore., and from there to Victoria, British America, and thence to San Francisco. After staying there a month, he proceeded to his old home in Missouri by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York City, and finally arrived in St. Joseph in January, 1865. He there engaged with J. E. Barrow & Co., and went with a train to Salt Lake City, crossing the Missouri River April 1, and arriving at Salt Lake September 25. There was a train of ninety-eighty wagons, all heavily laden, and on the 2d and 3d of August the teamsters had a battle with the Indians, who were then on the warpath, but they escaped without the loss of a man. He acted as a clerk for Barrow & Co. in Salt Lake City until the following December, when he started on his return with a mule train for Atchison City, and thence proceeded to St. Joseph. At one time during the war Mr. Northcutt started from Kansas City to go to Independence to buy cattle for his employers. He had not gone far before he was advised to return, as Quantrell's guerrillas were infesting the country, and were more numerous than he had expected. He did not heed the warning, however, as he was a man of steady nerve and cool courage, but kept on until he met a party of soldiers who had been attacked by the rebel marauders, and were fleeing for their lives. He then concluded that "discretion would indeed be the better part of valor," and wisely returned to Kansas City. He soon after went to Lawrence, Kan., for the same purpose, and in that State he found trading rather unpleasant, as the people were at that time quite suspicious of any one coming from the Southwestern States. He, however, satisfied all queries, and finally reached Lawrence all right, and then returned, after buying $8,000 worth of cattle.

Mr. Northcutt came to Nebraska City in the spring of 1866, arriving on the 15th of April, and at once established himself in the grocery business, which he has conducted continuously since with marked success. He is now one of the leading grocers here, and is numbered among the men of wealth in the city.

Mr. Northcutt was married, in March, 1865, to Miss Katie Toole, a native of Weston, Mo., and a daughter of W. C. Toole. They have five children living, namely: Ebbie, Harry, Jesse, Wilbur and

James. Our subject is a man of wide experience, is prompt and wide-awake in business, and by his strictly honorable dealings has gained the confidence of his fellow-citizens. The advice and support of such a man are greatly valued in the administration of the civic affairs of a prosperous and growing municipality like Nebraska City, as is evinced by the fact that Mr. Northcutt has served as a member of the City Council for eight years; and his wisdom is also sought in the guidance of the affairs of the Christian Church, of which he and his wife are devoted members, and he has been its Secretary and Treasurer. Socially, he is identified with the A. F. & A. M., belonging to Nebraska City Lodge No. 12.

HON. WILLIAM B. HAIL, deceased. Otoe County is greatly indebted for its wonderful growth and present prosperity to the men of intelligence, enterprise and action who were its pioneers, and who have watched with intense interest its entire development. The subject of this sketch was identified with those early settlers, and took a very active part in the public life of the county, and also of the Territory, as he was for several years a prominent member of the Territorial Legislature, and it gives us much pleasure to be able to transcribe to these pages a brief account of his life and work.

Mr. Hail was born in Grayson County, Va., Aug. 4, 1811, and his father, Stephen Hail, was born on the same farm. Lewis Hail, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Franklin County, Va., and was one of the early settlers of Grayson County. He took up a large tract of timber land there, and made his home in that county until his death. He had six sons and two daughters, and he gave each of them a farm close by his homestead, and all but one of them spent their entire lives there. The father of our subject inherited the old homestead where he was born, and there, after a well-spent life as a farmer and stock-raiser, he closed his eyes to the scenes of earth in the month of February, 1854. He was a valiant soldier in the War of 1812, and his record in public and in private life was that of an honest, upright, sagacious man. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Bourne, and she was also a native of Grayson County, Va. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity.

William B. Hail, of whom we write, was reared in the home of his birth, and received an excellent training in agricultural pursuits. He was married in his native county, Jan. 31, 1833, to Miss Matilda Jones, who was also born in Grayson County, Aug. 13, 1811, being the date of her birth, and she is a daughter of Maj. Abner and Hannah (Forbes) Jones, natives of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Hail have eight children living, of whom the following is the record: C. Currin lives in Omaha; Silas Friel lives on the homestead with his parents; Laura J. is the wife of L. F. Cornutt, of Nebraska City; Celia is the wife of James S. Miller, of Nebraska City; Alverda lives at home; Scott, Taylor and Stephen A. are residents of Nebraska City.

While our subject remained a resident of his Virginia birthplace he was engaged in farming, and even as a young man he became identified with the public interests of Grayson County, being elected Surveyor of the county in 1838, and served in that capacity continuously for sixteen years, until he resigned to come West. He also served four or five years as Magistrate. In the last of August, 1854, Mr. Hail severed his connection with his pleasant Southern home, and, accompanied by his wife and nine children, started for the wilds of the far-off Territory of Nebraska, making the entire journey with a carriage, two wagons and eight horses, arriving in Nebraska City sixty days after they set forth. The sight presented to the eyes of those weary travelers as they entered this promised land was far different from what one sees to-day. The rolling prairies stretched away to the West a wild sea of grass, with no signs of human habitation, as the settlements were then confined to the river. Deer and antelopes were plentiful, and away off toward the western boundary of the Territory buffaloes roamed at will. The land was held by the Government and had not been surveyed, and the Indians still lingered about their old hunting-grounds. Where Nebraska City now stands they found about half a dozen rudely constructed houses and but one store, which was kept in a small frame building, lo-

cated on the north side of Main street near the corner of Sixth street. There was no railway west of the Mississippi, and all travel and transportation was either by team or by boat, and one may readily judge that the facilities for communicating with their friends in the East were not of the best. In this connection Mr. Hail related that Charles Pierce was the first Postmaster, and that the mail, which was received but once or twice each week, was brought on horseback from Sidney, Iowa, and when Mr. Hail went for his share Mrs. Pierce would take a box from under the bed and select his from the rest.

Mr. Hail made a claim to a tract of land now included in the city, and known as Hail & Co.'s Addition. A few days after coming here he and his nephew bought a sawmill in Iowa, and he drew it here with his horses and operated it by horse-power for a year, settlers coming in so rapidly that they could sell their lumber as fast as they could manufacture it. Mr. Hail had been a resident here but three weeks when the first election was held, at which delegates were elected to the first Territorial Legislature, and he was chosen to represent Otoe County. He proved to be a wise and able statesman, and he was influential in obtaining the passage of many of the most important measures devised for the advancement of Territorial interests, and for the preservation of law and order. So well pleased were his constituents by his course, that he was sent to represent them in the halls of legislation five terms in succession. Mr. Hail also held the office of Justice of the Peace for some years after coming here. He was always a Democrat in politics, and cast his first vote for Gen. Jackson. Mr. Hail met his death by being run over by a railroad train near his home, on the 1st day of October, 1888.

CHARLES W. STAHLHUT, who is said to be one of the finest looking men in Nebraska City, is no less a stirring member of the business community, and is engaged in general merchandising on Central avenue, where he occupies a fine new brick block, which was erected by him in the spring of 1888. This building at once attracts the attention of the stranger passing through the city, it being not only an ornament to the town, but occupied by some of its leading enterprises. Mr. Stahlhut commenced in life dependent upon his own resources, and has climbed up step by step to an enviable position socially and financially.

A native of Westphalen, Germany, our subject was born Nov. 26, 1841, and is consequently in the prime of life and the midst of his usefulness. His parents, Frederick and Ernestine (Senne) Stahlhut, were also of German birth and ancestry, and the father also followed merchandising, spending with his excellent wife his entire life upon his native soil. He died about 1873, aged sixty-five years, and the mother in 1878, when sixty-nine years old. Their five children were named respectively: Frederick, Charles W., Frederick William G., Ernestine and Lena. They are all living, our subject and his brother being the only ones in the United States.

In common with the youth of his native land, our subject was placed in school at an early age, where he received a practical education, and later learned the carpenter's trade. In the spring of 1868 he decided to emigrate to America, and settling in DuPage County, Ill., employed himself as a farm laborer for a few months. Not quite satisfied, however, with the outlook in the Prairie State, he came to Nebraska City with a capital of $20 in his pocket, and resumed his trade of carpenter. Later we find him clerking in a grocery store, which also combined general merchandise. He was similarly occupied until 1875, and in the meantime exercising the economy which is a well-known characteristic of his nationality, he saved up a snug sum of money, which, with his unlimited credit, enabled him to establish in business, Oct. 13, 1875, in company with a partner, under the firm name of Straub & Stahlhut. He operated with Mr. Straub for a period of three years, and then substituted his brother for Mr. Straub, and the two latter have carried on business two years successfully with a prosperous outlook for the future.

Mr. Stahlhut, in 1873, purchased the lots whereon his building now stands, which was erected during the summer of 1888, and is called the Stahlhut Block; it covers an area of 48x80 feet, is two stories in height, built of brick, and equipped with all mod-

ern conveniences. The business of C. W. Stahlhut occupies half of this building, while the other half is rented to other parties.

Our subject, in November, 1876, was united in marriage with Miss Anna Wille, who was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., in January, 1856, and came to Nebraska City with her parents in 1870. The latter, August and Emily Wille, were natives of Germany; the father is now deceased, and the mother resides in Nebraska City. Mr. and Mrs. S. are the parents of five children, namely: Emily, Clara, Elsie, Hilda and Carl. Our subject, politically, is a lively Republican, and, with his estimable wife, is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church.

HERBERT H. REED. Among the agriculturists of Delaware Precinct there are few more enterprising or successful than the gentleman whose biography is here briefly presented. There are many his senior in age, and of larger experience, but he possesses in no small measure the vim and Western push that count for so much in the development of a comparatively new region. His property is situated on section 31, and is well worthy of a more extended notice than can be conveniently given in this volume.

Our subject was born on the 15th of January, 1860, to Cyrus and Anna (Lowe) Reed, at their home in Pickaway County, Ohio, which was the native place also of his father, who is now deceased. The latter was a farmer, and stood in the front rank of successful men similarly engaged. With his family he removed to this county in 1865 and settled in McWilliams Precinct, where he purchased over 1,600 acres of land, which, with the exception of fifteen acres that were broken, and a diminutive shanty, was in its virgin state. After a long sickness, caused by Bright's disease, he departed this life in 1872.

Mr. Reed was reared under the care of his father on the farm, and from his boyhood was given such tasks as his strength would permit, until he was in every way competent to take full management of a farm. Attending the common schools, he received instructions in the ordinary branches of an English education, and by careful training his mental powers were developed so that he was in due time prepared to take his place in the more serious engagements of life.

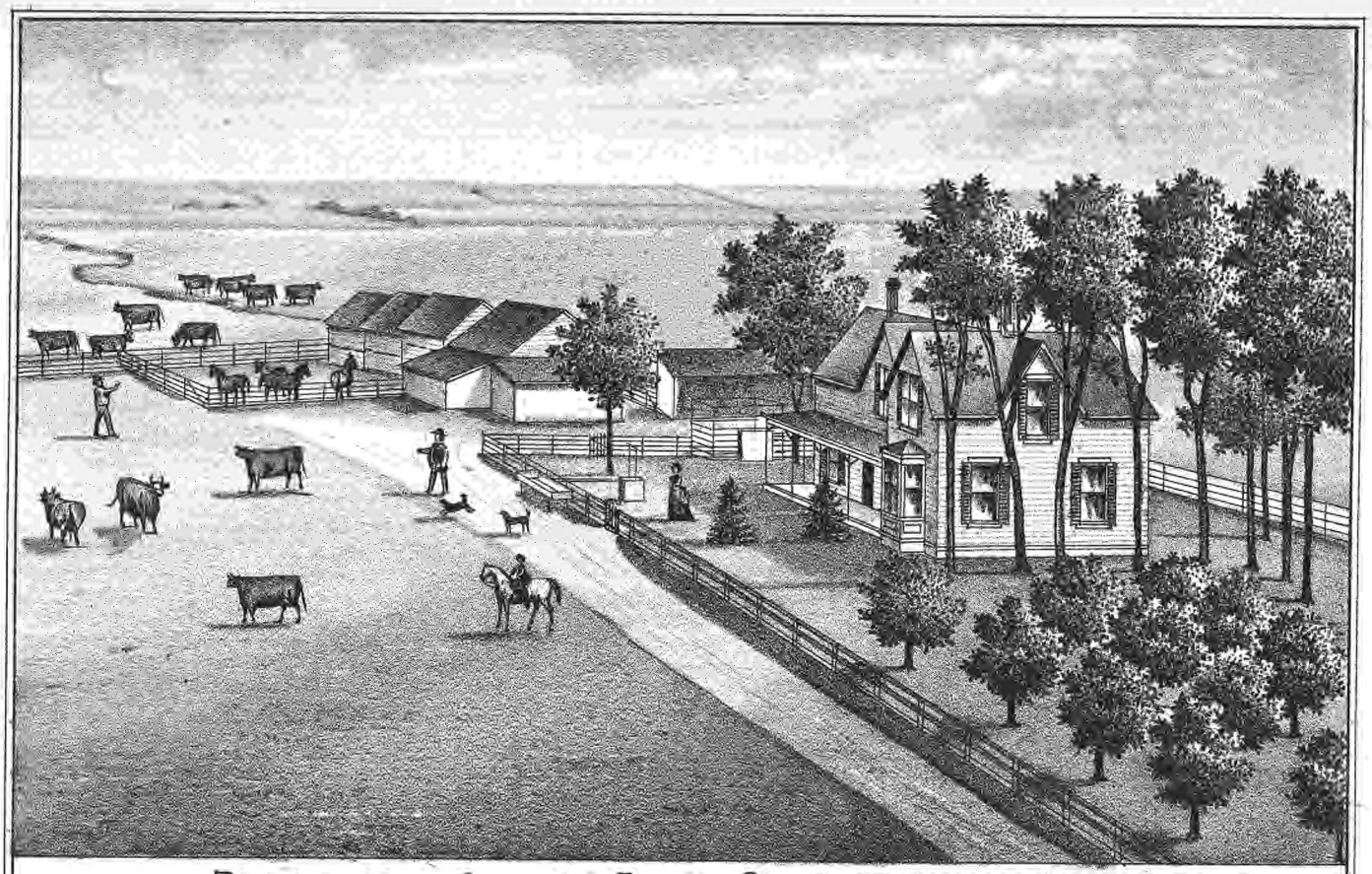
The marriage of Mr. Reed with Catherine Damme was celebrated on the 23d of November, 1884, at Delta. Mrs. Reed was born in Perry County, Mo., and is the daughter of Frederick Damme, of Missouri. Their union has been consummated by the birth of one daughter, who bears the name of Carrie E.

The homestead of our subject is 320 acres in extent, and although some attention is given to grain farming, he makes a specialty of raising graded stock of fine breed. He has erected a complete set of the needed buildings, stables and cattle pens, and these are above the average in point of stability and arrangement, convenience and finish. He is a man who takes an interest in the various enterprises that promise to advance the interest of the community or town. Politically, he is a stanch Republican, and an earnest worker in a modest way.

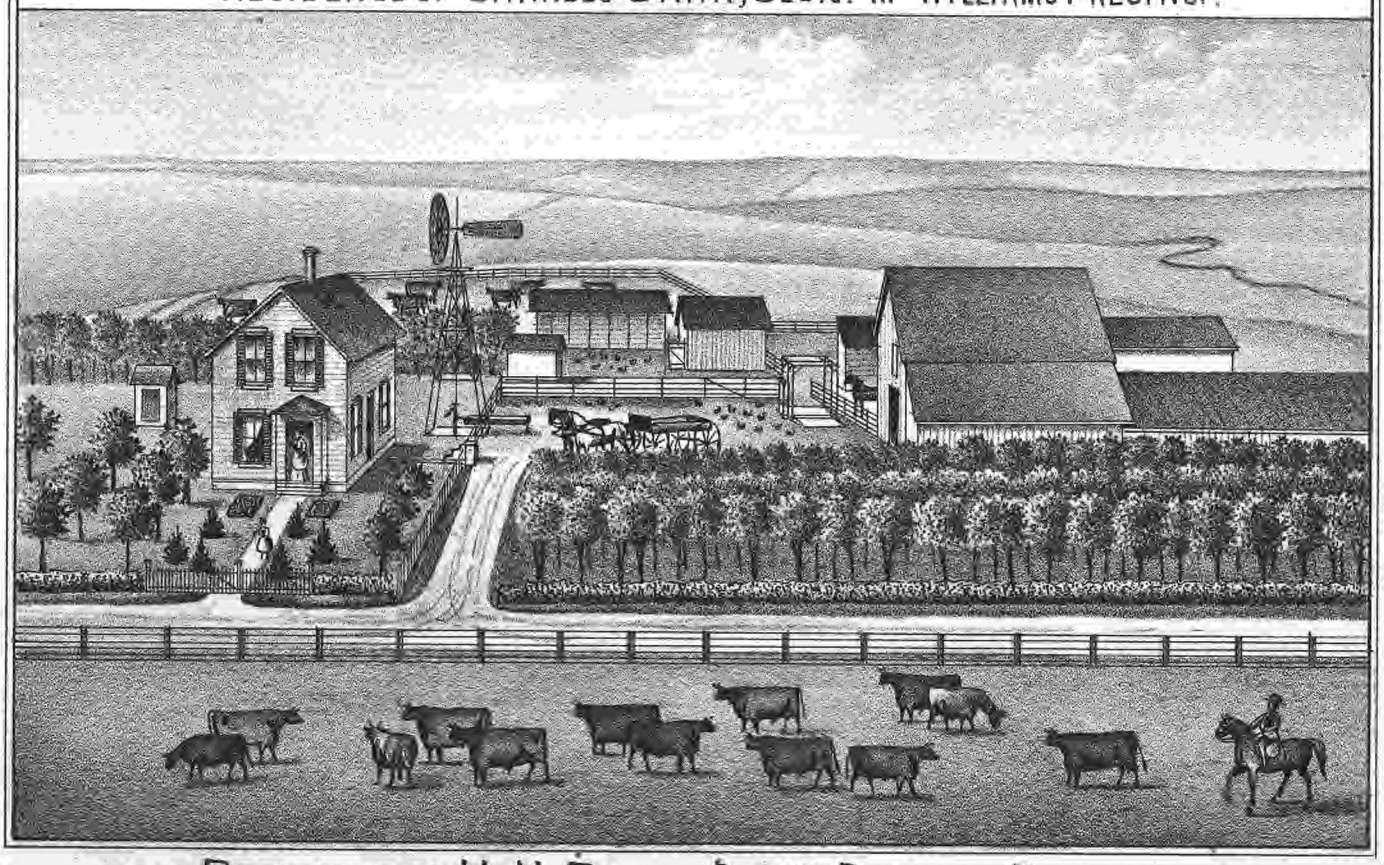
A view of the home of Mr. Reed is given on another page, in which it will be seen that both industry and taste have been employed to make it both valuable and attractive. It forms no unimportant item in the great whole which distinguishes Otoe County as a section of country peculiarly fortunate in the men who have directed its destinies.

CHARLES DANN, a native of Lincolnshire, England, emigrated to the United States in 1852, when a young man seventeen years of age, and is now numbered among the well-to-do farmers of McWilliams Precinct. He was born Aug. 8, 1835, and after his boyhood days were over, was employed at farming near the place of his birth until reaching manhood. His mother died when he was about eighteen years of age. James Dann, our subject's father, came to this country the following spring, and at Clinton, Iowa, he spent the remainder of his days, passing away when ripe in years.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary Ketler. The parental household included eight sons and two daughters, five of whom are now



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES DANN, SEC. 7. Mc WILLIAMS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF H. H. REED, SEC. 31. DELAWARE PRECINCT.

living. Charles, our subject, was a resident of Scott County, Iowa, a period of four years, from 1852 until 1856, when he came to Nebraska, settling at first in the city of Omaha. For some years afterward he was engaged as a teamster across the plains, being the pioneer of this business, making his first journey in the fall of 1859. For two years he lived in Colorado, and had ample experience with frontier life, and some experience with Indians. Upon coming to this county he purchased, in 1868, 331 acres of land which comprises the fine homestead in his possession to-day. He has himself effected all the improvements upon it, laying off the land into convenient fields with neat fences, putting up a residence, barns and out-buildings, gathering together the farm stock and machinery, and has now one of the most desirable estates in the county. Among the numerous views presented in this volume may be found that of the residence and surroundings belonging to this gentleman. Our subject, in 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Jane Williams, the wedding taking place at the home of the bridegroom in McWilliams Precinct. Mrs. Dann was born in Toronto, Canada, and came to the States with her uncle in 1867; her parents were John and Henrietta (Fitzgerald) Williams. Her father was a carpenter by occupation, and a native of Closbyshire, England. He crossed the Atlantic in 1850, and spent his last years in Palmyra Precinct, on the western line of this county, where his death took place about 1883. Mrs. Dann lived for several years before her marriage with her uncle in Nebraska. Of her union with our subject there has been born one child, a daughter, Ettia M., who continues at home with her parents. Mr. Dann has become thoroughly Americanized, meddles very little with politics, and signifies his sentiments of freedom and equality by voting independently.

HENRY BRINKMANN occupies an uncontroverted position among the substantial farmers of Otoe County, and is located on section 14 of Syracuse Precinct. He is a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born on the 9th of January, 1827. In early life he was bound as an apprentice, and learned the trade of a tailor, but did not follow it after attaining his majority. At that time he was united in marriage with Louisa Tagmeyer, who was born in Prussia in the year 1829.

Our subject and his young wife settled in the village of Neauberg, and their residence being quite large they derived quite an income from the rental of rooms by them unneeded for other purposes. Mr. Brinkmann gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, and being a thorough, practical man, and fully conversant with farming, was enabled to support his family in comfort and comparative affluence, and also accumulated a surplus.

The first misfortune that befell Mr. Brinkmann came to him in the year 1858, when his wife was removed from his side by the imperious and never to be denied destroyer, Death, leaving him with two little ones who had been born to them. One of these is now deceased; the other, Lena, now the wife of August Bartling, of Beatrice, this State.

Some time after the above bereavement our subject became the husband of Christina Bierman. He continued to make his home in Germany until the year 1869, then with his family he took passage at Bremen on the steamship "Baltimore," and after a stormy passage of eighteen days' duration landed in the harbor of the city of the same name. This trip was anything but pleasant, and will always be remembered. Mrs. Brinkmann was sick throughout the passage, and the task of caring for her and their little family devolved upon him.

Landing at Baltimore Mr. Brinkmann was unable either to speak or understand one word of the English tongue, and unfortunately he fell into the hands of men whose despicable employment it was to fleece him and others similarly situated of their little hard-earned store, rather than lend a hand to smooth the difficulties from his path and assist him on his way. He purchased, as he supposed, a railroad ticket for Nebraska City, but upon reaching Chicago was called upon for $30 more in order to carry him to Council Bluffs, where another $15 was demanded to take him to Nebraska City. The railroad company left him at Eastford, opposite Nebraska City, where he was met by a Mr. Stroup, who, instead of telling him that his tickets were

good to the city, took him in and kept him overnight at his hotel, if such a place as he used for that purpose could by any stretch of the imagination be deemed fit for such designation, even though a word of such vast latitude as that of "hotel" be used. In the morning he was called upon for $11 hotel bill, and a man was hired to bring him to where he now lives, and for this was charged an additional $10. Looking back over this experience he cannot but contrast it with the fact that he has many times since taken a full load of potatoes to Nebraska City, and only realized one-half that amount.

The troubles of our subject were not over, although he had reached Nebraska City. He had come thus far to a half-brother who had been in the country several years, and owned a piece of land in the neighborhood. In all kindness of heart this gentleman sold to our subject forty acres of land at $19 per acre, and when subsequently he learned that he could have obtained just as good or better for $5, or which would have been even of greater advantage to him, have entered a homestead, he did not appreciate his relative's goodness as he had done at first. Upon his arrival he had $1,346 left, but at the end of one year he was in debt. The land was almost wholly unimproved, his house was but a shanty, and having no team he was compelled to exchange work with his neighbors, in order to effect anything at all.

The first true friend our subject met upon American soil was a gentleman who still occupies a prominent position in Nebraska City, and whose life story will be found presented in compendious form in this volume. This was Carl Korff, who, appreciating the situation, gave him kindly and valuable counsel, trusted him with goods and other things that were needed, and extended to him a helping hand. Our subject worked on the construction of the railroad at Belmont, and the family managed as best they could in very straitened circumstances for over two years, living chiefly upon corn bread, bearing their hardships and trials in a bright and cheerful spirit, although many a tear was shed when the situation in all its forcefulness presented itself before them. But this has long since passed away. With the help of the good Samaritan friend, slowly but surely he has progressed, and to-day, if he needed it, could raise an almost unlimited amount in a very few hours. He is one of the largest land-owners of the county, having 600 acres of pasture land, which is occupied by a large herd of cattle, and which he has leased.

The second wife of our subject died on the 22d of March, 1871. She was the mother of seven children, three of whom are now living, viz: Minnie, Charley and Freda. The other children died in Germany. On the 30th of June, 1871, he was united in marriage with Sophia Steba. This lady was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1842, and is the daughter of John and Mary Steba. Her father died in his native country, and after that bereavement her mother came to the United States, and now resides in this county. She has three sisters also living in this State, who bear the names Mary, Minnie and Frederika. She has presented her husband with five children, four of whom now survive, viz: Henry, who was born on the 26th of April, 1872; Anna, on the 10th of February, 1875; Mary, Feb. 25, 1877; Sophia, on the 22d of January, 1885.

The subject of our sketch is one of the substantial and earnest members of the Lutheran Church, as is also his wife. He is a stanch adherent of the Democratic party, and has so been since he has been able to understand and appreciate the institutions and political relations of his adopted country. He is very highly esteemed throughout the community, and has a character that will bear the closest investigation. As a result he holds an unrivalled position in the community as a man of honor and integrity.

GEORGE K. BOTTCHER is successful as a general farmer, and operates 260 acres on section 17, McWilliams Precinct; the farm usually produces good crops, even when others fail, for the reason that it is watered by the Nemaha River, which is a most valuable acquisition. This farm he has owned since 1883, but his connection with the State dates from one year earlier. Previously he had lived in Gasconade County, Mo.,

where he had made his home for twenty-two years, having been brought up and educated there. He was born on the 15th of March, 1857, in Germany, and came to the United States with his parents when he was two years of age.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Henry and Ellen (Dricker) Bottcher, who were natives of Germany. Upon coming to America they located in Missouri, and there made their home and became identified with the agricultural interests of the State. There the father died in September, 1885, having reached the age of seventy years. He was for a number of years a member of the Methodist Church. He took a great interest in the politics of his country, and usually voted the Republican ticket. His wife is yet living with her oldest son, and has reached the age of sixty-six years.

The subject of our sketch was the ninth of twelve children born to his parents, the family circle comprising five sons and seven daughters. Seven members of the family are still living, and are all now married. Mr. Bottcher was united in wedlock with Anna Renkin, who was born in Germany, on the 21st of May, 1857. She came when eight years of age to this country with her father, Henry Renkin, who located in Rock Creek Precinct, where he still resides and has become a large land-owner, and is numbered also among the successful farmers. The wife of our subject has presented him with three children, viz: Henry G., John F. and William F. She has also one child by a previous marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Bottcher are regular attendants of the Lutheran Church, with which they have been connected for many years. Our subject is not prominent in political circles, but is a stanch Republican, and usually votes that ticket.

JOSEPH B. BALLARMAN. In the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, on the 14th of September, 1830, was born a boy baby who is now numbered among the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Rock Creek Precinct. He is a man who has inherited from his substantial German ancestry those qualities of perseverance and resolution which have upheld him through many difficulties, and which are the secret of his present success. For the last twenty-one years he has operated successfully a farm of 160 acres on section 4, which he eliminated from a tract of raw prairie land into one of the most desirable homesteads, and he also has 100 acres on section 33, Belmont Precinct, Otoe County. He keeps a good assortment of live stock, has a comfortable residence, a good barn and all the other necessary buildings, and is surrounding himself and his family with everything needful for their comfort and enjoyment.

Our subject is the son of Joseph and Mary Ballarman, whose family consisted of three children, and of whom Joseph is the only survivor. The father, a farmer by occupation, spent his entire life upon his native soil, and died at the age of sixty-six years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land many years before, dying in the prime of life, when her son Joseph was a little lad three years of age. He was reared by his father, and lived with him until attaining his majority. Not long afterward he set sail for the New World, making his way first to Hamilton County, Ohio, whence he migrated three years later to White County, Ind., thence he crossed the Mississippi into Monroe County, Iowa, employing himself there as a farm laborer two years.

After the outbreak of the Rebellion our subject enlisted as a soldier in the Union Army in Company D, 22d Iowa Infantry, the company under command of Capt. Wilson, and the regiment under command of Col. Stone. The latter formed a portion of the 13th Army Corps, and our subject with his comrades subsequently met the rebels in many of the most important battles of the war, namely: at Gibson, Miss., May 1, 1863; Champion Hills, May 16; Black River Bridge, May 17; and the siege of Vicksburg, ending on the 4th of July, 1864. After forty days of almost continual fighting they moved to Jackson, Miss., meeting the enemy there July 17, 1863, and afterward our subject was at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864; at Fisher's Hill, September 22, and at Cedar Creek October 13 to 19 following.

Mr. Ballarman, although frequently in the thickest of the fight, escaped unhurt from the dangers of shot and shell, although the hardships and priva-

tions of army life had their natural effect upon his health. He reported for daily duty without fail, and at the close of the war received his honorable discharge at Savannah, Ga., July 25, 1865. Soon afterward he sought his old haunts in Monroe County, Iowa, where he was most properly welcomed as one of those who had done most patriotic service in behalf of their adopted country.

Leaving Iowa in the fall of 1865, our subject came to this county a single man. It was not very long, however, before he met the lady who became his wife, Miss Anna Sardnery, to whom he was married in Otoe County, Aug. 19, 1867. Mrs. Ballarman was born in the Empire of Austria July 2, 1840, and emigrated alone to America when a young lady of twenty-five years. She at once made her way westward to this county, and two years later became the wife of our subject. She is now the mother of seven children, two of whom, Anna and Theresa, died when very young. The survivors, Lizzie, Joseph G., Katie, Mary and John, are all at home with their parents.

It is hardly necessary to state that Mr. Ballarman is a fervent supporter of Republican principles. Both he and his excellent wife attend the Catholic Church at Rock Creek.

GEORGE S. BOTSFORD. The picture of the complete home is amply illustrated in the surroundings of the subject of this biography who, with his estimable wife, which comprises his family, is spending his declining years surrounded by all that makes life desirable. His has been a career eminently praiseworthy, filled in with industry and good deeds, during which he has built up for himself the record of an honest man and a good citizen. Providence has greatly blessed him in his labors, giving him strength of body and mind, enabling him not only to provide handsomely for his own necessities, but assist those less fortunate.

The modest dwelling of Mr. Botsford is attractive within and conveniently arranged, while without are orchards, groves, the smaller fruit trees and shrubbery, barns, cattle sheds, and all the other buildings necessary for his own convenience, for the domestic animals and for the storage of grain. These are the results of the industry of the proprietor, who settled up his present homestead when the land had undergone very little cultivation. Of late years he has given much attention to stock-raising, and it has been remarked by those who have seen them that his swine are as fine as any to be seen in the State of Nebraska.

Next to a man's own personal record is that of those from whom he drew his origin. The parents of our subject, Elnathan and Zilpha (Terry) Botsford, were natives of Livingston County, N. Y.; the father was born near Livonia and the mother near Lima. Elnathan Botsford was a painter by trade, but died when a young man thirty-two years of age, in 1837, in his native town. The family included two sons only, our subject and his elder brother William. The latter, when a little lad six years of age, removed with an uncle to Seneca County, Ohio, and was joined there by the mother and George S. the year following, when the latter was five years old. The mother had been left in limited circumstances, and two years later contracted a second marriage, the issue of which was three more children. Two only of these are now living, and in this State.

George S. Botsford was born May 27, 1835, near Livonia, Livingston Co., N. Y., and after the second marriage of his mother was placed in charge of a guardian, Oliver Crockett, who proved a very kind man, and finding the boy not properly cared for, took him into his own home, where he remained until a youth of seventeen years. Mr. Crockett then gave him his choice of remaining with him or going into a store at Green Springs. He chose the latter, but on account of impaired health returned to Mr. Crockett and assisted him as well as he could in the tannery. Later, through the influence of his guardian, he secured a position as purchasing agent of an Eastern manufacturing company, which handled black walnut lumber. His duties then lay in Southern Michigan, to which he repaired, and was a resident of that section for one and one-half years.

In the spring of 1854 Mr. Botsford, then a man of nineteen years, crossed the Mississippi River and purchased 160 acres of land in Fayette County,

Iowa. He, however, did not settle upon this, but engaged as a stage driver from Dubuque to St. Paul, Minn., and driving four and six horses. Later, for a period of fifteen months, he drove a stage from West Union to Decorah, Iowa. This contract ended, he began hauling goods for a merchant at West Union to and from McGregor, Iowa, and was thus occupied until after the outbreak of the Civil War.

Mr. Botsford now sold out his teams and enlisted in the State Militia, expecting to join the first 75,000 men called for by President Lincoln. On the 8th of June, 1861, his regiment was sworn into the National service at Keokuk, Iowa. Mr. B. was a member of Company F, 3d Iowa Infantry, and after drilling awhile at Keokuk, Iowa, they departed first to Hannibal, Mo., and during the summer of 1861 his regiment was stationed as guards along the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad in Northern Missouri.

Our subject first saw the smoke of battle at Palmyra, Mo., in June, 1861; was at Ft. Henry, and was later at Ft. Donelson. At the latter place he first looked upon Gen. Grant, and declares that, notwithstanding reports, "the General was not drunk." Mr. Botsford subsequently fought at Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, and later was stationed with his regiment as a guard along the Charleston & Memphis Railroad.

The spring of 1863 saw the Army of the West moving toward Vicksburg, in the siege of which our subject participated. The winter of 1863–64 was passed in the vicinity of Natchez, Miss. The term of enlistment of Mr. B. having expired he veteranized, and was commissioned Orderly Sergeant. Subsequently he was appointed Sergeant Major. In March, 1864, he was given a furlough, and returning to Iowa settled up various business matters there, and upon rejoining his regiment marched with the army of Gen. Sherman to the sea. On the way there he fought at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Rome and Atlanta. For valiant service he was made Captain of Company B, and after the death of Lieut. Col. Jacob Abernathy, was placed in regimental command.

On the 21st and 22d of July, 1864, the regiment of our subject lost heavily at the battle of Atlanta, and on account of their reduced numbers were made a part of the 2d Iowa, and Mr. Botsford was given a Captain's commission under Gov. Stone, with which rank he was mustered out at the close of the war. The 17th of January, 1865, found them returning North through the Carolinas, during which they marched through Goldsboro, and experienced the terrors of the dismal swamp, where the soldiers underwent great sufferings, being exposed to nightly frosts of great severity, and often making their way through mire and water knee deep. This naturally resulted in much sickness and death among the soldiers, and while at Goldsboro they received the news of Lee's surrender. This buoyed up the sinking spirits of the troops and gave them courage to push on to their destination. On account of his bravery and fidelity to duty Capt. Botsford was the recipient of the commission of Lieutenant Colonel, the papers reaching him although he was never sworn in.

Our subject looks upon this period of his life as an experience with which he would not willingly part, although it was one fraught with many hardships. Although he was remarkably fortunate in escaping wounds, sickness and death, the sufferings of those around him were such as to leave an ineffaceable impression upon his mind for all time to come. He became intimately acquainted with the brave Gen. McPherson during his boyhood, but with his characteristic modesty he never made his presence known to the General, and it was only by accident that the latter learned in the third year of his service that his old boyhood acquaintance was in the same division. Capt. Botsford marched with his comrades to Washington, and had the pleasure of being present at the grand review, and of marching with his company through the streets of Davenport, Iowa, where they were honorably discharged on the 19th of July, 1865.

Our subject now returning to Fayette County, went from there in August following to Sandusky County, Ohio, where he occupied himself at farming until March, 1869. At this place he met his future wife, Miss Agnes Scattergood, to whom he was married at Waterloo, Ind., March 24, 1869. Mrs. Botsford was born Aug. 4, 1848, at Elyria,

Ohio, where she attended the common schools; she was deprived by death of her affectionate mother when a young girl of fifteen years. She then kept house for her father until his second marriage, when she was permitted to resume her studies in the High School at Clyde.

Mrs. Botsford now also commenced teaching, although at the same time pursuing her studies, and thus taught and attended school for five years before her marriage. Our subject and his wife afterward took up their residence at Waterloo, Ind., where they lived until coming to this State. In the spring of 1873 they settled in a little log house on eighty acres of land which is now included in their present farm. Here they commenced to live in true pioneer style, laboring early and late in the building up of their homestead and the cultivation of the land. The first dwelling in 1874 was replaced by the present tasteful residence, and there gradually grew up around it the buildings adjacent, and fruit and shade trees which add so much to the attractions and the value of the property.

Mrs. Botsford is the daughter of Charles W. and Lucinda (Reynolds) Scattergood, the former a native of Sheffield, England, and the latter of Essex County, N. Y. Mr. Scattergood crossed the Atlantic when a lad twelve years of age with his parents, who settled in Ohio. He was married to Miss Reynolds at Elyria, Ohio. They left the Buckeye State about 1868 and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Waterloo, Ind., where he now resides, being seventy-one years of age. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: Irwin, Agnes, Viola, Eva, George and Harrison. Of these four are living, and three reside at Waterloo, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Botsford have no children, but their home is the frequent resort of the many friends whom they have gathered around them during their long and pleasant lives.

GEORGE HARTMAN, who has been identified with Syracuse Precinct since February, 1880, resides on section 17, within about a half-mile of the town of Syracuse, and is one of the enterprising, intelligent and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of the district. He was born in Sussex County, N. J., within forty miles of the city of Philadelphia, on the 1st of November, 1811. The Hartman family is of German extraction, although for many years its members on this side of the Atlantic have been numbered among the substantial and valued citizens of the United States.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, came from Germany and settled in New Jersey more than 150 years ago, and was the first representative of the family to cross the Atlantic with the view of making his home here. His son, John Hartman, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey, of which State he was a citizen until his death, which occurred in the year 1818. He followed successfully throughout his long life the trade of a blacksmith, and had a large business connection. The home circle was quite large, and all the children attained to from sixty to ninety years of age.

The father of our subject, Peter Hartman, was born upon the old homestead in Sussex County, and was there brought up, learning the trade of his father and also farming. He became the husband of Betsey Pickle, also of German ancestry, and a true and faithful helpmate. In 1816 this family removed to Lycoming County, Pa., and there settled upon a farm in the vicinity of three of his brothers, who were each operating farms there. At that home Peter Hartman passed the remainder of his life, dying at the very advanced age of ninety-four years, his wife having died a few years previously. She had attained the good old age of eighty-four years.

The mother of our subject gave birth to eighteen children, two of whom died while quite small, and six sons and four daughters are still living. Our subject is the second eldest child. The first-born was John, who is still living, in Lycoming County, Pa., and was born in the year 1809. With the exception of our subject all are living in the same county. The family record gives the other members of the family as follows: Katie, Julia A., Deborah (deceased), Hettie, Peter, Polly (deceased), Barbara, Rosella, Mathia, William, Elizabeth and Amia (both deceased) and Mathias.

The subject of our sketch grew to manhood in

Lycoming County, and received what schooling was obtainable in the same district. When sixteen years of age he helped to build a school-house, which was the first in the neighborhood, and upon its completion seized this the first opportunity of attending school. When twenty-two years of age he entered the married state, and became the husband of Sarah Follmer, who was also born and brought up in the same place as Mr. Hartman. She was the daughter of William and Katie (Scwartz) Follmer.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hartman has been consummated by the birth of fourteen children, all of whom grew up to mature years. Their names are recorded as follows: Henry; Sarah J., who married L. Hayes, and after his death was united with H. Lake, but is now deceased; John F., who died in Nebraska in 1880, leaving nine children; Catherine A., now the wife of Robert Forsman; William, who died during the late war; Margaret A., who died in September, 1888; George, who served during the war, and after spending six months in prison died almost immediately at the close of hostilities; Peter, now deceased; Mary E., wife of Hiram Wise; Thomas L.; Emma R. and Clara L., both deceased; Ephraim P., and Hattie W., Mrs. S. E. Brown, of Syracuse.

Mr. Hartman's mother was the daughter of Peter and Mary (Kester) Scwartz, who was brought from Germany and sold as a slave to pay his passage. Subsequently, however, he became one of the substantial members of the community, and owner of a large distillery and gristmill, and had a very fine home in Lycoming County. The Follmer family also came from Germany.

Life in the present decade is more changed from that of the beginning of the century than we can even imagine, and the change can hardly be said to have been gradual. Mr. and Mrs. Hartman were in the age and among the people who were not reached by any such conveniences as are presented by the modern dry-goods factories and stores. Whatever material was required for the person or home was woven by the good wife, and it became a matter of worthy ambition and laudable pride to have the reputation among neighbors and friends of being the best spinner and weaver, a reputation that justly came and belonged to Mrs. Hartman.

Our subject helped to clear the forest from the surface of the land in order that it might become suitable for farming purposes, and all the hardships and toil, incident to what, looking back, seems to be comparatively a primitive order of things, were endured, undergone, and triumphed over by the hardy pioneers of that day. There were pleasures, however, that are to us unknown, as, for instance, that of the long winter evenings spent by the old open fireplace, with its huge blazing log, the father repairing or fixing some broken or injured implement, or perchance cleaning his gun ready for the morrow; children variously employed in childish frolic or the discharge of some light duty, and the mother with affectionate, watchful care, busy at the wheel.

The great-grandfather of Mrs. Hartman, Frederick Follmer, came from Germany about the year 1776. He was accompanied by a brother. One hundred years later a family reunion was arranged, and the descendants numbered about 800. The grandfather of Mrs. Hartman, Adam Follmer, was born in Pennsylvania, as was also his son William.

Fourteen years after the marriage of our subject he purchased a farm in Lycoming County, Pa. Until that time he had rented a farm in that county. In 1880, leaving the home that had become endeared to him by family reminiscences and ineffaceable memories, our subject turned his face to the Far West, came to this State, and took land in this county, where he now resides. After a long season of frontier life and pioneer work, which was in many ways a repetition of previous experiences, the land was cleared and improved, and the regular farm life commenced, but so different in every way as to be almost inconceivable in the greatness of the contrast of farming in a new country and farming in an old, staid and established community.

The first railroad ties for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, at Williamsport, were cut on the farm of our subject. He is the owner of 320 acres, which was their first purchase; 120 was sold to one of the sons. The farm is in every way well provided for, carefully tended, and splendidly cultivated and highly fertile. All the improvements made, including the excellent farm buildings, extensive orchard, and really fine dwelling, are the work of Mr. Hartman, and he has

given to the place the appearance of property that has been under the domination of a master-hand for at least a score of years, instead of the brief space of time that has really passed since possession was taken.

Mrs. Hartman deserves all the generous expressions of appreciation freely pronounced in her favor as a friend, neighbor and true woman. If her husband has accomplished much upon the farm, she has done even more than her full part in the home and in filling the obligations that came to her in the domestic relation. Few members of her sex, perhaps, have done more real hard work than she. Her home has always been her first care, and it has been her pleasure to make it and keep it in the best possible manner. Not only has she taken the raw material and worked it from one stage to another until it was ready for use as wearing apparel, or for the various requirements of the home, but after it has served these offices she has wrought a transformation that has made it useful as a carpet, and has cut and prepared sufficient material, and from it woven over 500 yards of that both useful and ornamental article, the rag carpet.

This interesting family occupy a place in the community and county that is worthy of more extended remark, and in religious and social circles its members are well known and received, and enjoy a most desirable reputation and character.

REUBEN WHITTAKER is one of the extensive and prosperous agriculturists of Belmont Precinct. He was born in Caroline County, Va., on the 29th of December, 1831. His father, Reuben Whittaker, was also a Virginian, although of English descent, as was also his wife, whose maiden name was Priscilla Saunders. The occupation of the father was a farmer, and our subject was reared upon the home farm.

Such education as our subject could obtain as a boy was received in one of the primitive schoolhouses, where the chief building materials employed were the logs from the neighboring clearing and mud cement from the stream. The internal arrangements were equally rough, but then they served their purpose, and there went from these houses men who have made their mark in every part of the world's great field of battle.

Mr. Whittaker went to Licking County, Ohio, in the year 1846, and settled at Etna, which is situated upon the National Park. Subsequently he went to Franklin County, in the same State, and worked upon a farm for three years. Then he went South to Louisiana and other Southern States, and also for a time worked on a flatboat on the river. He went to Illinois in 1852, and for two years lived in Winnebago County, near the town of Rockford. From there he went to his uncle in Northeastern Iowa, and in 1856 came to this county and settled on the southeast quarter of section 36, in Delaware Precinct.

In the fall of 1857 our subject took the place he now farms, built a residence and settled there. It was wild land at that time, and he was compelled to hunt for the line and the corners of his property by the help of a pocket compass, and then stepping the distance. Indians were not at all unusual visitors, but beyond causing his wife an occasional fright in his absence, gave very little trouble. From that time until the present he has patiently gone on with the good work of improving his property, and building up and solidifying his interests. He now owns 400 acres, and uses the same for general farming and stock-raising, giving the chief importance to the latter. His stock are chiefly high-grade Short-horn cattle and Poland-China hogs.

On the 29th of December, 1857, Mr. Whittaker was married to Jane, daughter of Thomas and Jane (Dunbar) Wilson. They came here from Canada in 1856, and she was the eldest of eleven children born to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker became the parents of eleven children, six living—Thomas R., Priscilla, Nancy E., Merinda, Silas A. and Ada M. One daughter, Rebecca, was married to John St. Clair, and died leaving two children, one of whom, Walter, is still living; the other members of the family were John, Ida, William H. and Elizabeth. The eldest son, Thomas, married Fannie Cooper, and now lives at Delta, in this county, and has two children, Roy and Eugene; Priscilla is the wife of Samuel Lowery, of McWilliams Precinct, and the mother of three children—May, Myrtle and Ida;

Carrie Davenport

Nancy is now Mrs. John Buckridge, of Rock Creek Precinct; Merinda married Mr. Edward J. Cooper, of Delta, and has one child, to whom is given the name Kate.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker are members of the Baptist Church, and attend at Delta. They have been connected with the Baptist communion for twenty years. Our subject has never taken any prominent part in political affairs, although he is a true and loyal citizen, and always votes the Republican ticket.

MRS. CARRIE DAVENPORT. This lady occupies a comfortable and tasteful home adjacent to the village of Syracuse, and is noted for her superior business qualifications, and as a person of more than ordinary intelligence. She is the only living representative of her family, her three brothers having died early in life. She was born in Wayne County, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1838, and is the daughter of Joshua and Adelia (Wilson) Bonney, who were natives of Connecticut, where the father spent his last years. The mother still survives, and lives in Cornwall, that State. When she was a child of eighteen months the parents of Mrs. Davenport returned to Connecticut, where the father closed his eyes upon the soil of the State which gave him birth.

The Bonney family were people who stood high in their community, and Miss Carrie was given a good education, and continued a member of her father's household until her first marriage, with Lewis Jessup, who was an eminent and popular minister of the Congregational Church, presiding over a parish at Millbury, Mass. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jessup, one of whom, a son Charles, died when five years old; the other, Mary I., is now the wife of C. W. Beach, of Auburn, this State.

The subject of this sketch at an early age gave evidence of superior mental endowments, and was at different times proffered lucrative and responsible positions, three times with leading insurance companies with a liberal salary, but there being no necessity for thus leaving home and friends, she declined. Subsequently, upon the urgent solicitation of the publisher of Kitts' History of the Bible, she consented to a month's trial, and after a vigorous canvass sold nearly 300 books in territory where a gentleman had met with total failure.

In the summer of 1871 Mrs. Davenport repaired to New York City, and during a period of ten months cleared $2,200 at the business of preserving funeral flowers. Later she invented and secured the patent on a compartment kettle for cooking purposes, which she handled with success, both in selling territory and in organizing stock companies for the purpose of its manufacture. In 1878 she came to Nebraska as general agent for an oil stove, and soon sold even more than its commission houses in Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco combined.

During her first visit to Nebraska Mrs. Davenport purchased 200 acres of land, of which she retained possession until 1880, then sold it and purchased the farm which she now owns and occupies, and which is devoted to stock-raising, the stock consisting of road horses and Jersey-Red swine. Besides the 225 acres which she owns, Mrs. Davenport leases 320 acres additional, the whole of which she manages in a remarkably successful manner. Indeed she has been successful at whatever she has undertaken.

In the spring of 1881 the subject of this sketch returned to Connecticut, and was united in marriage with Joseph Davenport, a gentleman who for many years was variously engaged and amassed a fortune. He was born in Franklin County, Mass., Sept. 25, 1806, and is the son of Edward and Betsey (Adams) Davenport, natives of New England. The father was a minister of the Baptist Church, and a descendant of the celebrated Adams family, who at an early day were prominent among the aristocracy of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In the boyhood days of Mr. Davenport cloth for the family use was manufactured in the household, while the tailor and the shoemaker called from house to house, and taking this material made it up for the family. Joseph at an early period in his life saw the necessity of money as a medium of exchange, and set about earning the same as soon as he was able. He learned the art of grafting fruit trees,

and in pursuance of this business traveled over considerable territory in the East, and at the same time visited many manufacturing establishments, where he obtained all the information he possibly could concerning machinery and its workings. He also at the same time realized the importance of a home market, and proposed to a moneyed friend that if the latter would build a cotton factory he would furnish the land and water power, and add to the enterprise a foundry. The proposal was accepted, the machinery speedily put in operation, and from this humble beginning the town of Colerain, Mass., sprang into existence. Mr. Davenport having accomplished his object, sold the foundry later for about what it cost him, and in 1837, disposing of other interests in the Bay State, removed to Hartford, Conn., and establishing a nursery, began the propagation of a vast number of mulberry trees, the natural food of the silk worm, and which industry he believed might be profitable. He sold a quantity of trees throughout the country, and invested a portion of the proceeds in valuable property in Connecticut, and land in some of the Western States.

In 1870 Mr. Davenport found himself a millionaire. He was also numbered among the leading citizens of Hartford, whose endorsement on paper made it acceptable at all the banks to any amount. He subsequently met with reverses, and in 1888 retired from active business. While a resident of Syracuse he devoted 180 acres to the raising of cucumber seeds, which brought him the snug sum of $4,700. Like his wife, he is a man of large intellectual endowments, and in earlier years there was scarcely a subject upon which he could not converse intelligently. Self-educated and well informed, he was alike at home in the field of science, politics and religion, and could hold his end of the argument with the most learned professor. He was in the earlier days a member of the old Whig party, but later endorses Republican doctrines. He is now a strong Protectionist, and amply able to give reasons for being so.

Mr. Davenport was for many years a leading member of the Baptist Church at Hartford. In addition to his other capacities he has given to the world many useful inventions, possessing this genius in a ratio equal to that of his gifted wife. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport are a remarkable pair, and in this respect one has been largely the assistant of the other. We take pleasure in presenting the sketch of Mrs. Davenport, as that of one of the first ladies of Eastern Nebraska.

HON. JOSEPH W. TALBOT is the proprietor of the elegant boot and shoe emporium of Syracuse. He is a native of Lockport, N. Y., and was born March 4, 1829. His parents, Joseph and Hannah (Wilson) Talbot, were natives of Vermont, but of English ancestry, their parents having come from that country and made their home in the Empire State. The father of our subject was by occupation a farmer, and continued therein until he had passed the prime of life, and then engaged in the hotel business. He died in Batavia, N. Y., in the year 1833. Subsequent to her bereavement the mother of our subject emigrated with her children to Barry County, Mich., and settled upon a farm, where she eventually died, leaving ten children, all of whom grew to the estate of man and womanhood, and their names are recorded as follows: David, Mary, Lucy, Joseph, Hannah, Sarah, Wealthy, George, Zilphia and John B. The last four are deceased.

Our subject was but four years of age when his father died and thirteen when the removal was made to Michigan, where he grew to manhood. He received a good, practical, English education in the common schools, and was considered capable of exchanging the scholar's desk for the teacher's, and in this occupation he evinced considerable aptitude and talent. In 1860 he removed to this State, and two years later settled upon section 2, Syracuse Precinct, where he owns 160 acres of excellent, arable land. He was again occupied as a teacher, devoting his attention to his farm when not thus engaged. Thus he continued until 1882; by that time the children whom he had instructed had grown up and had qualified themselves for teaching, and he retired from the profession. In 1885 Mr. Talbot established the store which he has since continued with a largely increasing patronage. The

success that had been his in previous occupations did not leave him when he took up this engagement, and he is more than ever appreciated by those who have made acquaintance with him therein. He, however, still continues to operate his farm, of which mention was made above.

The subject of our sketch was married in the year 1859; the lady of his choice was Evelyn Reeves, who is the daughter of James and Alvira Reeves, natives of New York. She was born in Ohio, and was still an infant when the family removed to LaPorte County, Ind., and subsequently to Pulaski County. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot has been rendered more felicitous, and their happiness more complete by the birth of their three children, Selma G., Earl R. and Guy D., who have manifested dispositions and personal traits that are at once the pleasure and hope of their parents. Our subject has given his children an excellent education; the eldest is a graduate of the State University of Lincoln, and is engaged in teaching in the Seward High School; Earl has attended the university, but his education is not yet completed. He is preparing to enter the legal profession.

The subject of our sketch was selected by the people of his district in 1869 to represent them in the Legislature, and he served in the session of 1869–70 in a manner most complimentary to himself and gratifying to his constituents. In former years he was an affiliate of the Republican party, but being impressed by the position of the Prohibition party and the issues at stake, he has become a member of the same. He is a man of no small influence in the community, where his high personal character, unimpeachable business honor and courteous affability have won for him the highest esteem and regard.

JEROME LATHROP. The farming community of Belmont Precinct acknowledges in this gentleman one of its most esteemed members and prosperous agriculturists. He is comfortably located on section 13, where he has 160 acres of land, and to which he came in the spring of 1861. The offspring of a good family, he was born in LeRoy, Genesee Co., N. Y., June 20, 1826, and is the son of Abiel and Ordelia (Beckley) Lathrop, the former a native of Vermont, and a millwright and miller by trade.

The father of our subject put up a large number of mills in the Empire State, including buildings at LeRoy, Warsaw and Cattaraugus Falls. He changed his residence in 1836 to LaPorte County, Ind., and also at the same time changed his occupation, taking up farming. The country was wild and new at that time, and he experienced all the hardships and difficulties of the early pioneer. After the lapse of twelve months his health became seriously impaired, and he was unfitted for active labor, although he lived several years, and until the advanced age of seventy-six, dying in 1874. The mother passed away at the old homestead in 1888. Of their children, six in number, five are now living.

The subject of this sketch completed his education in the schools of Kingsbury, LaPorte Co., Ind., where he also became intimately acquainted with the employments incident to farm life; with these he has also been since occupied. He came to this county in the fall of 1860, and settled on his present farm the following year. The first winter west of the Mississippi he spent in the embryo town of Osceola, Clarke Co., Iowa, when the settlements of white men were few and far between. The country around was wild and new in Iowa as well as Nebraska.

Upon coming to this county our subject sheltered himself and his family in a small brick house, around which was broken about forty acres of land. Indians were numerous and often called at their door upon various pretexts, but otherwise than begging for something to eat or some article of clothing which they fancied, gave them very little trouble or apprehension. Mr. Lathrop and his wife endeavored to treat them kindly and they were susceptible to this.

Our subject, while a resident of Indiana, had been married, April 2, 1850, to Miss Mary Angeline Pratt, who was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1825. She was the daughter of Lyman and Sallie Pratt, who were natives of New York, and are now dead.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop there were born six children, two only of whom are living—

Ellen J. and Ida M. The former married John W. Gilmore, a farmer of Thomas County, Kan., and has three daughters—Nettie, Carrie and Elizabeth. Ida is the wife of Frank Forber, of Beatrice, Neb., and the mother of two daughters and a son—Fanny, Mamie and Jerome. Mrs. Mary Angeline Lathrop departed this life at her home in Belmont Precinct, on the 5th of August, 1864.

Our subject contracted a second marriage, Sept. 12, 1865, with Miss Ann Eliza Warren, who was born in 1842, in New York State, and is the daughter of Nathaniel and Etza A. (Willson) Warren, who were natives of New York; the father is living, but the mother is dead. The wedding took place at the home of the bride in Newark, Rock Co., Wis. Of this union there have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Warren, Jay W., Agnes E., Orrin J., Mark N., George M. and Carl W. Mr. Lathrop is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church, together with his excellent wife, as also was his first partner. He takes a warm interest in the success of the temperance movement, and gives his political support to the Prohibition party. He has served as Assessor three terms in his precinct, and this is the extent of his office-holding, as he has refused all further responsibility in this direction.

Mr. Lathrop, in 1870, erected one of the finest brick farm residences in Otoe County. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and its surroundings are in keeping with the taste and means of the proprietor. Mrs. Lathrop, in her own right, is the owner of 160 acres in Thomas County, Kan., and a fine timber claim also belongs to the estate.

BENJAMIN S. MOTHERSEAD, proprietor of the Talmage Hotel in the town of that name, and one of the highly respected citizens, has resided in the district since the town was platted. He has been one of the active citizens in promoting the interests of the county, and was one of the first members to sit on the Village Board, and was there at the time it received the charter. He came to the county in 1864, and located upon a farm which he operated for a number of years, afterward renting the place, and in 1865 purchased property in Four Mile Precinct. He lived on it for about seventeen years, effected considerable improvement, and was financially successful.

The subject of our sketch was born in Kentucky, near Frankfort, on the 15th of March, 1835. His father, Nathaniel Mothersead, was born in England, and came to this country when but a lad, and was brought up in Virginia. There, also, later he was married to Miss Mary S. Sweard, who was born and brought up in Virginia but of Eng'ish descent. The husband and wife started out in life together making their home in Kentucky, and the father of our subject took land and began to operate it. There were born and brought up eight children, three of whom were sons. Of this family our subject was the youngest child.

The parents of our subject, with their children, subsequently removed to Missouri, locating in Gentry County, and there made the home that was theirs for the remainder of life. Both were consistent members of the Baptist Church for many years, and were active in its support. The father was a sound Democrat, and represented his county in the State Legislature in 1856, and also in 1858. He was elected to the State Senate in 1858, and represented the district embracing the counties of Buchanan, DeKalb, Harrison, Gentry and Worth. In 1860 he was appointed County Enroller of the Census for Gentry, but died during that year. He was also prominent in the Masonic fraternity, and highly respected among the members of the order, as he was in every other relation.

The subject of our sketch grew up at home until the year 1852, when he, in company with several others, set out from St. Joseph, and went across the plains to California, and after six months' travel landed in Sacramento. Before long our subject went to Virginia City, Nev., and for four years was in the mining district there. He then returned to California and traveled considerably in that State, and afterward went back by the water route. In 1858 he made a second trip to California, returning the following year, making his home in Missouri for about twelve months. He then went to Montana, remaining until 1864, when he returned over-

land. He was a true pioneer, and his life is filled with thrilling experiences and amusing incidents. He has been in several rich mines, the richest being owned by a company of which he was a member, and which would "pan out" $30 per day to a single "drifter."

Mr. Mothersead was united in marriage while a resident in Gentry County, the lady being Hannah Jones, who was born in that district in the year 1842. Her family was of Eastern origin, her father, Jacob Jones, having been a resident of New York State, but for many years has lived in Missouri, where he still resides, and has reached the age of ninety-two years. His daughter Hannah was educated and brought up in Gentry County; her mother, also a native of New York, is also living, and is in her seventy-fourth year.

To our subject and wife there have come seven children: Andrew J., who is married to Miss Mary Staid, of Missouri, but now living in Lincoln County; Fanny E.; Ida, the wife of George Davis, of Talmage; Lizzie, now Mrs. Fred Scammell, of Atchison; Charles D., who resides at home and is engaged in the study of pharmacy; Mary, a successful teacher in Osage Precinct, and Frank, who is clerking in a general store at Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Mothersead are members in good standing of the Christian Church; he is one of the active local politicians, espousing the principles of the Democratic party, and during the past four years has served as a member of the School Board.

WILLIAM H. MOORE, a pioneer of Otoe County, came with his mother and stepfather early in the spring of the year 1854. His stepfather had previously viewed the ground in 1853. At that period the place was known as Ft. Kearney, Maj. Downs being the Commandant. Mr. Moore has been associated with the varied interests of the rising State of Nebraska for many years, and was residing in it in the early days of pioneerdom. He was born in Richmond, Ind., on the 18th of May, 1847. His father, Zimri Moore, was also born in the Hoosier State, his father, Samuel Moore, grandfather of our subject, having settled in Wayne County when the State was first opened for settlement. He cleared himself a farm from the dense forests and undergrowth, and continued to reside there until his death.

It was on the above-mentioned farm that the father of our subject was reared and married, and settled in the vicinity. His home was there until his death, which occurred in 1850. His wife, whose maiden name was Ruth McPherson, died in Nebraska when her son William H. was eleven years old. After the death of her first husband she married Daniel Walker, and with him came to Nebraska. By her last husband she had three children. Her father, Joseph McPherson, was one of the pioneers of Wayne County, and of Scottish parentage. The mother of our subject and his stepfather came to the Territory of Nebraska in 1854, and located near what is now known as Minersville. The place was then overrun by Indians, and it was necessary to keep on friendly terms. The better to effect this he made them a present of three hogs from his little drove that he had brought along from Fremont County, Iowa.

Mr. Walker cleared a considerable tract of land, and erected his house on the northeast part of what is now Otoe Precinct. He made a business of making clapboards, which he sold to the settlers and in Nebraska City to shingle their buildings. They sold for $1 per hundred, and he could make several hundred per day, so that it was quite profitable. He continued to reside in that place a little more than a year, then removed to Camp Creek, where he settled on section 27 of Otoe Precinct, where the mother of our subject died in 1857, after which event Mr. Walker sold the claim, and took a claim on the river bottom. Later he enlisted in the 1st Nebraska Regiment and went South, and there died in the service.

At the time the Western migration was made our subject was in his sixth year, and his home was with his mother until her death. In Nebraska there were no settlers at the time, and it was still chiefly occupied by the Indians. After the death of his mother he went to live with Mr. Absalom Tipton in Wyoming Precinct, working during the summer upon the farm, and attending school during the winter months. He continued to make his

home there until 1861, and then engaged with Majs. Russell and Waddell, the Government freighters, to drive teams across the plains for them, and continued thus for two years, making four round trips across the plains to Ft. Laramie and Denver and Bitter Cottonwood.

In 1863 Mr. Moore engaged in mining in Colorado, but in 1864 returned to his teaming, which he continued until 1867, when the Union Pacific Railroad was completed as far as Cheyenne, and freighting of course ceased. He then returned to mining, and worked at Georgetown, Col., continuing there for seven years, and has continued to hold interests there ever since, but the high altitude affecting his health he was obliged to return East. His mining interests have proved very profitable.

June 6, 1874, the subject of our sketch became the husband of Emma C. Cowles, who was born to Charles H. and Mary (Martin) Cowles (see sketch) at Lindell, Mo., on the 29th of July, 1852. Their union has been consummated by the birth of three children, viz: Jessie, Mark and James. Mrs. Moore is an attractive and educated lady of happy disposition, and faithful to the responsibilities devolving upon her in the domestic relation.

For several years the subject of our sketch owned a fine, well-cultivated farm in Wyoming Precinct, which he recently sold to his brother-in-law, C. C. Cowles. He is the owner of about 400 acres in the bottoms in Wyoming Precinct. Politically, he is a stanch Republican.

JAMES E. BROWN. Upon section 14, Wyoming Precinct, lies the highly productive and well-cultivated farm of the subject of our sketch. It comprises eighty acres. He owns also a similar number of acres on section 22, which also is thoroughly improved. Our subject was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., on the 21st of March, 1838. He was eight years of age when his parents migrated to Allegheny City, Pa.

Our subject is the fifth child of James and Silvinia (Van Vliett) Brown, both of whom were natives of Huntingdon County. Upon the father's side the family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and upon that of the mother of Holland Dutch. Mr. Brown, Sr., was a shoemaker by trade. This he followed with a fair measure of success, and continued to work at it until, in 1881, having become totally blind, he was compelled to give it up, and then went to live with our subject. He departed this life on the 12th of September, 1887, being then eighty-six years of age. In the War of the Rebellion he served bravely and well, in the 139th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was a life member of the Presbyterian Church, and very strict and conscientious in his everyday life. Politically, he was first a Whig and then a Republican. The mother of our subject is living in Allegheny with her children, and is eighty years of age. Like her husband, she has been a devout member of the Presbyterian Church from her youth.

The first seventeen years of the life of our subject were spent at home, but at that time he was anxious to move westward. Accordingly he started upon his journey in the month of May, 1855, crossed the Missouri River to Plattsmouth, and then located at Nebraska City. He soon found employment, but later joined the first Government surveying party sent out to this State. While in their company he had abundant opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Indians, their mode of living, etc., not omitting their dislike of and treachery to the "pale face," and has some experience of both. He was a volunteer under O. P. Mason to suppress the Indian raiders. Upon leaving the surveying party he pre-empted a tract of land, and farmed until the wave of excitement concerning Pike's Peak swept over the country. He then spent two years in Colorado in the gold mines; afterward he was some time in Idaho. Returning in 1865 to this county, he located upon his farm in Wyoming Precinct.

In Wyoming Precinct, May 24, 1864, Mr. Brown was united in wedlock with Julia E. Bishop, who was born in Portage County, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1838, to the Rev. James and Julia (Allen) Bishop, natives respectively of Connecticut and Vermont. Her mother was a direct descendant of the old Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame. Her parents were married in Ohio, and began life in agricultural and dairy pursuits; later her father devoted part of

his time to the ministry of the Methodist Church. In 1839 they moved to DeKalb County, Ill., and for some years resided there, then went to LaFayette County, Wis. They resided in that State until 1856, when they came to Nebraska, and settled near Tecumseh in what is now Johnson County, and were the first actual settlers of the county. Some time afterward they came to Wyoming Precinct in this county, where the mother, after a life of sixty-one years, went to her last rest in the year 1863. The father subsequently went to Nemaha County, where he died in January, 1883, being eighty-one years of age.

Mrs. Brown it will be seen by the above has spent her early years in different places as indicated by the removals of her parents. By the time she was seventeen years of age she had prepared herself for teaching, and this profession she followed until her marriage. She has presented her husband with five children. Their first-born, Fannie, died when nine years of age; the following are the surviving children: William T. is attending the University at Lincoln, and is a very promising student and is fitting himself for the ministry of the Episcopal Church, to which he belongs; the other three children, Charles S., Florence M. and Jonathan E., are still at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown are regular attendants of the Episcopal Church, and are also interested in the Prohibition movement, and our subject is in political affairs a third party man. He has filled with satisfaction to all the position of Assessor of the precinct. He is a man largely respected for his high character and also by reason of his social position.

ME. DUFF is a member of the firm of Duff, Bartling & Co., prominent grain dealers of Nebraska City. He is a man of wide experience, of much practical sagacity, is a sound financier, and, although he has been a resident of this place but a little over two years, he has already gained an assured position in its business circles. He was born in LaFayette County, Wis., of which his father, Christopher Duff, was an early settler. The latter was a native of Ireland, and there grew up to manhood. After his marriage with Miss Ann McNulty, likewise a native of Ireland, he came to America and settled in New Jersey. He there worked at the trade of blacksmith, and about the year 1836 moved to the Territory of Wisconsin, and located in LaFayette County. The country round about was at that time but sparsely settled; mining was the principal industry, and but little attention had been paid to agriculture. Mr. Duff was prosperously engaged there at his trade until his death in 1852. He was an honorable, intelligent, hard-working man, and highly esteemed by his neighbors and friends. His wife now makes her home with her children, who surround her with every comfort that thoughtful love can devise to make her declining years pleasant and peaceful.

The subject of this brief life record was only ten years old when he had the misfortune to lose his father, and he lived with his mother until he was fifteen years old. He was a lad of more than ordinary ambition and enterprise, was gifted with a fine mental capacity, and at that age started out in life for himself. He went to Elkader, Clayton Co., Iowa, and obtained employment as a clerk in a general store, and was thus engaged until he was twenty years old. At that youthful age he was already influential in public affairs, and in recognition of his financial and business ability, he was appointed to the office of Deputy Treasurer and Recorder of Clayton County, whose duties he discharged with gratifying success for four years, or until ill-health compelled him to seek the beneficial air of California for healing. He spent a year and a half in the Golden State, and then returned to the State of Iowa, and was made Deputy Clerk of Clayton County. He held that office until the office of County Auditor was created, when he was appointed to that position, and later was re-elected to the same office, which he held continuously for three years, acquitting himself in that responsible public charge with distinction. After that he was engaged with Russell & Co., of Massillon, Ohio, as general collector in the Northwestern States. He traveled in the interests of that company for two or three years, and then took charge of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul right of way affairs in

Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota. For five years he was thus employed, and subsequently superintended the sale of their lands in Minnesota, closing them out to a syndicate in a few months. After that he was in an insurance office in Chicago for two years, and in 1886 he came from that city to this, and formed his present partnership with his brother, N. A. Duff, and H. H. Bartling, and has since been actively engaged in buying and shipping grain from this point.

Mr. Duff has established an attractive, cozy home here, and his wife, to whom he was united in marriage here in August, 1872, cordially unites with him in extending its pleasant hospitality to the friend or stranger who crosses its threshold. Mrs. Duff was formerly Miss Mary F. Odell, and she is a native of Indiana. Of this union two children have been born—Edwin A. and Reba. Mrs. Duff is a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, Mr. Duff is identified with the Republican party, as he firmly believes its policy to be the true one for the safe guidance of National affairs.

DAVID BRADDOCK is one of the esteemed citizens, prosperous men, and able Justices of the Peace of South Branch Precinct. His home is upon section 24, and stands upon a farm of 160 acres. His father, Marton Braddock, was born in Knox County, Ohio, in the year 1823, and was there an extensive land-owner and successful farmer. His wife, Delilah (Lepley) Braddock, was born near the same place in 1828.

The great-grandfather of our subject came from England, and settled in Virginia in Colonial days, and served under Gen. Washington in the Revolutionary War, being one of the first to enter, and continuing until the end of the chapter. His son William, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Virginia, and continued there throughout his life.

The father of our subject moved with his family from Ohio to Mahaska, Iowa, in the year 1850, and staid for eighteen months, and was one of the pioneers. At the end of that period he removed to Marshall County in the same State, and in the spring of 1852 entered 160 acres of land, and is a wealthy citizen, now owning 400 acres of well-stocked and finely improved land. His dwelling cost him $8,000, and all the other buildings in proportion. He is a well-informed citizen, and sustains a reputation for liberality. His family circle includes eleven children, whose names are as follows: David, John, Mary, Martha, William, Anginora, Lizzie, James F., Harvey T., Anna and Edward.

The subject of our sketch was born in Knox County, Ohio, on the 3d of June, 1850. With his father he went to Iowa upon his removal to that State, and continued to live with his parents until he attained his majority. He attended the classes of his school of the district, and also took a course of instruction at Albion Seminary in 1871 and 1872. In 1874 he took a trip across the plains, through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Colorado and Iowa, and then began farming near his old home, continuing the same until 1879. Then he came to this county, and located upon the farm he now occupies. The ground was entirely unimproved, and in a thoroughly native condition. His residence and farm buildings are worthy of mention, the groves of shade and forest trees cover seven acres, the orchard comprising about 230 excellent bearing trees, besides numerous other works and improvements.

While a resident of Marietta, Iowa, Mr. Braddock was joined in matrimony with Dora M. Ritenour on the 27th of February, 1879. This lady is the daughter of William and Daphna M. Taft, who were natives of Vermont and Ohio respectively, and were married in the latter State. Her father was by occupation a farmer, and at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted from Ohio, and died at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Her mother is now living in Lincoln County, Neb. She is the mother of four children—Vestina, Willis, George and Dora. The latter was born on the 28th of April, 1863, in Knox County, Ohio. There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Braddock four children—Jennessie, William H., John and Odessa.

Mrs. Braddock is a member of the Christian Church, but usually attends that of the Presbyterian persuasion, as being more convenient to her home. Mr. and Mrs. B. are everywhere much esteemed as

Yours Very Truly
A. Zimmerer

worthy members of society. Our subject is a member of the K. of P., and usually attends the lodge at Syracuse. He is a Democrat stanch and true, heartily supporting the principles and ticket of the party. For eight years he was a member of the School Board, and since January last has filled the chair of Justice of the Peace.

HON. ANTON ZIMMERER, a well-known and prominent citizen and business man of Nebraska City, proprietor of the Crystal Palace Jewelry, China and Crockery Store, was one of the early pioneers of this State, and has done his share in developing its varied resources and in promoting its commercial interests. His portrait is given in this volume, appearing on the opposite page. He was born Sept. 15, 1832, in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany. His father, Joseph Zimmerer, was born in the same locality, as were also his parents, Alois and Theresa Zimmerer, and they spent their entire lives there. The father of our subject was a farmer, owning a farm of thirty acres, and he followed agricultural pursuits in his native land until his death, in 1871. He was a man whose honest, straightforward dealings with his fellows gained him the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. The maiden name of his worthy wife was Maria Mauch, and she was likewise a lifelong resident of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, dying there at the home of her husband, in 1849. She was a daughter of Anton and Theresa (Geiger) Mauch. To her and her husband were born eleven children, seven of whom grew up: Alois, Anton, Elizabeth, Kunigunda, Genevieve, Carl and John. Alois lives in France; Elizabeth lives on the old homestead; Kunigunda came to America, married William Bischof, and died in Nebraska City; Carl and John live in Nebraska, the former in York and the latter in Seward.

Anton Zimmerer was reared in his native land, and received the advantages of its excellent school system until he was fourteen years of age, being at that time prepared to enter college. But his father's limited means obliged our subject to forego his ambitious desire for a university education, and at the age of sixteen he commenced to learn the tailor's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He subsequently traveled in Switzerland, and worked as a tailor in the larger cities there for a time. When he was twenty-one he returned to his birthplace, and at about that time occurred the customary drawing of lots to decide which of the young men of the village should go to serve in the German Army. Fortunately he drew a lucky number, although he came within one of drawing one that would have indicated that he must become a soldier, and being thus freed from military duty, he was granted leave to come to America, and on the 15th of September, 1853, he set sail from Rotterdam, bound for this land of promise. While still sailing on the North Sea cholera broke out on board the vessel, and it was quarantined for a time in the Marine Hospital of the Netherlands, and did not land in New York until the 24th of the following December. Our subject proceeded directly to Madison, Ind., where he arrived not only with empty pockets, but had to begin his new life $75 in debt. Nothing daunted by this discouraging fact, he courageously sought work, and was soon employed at his trade. At the end of nine months he left Madison and proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, and from there to Springboro, where he worked at tailoring until 1856. In the fall of that year he went to Des Moines, Iowa, then a place of about 5,000 inhabitants. In the spring of 1857 he started on a pedestrian tour for this city, there being no railway at that time, and coming by the way of Council Bluffs, arrived here on the 22d of April, having walked a distance of 300 miles. He found Nebraska City a small town, with but a few hundred inhabitants; the old block house, built by the Government, was still standing, and that part of the town on the east side of the creek, known as Kearney, was the business portion of the city. The whole section of country west was wild prairie owned by the Government, and not yet in the market, and later was sold at $1.25 an acre. Deer, antelopes and wild turkeys were plentiful at that time, and there were no railways west of Eastern Iowa or Missouri, all transportation being done by steamers on the river or by teams overland. Nebraska City be-

came the headquarters for the freighters across the plains, and after the surrounding country began to be settled it was the market and depot for supplies for the settlements for some time.

Mr. Zimmerer easily found employment at his trade, but he soon concluded that he would turn his attention to agriculture on this rich and fertile soil, and he went to Pawnee County and took up a tract of Government land. In the following year (1858) he hired some breaking done, built a log house, and in 1859 took up his residence on his land. He remained there engaged in farming, with Nebraska City, fifty miles distant, his nearest market, for three years, making an undoubted success of his agricultural venture. He then sold his farm, returned to Nebraska City, and with the proceeds of the sale established himself as a merchant tailor, opening a custom shop, and continuing in that business until 1868. He then formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Bischof, and opened a hardware store, which they managed together until 1883, when our subject disposed of his interest in the establishment to his partner. He then bought 1,000 acres of land in Gage County, intending to engage extensively in farming and stock-raising, but he changed his mind, and in 1886 bought his present store, and is doing a large business.

Our subject was married, Aug. 30, 1868, to Emma Zepf, and to them nine children have been born, as follows: Carl, Tony, John, Maurice, Alpha, Nettie, Frank, Eddie and Fred. Mr. Zimmerer has two children by a former marriage—Emma and Lizzie. Emma is the wife of F. Daniel Kees, a prominent hardware merchant, of Beatrice; Lizzie is the wife of George Street, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, of Oberlin, Kan. Mrs. Zimmerer is a member of the Baptist Church, and, with her husband, occupies a high social position in this community. Mrs. Zimmerer was born Jan. 22, 1844, in Frittlingen, Wurtemberg, and reared in the same village. She came to this country with her parents when but seven years old. Her father, Mr. Nicolaus Zepf, resided on a farm near Pontiac, Ill., where he died in 1872. The mother, Mrs. Francis Zepf, *nee* Zimmerer, is still living at the old homestead in Livingston County, Ill.

Mr. Zimmerer is pre-eminently a self-made man, owing all that he is and has to his own indomitable energy, excellent business talent and persistency, so that he is now numbered among the men of influence and wealth who reside in this city. During the time that he has been in business here his residence has been outside of the city limits, so that he has not taken an active part in municipal affairs, but he has been a prominent office-holder of Otoe County, being one of the leading councillors of the Republican party. He was a candidate at one time for the county treasuryship, but was defeated by a very small majority, his opponent being an old and tried incumbent of the office. In 1868 he served with distinction as Representative to the State Legislature, which then for the first time met at Lincoln, and was on several important committees, the most important of which was, perhaps, the Committee on Emigration. Mr. Zimmerer is prominently identified with the I. O. O. F., which he first joined in Ohio, and is at present a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3; he has served as Grand Master of the State, in 1875–76. He is also a member of Ridgley Encampment No. 1, I. O. O. F., and he has twice been a delegate to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the United States.

JOHN W. HOAGLAND, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, owns a good property on section 17, upon which he has made great improvements since it came into his possession. A native of Morgan County, Ill., he was born Nov. 16, 1836, and is the son of George W. and Catherine (West) Hoagland, the former of whom was a native of Morristown, N. J., and the latter born near the city of Frankfort, Franklin Co., Ky. They are now residing at Springfield, Ill.

The parental household consisted of six children, named as follows: Mary L., Mrs. Ruyan; Jane, Mrs. Easley; Emma, Mrs. Holmes; John W., James and George. John W. Hoagland received a common-school education, and was reared a farmer's boy. He came to this county alone, in the spring of 1870, and the year following settled upon the land included in his present farm. He is now the owner of 480 acres, and makes a specialty of stock-

raising, his animals including Short-horn cattle, Percheron horses and Poland-China swine. From these he realizes a handsome income.

Mr. Hoagland has fulfilled in an admirable manner all the duties of an honest man and a good citizen, with one exception, and that is that he has never been married. He is, however, one of the jolliest old bachelors of Otoe County, and in the enjoyment of his single blessedness is surrounded by hosts of friends. His married sister, Mrs. Easley, presides over his domestic concerns, and her two sons, Frederick and George, live with them and serve to make the home circle bright and cheerful. They are smart and intelligent lads and attend the district school. The farm, with its well-fed animals and all the comforts of the modern rural home, presents a very attractive picture.

JOHN WOLF. There are few homesteads in Otoe County more attractive or valuable than that of the subject of this sketch, a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. He came to Nebraska in 1867, comparatively without means, and from first principles has built up a fine property. Settling upon a tract of wild prairie land, he began the cultivation of the soil and the improvement of his property, and is now enjoying the rich reward of his labors, being surrounded with all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries. To his sensible and intelligent wife much credit is also due for the manner in which she has performed her part toward the building up of the homestead, the training of their children, and her studious care in watching over the welfare of their family. In their surroundings we have a picture of the modern home, blessed by comfort and plenty, and those endearing ties which make of the fireside the most sacred place on earth.

The property of Mr. Wolf embraces 320 acres of highly cultivated land on sections 14 and 23, Berlin Precinct. To commence at the beginning of a most interesting career we learn that he is of German birth and parentage, a native of Mecklenburg, where he first opened his eyes to the light July 17, 1843. This Province was also the native place of his parents, Charles and Charlotte (Streu) Wolf, and of his grandfathers. Jacob Wolf and John Streu. The latter fought in the wars against Napoleon. Grandfather Wolf followed farming all his life, and to this pursuit reared his son Charles, and both, with the mother of our subject, spent their entire lives in their native Germany. The parents of Mr. Wolf died each at the age of forty-eight years, the mother in 1852, and the father in 1862. Their six children were named respectively: Maria, who continues in her native Germany; Sophia, who died when twenty-four years old; Lena, residing in Michigan; John, our subject; George, deceased, and Christian.

Mr. Wolf was given a thorough education in his native tongue, pursuing his studies from the early age of six years until a lad of fourteen. When leaving the school he began "paddling his own canoe," working at farming mostly until 1867. He then made up his mind to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Bidding adieu to the friends of his childhood, he made his way to the city of Hamburg and engaged passage on the ocean steamer "Almania," which landed him, seventeen days later, in the city of New York. Thence he came directly to the new State of Nebraska, locating first in Cass County for a brief time, and later worked on a railroad in Iowa and Missouri, spending the winter in Nebraska. He was thereafter employed alternately, on a farm and on a railroad, and finally settled upon a tract of rented land in Berlin Precinct, which he operated two years. He purchased his present place of eighty acres in the spring of 1870. It was a tract of raw prairie, and in its transformation to the present beautiful farm there have been employed years of labor and thousands of dollars. Mr. Wolf has erected a good set of frame buildings, having to haul his material from Nebraska City. He has set out groves and an orchard of 200 apple trees, besides the finer shade and smaller fruit trees. His land is finely located, and amply watered by Sand Creek. In 1875 he purchased 168 acres adjoining the first, and two years later another eighty acres. It has all been brought to a productive condition, and of late years is mostly devoted to live stock,

Mr. Wolf feeding large numbers of cattle and swine, shipping annually of each a carload. He also has some fine horses, keeping usually about eight head. The homestead proper lies on section 14, and his other land is on section 23.

The marriage of John Wolf and Miss Minnie Tesnow was celebrated at the home of the bride in Berlin Precinct, Sept. 16, 1868. Mrs. Wolf is a native of the same Province in Germany as her husband, and was born March 22, 1844. She came to America with her parents in 1867, and to Nebraska in the same year as her husband. Of their union there have been born six children, only three of whom are living, namely: Louis, Adolph and Emma. Their eldest-born, Frederick, was killed by lightning in the field in 1880, when twelve years old; John and Emma died when infants.

Mr. Wolf, after becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, of which he is a firm adherent, and is frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He is an active member of the Lutheran Church, and gives liberally of his means for the support of the church and in the erection of its buildings. No man takes a warmer interest in furthering the public enterprises which shall tend to the moral and religious welfare of his community. The home of Mr. Wolf and his family is a remarkably pleasant resort, where friend and stranger alike are met with that courtesy indicative of good breeding and genuine hospitality.

CHARLES F. HUNTER. In the career of this gentleman we have that of one who has traveled extensively in the Great West, and seen much of life on the frontier. He is now the owner of a snug farm on section 8 in Delaware Precinct, and takes special interest in the raising of stock, cattle and swine. In this branch of agriculture he is very successful, having the good judgment required in the selection of stock and their care and treatment.

Our subject was born in Delaware County, Pa., Jan. 3, 1828, and is the son of William and Jennie (Davis) Hunter, the former of whom was a native of the same county as his son, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was a farmer by occupation, and departed this life at his home in Pennsylvania in 1855. The mother died about 1839. The parental household included ten children, five of whom are deceased.

William Hunter, Sr., the paternal grandfather of our subject, was the son of another William Hunter, who was of Scotch ancestry but born in England, and emigrated to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania probably during the Colonial days. On the mother's side the grandfather of our subject was Mordecai Davis, of Welsh ancestry. He spent his last years in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hunter acquired the rudiments of his education in his native county, and in the spring of 1851, when a young man of twenty-three years, leaving the Keystone State, made his way to Zanesville, Ohio. In the fall of that year, 1851, he returned home where he remained five years, but in the spring of 1856 turned his face once more toward the farther West. This time he crossed the Father of Waters, and settling in the embryo town of Burlington, Iowa, established a candle factory, which he operated a year, then changed his residence to Iowa City.

In the fall of 1858 Mr. Hunter came to the Territory of Nebraska, and occupied himself at freighting to Utah until the spring of 1860. He then started out for the Territory of Utah with a team of six yoke of oxen, his destination being Ft. Crittenden. For a year thereafter he was in the employ of the Government, and afterward followed teaming over the Western States and Territories in the interests of a stage company. He went through to Ft. Hall in Washington Territory, then returning to Salt Lake City accepted the position of messenger for a stage company at a salary of $75 per month.

The fall of 1864 found our subject in Nebraska City, where he employed himself until December, 1866. Thence he went to Davenport, Iowa, where he concluded to settle and engage in the employ of the Government. With this in view he returned to Pennsylvania the winter following, and in the spring of 1867 took his family to Davenport. They lived there until the spring of 1873, and then

Mr. Hunter changed his residence to Tama County, Iowa, where he occupied himself in farming and raising stock until April, 1879.

Mr. Hunter now returned to Nebraska City, and concluded to make this county his future home. He purchased eighty acres of land, and began the development of the farm which is now the object of admiration by the passing traveler. He has neat and substantial buildings, and superintends his agricultural operations with that good judgment which has met with its legitimate reward in the building up of a most valuable and attractive homestead. He keeps about ten head of cattle, and a herd of forty swine, and from the proceeds of these enjoys a handsome income annnually.

The marriage of Charles F. Hunter and Miss Elizabeth P. Nuzum was celebrated at the home of the bride in Delaware County, Pa., Feb. 21, 1867. Mrs. Hunter is the daughter of William and Sarah (Epright) Nuzum, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and are now deceased. She was born in October, 1829. Of her union with our subject there is one child, a son, William N., who was born Nov. 22, 1867, and is a young man gifted by nature with more than ordinary capabilities. He has received a good education, and possesses in a marked degree the business talents of his father, whom he assists in the carrying on of the farm and in his stock operations. The family is widely and favorably known throughout this region, where they enjoy the society of hosts of friends. Mr. Hunter votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has no desire for the responsibilities of office.

FREDERICK H. BRAUER, Coronor of Otoe County, and also engaged as an undertaker in Nebraska City, is one of its most enterprising young business men, and one who at once attracts attention on account of the superior qualities of his mind and character. He is more than ordinarily intelligent, is well educated, refined and intellectual, and, surrounded by hosts of friends, evidently has before him a bright and promising career. United with these qualities is sound common sense, by which he is enabled to take a practical view of life, and adapt himself to its more serious business. He has been an industrious student and an extensive reader, and there are few men of his age who possess a finer fund of general information.

Mr. Brauer came to Nebraska City in April of 1870, when a lad twelve years of age, directly from his native Germany. He was born near the town of Jeber, on the borders of the North Sea in the Duchy of Oldenburg, and is the son of Frederick H., Sr., and Anna Brauer, the former of whom died when a young man, leaving one child, Frederick H. The father was a stone-cutter by trade, and left his little family with moderate means. Our subject was then a little lad five or six years old. The mother continued at her old home a few years after the death of her husband, but in the spring of 1870 set sail for America, and, after landing in the city of Baltimore, proceeded directly to Nebraska, arriving in this county on the 3d of April. Two years later she contracted a second marriage, with Mr. Henry Burmeister, by whom she became the mother of one child, a daughter, Mary, who is now at home. The mother is still living in this city.

Mr. Brauer applied himself closely to his books in the schools of Nebraska City, improving every opportunity to acquire useful information, and when leaving school by no means abandoned his education, this being carried on by the perusal of instructive books and the leading periodicals of the day. At the same time it was necessary that he should engage in some useful employment, and he began learning the business of undertaker and cabinet-maker with Mr. August Krieger, with whom he remained a period of three years. Subsequently he entered the employ of S J. Faries, now a resident of the city of Omaha, with whom he continued seven years, and then formed a partnership with J. W. Butt, at Nebraska City. They, under the firm name of Butt & Brauer, were established on Central avenue the first year, then purchased the business of Mr. Faries, and operated together another year, when Mr. Brauer sold his interest to his partner, and established in business alone, in August of 1885. About this time he was elected County Coronor, the duties of which office he has since discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to

all concerned, and which he has held by re-election since that time.

Our subject identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1884, being a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2, and Alpha Consistory No. 50. He is also a Knight of Pythias, in which he is Past Chancellor, and belongs to the A. O. U. W. He is also connected with the Building and Loan Association of Nebraska City, and keeps himself well posted in regard to business matters, and those enterprises generally tending to the advancement of the city's interests. He cast his first Presidential vote for Garfield, and is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. Still unmarried, he makes his home with his mother.

HERMAN H. BARTLING. It goes without saying that the population of the United States is being recruited, and has been from the beginning by settlers from homes beyond the seas. That there are some more desirable citizens than others is an equally patent fact, and yet another equally incontrovertible truth is, that of all from any country, district or province, those from the Fatherland, taken as a class, are more to be commended because of their unostentatious, painstaking, practical and praiseworthy industry and unceasing loyalty. There are, perhaps, not to be found throughout the length and breadth of the German Empire a more noble people than those of Westphalia, a Province where sobriety, morality, diligent toil, mutual confidence and regard seem to mark the citizen and peasant alike; whether among its hills or traversing its plains, or walking its cities, one is assured of meeting with courtesy, affability and kindness.

Nebraska City has several representatives of the people mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, and of these by no means the least worthy is the gentleman a sketch of whose life is herein presented in brief form. He was born in Halle, Westphalia, Sept. 16, 1848. His father, C. H. Bartling, was a native of the same place, and followed agriculture as his chosen occupation in life. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Poetting. She became the mother of seven children, all of whom grew to mature years, but only three of them are in America. They are: the subject of the present sketch, Clamer F. A. and William H.

Our subject attended the school steadily until he was about fourteen years of age, and when not thus engaged, and after reaching that age, he assisted his father upon the farm, and in such work became quite proficient, and was thus employed with his father until the year 1865. In November of that year he set sail from Bremen, landed at New York the following month, and almost immediately pushed on to St. Louis, where he spent one week, and then went to Washington County. There he speedily found employment upon a farm, for which he was remunerated at the rate of $200 per annum, and remained there for about three and a half years. At the end of that period he came to Nebraska City, and was employed as clerk in the general store of F. M. Rottman until the fall of 1871. Upon leaving Mr. Rottman our subject formed a partnership with H. Homeyer, and opened a general store. Four years later he bought this gentleman's interest in the business, and since that time has conducted it alone. The handsome and commodious building, his present headquarters, was erected in 1876, and in its designment special thought and care were given to especially adapt it for his business. It stands upon the corner of Main and Eleventh streets, and occupies a ground measurement site of 24x120 feet, is constructed of the best Nebraska City brick, and presents an unusually fine appearence, occupying as it does a very commanding position.

On the 21st of July, 1874, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Fredericka W. Gaede. This lady is the daughter of Dietrich Gaede, who, with his wife, was a native of Saxony, Germany, and is the fourth of five children born to them. This union has proved most auspicious and happy in its outcome, and not the least element in this happiness is the presence in the home of the six children who have been given to them, whose names are as follows: Nellie, Henry, Willie, Eddie, Frank and Arthur.

In addition to his extensive business interests

connected with his store, our subject is a large stockholder in the Merchants' National Bank, of which he is one of the Directors; a member of the Board of Trade; also a stockholder in the canning factory and Nebraska City Manufacturing Company, and member of the firm of Duff, Bartling & Co., grain buyers, whose connection is perhaps the most extensive in the district. He is President of the Nebraska City Street Railway Company, of which he is also a Director. Mr. Bartling has been called upon to serve as a member of the Council of the city. Both our subject and his wife are members of the German Evangelical Church, and are regarded therein as among its most worthy members. They take their place in the best circles of society of the city, and are held in the highest possible esteem by the community. It will have been noticed that in beginning life Mr. Bartling was almost at the lowest round of the ladder, but by energy, untiring industry, intelligence and good judgment, he has struggled, labored and toiled year after year, and, humanly speaking, whatever he is, whatever he has, and whatever influence or power he may possess in the community or business world, it is due to his own efforts, supplemented since his marriage by those of his gifted and accomplished wife and faithful companion.

JACOB J. HOCHSTETLER, one of the leading citizens of Nebraska City, is a fine representative of the pioneers of Nebraska who, through years of toil and self-sacrifice, have aided in building up the wild, sparsely settled prairie country that they found on first coming here into a great and glorious State, whose inexhaustible resources and uncounted wealth give it a high standing among its sister States in the West. He is extensively engaged in business here as an insurance, real-estate and loan agent.

Mr. Hochstetler is a native of Holmes County, Ohio, coming of an old Pennsylvania family, his father and his grandfather both being natives of the Keystone State. The latter, who was a farmer, moved to Ohio, and spent his last days in Holmes County. Jacob Hochstetler, Sr., the father of our subject, was reared in Pennsylvania, and when a young man still unmarried he started out from the old home afoot to seek his fortune in the West, and in Ohio he found work at twenty-five cents a day. He was careful and prudent, and in time saved money enough to buy fifty-six acres of heavily timbered land in Holmes County. Then the pioneer task of felling the tall old trees of the primeval forest that covered his farm, uprooting stumps and breaking the soil began. In doing this he burned large logs that would now be valuable, and soon he had space enough cleared on which to build a log cabin, the same in which our subject was afterward born. He improved a good farm from the surrounding wilderness, and continued to dwell thereon until 1856, when he made another move, having sold his place, and Owen County, Ind., became his home for the rest of his days. He bought an improved farm, and until his death in 1861 was prosperously engaged in farming. He was a man whose steady habits and indubitable integrity won the respect and confidence of all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Miller. She was a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of David Miller, who, with his wife, was also a native of Pennsylvania. The latter's maiden name was Michler. Mrs. Hochstetler died on the home farm in Owen County, Ind., leaving behind her the record of a life well spent. Six children were born to that worthy couple, as follows: Eli, who gave up his life for his country while serving in an Indiana regiment in the late Civil War; John J., who died in February, 1887, at Coles City, Ind.; Jacob J.; Elizabeth, who married Lewis Kerch, and lives in Coles City; Josiah J., who lives in Leadville, Col.; and Sarah, who died when ten years of age.

Jacob Hochstetler was reared in the place of his birth, and gained his education in the district school. As soon as large enough he commenced to assist his father on the farm, and continued to be a member of the parental household until his twentieth year, when he commenced to learn the trade of carpenter and builder. He worked at that a year and a half, and then entered the mercantile business as a clerk in a general store in Bedford, Ohio, and later worked in the same capacity in Louisville, re-

ceiving $5 a month the first year, and the following year $144 for his year's work. In 1851 Mr. Hochstetler formed a partnership with G. H. Burgert, and they opened a general store in Bedford, Ohio. In 1852 they sold out, and after settling up his business our subject went to Indiana, and in 1853 opened a general store in Worthington, conducting it for one year, with a branch store in Stockton, Ind. In 1854 he moved to Stockton, and made his home there until 1856, when he sold out, settled up his affairs, and in the spring of 1857 was ready to begin life anew in another part of the country. He selected the Territory of Nebraska as his objective point, and going by private conveyance to Terre Haute, Ind., took the cars for St. Louis, and in that city embarked on a Missouri River steamer for Nebraska City, where he arrived on the 17th of April. It was snowing at the time, and the next day there was good sleighing, a rare thing at that season, but the preceding winter had been one of terrible severity, long to be remembered by the early settlers. The country was very sparsely settled at that period, there being only about 1,500 people here at the time, and the small towns were confined mostly to the streams. But a few miles west deer and other wild animals still roamed, and Indians were frequent visitors. On his arrival here Mr. Hochstetler assisted Mr. Burnham to open a stock of goods, and in June started out in search of a suitable location. Twenty-three miles west of the city he made a claim, engaged a man for the sum of $100 to build him a cabin, 12x15 feet, and hired another man, for a like sum of money, to break ten acres of his land. After residing on his claim a few months he returned to the city, and bought a claim one and one-half miles from the city in a southerly direction. He erected a hewed log house, in which he lived until December, and then moved back to Nebraska City, and opened a general store in that part of it known as Kearney. At the expiration of a year he sold out that business, built a dwelling-house in Nebraska City, and opened a boot and shoe store on Central avenue. Later Mr. Hochstetler formed a partnership with his old partner, Mr. G. H. Burgert, and they managed two stores until 1861. In that year our subject was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City, and selling his interest in the business, he assumed his duties as Postmaster in May of that year, and for ten years, until July 1, 1871, was the incumbent of that office, and during that long term his efficiency and fidelity made his services invaluable in that responsible position, and he possessed the full confidence of the citizens of Nebraska City. After giving up the office of Postmaster he engaged in the real-estate business and the sale of farm implements, with J. E. McCoy as partner. In 1874 he bought an interest with J. W. Patrick in the agricultural implement manufacturing, and paid his attention to that solely for two years. At the expiration of that time the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hochstetler assuming the indebtedness, and taking all the outstanding assets. During the next year he was engaged in settling that business, and was also engaged in selling produce and manufactured vinegar for two years. In 1878 Mr. Hochstetler turned his attention to an entirely different industry, that of raising stock in Western Nebraska and Eastern Colorado, grazing the cattle on the wild plains. While he found this quite profitable, he yet preferred a business life in the city, and in 1882 he disposed of his stock interests in order to take charge of the extensive insurance business of N. S. Harding, and is still conducting that in Nebraska City very successfully in connection with real-estate dealings and loans. He is a bright, capable business man, systematic in his methods, prompt in his habits, and always keeps up with the times.

Mr. Hochstetler was married, in 1853, to Miss Lucinda Burgert, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of David and Ellen (Huet) Burgert. Of this marriage four children have been born, namely: Charles E., Frank B., Clarence, and Elsie (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Hochstetler are leading members of society in this city, and are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he joined in 1861, and he is a worker in the Sunday-school.

In politics Mr. Hochstetler is a leader in the Republican party, and he is influential in public affairs, and has served two years as County Commissioner. Mr. Hochstetler is a true gentleman, always courteous, kindly and dignified in his manners, and ever helpful and considerate in his relations with his fellowmen, in whose hearts he

T. S. Jones

occupies a warm place. He early formed good business habits, and in his long and useful career, in all his wide and extensive dealings, he has borne an unsullied reputation, and no man is more deserving of trust than he.

JUDGE T. S. JONES. In the hands of this gentleman the balance of justice is held most firmly and adjusted under all circumstances with extreme nicety—always having regard for truth and equity. He has long been identified with the citizens of this county, and has risen to the heights of his profession, and is receiving on every hand most complete regard as a citizen, lawyer and judge.

The subject of our sketch was born Nov. 6, 1837, at St. Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio, and for the first six years of his life that was his home. He then accompanied his parents when they removed to Virginia, remaining with them until he attained his majority. He is the son of Dr. William N. and Jemima (Smith) Jones. His father was an army surgeon, and a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College. He died in West Virginia on the old homestead, after having practiced medicine for over forty-five years.

The great-grandfather of our subject, Thomas Jones, emigrated to this country from Wales, where the family was in good circumstances for that country, and held a good position in society. His son Thomas was born in the District of Columbia, within sight of the National Capitol. Grandmother Jones was of Scotch birth, and upon the maternal side Grandfather Smith was English and Grandmother Smith Irish.

The mother of our subject was born at Cambridge, Ohio, in the year 1819. She is still living, and makes her home at Hebron, W. Va. The family circle included seventeen children, thirteen of whom are still living. Subjoined are the names borne by them; Mary E., now of Kansas; Thomas S., our subject; Samuel, now deceased; Eliza died in infancy; Eliza J. died when twenty years of age; Dr. William N. died when thirty years old; Virginia, Zachariah, Dr. A. P., Dr. Lewis H., Kate, Emma; Priscilla was married, and died when about twenty-eight years of age, leaving three children; Celesta, Sarah, Rachael and Lelia.

The subject of our sketch upon arriving at a proper age attended school in the usual institution, receiving instruction in both Virginia and Ohio. When sixteen years of age he entered Waynesboro College, in the State of Pennsylvania. His mother was a Quaker, and she was brought up after the usual precise methods inculcated by that body, surrounded by the associations and devotional atmosphere common to that people. To him an education meant something, and, having no means to depend upon excepting his own effort, and such as he might attain through it, he went to work steadily, and despite many difficulties that would have daunted a less persevering spirit, he worked his way through college, as have done many others, of whom an illustrious instance is our beloved martyred President, James A. Garfield. To this end he engaged in school teaching under the State system, and was busily employed, while others, apparently more fortunate and better circumstanced, indulged in all manner of recreation and amusement.

Some time after leaving college our subject went to Matamoras, Washington Co., Ohio, and there engaged in teaching school, retaining always, however, his studious habits, and ever keeping before him the remembrance that there was something yet to be learned. Later he went to White County, Ind., and continued his work there, but found that in some regards it was very different, owing to the difference in his scholars. In Indiana there was far more wielding of the rod, but there was that also which atoned for anything of unpleasantness arising from this circumstance, for it was while a resident there that he made the acquaintance of the lady who has through the long years since that time been to him ever the most loving and faithful companion of his life.

On the 21st of February, 1858, the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Jewett, who was born in Erie, Pa., and went to Indiana with her father when about ten or twelve years of age. She grew to early womanhood in White County, of that State, where she continued until her marriage. There have been born to Mr.

and Mrs. Jones seven children, namely: Letitia, who died when three years of age; Minnie; Willie, who died when a year old; Ernest A., Emma J., Thomas O. M. and Fred. Minnie is now the wife of H. Schanahan, of Nebraska City, and is the mother of three children, who bear the following names: Mamie, Frank and Nellie.

After his marriage our subject turned his attention to farming, teaching the school only during the winter months, continuing the same until the year 1860. During that year and the following he engaged as bookkeeper and salesman in Reynolds, Ind., for his brother-in-law, serving at the same time as Postmaster. When the war broke out he deputed to his brother-in-law his duties as Postmaster, and enlisted in the 63d Indiana Infantry for a term of three years. After drilling for six months in the city of Indianapolis, he was ready for the front. Shortly after he was promoted to Orderly Sergeant. The regiment did garrison duty in various places in Kentucky, and until January, 1864, when it was ordered to join Sherman at Cleveland, Tenn., and took part in the engagements of the Atlanta campaign.

The first fight in which our subject took part was the skirmish of Rocky Face, Ga. His first battle was that at Resaca, where 112 men of the regiment fell in so many seconds. Here the regiment won its first real laurels, and established its name as one of the most valiant, intrepid and soldierly of the army. Resaca will be remembered by our subject for another reason, because by reason of his gallantry he was promoted to the Lieutenancy, and at Atlanta he did duty as such, and received his commission of First Lieutenant. After Atlanta they went back to "Check" Hood. At Nashville they succeeded in capturing the bulk of the Confederate army at that place, routing Hood, and causing him to flee the district. In January, 1865, they were transferred by steamer, the ice being broken for them by tugs, via Bellaire and Washington City to Alexandria, where they took transports to Ft. Fisher. Despite innumerable vicissitudes of fortune and hardships, they were at last successful in joining Sherman's army at Goldsboro, and soon after participated in the capture of Fts. Andrews and Wilmington, gaining possession of both places within a few days. The regiment continued with Sherman until the close of the war, and were on the march to Raleigh when they heard of Gen. Lee's surrender, and on the 19th of April received the news of Lincoln's assassination. At the time of Johnston's surrender they were at Durham Station.

The army career of our subject was quite brilliant. He fought valiantly and long, never shrinking from duty for any cause, and the fear of danger was unknown to him. He was not home to see his wife and child during the entire term of his service in the South. The last thirteen months he marched more than 3,000 miles. Several offices of trust were given him, and he was honored by promotion. After Johnston's surrender his division was left to take charge of the artillery and ammunition captured from the rebels. His company was always on the skirmish line of battle, and in spite of this, and the fact that he fought in eighteen of the most desperate conflicts of the war and was under fire over fifty-two times, he came out unscathed and unwounded. Upon one occasion his canteen was demolished by bullets, and at another the rim of his hat was pierced, and yet again, seven bullet holes in his coat told how near he had been to death. He was honorably discharged at Greensboro, N. C., on the 26th of June, 1865.

After the war the subject of our sketch returned home, and engaged in mercantile transactions at Reynolds, White Co., Ind., where he remained until 1869. In that year he removed to State Line, Ill., and continued his business there until March, 1871, when he came to Nebraska City to fill the position of freight and ticket agent on the Midland Pacific Railroad, which he continued to hold until 1875, when he embarked in business again, selling windmills, pumps, etc. In 1881 he purchased a farm two and a half miles southwest of the city, upon which he made his home for about three years, there meeting with no little success until 1884, when he sold his farm, and moved back to the city.

In 1875 Mr. Jones was elected City Assessor, and served until 1881. In 1884 he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace, and his discharge of the duties arising in that connection was such

as to mark him for other honors. He was admitted to the bar as a lawyer in 1888, and to the District Court of Nebraska in the same year. Success in life has come to him not as a result of chance or some mysterious, unknown cause, but because of his determination and perseverance in whatever he undertook, frequently wresting success from the hand that would have given him only failure. He has built and occupies an excellent, substantially built residence on Fourth avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets.

Judge Jones stands in the front rank of active citizens, and holds a prominent position in the various circles of Nebraska City life. He is an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, and is affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 2, and with Keystone Chapter of Royal Arch Masons No. 2. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and also of Ramplin Lodge No. 331, of the Society of Modern Woodmen, meeting in Nebraska City. Religiously, our subject and wife find their home within the communion of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is one of the leaders of the Republican party locally. From 1875 to 1876 he served on the City Council, giving to all excellent and entire satisfaction as a councillor. His connection with the War of the Rebellion was the result of his thorough loyalty and patriotism, and this also makes him an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R. He is allied with the William Baumer Post No. 24, and holds the position of Commander.

The portrait of Judge Jones is given in connection with this brief sketch of his life.

JOHN GAHRKA, a prominent and well-to-do German farmer of Russell Precinct, has labored with more than ordinary success in developing one of the best tracts of land within its borders. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, having been thrown upon his own resources early in life, and forced to make his own way in the world without other assistance than that which his strong hands and resolute will afforded. He was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, May 2, 1843, and is the son of John and Anna Gahrka, who were of pure German ancestry.

The father of our subject, who was a laborer by occupation, died in Germany in 1851, when his son John was a lad eight years of age. The mother two years later came with her children to America, and settled in Wisconsin, where she spent the remainder of her days, her death occurring in 1884, when she was seventy-five years old. To the parents there were born three sons and three daughters, the latter of whom all died young. Henry and Richard, the elder and younger brothers of our subject, continue to live in Wisconsin.

Mr. Gahrka was a lad of ten years when he came to America with his mother, and still remembers many of the incidents of preparation and the long voyage across the ocean. They set sail from the port of Bremen, and landed in New York City, whence they proceeded to Minnesota, and spent the first winter in that State. From there they moved to LaFayette County, Wis., and the mother, with the assistance of her sons, farmed on rented land until 1870. John then purchased forty acres near by, of which he retained possession until the fall of 1882, when he sold out to come to Nebraska.

Upon his arrival in this county Mr. Gahrka settled upon 160 acres of land in Russell Precinct, which he had previously purchased. This he has transformed from an uncultivated prairie into one of the most desirable homesteads in this region, adding to its extent in 1884 eighty acres adjoining on section 12. He has groves of willow and cottonwood, an orchard of fifty bearing apple trees, and a spring of running water. Of late years he has been engaged mostly in buying and feeding cattle. He is known all over his precinct as a man prompt to meet his obligations, industrious and enterprising, a model farmer and a thoroughly reliable citizen. His career has been one abundantly worthy of imitation.

In LaFayette County, Wis., our subject met the lady, Miss Dora Windils, who became his wife on the 9th of October, 1875. Mrs. Gahrka is a native of the same Province as her husband, and is his junior by ten years to the very day, her birth occurring May 2, 1853. Henry and Mary (Rinkins) Windils, the parents of Mrs. Gahrka, were also born

in Hanover, where they were reared and married. They also died there in middle life, the father in 1855, and the mother in 1858. Their eldest child, a son, Henry, died when about thirty-five years old; Dora, Mrs. Gahrka, was the second born. Her younger brother, August, is a resident of Nebraska. The three children completed the household circle.

Mrs. Gahrka in her journey across the Atlantic in 1872 was accompanied by her brother, and after landing in New York proceeded to LaFayette County, Wis., where she lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. G. have no children of their own, but are performing the duties of kind parents to an adopted son, John Windeits. Mr. G. uniformly votes with the Democratic party, and in religious matters both he and his excellent wife are members of the German Lutheran Church at North Branch. He is a citizen of whom Otoe County has reason to be proud.

ABRAHAM D. VANTINE. The spring of 1857 found the subject of this sketch on his way from Illinois to Nebraska Territory, at which time he secured the land which he now owns and occupies. He, however, did not settle upon it until the spring of 1872, he having in the meantime traveled over various portions of different States. At the time last mentioned he returned to this county and began the improvement and cultivation of his purchase, which is now numbered among the most valuable estates of Wyoming Precinct, and which is pleasantly located on section 5.

Mr. Vantine makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in the spring of 1888 commenced a neat farm residence which, with its adjacent buildings, forms a very pleasant and attractive home. He has made for himself a good record, and is numbered among the representative men of the county. A native of Westmoreland County, Pa., he was born July 18, 1830, and is a son of Hezekiah Vantine, a native of Holland, and of substantial Dutch ancestry. It is supposed that he emigrated to the United States early in life, and it is known that he was married in Pennsylvania to the mother of our subject, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary Phillips. She was born in Pennsylvania, and was of ancestry similar to that of her husband.

After marriage the parents of our subject settled on a farm in Allegheny Township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., where the father died in middle life, when his son Abraham D. was a little lad of seven years. Eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, were thus left fatherless. Of these five are yet living, and residents of Pennsylvania. Hezekiah Vantine at the time of his death, about 1837, was fifty-six years of age. The wife and mother survived until 1871, passing her last days at the home in Pennsylvania, and reaching the advanced age of fourscore years. Both parents were United Presbyterians from their youth, excellent and worthy people, who were highly esteemed by all who knew them.

The subject of this sketch was next to the youngest of his father's family, received a common-school education, and grew to manhood in his native county. He came to Nebraska a single man, and in March, 1859, was married, in Wyoming Precinct, to Miss Eliza J. Snell. This lady is a native of the same county as her husband, and born also in Allegheny Township, March 29, 1844. Her parents, Jacob and Eliza (Walters) Snell, were also natives of the Keystone State, of Dutch ancestry on the father's side and of Scotch on the mother's.

Mr. Snell was a stonemason by trade, and after the birth of six children in Pennsylvania, of whom Mrs. Vantine was the eldest, the Snell family moved to Illinois and located in Rock Island City, where Mr. Snell operated as a contractor for the jail that was then in process of construction, and which is yet standing. From Illinois, in 1857, the Snell family proceeded westward across the Mississippi into the Territory of Nebraska, where the father homesteaded 160 acres on section 4, in Wyoming Precinct. Here he occupied himself as a farmer until 1861, then moved to Denver, Col., where, after a residence of twenty years, the mother died April 25, 1880, at the age of fifty-four years. Mr. Snell has since made his home with his children, and is now seventy years of age.

Mrs. Vantine passed her eighteenth birthday in this county, but her education was completed in

Illinois. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, one of whom, a daughter, Elizabeth, died at the age of five years. John W., the eldest child living, assists his father in the management of the farm; Luella is the wife of John W. James, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Sara Littitia, James C., Frank H., Nettie and Harry E. are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Vantine have labored hand in hand in the building up of their homestead, and endured together toil and sacrifice, but are now in the enjoyment of a good home and a competency. Our subject, politically, is a stanch Republican, and as a man and a member of the community has conducted himself in that praiseworthy manner which has secured him the regard of all who know him.

RICHARD A. WHITE is a prominent business man of Nebraska City, where he has been extensively engaged as real-estate and insurance agent. He is a native of Missouri, born about twelve miles from Marshall, the county seat of Saline County, Aug. 28, 1836. He is descended from Virginian ancestry. His father, John A. White, was born in Virginia, near the town of Abingdon, and was there reared and married, Elizabeth Atkins, also a native of the old Dominion, and a daughter of Joseph Atkins, becoming his wife. They moved from their native place to Missouri in 1834, and settled in Saline County, the removal being made with teams. Mr. White became a man of mark among the pioneers of that part of the country, as he was a man of great enterprise, possessing keen foresight, and was well gifted both mentally and physically. He bought 1,000 acres of wild land, the greater part of it prairie, and resided in Saline County until 1838, when he sold his property there and moved to Platte County, Mo., where he bought a tract of timber land one and one-half miles from Platte City. He engaged actively in farming, using slave labor, and tobacco and hemp were the chief products that he raised. In 1843 he disposed of his farm and made another move, Andrew County, Mo., becoming his place of residence. He purchased about 1,500 acres of unimproved land, the greater part of it prairie, and devoted his energies to clearing a large farm, and to raising hemp, corn and other products. St. Louis was the nearest market, and there being no railway then, he used to ship his produce down the river to that city. In 1850, with his son, our subject, and three slaves, he journeyed overland to California, and there they all engaged in mining until the fall of 1851, when they returned home, by way of the Isthmus, New Orleans, Mississippi River, and from St. Louis on the stage to Andrew County. In the following year Mr. White sold his farm in Missouri, and again started for California, accompanied by his family and a colony of his friends and neighbors, with several teams and quite a lot of cattle. He was not destined, however, to reach the land of promise that held such alluring prospects to a man of his temperament and ambition, for when they had traveled over 300 miles from their old home, and were out on the wild, desolate plains, far from any habitation, he was attacked with cholera, and in a few hours the world, with its hopes, its joys and its sorrows, was naught to him, for he had passed from mortality to immortality. Kind and loving hands prepared a burial place for him where he died, and his bereaved family, parting from their friends, left the lone grave on the wild prairies, and, in accordance with the departed father's advice, retraced their way to Missouri, thence to Virginia, the home of their forefathers. They resided there about three years, and then returned to Missouri to settle in Andrew County, and the mother bought a home and lived in Fillmore Village a few years. In 1864 she came to Nebraska City to make her home with her children her remaining days, and died while visiting her daughter in Fairbury, Neb., in 1880. She had married a second time, Benjamin F. Dillon becoming her husband, and they had one child. She had eight children by her first marriage, four of whom grew to maturity.

Richard White, of whom we write, was reared in his native State until he was fourteen years old. It was at that age that his father took him to California, and to the wide-awake young lad who was naturally fond of change of scene and adventure, this was a great and never-to-be-forgotten event.

He still remembers every incident of the long journey by teams over the plains and mountains, from the time that they started, in the month of April, until their arrival in Hangtown, 100 days later. He can also give a vivid account of life in the rude mining camps of that period. After his return with his father to Missouri, he spent the intervening few months in his old home before they started again for California. After his father's death he returned with his mother and his brothers and sisters to Missouri and to Virginia, and continued to live with them for a time after they had again settled in Missouri. He was married in that State, in August, 1857, to Miss Margaret E. Burns, a native of Clay County, Mo., and a daughter of Jeremiah Burns. They have five children living, namely: John B., Effie, Charles, Lee and Elizabeth.

In 1863 Mr. White, following in the footsteps of his father, whose energetic and enterprising character he had inherited to a great degree, also became a pioneer. Pushing on to the very frontier of civilization, he located in Colorado, near the present site of Denver, and thus became one of the earliest settlers of that State, which was then a Territory with but very few inhabitants, there being no settlements in the intervening country between that and the Missouri River, excepting on the West Branch of that river, where a few people had located. Mr. White first engaged in stock-raising, and later in freighting across the plains. In 1864 he removed with his family to Nebraska City, making that his headquarters, whence he still continued freighting to the different military posts, and to the mining camps in the mountains until the completion of the Union Pacific Railway in 1867. He then turned his attention to the auction and loan business, continuing in that about eight years. He then opened an office for the purpose of engaging in his present business as an insurance and real-estate agent. In his busy career Mr. White has accumulated a comfortable property, and with the aid of his good wife, he has built up one of the coziest homes in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. White are stanch members of the Christian Church, and none of their fellow-members are behind them in good works or in the kindness of heart that prompts them to feel charitably toward others. Mr. White belongs to Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., and in his political affiliations he sympathizes with the Democrats, although he was in his earlier years a Whig.

HERMAN M. FRERICHS. The agricultural and stock-raising interests of this county are worthily represented by the subject of this sketch, who owns and occupies 160 acres of good land on section 7, Rock Creek Precinct. During his five years' residence here he has effected many improvements, and distinguished himself as a farmer of modern ideas, not content with anything less than to excel.

Mr. Frerichs came to this county during his boyhood days, his father settling in Rock Creek Precinct in the spring of 1869. Herman M. received his education in the common schools, an education which was begun in his native Hanover, where his birth took place April 25, 1851. He was a little lad six years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, they first settling in Madison County, Ill. Thence they crossed the Mississippi into the young State of Nebraska.

The father, Abraham Frerichs, was of pure German birth and parentage, and married Miss Rachel Uben, they becoming the parents of six children. Further mention is made of him and his excellent wife in the sketch of John Frerichs, a brother of our subject, which will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject continued a member of the parental household until reaching his majority, and then began on his own account. One of the most important steps at this time was his marriage with Miss Rena Bohlken, which took place at the home of the bride, in Nemaha County, Neb. Mrs. Frerichs was born not many miles from Springfield, the capital city of Illinois, Aug. 3, 1859. She came to Nebraska with her parents when two years old. She completed her studies in the schools of Nemaha County, this State, and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in those housewifely duties which have so much to do with the happiness and

comfort of a home. The three children of our subject and his estimable wife comprise two daughters and a son—Lizzie, Mary and Henry. They are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. F. were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, attending services now in Rock Creek Precinct. Mr. Frerichs, politically, is a solid Republican.

LEWIS F. CORNUTT. Nebraska City owes its importance among the cities of the new West, not so much to any natural advantages or special facilities for commerce or travel, as to the wide-awake, far-sightedness and wise continued enterprise and effort of certain of its citizens. Among these, and by no means the least of them, is the subject of our sketch, who was born in Grayson County, Va., on the 22d of May, 1833. His father, Alexander Cornutt, was born in the same county, as was his father before him. The family is of Scottish extraction, the great-grandparents of our subject having come to this country from Scotland.

The grandfather of our subject was by chosen occupation a farmer, and followed the same in Grayson County for many years. Later he operated in connection therewith a saw and grist mill. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Sutherland. She also was of Scotch parentage. The father of our subject was reared upon a farm, all his early recollections were connected therewith, and eventually he made it his chosen calling. He died in August of 1886, having arrived at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Jemima Rhudy, who was a native of Virginia and of German ancestry. This lady now resides on the old homestead in Grayson County, Va,, where the Cornutt family have for so many years made their home. There were born to them eleven children, all of whom it was their pleasure to see grow to years of maturity and enter honorable positions in life. As yet the family circle is unbroken by death, all of them are happily married, and have families of their own.

The subject of this writing is the second child, and was reared in his native county. Recognizing the inestimable value of education, his parents provided for him the very best obtainable at that time. As soon as he was strong enough various tasks were assigned to him in connection with the farm, which were increased in proportion to his strength and enlarged intellectual grasp. When seventeen years of age he was engaged as clerk in a general store at Independence, the county seat of Grayson County, and continued thus employed for three years, when he returned home, and there he remained until September, 1854. At that time the vivid descriptions of the Far West, and the riches promised to those who went there, decided our subject to start thitherward. Accordingly he started with a colony of families similarly minded, who loaded their wagons with everything that might be needed by the way, and in beginning their new life, and by the aid of their teams, set forth upon their journey. The westward way lay through the States of Tennessee, Kentucky, and after crossing the Ohio River on through Illinois until they reached the Father of Waters opposite St. Louis, to which city they crossed. From there they proceeded through the State of Missouri to Nebraska Territory, reaching Nebraska City on the 6th of November, after two months of travel, which, beyond the incidents common to such experience, was devoid of the more exciting and often tragic scenes that came to some such travelers.

At that time there were but three families in Nebraska City, and the surrounding country was still unsurveyed and in the hands of the Government. The city was being surveyed at the time of their arrival. It is difficult looking at the Nebraska City of to-day, with its houses of commercial importance, its elegant residences, railroads, broad streets, filled with the usual busy crowd, all intent upon the various purposes of life, to imagine or picture the city as it was when our subject first saw it. There was but one store, which was kept in a diminutive frame building, and carried a stock, all included, perhaps, not of greater value than $300. There was nothing to indicate the future city. After staying a little while here Mr. Cornutt returned to Atchison City, Mo., and there engaged until 1860, engaging in mercantile pursuits. Then he returned to Ne-

braska City, and with others formed a company to develop the mines of Colorado. The company bought a saw and quartz mill, and with them our subject went to Colorado and located at Quartz Valley, near Central City. At that place he operated the sawmill for six months, and then sold his interest and returned to Nebraska City, by way of the overland stage.

By that time Nebraska City had grown to be quite a town, although west of it no cities had been established, and in the interior buffaloes were still to be found in large numbers. Upon his return our subject engaged in clerking in a general store until 1862, when he went once more to Central City, Col., with his family. There he engaged in mercantile pursuits for some time. There were no railroads west of the Missouri River at that time, and all goods were of necessity transferred by teams, coming generally by way of Nebraska City. Freight was very high, usually about ten to twelve and a half cents per pound. This of course had the effect of making the retail price high in proportion. After two and a half years, a period upon the whole prosperous, and financially satisfactory, our subject returned to Nebraska City and engaged in freighting from that point west to Central City and other points. He continued thus engaged until 1866, and then embarked in the coal, wood and lumber trade, which he has since been exclusively engaged in.

On the 8th of January, 1856, the subject of this epitome was united in marriage with Laura J. Hail, who has presented her husband with eight children, William A. and Wiley S. the only two living, both of whom are residents of Culbertson, Neb. The wife of our subject was born in Grayson County, Va., and is the daughter of William B. and Mathilda Hail, of whom a sketch is presented elsewhere in this volume, and emigrated to the West in company with the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Cornutt are devout members of the First Presbyterian Church, our subject filling the office of Elder in the church, and is also Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

Mr. Cornutt has always been deeply interested in all matters connected with the advancement of the interests of the young, and evinced the same by the manner in which he performed every duty that came to him while serving as a member of the School Board. The citizens expressed their high esteem and confidence by electing him City Treasurer. His position in regard to affairs of political import is with the Democratic party, of which he is a firm adherent and hearty supporter. The reader of this biography will have noticed that the early opportunities of our subject were circumscribed and limited. The opportunities for advancement were not extensive, but he has made the most of each presented, and by careful thrift, intelligent planning, and indefatigable perseverance and effort, made his way to the front rank of prominent and honored citizenship. In all business circles he is regarded as a man of unimpeachable honor and business integrity. His reputation is untarnished, and his character much to be admired. In the community at large both he and his family are held in high regard by all.

C. H. BROKING, who is a leading farmer of Rock Creek Precinct, is the owner of 240 acres of land, having his homestead on section 11, which comprises eighty acres, and 160 acres on section 8. He settled where he now lives in the spring of 1878, having moved from Madison County, Ill., of which he had been a resident for a period of ten years.

The birthplace of our subject was in Hanover, Germany, where he first opened his eyes to the light on the 5th of June, 1848, during the reign of King William. His father, Henry Broking, Sr., was a carpenter by trade, which Henry, Jr., also learned, and which he followed from the time he was a youth of eighteen years until reaching his majority. Then, not being satisfied with the outlook for the future in his native Germany, he crossed the Atlantic in advance of some of his family, joining his two brothers, and located in Madison County, Ill., where he occupied himself at farming. In the spring of 1874 he was joined by his parents and the other children, the latter locating in the vicinity of Alton, Ill., where they lived until the death of the father about thirteen years later, when he was sixty-

Yours Truly
A. C. Ferguson

two years old. The mother, Mrs. Sophia (Weidmann) Broking, is still living, making her home with her children at Pleasant Ridge, Ill., and is now about sixty-four years of age.

Our subject was the second in a family of nine children born to his parents, and was the third to land on American soil. He employed himself on a farm for two years thereafter, then crossed the Mississippi into this county, and remained a single man for a period of ten years thereafter. He finally met his fate in the person of Miss Ida Weillsandt, a native of his own Province in Germany, and who was born Jan. 10, 1858. She came when a child of six years with her parents to America, they proceeding directly westward and settling in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where they now live and where they have built up a good homestead.

To Mr. and Mrs. Broking there have been born six children, one of whom, a son, John, died in infancy. The survivors are Sophia, Emma, Ida, Mary, and a babe named Harry. Mr. Broking is an uncompromising Democrat, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church. He is regarded among his neighbors as one of the most useful members of their community, a man prompt to meet his obligations and straightforward in his business transactions.

COL. HENRY CLAY FERGUSON, who served with distinction in the Union Army, making a most commendable war record, and being a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Otoe County, it is fitting that his portrait should appear in this volume. He sought the new State of Nebraska March 25, 1876, and has since been a resident of this county. He is widely and favorably known as a gentleman of more than ordinary capabilities, a useful and enterprising citizen, and one enjoying the esteem and confidence of his community.

The native place of our subject was about twelve miles north of Louisville, Ky., in Clark County, Ind., where his birth took place Nov. 10, 1833. His father, Benjamin Ferguson, had settled there about 1816, and was not only one of the earliest pioneers of that region, but one of the leading men of Clark County. He represented the county in the Indiana Legislature four terms, and was otherwise prominently identified with local and political matters. He married Miss Sarah Hay, a native of that county, and a daughter of one of the leading families. She was born in 1801, and was a lineal descendant of the Wood family, which held such an important position during the early history of Clark County. She was left a widow by the death of the father in 1839, when he was but forty-nine years of age, and when their son Henry C. was a little lad of six years. The mother survived her husband fourteen years, her death taking place at the old homestead in Clark County, in 1852, when she was fifty-one years old.

The nine children of the parental family are recorded as follows: Samuel H. and John D. died at the ages of forty-three and thirty-eight respectively; Charles P., a man of fine abilities, is now Judge of the Fourth Judicial District of Indiana, and a resident of Jeffersonville, Ind.; Sarah died when fifty years old; Margaret and Benjamin are also residents of Indiana; Henry C., our subject, was the seventh in order of birth; William F. died at the age of thirty-nine years, at Indianapolis, and Adeline is the wife of Thomas Reynolds, and resides in Illinois.

The first recollections of our subject are of a time when he was a boy strolling along the banks of the Ohio River. He acquired his early education in the common schools, and was deprived by death of his mother before reaching his majority. Soon after reaching his twenty-first year he engaged in the drug trade in partnership with his brother William, combining also with this general merchandise, and was thus occupied until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Under the call for 75,000 three-months men, young Ferguson in April, 1861, organized a company, and on the 25th of that month reported with them for orders to Gov. Morton. The quota under this call having already been completed, and his company not needed for this department of the service, he and his men enlisted for three years in the regular army, being among the first to enter the ranks for this length of time. Our subject was

given a Captain's commission, and he assumed the position as commander of Company I, which was made a part of the 23d Indiana Infantry. They were sent to the front at Paducah, Ky., arriving there on the 15th of August, and were among the first troops to take possession of that place. They remained there under drill until the opening of the campaign of 1862, when the regiment was assigned to the command of Gen. Lew Wallace at Ft. Henry, and our subject engaged in regular battle on the second day of the fight at Shiloh. Later he fought in the engagement at Iuka, and in the winter following they retired to Memphis.

On account of meritorious conduct Capt. Ferguson on the 19th of February following was unanimously elected by the officers of his regiment a Major, and thereafter distinguished himself in the siege of Vicksburg, his regiment belonging to the 17th Army Corps under the gallant Gen. McPherson. In the division of Gen. Logan on the 22d of May, Maj. Ferguson led the grand charge at Ft. Hill, which was attended by heavy loss, and during which he was slightly wounded in the left hand. From that time on he was in every engagement of the 17th Army Corps, and was wounded twice afterward, the second time in the engagement with the rebels at Ft. Hill. In 1864 he accompanied the Army of the Tennessee under command of Gen. Sherman from Vicksburg to Meridian, which constituted the Mississippi campaign. He also bore an honorable part in the Atlanta campaign. He was at Atlanta in August, 1864, the day before the surrender.

Maj. Ferguson was tendered the rank of Colonel of the regiment at that time, but thinking that he could be of more service in another direction he declined, and returning home assisted in the reconstruction of the 144th Indiana Infantry, of which he was elected Lieutenant Colonel, and which was subsequently known as the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army of the Shenandoah. They operated mostly around Winchester and Harper's Ferry, and at the close of the war were mustered out on the 15th of August, 1865, at Indianapolis. Our subject had thus given four years to the service of his country, and had made for himself a record which he may look upon with pardonable pride. He was imbued with that true spirit of patriotism which was willing to face danger and even death for the results to be obtained.

We append the following letter, which attests the bravery and courage of Col. Ferguson:

"REAR OF VICKSBURG, MISS.
"May 31, 1863.

"MAJ. HENRY C. FERGUSON, 23d Indiana Volunteers: *Sir*—I have been delegated to present to you a sword, the gift of the members of Company I, 23d Indiana Volunteers, of which you were formerly Captain. It was with feelings of regret that they parted with you as their company commander, only compensated by the fact that you had received promotion to a higher position, which you so deservedly merited. This gift, then, is not only made to you by them as a mark of that respect and esteem which they hold for you as their former commander, and which they still entertain for you in your present position, but as a testimonial to that patriotism and love of country which you have shown by a faithful performance of your duties as an officer, and to the coolness, courage and bravery which you have evinced by so boldly facing danger on the battle-fields of Shiloh, Port Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hills and Vicksburg.

"In their behalf, then, I tender you this gift of their love, respect and esteem, feeling confident that no act of yours will ever allow it to be tarnished, coming as it does from those with whom you were so long and intimately associated.

"Very respectfully yours,
"B. F. WALTER."

At the close of the war Col. Ferguson returned to the quiet pursuits of agriculture in Clark County. While home on a veteran furlough he had been married, April 21, 1864, to Miss Margaret McAfee, who was born near Rockford, Ind., Dec. 22, 1837. Mrs. Ferguson is a highly accomplished lady, and a daughter of the late Dr. Clark McAfee, who was a prominent member of the medical profession of Kentucky, and a member of the noted family of that name in the Blue Grass regions. The mother was in her girlhood Miss Margaret Huckleberry. Dr. McAfee died in 1838. His widow is now living with her daughter, the wife of Col. Ferguson. Their family consisted of one daughter only, Mrs. Ferguson.

Mrs. Ferguson was carefully trained and educated, completing her studies in the Presbyterian Female Seminary at Jacksonville, Ill. The Colonel and his wife after their marriage continued residents of Indiana until the year 1869, when they moved across the Mississippi into LaFayette County, Mo., settling upon a tract of land where our subject engaged in farming seven years. He then came to this county, of which he has since been a resident. He and his little family are surrounded by all the comforts of life. He is loyal as ever to the stars and stripes, a devoted husband and father, and holds his two children, Edwin and Ora, as the apple of his eye. The son is one of the enterprising young farmers of Otoe Precinct. He was born Sept. 17, 1866, received a good education, and is a young man of great promise. The daughter is a student of the Nebraska State Normal School, at Peru, Neb., taking the classical course.

The Colonel as an ex-soldier is a member in good standing of the G. A. R., belonging to William Baumer Post No. 24, of Nebraska City. He was the first candidate for State Senator on the Prohibition ticket, being nominated in the year 1886. Both he and his estimable wife are active in the temperance work, and Mrs. Ferguson is a charter member of the W. C. T. U., of Paul, and its President. The Colonel in 1882 was a delegate to the Republican County Convention, and at that time took issue on the temperance question. In religious matters he is a Congregationalist.

The Ferguson family was prominent in the early history of Southern Indiana, and closely identified with its growth and development. During his army career our subject became intimately acquainted with Gen. Logan, and their intercourse thereafter was particularly close and friendly. He also enjoyed a pleasant acquaintance with Gens. McPherson, Thayer, Gresham, John E. Smith, Force and Leggett, all of whom were fully susceptible to the merits of a brave and patriotic soldier.

EDWARD A. BROWN is a member of the firm Brown & Wood, proprietors of the Nebraska City *Press*, one of the best conducted newspapers in the State. Our subject was born in Sterling, Ill., on the 26th of December, 1858. He comes of good old New England stock, his parents, William A. and Mary (Greene) Brown, being natives respectively of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. His father grew to be a capable and enterprising young man among the granite hills of his native State, and he then turned his steps toward Newark, the great manufacturing city of New Jersey, where he learned the trade of jeweler. About 1850 he left that city for Illinois, and located in the town of Rockford at first, but afterward went thence to Sterling. Early in the fifties he journeyed overland to California, and there engaged in mining for a few years. He then retraced his way to Sterling, Ill., and after staying there a short time, he returned to the Golden State. During the war Mr. Brown returned east as far as Omaha, and opened a livery stable there, and at the same time was engaged in the sale of general merchandise. He resided in that city and in Council Bluffs until 1867, and then came to Nebraska City for the purpose of opening a clothing and dry-goods store. A few years later he sold out his stock in that line, and then engaged in the boot and shoe trade until 1872. He then entered the editorial arena, purchasing the Nebraska City *Chronicle*, a daily and weekly publication, and two years later consolidated it with the Nebraska City *Press*, continuing to manage his paper until 1881, when he sold it to his sons, and returned to Omaha to engage in the collection business. In 1885 he turned his attention to stock-raising, taking up a claim under the provisions of the Homestead Act in Hitchcock County. In 1887 he left his son in charge of his farm, and went to the Territory of Wyoming, and now resides there in the town of Manville, having through his forethought and enterprise gathered together a comfortable property. In 1866 the devoted wife who shared his early labors passed away. To them had been born four children, three of whom grew up. His second wife, stepmother of our subject, was Rilla Selden, a native of Michigan. One child has been born to them.

The subject of this sketch was nine years old when he came to Nebraska City, and from that time his education was obtained in the city schools. He proved to be a bright, apt pupil, and stood well

in his classes. At the age of fourteen his father employed him to carry newspapers, and at the age of sixteen he entered his father's office as printer's devil, to learn the art preservative in detail. He continued with his father until 1881, and then formed a partnership with his brother Lot, and bought the office, the paper, and the good-will of his father on the 1st day of April. In September his brother seld his interest in the paper to L. Fairbrother, who, in turn, on the 1st of July, 1885, sold his interest to Mr. Wood, the present partner of our subject. The paper is issued both daily and weekly. It is Republican in politics, though not offensively partisan. It is pure and elevated in its tone, and is an influence for good in this city and county.

Mr. Brown is a young man of excellent repute, and of considerable talent, and has a fair prospect before him of achieving renown as a journalist. He is possessed of much geniality and true tact, and is prominent in social circles in this city. At the age of seventeen he joined a local amateur minstrel troupe in Nebraska City, which gave excellent performances in different towns in the vicinity. He was connected with the troupe for three years.

JOHN HENRY ARENDS, the leading merchant of Syracuse, was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, arriving upon the soil of Nebraska during its Territorial days, in the spring of 1859. A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, he was born April 15, 1843, and is the son of Rieke and T. M. (Teten) Arends, who were also of German birth and parentage. The father of our subject was a linen manufacturer by trade, which business he followed in his native land after serving several years in the German army.

Our subject was a lad of eleven years when he emigrated with his parents to the United States, and they settled on a farm in Madison County, Ill. Thence, in 1859, the family came to Nebraska, and located on a tract of land near the present site of Talmage in Rock Creek Precinct, on the southern line of this county. The elder Arends became owner of a large tract of land, on which he made valuable improvements, and at his death, which occurred in 1874, he left an estate valued at nearly $40,000. He met a tragic death, having gone in September of that year to Nebraska City for a load of lumber designed for a church he was about to assist in building. He was accidentally thrown under the loaded wagon, and instantly killed. The Lutheran Church Society in his death lost one of its most active members, and he was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. He had come to Nebraska a poor man, but by the exercise of close economy and incessant industry he accumulated a fortune.

The mother of our subject is still living, residing on the old homested. The parental family included six children, namely: Anna, the wife of J. H. Behrends; John H., our subject; Maggie, Mrs. Rottmann; Mary, Mrs. C. H. Korff; Herman J. and Tena. They are all residents of this county, and in good circumstances financially.

Our subject attended the common schools in Illinois, and received instructions from a private tutor after coming to Nebraska, thus securing a good practical education, Upon starting out for himself, about 1860, he began freighting between the Missouri River and Pike's Peak. Later, when about twenty years old, he became clerk of a hotel at Nebraska City, remaining thus occupied until reaching his majority. His regular business career commenced as clerk in a store of general merchandise in the same city, and later he became associated with C. H. Korff, and engaged in merchandising. They carried on an extensive business until 1877, when Mr. Arends withdrew from the firm, and established himself at Syracuse.

Mr. Arends in 1883 erected his present store building, a two-story brick structure with basement, and which he now has wholly filled with his stock of goods. It covers an area of 33½x90 feet; within it is a full line of about everything in the way of merchandise with the exception of hardware. The family residence, a fine and commodious structure, is located on Sixth street, and with its surroundings forms one of the most attractive homes in the city. Mr. Arends also owns a general store at Elmwood, and is a member of the firm of Mohrman & Arends, carrying on general merchan-

dising at Geneva. He was one of the organizers of the Bank of Syracuse, and continues a member of the Board of Directors. In addition to the property mentioned he also owns 480 acres of choice land on sections 25 and 26 in Russell Precinct, town 9, range 10. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and has officiated as Trustee for many years.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Georgia M. Mohrman, and their marriage took place Jan. 29, 1873, in Nebraska City. Mrs. Arends is the daughter of J. H. and Lucy G. (Kuenning) Mohrman, of Syracuse, and of this union there have been born six children, namely: Richard, Harvey, Gertrude, Henry, Walter and Lucy. The eldest is fourteen years of age, the youngest, one; they are all at home with their parents. Mr. A. uniformly votes the Republican ticket, and has been quite prominent in local politics.

HON. WILLIAM CAMPBELL, a member of the Board of County Commissioners, and a prominent citizen of Nebraska City, is an important factor in sustaining and advancing the immense stock-raising and agricultural interests of Otoe County. He is a native of County Down, Ireland, born April 16, 1841, of a renowned Scotch ancestry, who had left the Kingdom of Scotland to assist in the colonization of the Irish domain during the reign of Cromwell. His father and his grandfather, both named John, were natives of the same county, and there the latter, who was a rigid Presbyterian in his religious beliefs, of the John Knox type, spent his days devoting his life to farming.

The father of our subject was an only son, and he was reared in the home of his birth, and there married to Catherine McKee, also a native of County Down, and like her husband, of Scotch antecedents. In 1849 Mr. Campbell emigrated to America, accompanied by his wife and nine of their ten children. He located in the city of Rock Island, Ill., where his death occurred the following year. His family was thus deprived of the kindest of husbands and the best of fathers, for he was in every sense a good, wise and true man. His wife survived him only seven years, dying in Rock Island in 1857. She was a kind, patient, devoted mother, and her children cherish her memory with reverence. They were ten in number, namely: Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, Hugh, James, John, Jane, William, Samuel and Alexander. They all came to America, and six of them are now living. Hugh, Samuel and Alexander bravely served their adopted country in the late war. The latter was but a boy of fourteen and a half years when he enlisted in the 11th Iowa Infantry, and for four years he was as faithful and patriotic a soldier as any in the ranks. He was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and took part in many hard-fought battles. He now lives in Rock Island County, Ill. Hugh did good service in an Illinois regiment for three years, and is now an honored resident of Keithsburg, Ill. Samuel was a youth of sixteen when he enlisted in the 11th Iowa, and three years later he fell while bravely fighting before Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 19, 1864.

William Campbell, the subject of this biographical sketch, was nine years old when his father died, and he continued to live with his mother until her death when he was sixteen. He attended the public schools of Camden, Rock Island Co., Ill., which was their home, and as soon as he was large enough commenced to work on the farm. At the age of fifteen he began to learn the harness-maker's trade in Camden, and worked at that for two years. In 1858, with his brother John, he started West on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Kansas City, then a place of about 2,500 inhabitants. There were no railways beyond the Mississippi at that time, and all transportation was done with team or boats. Our subject at once found employment with the firm of Russell, Majors & Wardell, Government freighters, to drive a team across the plains to New Mexico. This was an exciting period in the life of our subject, as the route that he was obliged to travel lay through a wild, unsettled country, where the buffaloes, deer, antelopes, prairie wolves and other wild animals abounded, and the region was infested by hostile Indians, so that eternal vigilance was the price of life, and none but brave men with strong nerves cared to face the dangers of the route.

The only safety was in many teamsters going together in large trains, and that in which our subject went consisted of twenty-five wagons, with six pairs of oxen to each wagon, which was laden with supplies for the Government posts in New Mexico. The train started from Kansas City in May, and ninety days were consumed in making the round trip. Our subject immediately started with another train, and on the return trip was attacked by Indians, but fortunately none of the party were killed. Mr. Campbell followed the same business over the same route in 1859, and in 1860 he started from Nebraska City with a train, and went as far west as the North Platte. Later in 1860, he commenced to ride a pony express from Cottonwood Springs, subsequently called Ft. McPherson, to Lowell, seven miles below Ft. Kearney. On one or two occasions he rode as high as 140 miles in fifteen hours, being nearly the rate of ten miles an hour. At each fifteen miles he changed horses at the stations. He was thus engaged until the winter of 1861–62, when the first telegraph line was built in Nebraska. In 1862 Mr. Campbell took care of the stage stock at Gilman's ranch, and in 1863 he and his brother bought teams and engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Denver. They had six wagons with five pairs of oxen to a wagon, and made two trips to the Queen City of the plains that year. The next year they increased the number of their teams, and carried freight to Montana, receiving sixteen cents a pound for all that they carried. In the fall of 1864 they sold their teams in Montana and returned to Nebraska City on horseback. In the spring of 1865 our subject bought mules at a Government sale, and again went into the freighting business, carrying freight to Salt Lake City, receiving twenty-five cents a pound for it. He carried on that lucrative business until 1868, when he and his brother, John Campbell, took a contract on the Union Pacific Railroad to build a part of it in Eastern Nevada and Western Utah. In 1869, after having seen the Union Pacific and Central Railroads unite, and the silver spike driven in, the brothers sold their stock and returned to Nebraska City, and bought 320 acres of land each on the wild prairies, and at once commenced to improve a farm. Our subject has since placed all of his land under a fine state of cultivation, and has erected substantial, conveniently arranged buildings, has planted three and one-half miles of hedge, and five acres of orchard, and in fact has one of the most valuable estates in Otoe County. He has made a business of buying and feeding stock, and raising fine horses, both for driving and draft purposes, the Hambletonian being his favorite horses for speed, and the English shire horse his preference for draft. He is accounted one of the most highly successful horse-breeders in the State.

Mr. Campbell was married, Aug. 12, 1869, to Miss Jennie L. Fitchie, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of the well-known Hon. James Fitchie, of whom see sketch. They have a very attractive home, rendered pleasant alike to friend or stranger by the charming hospitality of the gracious hostess and the genial host. Their pleasant wedded life has been blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows: Grace, the first-born, died at the age of twelve; the others are Joy, Margaret, Tesora, James, John, Bess and Helen.

Mr. Campbell is a man of fine business talents, prompt and systematic in his habits. He is influential in public affairs, and Otoe County has found in him one of her best civic officers, as he is honest and incorruptible, possessing ready wit and tact, and discharges his duties without regard to fear or favor. He is at present Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. He was at one time State Senator, having been elected to fill the unexpired term of the Hon. C. H. VanWycke, when the latter was elected to the United States Senate in 1881.

JOSEPH A. WORRALL, founder, proprietor and editor of the Syracuse *Herald*, and in that connection widely and favorably known throughout the county, was born in the city of Indianapolis, on the 28th of June, 1853. He is the son of Josephus C. and Maria R. (Phillips) Worrall, who were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The family is of French extraction, the name originally being prefixed by the syllable "De." The parents of our subject were married in Pennsylvania, and settled in Indi-

anapolis about the year 1834, and in that city the father of our subject was engaged in mercantile pursuits until the year 1857. At that time he made up his mind to go West, and started for Nebraska. He first located on the Nemaha River, near the present town of Talmage, which at first was called Worrallton. The first bridge across the river was built at his place, and largely at his expense. The last few years of his life were spent in Nebraska City, but his death occurred in Pennsylvania, in the year 1867, while he was on a visit to his old home.

The mother of our subject is still living, and makes her home in Syracuse. There are but two children who call her mother, her son Joseph and a daughter, Louisa, now the wife of Jerome Dauchy. Quite early in life our subject began to work in the office of the Nebraska City *News*, and rose step by step from the humblest position, gradually becoming more and more intimate with the various intricacies of the trade, until he was fitted for his present position. In 1872 he went to Tecumseh and purchased an interest in the *Nebraska Gazette*, which was the first paper published at that place. He soon sold out, returned to Nebraska City, and established the Hebron *Journal*, in the town of that name. Here his practical knowledge, fertile brain and ready pen soon brought him into prominence, and established his paper upon a firm and paying basis.

Until the year 1885 Mr. Worrall continued his connection with the above paper, residing in Nebraska City, but early in that year he came to Syracuse and founded the *Herald*. Although of so recent establishment, his long experience has enabled him to make his paper a perfect success from the very start. It always appears with an air of freshness prevading it. Its editorial work is bright, clear, logical, and always courteous in manner, while in regard to the matter of workmanship and style it is second to none. It is just such a paper as is always welcomed by the busy man in the full whirl and rush of commercial life, a welcome friend to the advertiser, and always bearing something interesting for those who have more leisure to devote to its pages. Like its owner and editor, the *Herald* is a stanch friend and doughty defender of the Democratic party and principles.

Our subject is a member of the Central Democratic Committee, and is not without considerable influence among his fellows, who recognize in him a man of careful, intellectual thought, unquestioned loyalty and manly character. In the Masonic fraternity, of which our subject is a member, he is regarded as a true and faithful frater. Both in the lodge room and in society generally he is highly esteemed as a much valued citizen.

HENRY EIBEN. The subject of this biography is numbered among the prominent farmers of Rock Creek Precinct, and owns a good property on section 7, comprising 160 acres of thoroughly cultivated land, which is well stocked with cattle and swine, and supplied with good buildings. He settled here in the fall of 1880, although having lived in the precinct and county since October, 1868.

Our subject is of German birth and parentage, having been born in Hanover, March 20, 1836, and left the Fatherland in the fall of 1868. He had been given the education common to the youth of Germany, and his father being a farmer, Henry was early in life made acquainted with agricultural pursuits. His parents, Eiben and Anna (Magretha) Eiben, also natives of Hanover, spent their entire lives in their own country, the father living to the advanced age of eighty years. The mother preceded her husband to the silent land, she too having attained a ripe old age. They were most worthy and excellent people, greatly respected by their neighbors, and members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church.

The home circle included six children, five sons and one daughter, of whom our subject was the fourth in order of birth. He was the only one of his family coming to the United States. He was married in his native Hanover, in 1866, to Miss Etta M. Kruse, whose childhood home was not far from that of her husband, and who, like him, received a thorough education in her native tongue. She proved a true wife and helpmate to him, sharing all his toils and sacrifices, until he was called to mourn

her death, Nov. 17, 1887. To our subject and his estimable wife there was born one child only, a son, Herman, who is now at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. E. early in life identified themselves with the German Lutheran Church. After becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States Mr. Eiben allied himself with the Republican party, of which he is a warm supporter. For a period of eleven years he was a regular soldier in the German Army.

THOMAS E. THOMPSON. The founder of the Thompson family in America was John Thompson, a native of the North of Wales. He came to America with his parents in the third embarkation from England, landing at Plymouth early in May, 1622. He was a carpenter by trade, and built the first frame church in Plymouth. As a compensation for this the town deeded him a piece of land on what is now called Spring Hill. In 1667 he built a frame house in Plymouth, which stood until the year 1838. His demise occurred June 16, 1696, he being at that time at the advanced age of eighty years.

The subject of our sketch was born in Rumford, Oxford Co., Me., April 1, 1833. His father, John Thompson, was born in Middleboro, Plymouth Co., Mass., on the 26th of March, 1775, where was also born Isaac Thompson, the grandfather of our subject. John Thompson grew to manhood in his native county, and as a young man with two brothers went to New York State, but not liking it so well as the old home he went to Massachusetts, and afterward went to the State of Maine, where he settled in the town of Rumford, near which he subsequently held a farm, where he resided until his death. His wife, the mother of our subject, Jane (Richardson) Thompson, was born in Scotland, and came to America with her parents when she was about five years of age. She died at the homestead in the year 1843. She was the mother of six children.

The education of our subject was obtained in the district schools of his native county, and afterward he gave his attention to farming, being instructed therein by his father, with whom he remained until he was eighteen years of age, when, starting in life for himself, he went to Goshen, Elkhart Co., Ind., where he clerked in a general store, continuing until 1854, when he came West. His intention was to go to St. Paul, but he met a companion in travel, and by him was induced to go to Council Bluffs, which he did. He arrived in Nebraska City on the 16th of April, 1854. There was then but one family, that of H. P. Downs, living in the district. He staid with this gentleman for part of one day looking over the country, and then proceeded on his way to Council Bluffs, but not liking it returned almost at once to Nebraska City. With the exception of a few who were holding claims there were no settlers for a large distance around. The Indians had possession, and were inclined to dispute the coming of any but their own people. In order to secure their good-will and protection he gave them $10, which perfected the arrangement.

Our subject had been but a few days in his new location when he was taken sick, and for two years was unable to do a day's work. During that time settlers had been coming in rapidly, and quite a village had been started. In company with several others he started the town of Cleveland, in Cass County, which turned out to be a most unhappy venture, for he lost all his money that had taken so long to accumulate.

In 1859 our subject recommenced working at the carpenter trade in Nebraska City, continuing for two seasons; then he went into the real-estate business, in which he continued until 1877. Then he sold out his interest and went East, spending a few months farming in Delaware Precinct, continuing until 1882. In 1884 he sold his farm, which he had left two years previously, in order to make his home in the city to engage in the real-estate and insurance business. He represents the Royal Insurance Company, of Liverpool, England, the Traders', of Chicago, Ill., and others.

At Nebraska City, in 1861, was celebrated the union of our subject with Ladasca Francena Dimmick. This lady was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Samuel and Mary Dimmick. They have become the parents of nine children, whose names are recorded as follows: Har-

riet M., the wife of Taylor Hail, of Nebraska City; Edwin D., Mary, Ester, Grace, Florence and Ruth; and two, Maude and Charles, deceased.

Mrs. Thompson is a devout member of the Presbyterian Church, and attends the First Presbyterian Church. The political position of our subject leads him to affiliate with the Democratic party. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and attached to the Western Star Lodge No. 2, in this city. Our subject and his family fully sustain the family prestige, and are much esteemed by all who know them.

MARSHALL SILLIMAN CAMPBELL, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, was a veteran of the Mexican War and was one of the earliest pioneers of Nebraska City, where he now resides. His first appearance here was on the 13th day of October, in the year 1855, the town at that time being nothing but a small hamlet, and the land on which it now stands was owned by the Government, and not then surveyed, and the settlements were confined to the river. Maj. Downs' claim two miles west of the town was the farthest western habitation in this region. All the surrounding country was in an exceedingly wild and uncultivated condition; deer, antelopes and elks were plentiful, and at the Blue River buffaloes were to be found; Indians abounded, and were always ready to beg and steal, to say nothing of the risk of losing one's scalp when they were on the war path. Our subject was then employed by the Government as a surveyor, and in that capacity he gained a thorough knowledge of the topography of the country, and he has been a witness of the wonderful development of those wild prairies that once constituted the Territory of Nebraska into a powerful and wealthy State, and it may well be his pride that he has assisted in its growth.

Mr. Campbell was born in Cornish, N. H., July 27, 1820, being of Scottish descent, his grandfather, Dan Campbell, being a native of Scotland, where he was reared. That gentleman learned the trade of edge tool maker in Inverness, and afterward became a soldier in the British service. He came to this country with a Highland regiment during the Revolutionary War, and with the greater part of his regiment he deserted, and joining the Colonists, fought with them until the close of the war. After peace was declared he sent for his wife and child, and located in Litchfield, Conn., whence he afterward removed to Sussex County, N. J. He lived there a few years, and then returned to Litchfield, Conn., where he rounded out a useful life, always proving a loyal and devoted citizen to his adopted country.

It is not positively known whether the father of our subject, Peter Proctor Campbell, was born in Scotland or Connecticut, but it is thought that he first drew the breath of life in the New England State mentioned. When quite young he was bound out to Deacon Richardson, of Cornish, N. H., and lived with him until he was twenty-one, receiving a good education in the New Hampshire schools. After leaving the home of the good old Deacon he went to New York and taught school for two years. At the expiration of that time he returned to Cornish, to claim as his bride Miss Nancy Jackson, a native of that town, and a daughter of Eleazer Jackson, a native of Connecticut, and a pioneer of Cornish. After marriage Mr. Campbell went to LaFayette, Sussex Co., N. J., accompanied by his bride, and lived there a short time. He subsequently bought the Serepta works, including the foundry, machine-shop, distillery, flouring and sawmill, and operated them all very successfully until about 1843. He sold out his business in that year and moved to Belvidere, where he bought a foundry and machine-shop, and managed them until his death in 1858, when a valuable citizen was lost to that community, as he was a man of sterling common sense, of much ability, and one who was in every respect worthy of the trust and respect of his fellowmen. His estimable wife survived him but a few years, dying in the same town in 1863. They were the parents of six children, all of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Harrison, Eleazer J., Marshall S., Lydia A. (wife of John Randolph), Mary Emmeline and Edward L. They are all living with the exception of Harrison, who died in the spring of 1888, aged seventy-two years.

The subject of our sketch was an infant when his parents removed to New Jersey. He attended the

public schools in that State, and as soon as large enough commenced to learn the machinist's trade in his father's shop. When he was eighteen years old he was seized with the desire to be a sailor, and embarking on a whaling-vessel, was absent on a long voyage that lasted three years and three months. On his return he desired to finish his education, and after attending school at Meriden, N. H., he entered a military academy at Norwich. He was a student in that institution at the breaking out of the Mexican War, and eagerly and enthusiastically dropped his studies of the science of war to gain a practical knowledge of its grim realities on the bloody battlefields of Mexico, he with many of his comrades volunteering, and entering the service under Gen. Scott. They fought bravely in the battle of Vera Cruz, and in every other battle from there to the City of Mexico. At the capture of the latter city, our subject was detailed as bodyguard to accompany the remains of the gallant Col. Ransom, who was killed at the battle of Tehuantepec, to his home. Peace having been shortly afterward declared, Mr. Campbell was never called upon to enter service again, but was mustered out at Ft. Phillip, La., in the fall of 1847. He returned home, engaged as a civil engineer, and was employed in the survey of different railways in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey until 1855. In that year he went to the Territory of Kansas, and from there to Nebraska in the fall, coming here to assist in the survey of the land, and immediately commenced upon his work. In 1856 he returned to Leavenworth, Kan., and assisted in the survey of the Sac and Fox reservations. In the fall of that year he returned to Nebraska City, passing by the present site of Lincoln, where a house was not then standing. On the first day of December was the big snowstorm, which will ever be held in remembrance by the early pioneers of Nebraska. It continued so long, and was of such unprecedented violence, that our subject and his party spent nine days in the timber unable to get out and make their way to this city. In the spring Mr. Campbell returned to Lincoln to complete the survey begun the year before, and he was employed in surveying for the Government at times until 1859. He then took up his residence in town and did odd jobs of surveying for individuals, and looked up claims until 1861. He then moved to a farm nine miles west of the city, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1871. He was then elected to the office of County Surveyor for Otoe County, and moved back to Nebraska City, where he has resided continuously ever since.

In 1850 Mr. Campbell took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Eliza Bond, and she has since been to him a devoted helpmate. To them five children have been born, namely: Fennimore C., Mervy N., George, Mary E. and Edward L.

Our subject has always been a true Democrat in his politics, and he has taken an active part in public affairs. He has served seven years as Justice of the Peace since coming to this city, and held that office for five years while a resident of Delaware Precinct. He was Deputy Clerk of the District Court for three years, and was elected to the position of Clerk in the fall of 1887 for a term of four years, and is serving with much honor and credit to himself. Socially, he is a member of Eureka Lodge No. 7, K. of P.

NERI P. DAKAN, a prominent farmer and stock-dealer of Hendricks Precinct, has a fine tract of land on section 2, where he located in the spring of 1884. He is the offspring of a good family, being the son of William and Jane (Ross) Dakan, the father a native of New York State, and the mother of Pennsylvania. The parents were married in the latter State, whence they removed to Ohio, where the father, who had learned the miller's trade, carried on milling and farming, and accumulated a fine property. In 1853 he left Ohio, moving to DeKalb County, Mo., where he retired from active labor a few years later, and departed this life in 1865, at the age of seventy-four years. The mother also died at the homestead in Missouri in 1853, at the age of fifty-two. The paternal grandfather of our subject, also William Dakan by name, did good service as a soldier, first in the Revolutionary War under Washington, and later in the War of 1812.

To the parents of our subject there were born

nine children, six of whom are still living, namely: Melinda, Suzella, Lucinda, Highram, Neri P. (our subject) and Caroline. The deceased are John, Elizabeth and Catherine. Neri P. was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Dec. 11, 1829, and spent his early life in the Buckeye State near the city of Columbus. He acquired a practical education in the common school, and remained with his parents until after attaining his majority. In 1854 he began farming on his own account in DeKalb County, Mo., operating on 200 acres of land a period of three years. Later he engaged in general merchandising in DeKalb County six years. Thence he went to Somerset, Ill., where he carried on merchandising very successfully, and continued for a period of three years.

During the summer of 1867 our subject came with his family overland to Nemaha County, this State, and there spent the winter. The spring of 1860 found him looking around for a location in this county, and he first settled on a tract of land about three miles south of the present site of Nebraska City. He there purchased seventy acres of land, upon which he lived and labored until 1883. He built up a good farm from the uncultivated soil, and gave considerable attention to stock-raising, in which he met with success.

In the spring of 1883 Mr. Dakan changed his residence from the eastern to the western part of this county, having purchased his present farm of 320 acres on section 2. Here he has very fine improvements, comprising a fine dwelling with a good barn and the other necessary out-buildings, an orchard of five acres, and a grove of cottonwood, maple, ash and elm trees. There is also a fine tract of natural timber, and a never-failing stream of water running through the farm. He has fully twenty acres in timber.

The marriage of our subject took place in DeKalb County, Mo., Jan. 21, 1858, his bride being Miss Lydia, daughter of F. B. and Mary (Farrer) Titcomb. Mr. Titcomb was born in Portland, Me., and his wife, Mary, near the city of Cleveland, Ohio. They were married in the latter State. The father was an educated man, and a professor in the city schools of Cleveland, Ohio. The family moved to Cook County, Ill., where the father abandoned teaching for the pursuits of agriculture, and from there went to Clinton County, Iowa. In 1854 they moved across the Mississippi into DeKalb County, Mo., where Mr. Titcomb departed this life in the spring of 1872, at the age of fifty-five years. The mother is still living, at the age of eighty-two years, on the old homestead in Missouri. Their children were Edward, Elvina, Lydia (Mrs. Dakan), Stephania and Amria. Mrs. Dakan was born in Lake County, Ill., Jan. 26, 1840. Of her union with our subject there are five children—Thomas J., Alice, Edwin, Lulu and Archie. They are all at home with their parents.

Mr. D. was the nominee at last election for County Commissioner on the Democratic ticket, which fact sufficiently indicates his politics. He has served as Moderator in his school district, and is the encourager of those enterprises calculated to advance the people in morality and intelligence. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at Nebraska City. Mrs. Dakan is a lady of great intelligence and refinement, amply fitted to be the companion of such a man as her husband. The stock operations of Mr. Dakan are quite extensive, as he feeds sometimes as many as 500 head of cattle in one year. He became identified with the I. O. O. F. while a resident of Missouri.

HENRY BORD, Postmaster at Talmage, was early on the ground at the time of the organization of this village, being its pioneer druggist, and his wife at the same time establishing a millinery store. To their energy and enterprise is due in a great measure the encouragement which resulted in the building up of the town and the bringing within its borders a thrifty and business-like class of people. Mr. and Mrs. Bord prevailed against the many discouragements which naturally beset the pioneer in whatever enterprise he engages, and may be pardoned if they look upon the result of their labors to-day with pride.

Mr. Bord was given the office of Postmaster in March, 1885, from which fact his politics may be clearly indicated. He is especially adapted to deal

with the public, being sociable and genial in disposition, a fluent conversationalist, and a man with whom anyone can pass an hour both pleasurably and profitably. He migrated to this point from Crawford County, Kan., where he had been engaged in farming sucessfully for a number of years.

To the State of Kansas Mr. Bord had migrated from Illinois in the fall of 1866, at a time when Crawford County where he settled was an unbroken tract of prairie land. He located with his little family upon a portion of this when there was not a neighbor within seven miles. Later, however, the tracks of the Indian gave place to those of the white man, and in due time the settlers began to gather around him. About 1868 Mr. Bord was called upon to assist in the organization of the first school district in his part of the county. This, as may be imagined, was a great event for the pioneers, one to which they look back even at the present time with a high degree of satisfaction.

Mr. and Mrs. Bord have a full knowledge of the difficulties and dangers of life on the frontier, althouhg their experience was not unmixed with pleasure. Wild game was plentiful, and whatever else the household larder may have lacked, it was generously supplied with choice wild meats. Mr. Bord secured a farm from Uncle Sam, where he constructed a good homestead, and which he sold in 1882 at a sum sufficient to repay him for his toil and sacrifices.

The childhood home of our subject was on the other side of the Atlantic, in Somersetshire, England, where his birth took place near the city of Bruton, Nov. 17, 1822. His parents were of pure English ancestry, his father, William Bord, having been born in Bruton, and his mother in the well-known city of Bath. The latter in her girlhood was Miss Mary Penols. The parents were married in Somersetshire, where the father operated a brewery until emigrating to the United States in 1830. They tarried for a time in New York City, and later sojourned in Troy, where the death of the father took place at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

The mother survived her husband several years, and died at the home of her daughter, in 1886, at the age of eighty-five. Both were members of the Church of England, honest and conscientious people, strict and careful in their methods of family government, aiming to make of their offspring good and worthy citizens, who should hand down their name in honor to posterity.

The subject of this sketch was the second son and child in a family of twelve, six sons and six daughters. He attained his majority in the city of Troy, N. Y., where he learned the business of druggist and its various branches, and was thus occupied for a number of years. In Troy, also, occurred the important event of his marriage with Miss Sarah E. Ives, which took place at her home Sept 30, 1859.

Mrs. Bord was born in the romantic region of country along the Mohawk River, and at the point known as Rockwell Falls, on the 1st of December, 1831. There she remained and began her early education, completing her studies, however, in the city of Troy, to which her parents removed dnriug her childhood. These latter were Abraham and Lucinda (Smith) Ives, who were natives of New York, and came to the West several years ago. They are now sojourning for their health in Kansas.

Mrs. Bord is a very intelligent and capable lady, and has been a most worthy and efficient helpmate to her husband during his struggle with the elements of pioneer life, standing by his side, and encouraging him not only by her councils, but being of substantial assistance in business matters. They are the parents of one child, a son, Lawrence A., now a promising boy fourteen years of age, who is serving an apprenticeship as printer in the office of the Talmage *Tribune*.

Mr. Bord left his native State and migrated to DeKalb County, Ill., in the fall of 1849. Thence he removed to Bureau County, of which he was a resident until 1865, and from there across the Mississippi, soon after which began his pioneer experience on the Kansas frontier. He cast his first Presidential vote for Martin Van Buren, and is a pronounced Jacksonian Democrat, defending his principles with all the fearlessness and strength of his character. He has served as Justice of the Peace at Talmage a number of years, and is also a Notary Public. His name is a household word among the people of his own town, where both he

and his excellent wife are favorites in the social circles, and welcome under their hospitable roof scores of friends who have learned to esteem them for their sterling worth, and as valuable members of the community.

MICHAEL D. CAMPBELL, owner of one of the most valuable farms in Syracuse Precinct, and which lies just without the limits of the thriving and pleasantly located village, has of late years devoted his attention mainly to stock-raising, an industry which has netted him a generous income. Although settling here as late as 1883, he has during the brief period of his residence among the people of this region surrounded himself with many warm friends. He was at once recognized as a valued addition to the community, is a gentleman of taste and culture, prompt in his business transactions, and in all respects a model citizen.

A native of Indiana, our subject was born in Jefferson Township, Boone County, March 25, 1835. He claims descent from a liberty loving ancestry, who were always ready to shoulder arms in defense of home and country. Allen Campbell, his paternal grandfather, was born in Virginia, and when a lad of fifteen years migrated to the unsettled territory now comprised in the State of Kentucky. There he became the friend and compeer of Daniel Boone, and participated with that illustrious old hero in many of his conflicts with the savage foe. Enlisting in the regular service he was given the commission of First Lieutenant under Gen. Wayne, and was present at the battle of Maumee, where he commanded his company, and is recorded in history as Capt. Campbell. He did not see his father from the time he left home until he was a man of thirty years, being absent a period of fifteen years.

Grandfather Campbell married a Kentucky lady, and from the Blue Grass regions they emigrated to Jennings County, Ind., locating among its early settlers. There they reared a family of sons and daughters, and passed the remainder of their days. Michael D., Sr., was born in Kentucky, and like his father before him, left his native State when a lad of fifteen years, going with the family to Jennings County, Ind., where he grew to manhood and chose his life companion.

The parents of our subject soon after their marriage settled in Jefferson Township, Boone Co., Ind., where the father erected the second log cabin built in the township, and there passed the remaining fifty-three years of his life. He departed hence in July, 1883, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. His aged and excellent partner survived him only four weeks, her death taking place in August following, and her years being seventy-six. The household circle of this excellent pair included eleven children, of whom the following are living: Joseph A., John F., Michael D. (our subject), Nottly S., David W., and R. Angeline, the wife of Alex A. Young, of Montgomery County, Ind.

Michael D. Campbell pursued his early studies in the primitive log school-house of Jefferson Township, Ind., and later added to his knowledge by an extended course of reading. This, however, sufficed to make him a well-informed man, and one of more than ordinary intelligence. He, in common with his brothers, during his boyhood and youth, assisted in the development of the new farm in Indiana, and they together cleared up a tract of land 600 acres in extent. On the 21st of March, 1860, occurred one of the most interesting and important events in the life of our subject, his marriage, after which he settled near his parents, and followed agricultural pursuits in the Hoosier State until the winter of 1882.

Mr. Campbell now began to cast longing eyes toward the farther West, and coming to this State, was for a year a resident of Nebraska City. At the expiration of this time he settled on the farm which he now owns and occupies, and which is such a credit to his good management. Like his father before and like his brothers, he is an ardent supporter of Democratic principles. While in Indiana he was for a period of twelve years Director of the Agricultural Society of Boone, Clinton and Montgomery Counties. He has carefully refrained from political office, preferring to leave such spoils to those whose time could not be better employed.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Martha A. Harris, and was born in Boone County,

Ind., Jan. 12, 1841. Her parents, Matthew F. and Martha (Ferguson) Harris, were natives of Tennessee and Indiana respectively. The father has long since passed to his rest; the mother is still living in Boone County, Ind. Her paternal grandfather, William Harris, served as a soldier under Gen. Andrew Jackson, in the war with the Crete Indians. Her parents, like those of our subject, were pioneer settlers of Indiana. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, namely: Rossie, the wife of Dr. Charles Sutton, of Syracuse; Allen T., who married Miss Myrtle Young, and lives in Hildreth, Neb.; Alonzo D., Olney L., Charles F., Mintie R. and Orval Ray.

The mother of Mr. Campbell was a daughter of Joseph Betts, an early settler of Scott County, Ky., and a participant in the Indian wars of 1803, 1805 and 1812, being under the command of Gen. Wayne at Maumee, with the title of Sergeant. He was in the same company with Allen Campbell, and later carried a musket in the War of 1812, under the command of Gen. Harrison, and was at the battle of Tippecanoe when Tecumseh was killed.

JOLK HILL. In the present sketch are presented to the reader the more salient features of the life of the popular Postmaster of Palmyra. His parents, William H. and Sarah A. (Tutt) Hill, were born respectively in Madison and Culpeper Counties, Va., and his family has its representatives among the very early colonists of Virginia. Col. Robert Hill, the grandfather of our subject, was in command of militia in the War of 1812, and is reputed to have been one of the most intrepid and gallant of his compeers.

The parents of our subject settled in Virginia, and his father followed the usual rural occupations. In 1836 he removed with his family to Missouri, where they lived for about ten years, but, owing to the prevalence of ague and his continued susceptibility to its influence, and his consequently debilitated health, he was compelled to return to his native State, but in 1868 he came to the State of Nebraska, and for three years lived south of Nebraska City. In the spring of 1871 they removed to Palmyra. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom were boys. The mother was the first of the parents to depart this life; her death occurred in 1879, when she was seventy-one years of age. The father died in 1880, aged seventy-seven years.

Of the above-mentioned family the subject of our sketch was the ninth born. This interesting event occurred upon the 19th of January, 1845, in Callaway County, Mo., and when his parents removed to Virginia he was eighteen months old. There he grew up upon the farm, and made early acquaintance with farm life, responsibility and work. He received a fair education, his parents giving him every possible advantage. At the time of the secession he was of course too young to vote or have any personal influence, but at an early age gave promise of the powers that have since been developed. As soon as he became old enough to bear arms he enlisted in Company C, 4th Virginia Cavalry. He was in the battles of Gettysburg, Williamsport, Shepherdstown, and through the campaign of the Wilderness, in 1864, but he received his "baptism of fire" at Boonesville, where he also was slightly wounded in the side, and was only saved by his pocket Bible, which received the force of the otherwise fatal blow. He was wounded a second time at Nance's Shop, Va.; here a rifle ball struck his left arm, shattering the bone and rendering amputation imperative; this was performed on the 24th of June, 1864. The bullet that did this destructive work is in the possession of our subject until this day. After this event he went back home, being incapacitated for further service, and having fully proved the intense loyalty and patriotism that were within his breast. Coming to Nebraska in 1868, he was for one year a teacher in this county.

His parents were directly dependent upon our subject for support, at that time having lost their property, and being old and infirm. Their infirmities were the result of age, their poverty, war. It was the ambition of Mr. Hill to become a man of letters, but, recognizing the position of his parents, he without further debate gave up the project and went to work in other directions, making the first duty of his life his devotion to his parents.

The subject of our sketch first began by renting a farm, and continued prosperously engaged thereon

until 1873, when, in the month of December, he returned to Virginia in order that he might claim his bride, Mary Ella Jeffries, who now becomes the companion of his maturer days. Their home has been brightened by the birth of five children, to whom they gave the names appended: William H., Thomas Temple; Edgar T., who died when about one year old; Mary E. and Dudley J.

Mrs. Hill was born in Culpeper County, Va., on the 7th of March, 1850. The birthdays of her mother, herself and daughter May, are all on the same day of the month. Her parents were quite well-to-do, her father being a planter and at the same time a slave-holder. He operated a steam sawmill, and was largely interested in the lumber trade. She was one of eleven children born to her parents, and with the exception of herself and two sisters they were all boys. She is a lady of education and culture, and was graduated from the Culpeper Female Institute in the year 1870.

Mr. Hill intended to return to Nebraska immediately after his marriage, but was detained in Virginia, and finally went into business with his brother-in-law, Mr. J. E. Jeffries. Business prospered exceedingly until 1876, when the high water broke the mill dam, greatly damaged the property, and a heavy loss was sustained. They repaired the injury, however, and all went well for a time. In 1879 he returned to Nebraska, bringing with him his wife and three children; he then settled in Palmyra Precinct, purchasing fifteen and a half acres, upon which he erected a thoroughly substantial and commodious dwelling, which represents in its arrangement, furnishing, etc., the very harmony of homelike restfulness and domestic comfort. Such is the spirit that seems to pervade and render the more material things capable of leaving the impression that it is indeed a home, which is undoubtedly due to his most excellent wife.

For one year Mr. Hill served in the office of Constable, resigning the position in 1882. Upon the occasion of T. W. Foster severing his official connection with the Postal Department, Mr. Hill was appointed and accepted the position, and has given every satisfaction to the people ever since that time, rendering the most efficient service in each and every department. Politically, he is a member of the Democratic party, and is actively engaged in its interests. Both he and Mrs. Hill are members in good standing of the Baptist Church, and are respected very highly in that direction, and in the community at large there are few families that are more thoroughly esteemed.

GEORGE W. WELLS, a native of England, and a farmer in good circumstances, proprietor of 160 acres of land on section 18, in Russell Precinct, fulfills the idea of the well-bred English gentleman. Over his domestic affairs presides a lady in every way his equal, refined and well educated, and their hospitable doors are ever open both to friends and strangers, who, if of ordinary intelligence, are not slow in discerning that they are under the roof of those who have made politeness a study, and who were born and reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. Their home, pleasant within and without, forms an attractive picture of rural life, where peace and contentment abide.

Thomas Wells, the father of our subject, was a native of Buckinghamshire, England, and a shoemaker by trade. In early manhood he married Miss Anna Green, and those of her family who survive are residents of England. The father departed this life in 1856, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother passed away after the decease of her husband, about 1865.

The subject of this sketch was born March 27, 1837, in Buckinghamshire, and learned the shoemaking trade under the instruction of his excellent father. He received the education common to the boys of his time and neighborhood, and was trained in those principles of honesty and sentiments of honor which have left their indelible impress upon his subsequent life. In July, 1866, having become dissatisfied with his condition and his prospects, he determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, bidding adieu to the friends of his childhood and youth, he set sail on the steamer "Hibernian," and ten days afterward landed in the city of Quebec, Canada. Later he

proceeded to Toronto, and worked at his trade until the spring of 1869. Coming over into the "States" in the month of April, he made his way westward across the Mississippi, and upon reaching this county homesteaded eighty acres of land, which tract is included in his present farm.

Our subject had not only come to a new section of country with limited means, but was beset by the difficulties attendant upon imperfect transportation and distant markets. He was obliged to haul lumber from Nebraska City before he could put up his house, and the labor required in the transformation of the raw prairie to a cultivated farm may be better imagined than described. He set out groves, hedges and an orchard, and in the course of years began to realize the result of his labors. Of late he has given considerable attention to stock-raising, feeding numbers of cattle and hogs each year, from the proceeds of which he realizes a handsome income. He votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been a member of the School Board in his district for a period of nine years. He has been a useful man in his community.

Mr. Wells was married in his native shire June 1, 1864, to Miss Mary G., daughter of James and Anna (Gregory) Bird, whose birthplace was not far from that of her husband. Her father was a baker by occupation, and died in the spring of 1883, at the age of seventy-four years. The mother is still living in England, being in the year 1888 of the same age as her husband when he died. Of the eleven children born to them seven are living and mostly residents of England. Mrs. Wells was born Nov. 27, 1839, and of her union with our subject there are two children only, both daughters, Edith A. and Clara J. B. The former is twenty years of age and the latter thirteen, and both are at home with their parents.

DR. ALEXANDER M. COWDEN, physician and surgeon at Dunbar, although only a resident of this place since May of the past year (1888) is already building up a large practice. His prompt attention to the calls of duty, and his conscientious methods of practice, are meeting with their legitimate reward, and he has about all the business he can conveniently attend to. As a citizen, he is enterprising and public-spirited, willing to contribute his full share toward the best interests of his community.

Dr. Cowden was born in Crawfordsville, Iowa, March 31, 1855, and is the son of Alexander Cowden, who was born in Mercer County, Pa., and removed from the Keystone State to Mahoning County, Ohio, and from there to Mercer County, Ill., in the year 1840, or about that date. He departed this life at his home in Washington County, Iowa, April 30, 1855. The mother, Mrs. Margaret M. Cowden, is a native of Pennsylvania, and is now in Crawfordsville, Iowa. The parental family consisted of five children, who are now mostly in Iowa.

The subject of this sketch pursued his early studies in the common school, and during his younger years lived upon a farm. Upon leaving the home roof he engaged as clerk in a drug-store two years, then took up the study of medicine, and later, in 1880, was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa. He began the practice of his profession in the village of Ellison, Warren Co., Ill., in the winter of 1881, whence he removed, in 1883, to Elvira, Iowa, and followed his profession there until May, 1888, when he changed his residence to this county. He is now but thirty-four years of age, and has already entered upon a career which gives promise of great prosperity in the future.

Miss Mary A. Crawford, of Crawfordsville, Iowa, became the wife of our subject Sept. 21, 1881. Mrs. Cowden was born Dec. 2, 1862, in Crawfordsville, and is the daughter of John W. and A. J. (Crawford) Crawford, who were natives of Ohio, and are now in Iowa. Their family included seven children, who are now mostly in Iowa.

To the Doctor and his estimable wife there have been born three children, one daughter and two sons, namely: Maggie L., Bruce C. and Russell G. Dr. Cowden supports the principles of the Republican party, and, with his estimable wife, is a member in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church. They occupy a snug home in the northwestern part of town, and are making hosts of friends amid a community of intelligent people.

Robert Curry.

ROBERT CURRY, A. M., Ph. D., second son of Robert and Kezia Curry, was born near Murrysville, Westmoreland Co., Pa., on the 8th of June, 1821. In his ninth year his parents removed to Washington County of the same State, where he was raised, and trained to habits of industry.

His opportunities for obtaining an early school education were very meager, as his parents, although honest, industrious and intelligent, were in limited circumstances. This want of opportunity, however, was offset to a certain extent by his early home education, as under the guidance of his parents, who were Presbyterians of Scotch extraction, he had learned to read and write, and treasured up in memory the Westminster Assembly's shorter catechism, and many psalms and hymns, and other choice selections of prose and poetry, further back than at his majority he could remember. His instructions in the Sunday-school, and from the pulpit also, formed an important part of his early education, and doubtless had much to do in shaping his character and forming his purposes for life.

He early manifested an ardent desire to obtain a liberal education, and in the meantime, by his own unaided home efforts, supplemented by a few months' instruction in the public schools of his neighborhood, gained such a knowledge of the common branches of an English education as enabled him to pass a satisfactory examination before an intelligent school committee, from which he received such certificates and recommendations as justified him in applying for a position as teacher in the public schools, and henceforward relied entirely on his own efforts for support and success in securing an education.

After teaching a few terms in the public schools, he became a student in the academy at Frankfort Springs, Beaver Co., Pa., where he made considerable progress in the study of mathematics and the classics. Subsequently he attended an academy in Cross Creek Village, Washington Co., Pa., devoting his time while there exclusively to the study of the Latin and Greek languages. In the summer of 1845 he entered the Freshman class of Jefferson College, where he graduated in 1848, having taught more or less in the meantime.

After graduation he taught one year in the Hays & McNary school, and on Dec. 26, 1849, he and Miss Mary McCloy, youngest daughter of Dr. Alexander McCloy, of Cannonsburg, Pa., were united in marriage.

He subsequently held successively the principalship of the West Newton Academy, the Cannonsburg graded schools, and that of a private seminary in West Manchester. In the spring of 1855 he organized, at Mansfield, Pa., the first Normal School west of the Alleghany Mountains. In the fall of the same year he became Principal of the New Brighton Female Seminary, in which position he remained until his wife died, in the fall of 1859, when he, with his little daughter, an only child, returned to Pittsburgh, where for a time he edited and published an educational journal, known as the *National Educator*.

In 1860 he founded the celebrated Curry Institute, of Pittsburgh, Pa., an institution which still bears his name, and which, while comprising three courses—Normal, Classical and Commercial—was nevertheless designed for the special education and training of teachers. It was a private enterprise, which, while demanding high prices for tuition, had to compete with the Pittsburgh Central High School, which comprised a Normal Department free to all its pupils. Curry Institute opened with only four students, but grew so rapidly that by the end of the first year it numbered over 200 students. Its popularity increased from year to year, until before long there was a constant demand for all its graduates as teachers, and indeed all its other students who could obtain certificates of any grade. During his thirteen years' connection with the institution as Principal, its average annual attendance was over 317 students, while toward the last of that period, some of its catalogues show an annual enrollment of over 500 students.

In the spring of 1873 he was appointed Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, and as his thirteen years of unceasing labor in building up and carrying on his school had somewhat impaired his health, and as in the meantime his little daughter had died, thus leaving him alone, he disposed of his interest in the school, accepted the proffered office, and entered upon its du-

ties on the 1st of June, 1873. His estimated fitness for the position, the nature of his work, and the ability with which he discharged the duties of his office, are aptly and briefly expressed in the following abstracts taken from leading educational journals and elsewhere. Thus, Dr. J. P. Wickersham, in the *Pennsylvania School Journal* for June, 1873, in speaking of the suitableness of his appointment, says: "Prof. Robert Curry has all his life been engaged in the work of education. In 1855 he established the first Normal School west of the mountains, and since that time has been constantly engaged in the work of training teachers. His appointment was asked for by an immense number of superintendents, teachers, school directors, public men and leading private citizens. He seems to come into office by the universal good-will of his section of the State, and the cause of education is expected to profit much by his appointment." The following resolution, which is taken from the published minutes of the Teachers' Association, held in the city of Pittsburgh April 5, 1873, and which was unanimously adopted by that body, is a type of the numerous requests above alluded to, and, at the same time, indicates the estimation in which he was held at home.

"*Resolved*, That this convention nominate Prof. Robert Curry, and earnestly urge his appointment to the position of Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, believing that his natural ability, educational qualifications, extensive experience as an educator, popularity as an institute lecturer and instructor, and his high moral character, are such as to eminently fit him for this important position." The *Warren Institute Gem* for September, 1873, says: "Prof Robert Curry entered upon the duties of his office last June. The degree of Ph. D. was conferred upon him by Washington and Jefferson College last July. He is now in the prime of life, and endowed with ripe scholarship and rich experience, and his services as State Instructor cannot fail to be of incalculable value to the cause of education throughout the State." The *National Journal of Education* for June, 1880, speaking of Dr. Curry's official work in Pennsylvania, says: "As Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he spent nearly four years as State Instructor in the city and county institutes of the commonwealth, attending the city and county superintendents' conventions, and in visiting the State Normal Schools and examining their graduating classes. His public addresses were very highly and widely appreciated, having been quoted largely by the National Bureau of Education in its annual reports, the French Centennial Commission, in its report on the state of education in this country, and by the press in Canada, Germany, and other foreign countries, as well as at home."

During the summer of 1876 he made his headquarters in Philadelphia, where, having charge of Pennsylvania's Centennial Educational exhibit, he had rare opportunities for becoming acquainted with the leading educators and educational systems of the world. In the meantime, he and Miss Jennie B. Boggs, of Allegheny City, were married, and began housekeeping in Philadelphia, expecting to make that place their future home. In December of that year, however, he was unanimously elected Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School, and although it was not to his pecuniary interest to make the change, he had a desire to see the West, and as the work was congenial, and would allow him to enjoy more of home life, he at once resigned his office and repaired to Nebraska. In acknowledging the receipt of Dr. Curry's resignation, Dr. Wickersham, in the *Pennsylvania School Journal*, says: "In parting with Prof. Curry in Pennsylvania, it is only just to say that the cause of public education loses a warm friend, and the Department of Public Instruction an able and faithful officer."

In January, 1877, he entered upon the duties of his new position as Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School. Under his management the history of the institution was one of uninterrupted prosperity. The thoroughness and efficiency of its work during his administration is fully attested by Hon. S. R. Thompson, for several years State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Nebraska, who, in his annual report for 1880, says: "Nebraska is fortunate in having one of the best Normal Schools in the United States. This statement is made deliberately, and after a careful study of the schools of other States. The firm, consistent management,

the liberal course of study, extending through five years, the zeal and ability of the teachers, and the industry and enthusiasm of the pupils, render our Normal School an institution of which every intelligent friend of education in the State may well feel proud."

Dr. Curry has delivered many lectures, and done much institute work in the State. He was President of the State Teachers' Association in 1880. He has always been an earnest student, and is a deep thinker and able worker.

He is the author of the following pamphlets, viz: "Education—What It is not, and What It is;" "Special Education," "Prerequisites to Success," "The Formation of Human Character," "The Relative Importance of the Teacher's Vocation," "The Philosophy of Revelation," "Geometry—Its Nature, Elements, Use, and How to Teach It," "The Earth as a Model School," "The Earth as a Cosmical System," "Man and His Environments," and various other addresses and reports. Several years ago he had partially prepared a series of arithmetics, which, while in manuscript form, were destroyed by fire. He now has several other works in a state of partial preparation.

In 1883 Dr. Curry resigned his position as Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School, and removed to Palmyra, Neb., where he has since devoted most of his time to philosophy, literature and writing, and his leisure hours to the management of his large landed estate in that vicinity.

Although an educator by profession, Dr. Curry has never restricted his reading and study to any single line of investigation, but has rather endeavored to widen and enrich his views on all subjects, by widening his course of reading and study. After leaving college he read full courses in law, medicine and theology, respectively; not with a view to practicing any of them as a profession, but rather for his own improvement in thus extending his range of thought, and rounding out his own education, believing that an educator should keep abreast of the times in all departments of human progress. And no doubt his great success as an educator, as well as his achievements in other fields of labor, is largely due to his high culture, rich experience, and liberal views thus acquired.

We have already seen that his experience as an educator has been much and varied, having served as Principal of all grades of schools, from the public, district, primary and graded schools, up through the academy, the female seminary, and the private and State Normal schools, and that he has filled all these positions with marked ability and success. But his experience outside of his profession, and for the most part simultaneous with the performance of its duties, has been scarcely less extensive. He was for many years an active worker in the Sunday-school, part of the time as Superintendent, and all the time as teacher of Bible classes. He was for a time editor and proprietor of the *National Educator*. While carrying on his professional work in Pittsburgh, he also served a term as Bank Director, and was subsequently Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, all of which positions he filled with credit to himself, and fidelity to the interests of all concerned. His integrity and business tact have been clearly shown in his prudent management of the pecuniary interests of all the institutions, both private and public, committed to his care, as well as by his judicious investments made on his own account.

This brief sketch affords an apt illustration of what can be accomplished in this country by talent, pluck and high purpose. The subject of this biography was born and raised in the country, where, without money, books or influential friends, he began his public career during his minority, and by his own unaided efforts rose step by step, until he reached the highest plane of scholarship, and now stands in the very front rank of educators.

Dr. Curry has all his life taken an active part in everything relating to the public good, and the amelioration of mankind. His sympathies have always been with the downtrodden and the poor, both at home and abroad. He has often lent a helping hand to worthy students seeking to better their condition by means of a good education, by furnishing them free instruction, and, in some cases, while conducting his own private schools, free boarding. Without being a bigot in religion, a partisan in politics, or an ultra sensationalist on reforms, he is a Presbyterian in church polity, a Republican in politics, and a teetotaler as regards the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks.

MRS. JENNIE B. CURRY, daughter of James and Lucinda Boggs, was born in Allegheny City, Pa., Oct. 26, 1845. Her parents being Covenanters, she was not only trained to habits of industry and economy, but thoroughly instructed in all the doctrines, catechisms and customs of the Covenanter Church, of which she early became an active member. Her systematic, conscientious home training during her infancy and childhood, conditioned on her part such discipline and habits of promptness and self-denial as rendered her performance of duty ever after comparatively easy.

Miss Boggs received her early school education in the Third Ward public schools of Allegheny City, and her professional education and training in Curry Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., where she graduated in the Normal course of that institution in the fall of 1864.

After completing the Normal course, she was, on account of her superior qualifications and high character, chosen an assistant teacher in the institution, where, with marked ability and success, she taught nine consecutive years, during which time she, in addition to her duties as teacher, completed a full college course of study in the academic department of that institution. In the meantime she received, on examination by the proper authorities, all the different kinds of legal certificates and diplomas granted to teachers in the State of Pennsylvania, including the Provisional, the Professional, and the Permanent State Certificates and the State Normal School Diploma.

When Curry Institute passed from under the management of its founder, Miss Boggs took a rest of one year, during which time she was elected Assistant Principal of the Morehead Public Schools of Pittsburgh, Pa., and took charge as teacher of the High School of that institution. After holding this position two years, she resigned at the close of the school year, in June, 1876.

On July 19, 1876, she was married to Dr. Robert Curry, then Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, and spent the remainder of the summer with him in Philadelphia, where at the great Centennial, with its immense educational exhibits, she made many acquaintances, and greatly extended her observations on school appliances, school workers and school systems.

In December, 1876, she removed with her husband to Nebraska. In the summer of 1877 she was elected to the Chair of Language and Methods, in the Nebraska State Normal School, which position she filled two years, at the expiration of which time she was transferred to the Chair of Methods and Training, which position she continued to fill until the summer of 1883, when, with her husband, she resigned, and removed to Palmyra, Neb., where she now resides. When she was chosen a member of the State Normal School faculty she was also given charge of the State Normal School Library, which was under her special care and direction during her six years' connection with the institution.

Mrs. Curry was a member of the Allegheny County Teachers' Association from 1863 until she left the State, in 1876. She was Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' Association in 1868. She has prepared and read papers before a number of Teachers' Associations, and done much Institute work in both Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

She united with the Covenanter Church in her childhood, but has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for nearly twenty years. She was an active and successful worker in the Sunday-school from the time she was fifteen years of age until she came to Nebraska.

Mrs. Curry has for many years been a great reader, not only of the current literature furnished by the leading magazines and reviews, but also of the most prominent books published in the interest of literature, science and religion. Since removing to Palmyra she has made philosophy a special study, and in the meantime has read, with her husband, the "History of Philosophy," as given by Cousin, Schwegler and Ueberweg, respectively; and made a critical study of Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," and the Philosophies of Schelling, Fichte and Hegel.

But her accomplishments and efficiency as a scholar and educator are not her only qualifications, nor, perhaps, her most important ones. She is equally at home in the domestic circle. Having been brought up to habits of industry and neatness, she in childhood learned how to do all kinds of

Jennie B. Curry.

housework and needlework in the most approved manner, and now well knows how to make her happy home attractive and pleasant.

SPENCER L. GANT, M. D., has for several years, when the state of his health permitted, practiced medicine in Nebraska City, and his learning, ability and skill justly entitle him to a high place among his professional brethren in the West. He is a native of North Carolina, his birthplace being in Orange County, twelve miles south of Hillsboro, and three miles southeast of Chapel Hill, and the date of his birth was April 17, 1817. His father, James H. Gant, was born in the same county, but his grandfather, William Gant, was a native of Scotland. He came to America during the Revolution, with three brothers and the famous McDonald. After peace was declared he settled in Orange County, where he engaged in farming and made his residence until death.

The father of our subject was reared on his father's homestead, and until 1838 engaged in farming in Orange County. He served in the War of 1812, and was Captain of his company under Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. He married in his native State Mary Stewart, likewise a native of North Carolina, born in Wake County, and of English ancestry. In 1838 Mr. Gant moved with his family to Missouri, going with teams across Tennessee and Kentucky, and cooking and camping by the way. They started in August, and arrived in Richmond, Ray Co., Mo., October 10. Mr. Gant invested his money in a tract of 600 acres of unimproved land, ten miles north of Richmond, and was one of the early settlers of the county. He built a hewed log house to shelter his family, and then commenced to improve a farm. He became a prominent factor in promoting the educational and religious interests of the country. He built of hewed logs on his land the first school-house ever erected in that section, and he assisted in the organization of a church, the meetings being held in the school-house. The mother of our subject, who was a very capable housewife, had no stove, and did all her cooking by the open fireplace, and she used to spin, weave and make all the clothing of the family. The father of our subject improved a farm, upon which he resided some years, and he then sold it and bought a home in Liberty, where the remaining years of his life were passed, he dying in 1868, at the advanced age of eighty-six. The mother of our subject died in the same year, at the age of seventy-six. She and her husband were well endowed mentally and physically, and their length of life was productive of much good to others, so that they have left behind them a blessed memory that will be fondly cherished by those who knew and loved them. They were the parents of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters.

The subject of this sketch was the second child born to his parents, and he was reared in his native State. He accompanied the family to Missouri, and having made the best of his opportunities to get an education, at the age of nineteen he commenced to teach school in Saline County, Mo. He was thus engaged for some years, and in 1843 commenced the study of medicine. In 1847 he was graduated from the St. Louis Medical College, and immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in Clay County, Mo. In 1852 he went from there to Savannah, in Andrew County, and was the leading physician there until 1863, when he crossed the plains to Denver, and resided there until the close of the war. He then came to Nebraska City, and at once opened an office here, and has been in active practice ever since, when his health would permit. He has won a fine reputation, and stands second to none in the city as regards a sound, practical knowledge of his profession, and as the possessor of all the requisites that go to make up a good physician.

Dr. Gant was married, in April, 1848, to Frances A. Yancey. Her father, Col. John F. Yancey, was a native of Virginia, and a cousin of William L. Yancey, of Virginia. He was a Colonel in the War of 1812, and moved from Virginia to Missouri, where he bought a large tract of land in Saline County, and was a respected resident there until his death. The pleasant married life of our subject and his amiable wife has been blessed to them by the birth of three children, as follows: John Yancey, the eldest, is a prosperous farmer in LaFayette

County, Mo.; Eugenia K. is the wife of W. F. N. Houser, cashier of the Farmers' Bank, Nebraska City; Thomas S. is a successful physician of Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb.

Our subject is a man of true nobility of character, earnest, dignified, and simple in his bearing, and his professional and private life is irreproachable. His influence for good is strongly felt in the social and religious circles of this community, as he is one of the leading members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and is prominently identified with the State Medical Society.

CYRUS BASSETT. Nebraska remained a Territory for a period of nine years after the subject of this sketch settled upon the land which he now owns and occupies in South Branch Precinct. He was thus one of the earliest pioneers of this county, and, considering the record which he has made for himself, has proved one of its most enterprising and useful men. Upon crossing the Mississippi it had been his intention to visit Pike's Peak, which was then the object of great excitement, and to which hundreds were hastening in the hopes of accumulating a fortune without the necessity of labor.

Our subject, in pursuance of this idea, started out from Lockport, Ill., overland with a team and accompanied by A. J. Reynolds. When one week's drive west of the Missouri River his brother-in-law was taken quite ill, and they were obliged to turn about in order to obtain medical aid from Nebraska City. In the meantime Mr. Bassett, becoming further discouraged over his expedition to Pike's Peak, decided to locate nearer the bounds of civilization, and accordingly laid claim to 160 acres of land in this county, upon a warrant which his father had received for services in the War of 1812. He considers that this was a most fortunate move for him, when he looks around upon his comfortable homestead, his well-tilled acres, the modern improvements and all the appliances of rural life, with plenty for the present and a prospect of a competency for his old age. He took up his residence here in the spring of 1859, and during his thirty years' residence in Southern Nebraska has witnessed many more changes than can be mentioned in the course of a brief biography.

The important events in the life of our subject are mainly as follows: He was born in Allegany County, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1832, and is the son of David and Lucinda (Coggswell) Bassett, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Connecticut. In early life they became residents of New York State, where their marriage took place. Of the paternal grandfather little is known beyond the fact that he was a native of England, and emigrated to the United States, settling in Massachusetts. He died when his son David was but a boy, and the latter was thrown among strangers. Probably about the time of reaching his majority he left New England for the Empire State, and located among the early pioneers of Livingston County. Here he engaged in farming very successfully, but finally lost his property. His death took place in Portage, on the Genesee River, when he was sixty-seven years of age.

After the death of her husband the mother of our subject moved to Illinois with her children, and died in Will County in 1861, at the age of fifty-eight years. David Bassett had served as a private in the War of 1812. The parental household included the following children: Sabina, the wife of Lodelia Speer, of Michigan; Elvira R., Mrs. Reever; Joseph W.; Helena M., Mrs. Reynolds, and Cyrus of our sketch. All of these are yet living. Cyrus, in common with his brothers and sisters, received a common-school education, and was taught those habits of industry which have been the basis of his success in life. He was fifteen years of age at the time of his father's death, and remained with his mother until twenty-four, working on the home farm. Then starting out for himself he farmed on rented land one year, and at the expiration of this time left the Empire State and took up his residence in Will County, Ill. Two and one-half years later we find him journeying toward Pike's Peak.

When Mr. Bassett came to Nebraska, it is hardly necessary to say Nebraska City was a hamlet of but a few houses. He worked his land until the outbreak of the Civil War, and then in the summer of

1862 responded to a call for troops from the Governor of Nebraska, reporting for enrollment at Syracuse. Later, finding the need of men at home, the Governor's call was rescinded, and Mr. Bassett remained at home with others in case of being called upon to protect their own State against the ravages of the Indians. These in the fall of 1864 came with threatening aspect, having on their war paint, as far as Little Blue, causing the people to leave their homes and hasten to a place of refuge. They finally went back across the Missouri River, but in the meantime the settlers in that region, one Sunday at church, appointed a committee to send out scouts and investigate as to the truth of the reports of danger which were coming to their ears day by day. Mr. Bassett was one of three men appointed to reconnoiter, and with the two others started out one Sunday night on horseback, reaching Beatrice the night following. They found the people of Little Blue suffering from the various outrages committed by the redskins, who had stolen their stock and committed various other depredations. They had, however, apparently done all they had dared to do and were now on the retreat, so the scouting party returned home.

Mr. Bassett now began farming in earnest upon his land, tilling the soil, setting out fruit and shade trees, putting up buildings, and effecting the other improvements naturally suggested to the enterprising and progressive agriculturist. He has now a fine orchard of 200 bearing apple trees, a commodious farmhouse, with barns, sheds and machinery, live stock, and all the other appliances of the complete rural home. His land is finely watered by running streams, and he has plenty of timber. A stone quarry furnishes all this material desired for use on the farm, and many loads annually are supplied to the people generally of this locality.

Mr. Bassett was married first in Danville, N. Y., in 1856, to Miss Elizabeth Phelps, who was born in Allegany County, that State, and is the daughter of Thomas Phelps. His present wife was Miss Margaretta L. Kerr, to whom he was married Dec. 31, 1872, in Johnson County, Neb. This lady was born in 1839, in Richland County, Ohio, and is the daughter of David and Elizabeth Snyder. Her parents were natives respectively of Beaver and Carlisle Counties, Pa., and the father a farmer by occupation. Miss Snyder was first married to Clark Howland, in Ohio. Mr. H. was born in New York State in 1837, and died in Sterling, Johnson Co., Neb., in the winter of 1870. Mrs. Bassett received a good education and taught school several terms when a young woman. Of her union with our subject there are two children, Lois and Cyrus Rolla, who continue at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. B. are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, in which our subject has officiated as Class-Leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, he is a Republican with prohibition tendencies. He was at one time a member of Rockford Grange, P. of H. He has served as Justice of the Peace in South Branch Precinct for a period of ten or twelve years, and has almost continuously been a member of the School Board.

JOHN P. BROWN, contractor and builder, and doing a good business in Nebraska City and vicinity, is a man of much intelligence and general information, and one who has seen considerable of life in the Great West. An ardent lover of nature, he, during his younger years, traveled over a considerable portion of the Western country, meeting with many adventures among Indians and the pioneer white element, and learning largely of life and its various phases, being a keen observer, and keeping his eyes open to what was going on around him.

Mr. Brown struck the eastern line of this county as early as 1857, coming to Nebraska City from Davenport, Iowa. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in the town of Carlisle, Cumberland County, Feb. 14, 1829, and is the son of Thomas and Margaret (Phillips) Brown, who were natives of the same county as their son, where also the paternal grandfather, Thomas Brown, was born. The father was a shoemaker by trade, which he followed in his native State during the early part of his life, but migrated West in May, 1857, and spent his last days in Nebraska City, dying at the age of sixty-three years. The family first settled in Nemaha

County, where the father took up a tract of land, upon which he lived and labored until about 1866. The mother died there at the age of sixty years. The household circle included nine children, five of whom grew to mature years, and four of whom are still living. Of these, John P., our subject, is the eldest; Eliza J., Mrs. Cleveland, resides in the vicinity of Rock Island, Ill.; of George W. a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume; Mary, Mrs. Smith, is a resident of Dorchester County, Md.

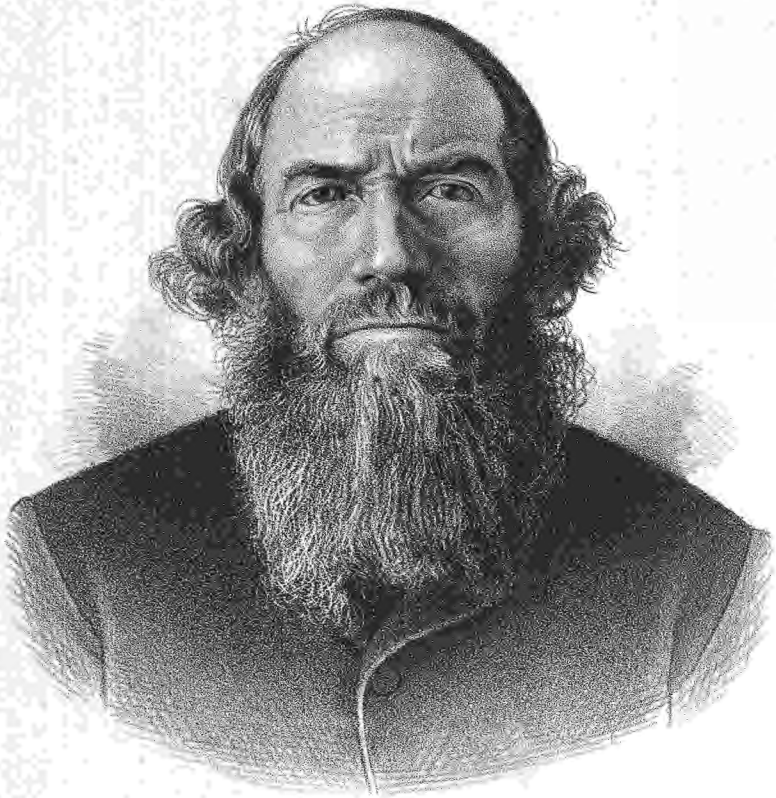
Our subject was the eldest child of his parents, and at a very early age developed a peculiar disposition, being remarkably self-reliant and ambitious of acquiring information of all kinds, and at the early age of eight years started out for himself. As soon as old enough to think, he began to wonder if all the world was like the scenes and surroundings amid which he was born, and where he spent the first years of his life. He had an intense longing to look beyond the mountains which shut in his early home, and determined to go thither and see for himself. His grandfather, John Phillips, held a Government position in the city of Washington, and needing a messenger boy, John P. at once availed himself of this opportunity, and repairing to the capital, assumed the position, while at the same time he attended the common schools, and lost no opportunity to inform himself in regard to the various strange things he met with in and around the seat of Government, and thus spent the years until a youth of seventeen. It was then necessary for him to take up something practicable, and he began an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, serving four years. At the same time his spirit of adventure never deserted him, and he started down along the Atlantic Coast, visiting Charleston, N. C., and Richmond, Va., and keeping himself supplied with pocket money by working at his trade. While on his journey he was stricken down with malarial fever, but was able to get to his old home in Pennsylvania, where he was disabled for weeks, and at the end of which time there seemed to be no abatement of the disease.

Young Brown now determined upon a change of climate, and started for the West. He put up for a few months in Wellsville, Ohio, thence made his way to Chicago, Ill., and from there by the new Rock Island Railroad to the Mississippi River. This he crossed, and landing in Davenport, Iowa, took up his residence there, and remained two or three years, during which time his health became greatly improved.

Our subject from the city of Washington had been accompanied by his young wife, to whom he had been married in the capital, in September, 1851. This lady, Miss Mary McVain, was then but seventeen years old, an orphan, and supporting herself by dressmaking. She was very intelligent, of a most lovable disposition, and her tastes were greatly similar to those of Mr. Brown. Under these circumstances it was very natural that there should spring up between them the attachment which resulted in their early marriage. Their first child was born in Washington City, and upon coming to Nebraska Mr. Brown, in looking about for a home for his little family, decided to to take up a tract of land in Nemaha County. The Indians were prevalent in that section of the country, but Mr. Brown, instead of sharing the popular prejudice against the red man, made friends of them, and was always well treated by them. He lived with his family seven years on the Nemaha County farm, during which time they endured many hardships and privations in common with the pioneers around them.

In August, 1868, our subject decided to abandon farming and resume carpentering, and for this purpose changed his residence from Nemaha County to Nebraska City. The move proved a fortunate one, and many of the older buildings in the city stand as monuments of his skill and industry. He put up many store buildings and residences during the early years of building up the city, and was ever found a man prompt and reliable, making friends among its best people.

In the spring of 1877 Mr. Brown made an extensive tour around and among the Black Hills, and among other sights came across an encampment of 7,000 Sioux Indians. Their tents, horses, wives and children, and all the appurtenances of their wild, nomadic life, presented a picture which has often been described by the traveler to the West, and ever possesses an interest to the intelli-



Martin, Parent

Mary Ann Parent

gent mind. Mr. Brown spent eighteen months on this tour, which practically wound up his wanderings. He is now quite well advanced in years, but is bright and active as ever, and a man with whom it is very pleasurable and profitable to converse.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown there have been born eight children, only four of whom are living. Thomas died in Nebraska City, Oct. 20, 1885, aged thirty years; Otis, Ida, Harvey and Arlington are married. Ida is the wife of Frank McCartney, County Clerk of Otoe County; Harvey is working as a carpenter, and makes his home with his parents; Arlington married Miss Atwood, of Nebraska City, where he lives. Mr. Brown is a member of the Republican party, although meddling very little with politics. He has probably taken a greater interest in the success and extension of the I. O. O. F., with which he has been connected for the past thirty-five years, and of which he is Past Grand.

MARTIN PARENT, one of the largest landowners of Rock Greek Precinct, is proprietor of 320 acres on sections 24 and 26, where he has made his home since April, 1868. He came to this county in 1856, and preempted land in Otoe Precinct the year following. He had made his way across the Mississippi from Douglas County, Ill., of which he had been a resident eight years. He is a native of Parke County, Ind., and was born Aug. 26, 1833.

William Parent, the father of our subject, was born in Tennessee and reared in Kentucky; in the latter State he married Miss Priscilla Martin, who was born there, in Hardin County. They continued residents of the Blue Grass regions until after the birth of five children, then emigrated to Parke County, Ind., where five more little ones were added to the household circle. They were among the pioneers of that county, and endured in common with the people about them the vicissitudes of life in a new settlement. The country around them abounded in wild animals, and it is hardly necessary to say their neighbors were few and far between. The labors of the father as a tiller of the soil met with their legitimate reward, and he built up a comfortable home, where he spent the remainder of his days, his death taking place about 1843, when he was sixty-five years old. The mother after the death of her husband went to live with her son Martin, in Coles County, Ill., where she passed away when about fifty-four years of age.

Our subject was educated in the schools of Indiana and Illinois, his home being in that part of Coles which is now Douglas County. He was married during his early manhood to Miss Mary Ann Moore, who was born there Jan. 7, 1837. She became the mother of three children, and accompanied her familiy to this county. Her death took place at the homestead in Rock Creek Precinct, Nov. 12, 1880, and her remains were laid to rest four days later in the cemetery on a part of the land owned by her husband. Mrs. Parent was a lady of many estimable qualities, greatly beloved by her husband and friends, and her death was mourned by a large circle of acquaintances. Two of the children of this marriage, William and Joseph, died young. The surviving child, a daughter, Mary R., still remains at home with her father, whom she cares for with filial affection, anticipating his wants and striving as far as possible to supply the place of the wife and mother, who was for so many years his solace and comfort.

Mrs. Mary Ann Parent was the daughter of Joseph and Amelia (Whitaker) Moore, who were old residents of Coles County, Ill. Mr. Moore entered a claim and improved a farm, where he and his excellent wife spent the remainder of their days. Both Mr. and Mrs. Parent identified themselves with the Methodist Church many years ago. When the new school-house was built in District No. 2, Mr. Parent, being a great admirer of the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, insisted that the property should be named Lincoln Grove, which name it now bears. He believed that it would be a fitting and proper reminder to the children in future years of the career of the great Emancipator, one of the noblest of his kind, who was closely connected with the pioneer history of Illinois, and later arose to the highest position in the gift of the American people.

Mr. Parent is a quiet and unobtrusive citizen, meddling very little with public affairs, but keeps

himself well posted upon current events, and uniformly gives his support to Republican principles. He was one of the moving spirits in securing the passage of the Nebraska Herd Law, for which he received the thanks of the right-thinking people of the State. In the fall of 1869, he, with others, went down into Kansas on a buffalo hunt. Several of these animals were killed by the party, and Mr. Parent himself laid low one of the monsters of the plains.

Martin Parent has been abundantly prospered in his labors as an agriculturist, and has a competency for declining years. He has brought his farm to a good state of cultivation and keeps about enough stock to consume his corn. With the exception of the land immediately about the home place, he rents his farm, receiving therefor a living income. We take pleasure in presenting to our numerous readers the portrait of this honored pioneer, together with that of his deceased wife.

CALVIN CHAPMAN is one of the most active and enterprising citizens of Nebraska City, with whose business interests he is identified as a prominent stock dealer, and also as a dealer in coal, wood and hay. He is one of the self-made men of whom this country is so justly proud, as he came to Nebraska without a dollar, and by a quiet but persistent determination to succeed, through resolution and unceasing industry, has acquired a handsome competence and a large amount of valuable property.

Mr. Chapman was born in Winchester, Madison Co., Ohio, May 16, 1843. His father, Thomas Chapman, was born in Virginia, and was reared and married in his native State. He then moved from there to Ohio, the removal being made with wagons, as it was before the time of railways.. Mr. Chapman bought a tract of timber land in Madison County, built a log house, the one in which our subject was born, and resided there until 1845, when he again started westward, removing his family and household goods with teams to Iowa, and there became one of the early settlers of Louisa County. He took up a tract of Government land, one and one-half miles northeast of Wapello, the county seat. There were no railways west of Chicago at that time, and Muscatine, twenty-five miles distant, was the nearest market and trading point. Indians were plentiful, and deer, wild turkeys, wolves and wildcats were abundant. Mr. Chapman improved the land that he had entered from the Government, and resided on it about twenty years. He then bought another tract of land, a part of which is now occupied by the village of Harrison, and he has resided there continuously ever since. Mr. Chapman has lived to see that part of Iowa developed from the wild prairie to a well-settled, wealthy country, and by his enterprise and industry has done his share in bringing about this prosperous condition. He has reached the advanced age of eighty-six years, but still retains his mental faculties to a great degree, and enjoys remarkably good health. In political events Mr. Chapman takes a marked interest, and is a firm believer in the principles expounded by the Republican party. Before the formation of that party he was a Whig. He has been twice married; his first wife, the mother of our subject, was Mary Binizer, a native of Virginia, and she died in 1845. His second marriage was to Grace Greenwood, a native of England, and she still lives to comfort him in his old age.

The subject of this sketch was two and a half years old when his father with his family crossed the prairies of the Central Western States to make his home in Iowa, and he has a vivid remembrance of the incidents of the pioneer life, amid whose scenes he was reared to manhood. He attended the early schools of that State, assisted on the farm, and lived with his father until he was sixteen years old, when he started out to seek his own fortune further west, and consequently came to Nebraska, landing in Nebraska City in September, 1860. Here he commenced to learn the cooper's trade, receiving twenty-five cents a day and board for his work. He was industrious, of good habits, attended steadily to his work, and even from that meager pay he contrived to save money, as he was very ambitious to make something of himself, to become, perhaps, a rich and influential man of business.

Our subject worked as a cooper for two years,

when his enterprising and adventurous spirit made him seize joyfully a chance to cross the plains with teams, as assistant wagonmaster for Majs. Russell and Wardell, Government freighters. He returned the same season, and, although a youth of but nineteen years, patriotically offered his services to the country, to help suppress the Civil War that was then raging, enlisting in October, 1862, in Company F, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and being commissioned as Second Lieutenant, gallantly served for one year, and was then honorably discharged on account of the expiration of his term of enlistment. He found that his services were required nearer home, and a few days later re-enlisted as a member of Company A, Independent Scouts, organized for the purpose of suppressing Indian warfare that had sprung up in Nebraska and adjoining Territories. Company A was composed of men who had explored that section of the country and were perfectly familiar with its topography, and it was joined to Gen. Sully's force, and acted as guides to him in the Northwest. Our subject did efficient service for nine months, and then his regiment was discharged and he returned to Nebraska City.

Our subject, with the money that he had saved up, formed a drug company, and was also engaged in teaming, and finally was enabled to buy a livery stable and bus line. He continued to carry on that and the drug business very successfully until 1880, when he sold out and engaged in the sale of coal, wood and hay, and has built up an extensive and profitable business, besides making considerable money in dealing in horses, cattle and mules, which he has always dealt in more or less. Mr. Chapman occupies an important place in the business circles of Nebraska City, and is a stockholder and Director in the Farmers' Bank. He owns the place that he now occupies on First Corso street, besides five lots on First Corso street, between Fourth and Fifth streets; a lot on the corner of Seventh and First Corso streets, one lot, with two buildings, on the corner of Third and Corso streets; one house and lot on Fifth street; three lots in Anderson's Addition, and 320 acres of farm land near Nebraska City.

Mr. Chapman was married, in 1863, to Miss Harriet Shallenbarger, a native of Pennsylvania, and three children have been born of their happy married life—Edna, Harriet and Bota. Mrs. Chapman is a superior woman in many ways, and is greatly esteemed far beyond her home circle, as she has endeared herself to many by numerous acts of kindness and friendship. To her devotion to his interests, and to her steady encouragement and cheerful help, her husband gratefully acknowledges himself to be greatly indebted for his present prosperity. Mr. Chapman is a frank, generous-hearted man, pushing and energetic in his character, and possessing a decided talent for business. Politically, he is a Republican, and socially, is a member of Council of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are valued members of the Baptist Church.

ALEXANDER REEVES. The subject of this notice deserves more than passing mention, having been the first man to homestead land in Otoe County, if not in the State of Nebraska, settling then in South Branch Precinct. His career has been one reflecting very great credit upon his industry and enterprise, and one in which he has experienced many hardships and difficulties, but fortunately was enabled to surmount them, and transform a portion of the wild prairie into a fertile tract, yielding in abundance the rich crops of Southern Nebraska. He has now retired from active labor, having deeded the greater portion of his land to his children, reserving eighty acres with its comfortable buildings, occupying one of the prettiest locations on the Nemaha River. He and his estimable wife, both well advanced in years, are spending the evening of their lives quietly and peacefully, comfortable in the reflection that they have done what they could as citizens, neighbors and parents. Many are the friends they have gathered around them during their long sojourn in this county, and many are the scenes which they have witnessed while Nebraska was being transformed from a Territory into a wealthy and prosperous State.

Mr. Reeves as a Justice of the Peace conducted the first lawsuit in his precinct, which was a case of assault and battery—James Knox *vs.* Augustus

Greenwood, in which the latter was fined. He was early appointed a member of the district School Board, which office he held for years, was Postmaster a period of nine years, Assessor one term, and Road Supervisor three terms. He was appointed by Gov. Butler Register of Elections, but resigned the office. He has been foremost in those enterprises having for their object the moral and social welfare of the people, was one of the early members of the Baptist Church, and since its organization has been an earnest adherent of the Republican party. In his native State of New York he served as Postmaster in the town of Brooks Grove, in Livingston County.

Our subject was born Aug. 25, 1818, in Wayne County, N. Y., and lived there with his parents until a lad twelve years of age. He then went with his father to Warren County, Pa., and six years later occurred the death of his father, when the family was broken up, and Alexander, returning to his native State, worked by the month in Chautauqua County. In 1843 he returned to Livingston County, where he was variously employed until the fall of 1856. Then resolving to seek his fortune in the West, he migrated to Will County, Ill., where he was employed at various jobs until 1862.

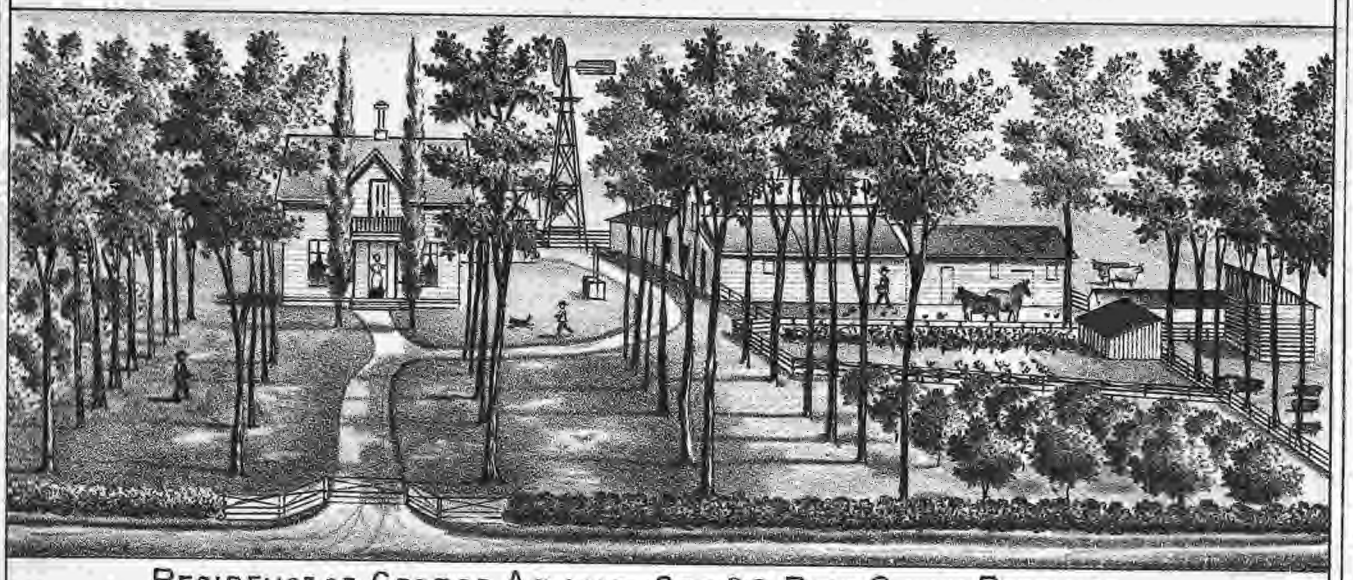
Our subject now crossed the Mississippi and homesteaded the first land in this county, while Nebraska was a Territory, and before the organization of South Branch Precinct. He laid claim to it about sunrise on the 1st of January, 1863, when it was designated as claim No. 2. The party taking No. 1 never proved up, so Mr. Reeves was the first bona fide settler. The right to the first settlement is disputed by Mr. Freeman, of Beatrice, who claims he took his immediately after 12 o'clock, January 1.

The manner in which Mr. Reeves labored from this time on can perhaps better be imagined than described. His first rude plow was drawn by a team of horses in breaking sod, and the pioneer himself and his little family were first sheltered in a log dwelling. There was little of elegance or convenience in those days, but Mr. Reeves had abundant faith that his labors would meet with their legitimate reward, and battled manfully with the difficulties which beset his way, until after a few seasons had passed he found himself on the road to prosperity. He enclosed his fields with neat and substantial fences, planted groves and an orchard, in due time put up a stone dwelling (the first in this part of the county) and a barn, and added the conveniences and improvements which have so much to do with the comforts of a home. He was particularly fortunate in his choice of a location, his land being well watered and easily brought to a productive condition.

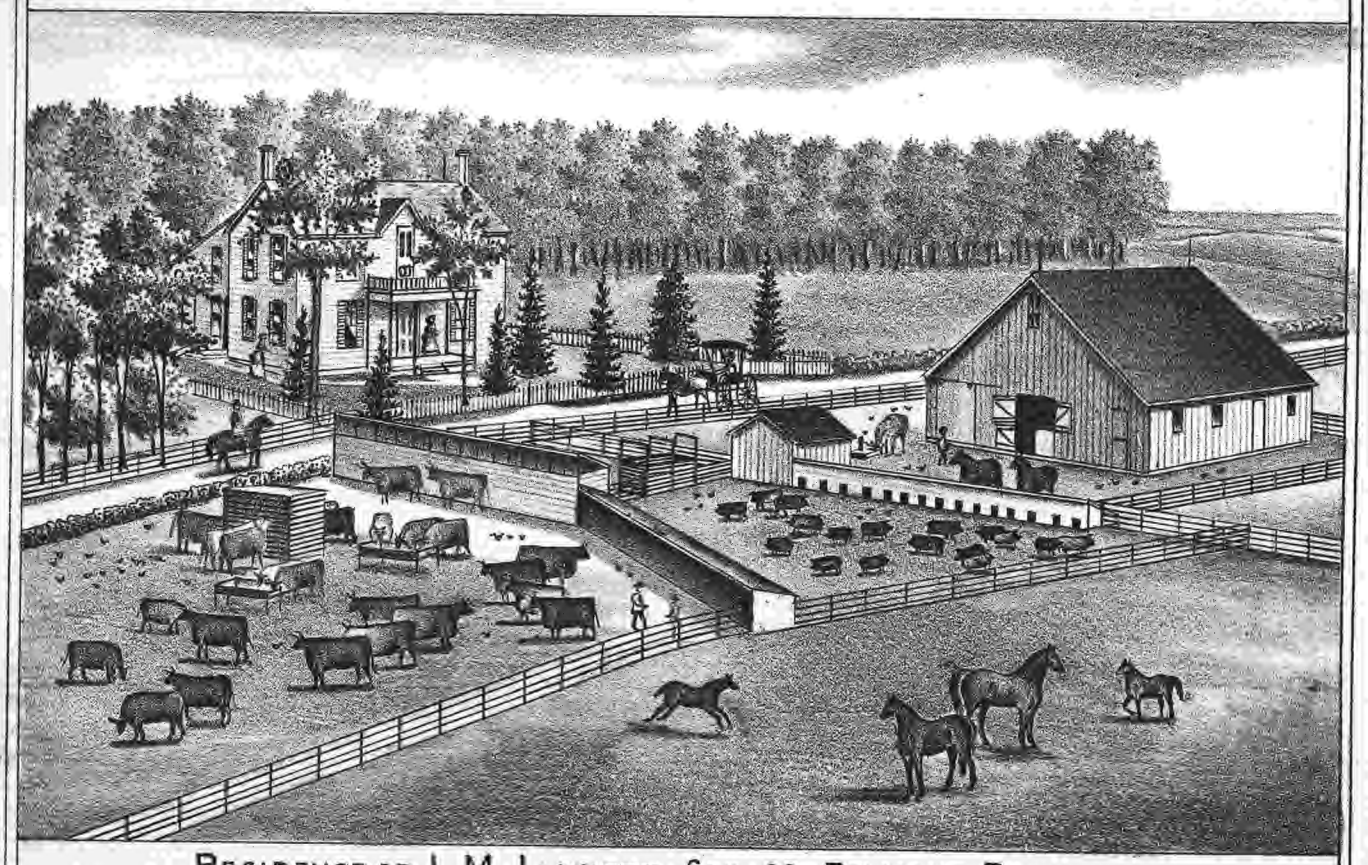
To the lady who has stood by the side of our subject while he bore the heat and burden of the day, and who in her girlhood was Miss Alvira R. Bassett, he was married in Livingston County, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1846. Mrs. Reeves was born in Allegany County, that State, Feb. 13, 1828, and is the daughter of David and Lucinda (Coggswell) Bassett. David Bassett was born in Massachusetts in 1779, and his wife, Lucinda, in Otsego County, N. Y., in 1796. They were married in the Empire State, and resided there until the death of the father, which occurred in 1848. He was a farmer by occupation, and during his early manhood served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother after the death of her husband went to the home of her children in Will County, Ill., where her death took place in 1859. Six children of the parental family are living, namely: Sabrina, Lavina L., Joseph W., Elvira, Helena and Cyrus N. Those besides Mrs. Reeves are residents mostly of Michigan and Nebraska.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born two children, both sons, Eugene and Marion Cyrus. Eugene married Miss Eliza J. Chamberlain, and is farming in South Branch Precinct; he is the father of four children—Nellie M., Ina Elvira, Frederick and Vernon. Marion married Miss Sarah Whitaker, and is farming in Frontier County. Mr. Reeves cast his first Presidential vote for Martin Van Buren, and since its organization has been a stanch supporter of the Republican party. Mrs. Reeves is a member in good standing of the Methodist Rpiscopal Church at Rockford.

Stacy Reeves, the father of our subject, a native of New Jersey, was born in 1785, and married, in New York State, Miss Phebe Clark, who



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE ADAMS, SEC. 36. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. M. JARRETT, SEC. 32. BELMONT PRECINCT.

was born in 1801. He was a farmer by occupation, and carried a musket during the War of 1812. Grandfather Aaron Reeves was born in New Jersey, and served in the Revolutionary War as a private under the command of Washington. He spent his last days in Warren County, Pa. The paternal great-grandfather emigrated from Holland and settled in New Jersey, where it is supposed his decease occurred. Stacy Reeves left New York in 1832, and settled in Warren County, Pa., where he engaged in farming, but only lived six years thereafter. The mother shortly after the death of the father married James Sears, and became the mother of two children, both deceased. Shortly after the death of Mr. Sears she became the wife of Mr. Opdyke, who died, leaving her a widow. Quite late in life she came to Nebraska, and died at the home of her son, our subject, in 1883. There were only three children in the parental family, two sons and a daughter, of whom Alexander, our subject, was the eldest. Amos I. and Hannah are in Neraska and California.

GEORGE ADAMS, of Rock Creek Precinct, is spoken of by his neighbors as one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers within its limits. Certain it is that he has one of its most attractive homes, the residence being a substantial frame building, tasteful and well furnished, situated in the midst of pleasant grounds with shade trees and shrubbery, and supplied with everything conducive to the comfort of its inmates. Upon the farm is a fine grove of walnut, cottonwood and elm trees, and an orchard which can scarcely be matched in the county, planted with 600 trees of the choicest fruit. The farm, 200 acres in extent, has been brought to a state of thorough cultivation. It was but a tract of raw prairie when Mr. Adams settled upon it in March, 1870, and its present condition is sufficiently indicative of the manner in which the proprietor has employed his time.

Orleans County, N. Y., was the childhood home of our subject, where his birth took place on the 22d of July, 1843. He is of an excellent New England ancestry, his father, Henry Adams, the son of William and Rebecca (Hyde) Adams, having been a native of Connecticut and of genuine Yankee stock. Henry Adams was reared and educated in his native State, and when a lad of about fourteen years removed with his father, William Adams, to New York State, locating near the city of Rochester. He was twice married. To his first wife, Sophia Warren, he was wedded in Monroe County, and to them were born two children, only one of whom is living, Nathaniel, residing in Nebraska City, this county. Mrs. Adams died about 1838, in Orleans County, N. Y., where she and her husband had settled after their marriage.

About 1840 Henry Adams was married the second time, to Mrs. Mary (Smith) McCrillis, who had by her first husband two children, who are both living, the son a resident of Orleans County, N. Y., and the daughter of Boston, Mass. This lady was born in Peterboro, N. H., and it was there that her marriage with Mr. George McCrillis took place. Subsequently they removed to Orleans County, N. Y. She was of Scotch-Irish descent and the daughter of William Smith. The family was noted as possessing all the admirable qualities of that admixture of nationalities. The first representatives crossed the Atlantic, it is supposed, in the Colonial days, settling in New England. Of this union were born two children: George, our subject, and his sister Sophia, who is now the wife of William Kennicutt, of Otoe Precinct, this county. A sketch of Mr. K. is given elsewhere in this work.

After the death of his last wife Henry Adams, with his two children, started in October, 1858, for the farther West. Coming into the Territory of Nebraska, he purchased land in Otoe Precinct, this county, seven miles southeast of the present site of Nebraska City, where he spent the remainder of his days. These, however, were destined to be but brief, as he lived only about two years, his death taking place in October, 1860.

Our subject after the death of his father went to Hillsdale, Mich., where he completed his education by an attendance of three years in the college there. He then came back to Nebraska, and was united in marriage with Miss Emma Horrum, May 5, 1872, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Rock Creek Precinct. Mrs.

Emma Adams was the daughter of Sherburn and Eliza (Brunson) Horrum, and was born in Dearborn County, Ind., where she was reared and educated. She came to Nebraska with her parents when about eighteen years of age. Three years later she was married, and eight years later, Nov. 3, 1880, passed to her long home, leaving two sons, Nat and Edwin, who are now at home.

Mr. Adams, on the 11th of April, 1883, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Mary Horrum, a sister of his first wife, and also a native of Dearborn County, Ind., born Oct. 3, 1848. Of this marriage there are no children. Mr. Adams, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat. Both he and his excellent wife are greatly esteemed by their neighbors and fellow-citizens. Their home is a very pleasant resort, they extending that cordial and well-bred hospitality both to friends and strangers, which at once distinguishes them as people of culture and innate politeness.

In 1869 Mr. Adams identified himself with the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., of Nebraska City. He subsequently became a Royal Arch Mason, and now belongs to Keystone Chapter No. 2. In 1885 he assisted in the organization of the Masonic Lodge at Talmage, and for the last two years has officiated as Worshipful Master. He is also a charter member of Alpha Consistory No. 50, A. & A. S. R. The view of the Adams homestead, which will be observed on another page, illustrates more forcibly than words can do the hand of industry and the eye of taste which have contributed to its embellishment and its value. We gladly give it a place among the pictured homes of other men to whose labors Nebraska owes her present condition of wealth and prosperity.

JAMES M. JARRETT, whose farm is situated on section 32 of Belmont Township, may be justly proud of the success that has attended him as an agriculturist; he began without those opportunities and advantages that are usually provided by parental care. He was born in Monroe County, Va., on the 4th of December, 1838, and is a son of Andrew and Susan Jarrett, natives of Virginia. His parents migrated in 1842 to Davis County, Mo., where our subject was reared upon the home farm, and in the schools of that county was educated.

Seeing that his life has been practically spent amid the surroundings of an agricultural district and in the midst of farm home life, Mr. Jarrett has had every opportunity of learning all the details of practical husbandry. He came to this county in 1865 and settled where he now lives, and at the time of his settlement there were eighty acres broken and a two-board fence around that portion, but this was destroyed by a prairie fire shortly afterward.

There are now 420 acres of good land property belonging to our subject. It is all well improved and yields him abundant harvests, while that portion which is devoted to his stock gives him a rich supply of food for their use. A view of the homestead is given in this connection.

Upon the 29th of January, 1863, Mr. Jarrett was united in wedlock with the lady of his choice, Miss Susan P. Meadows, the daughter of John and Nancy Meadows, natives of Virginia. Mrs. Jarrett was born in Davis County, Mo. There have come to our subject and wife six children, four of whom are living, who bear the following names: Holly M., Stewart G., William W. and Samuel W. Holly is in the State Normal School at Peru, in this State, and Stewart is attending the classes in Stanberry College, at Stanberry, Mo.

Mr. Jarrett, his wife and two younger children are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and both in religious circles and the community at large they are held in much esteem. The political opinions and sympathies of our subject are with the Democratic party, and he is an acknowledged friend of free trade.

WILLIAM H. SNYDER. The farm owned and operated by the subject of this sketch lies on section 31 in Palmyra Precinct, and embraces 160 acres of land, with convenient buildings well adapted to the various purposes of country life. The chief characteristics of the proprietor

are sturdy industry and integrity, he being a man who, during his younger years, earned his bread by the sweat of his brow, and formed the habits which later in life have resulted in surrounding him with everything needful for his comfort and maintenance. These principles conscientiously carried out have also given him a good position among his fellow-citizens, whose confidence and esteem he enjoys in a large measure.

Mr. Snyder by his own industry has brought about the improvements upon his farm, these including a commodious and substantial dwelling, good barns, sheds and other outhouses, the machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture, and all the other appliances required by the progressive farmer of to-day. His domestic affairs are presided over by a very intelligent and capable lady, who possesses all the womanly virtues, being domestic in her tastes, and esteeming her home the most attractive place in all the world, which has been rendered thus by her labors and refined tastes. Under this pleasant roof-tree are three children, who are being reared and educated in a manner corresponding to the means and station of their parents.

The subject of this sketch was born April 22, 1850, in Lancaster Township, Stephenson Co., Ill., and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, receiving a district-school education, and becoming familiar with the various employments of country life. He was first married, Feb. 12, 1874, to Miss Emma E. Kenyon, a native of Canada, and they became the parents of two children: Harry Charles (deceased), and Perry B., who is attending school.

Mr. Snyder was a resident of his native county until 1874, in the spring of which year he moved across the Mississippi, and has since been a resident of Nebraska. His parents, Benjamin and Mary (Styres) Snyder, were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they emigrated after their marriage to Stephenson County, Ill., where the mother died in 1855, when only thirty years of age. Benjamin Snyder was subsequently married, and his household was completed by the birth of twelve children in all—three sons and four daughters by the first wife, and two sons and three daughters by the second. He accumulated a good property, and died in the eightieth year of his age, at his home in Stephenson, in September, 1886.

The present wife of our subject, to whom he was married Sept. 27, 1881, was in her girlhood Miss Augusta Grossman. She was born in Germany, Jan. 20, 1863, and when a child two years of age was brought by her parents to America, they settling in Woodford County, Ill. Her parents are of pure German ancestry, and are now residents of Lancaster County, Neb. Their family consisted of eight children, who are now in Nebraska.

Mrs. Snyder speaks the English language perfectly, and is a very intelligent lady, well informed and thoroughly identified with the interests of her adopted country. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children, a daughter and a son, Laura B. and Frank E., who are six years and four years of age respectively. Mr. Snyder cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and is the uniform supporter of Republican principles.

HERMANN TETEN, of Rock Creek Precinct is the owner of 240 acres of finely improved land lying on section 19, and supplied with good buildings. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1859, during its Territorial days, accompanied by others of his countrymen, and first pre-empted eighty acres. After making a few improvements he returned east as far as Illinois, where he staid two years, then recrossed the Mississippi, and here has since been contented to remain. He possesses all the best characteristics of his nationality, being industrious and persevering, and a man who attends strictly to his own concerns.

A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, our subject was born May 28, 1834, and is the youngest but one of a family of ten children. His parents, Henry and Heska (Tiland) Teten, were natives of the same Province, where they lived until well advanced in life, and until the death of the mother, which took place when she was sixty years of age.

After the death of his wife the father of our subject joined his children in the United States, and died at the home of one of his sons in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, in the fall of 1871, when

about seventy-four or seventy-five years old. Both parents were devoted Christian people, and members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church.

Our subject received a thorough education in his native tongue, and was a youth of nineteen years when he crossed the Atlantic. He attained his majority in Madison County, Ill., and was there married in the fall of 1861, to Miss Anna Frerichs, a native of the same Province as her husband in Germany, and born Sept. 20, 1844. Mrs. Teten was a most excellent Christian lady, greatly beloved by her family and friends, from whom she was taken by death in June of 1885, when but forty-four years of age. She had been the truest and wisest helpmate of her husband, encouraging him in all his worthy efforts, and standing by his side during the labors and difficulties incident to the building up of a home in a new country. They were possessed of but limited means when coming to Nebraska, and on account of this walked from Nebraska City to their present home, a distance of twenty miles. They were also obliged to carry their little child, and a few of the goods which they had found it necessary to bring with them. In addition to the weariness of travel they had scarcely anything to eat during the whole journey, and but a little milk and impure water to drink. They made this memorable journey in one day, and when arriving at their destination took shelter in a small shanty.

At this time the people around were as poor as Mr. Teten himself, and could render them but little assistance. They experienced very many hardships during the first year, and the second winter was unusually cold. On account of exposure Mr. Teten was taken ill, and suffered from the effects many years afterward. The first summer he worked all through the harvest time for fifty cents per day, and with the money thus earned purchased a cow, which was the first stock he ever owned. Time, however, which always brings changes in the journey of life, began to deal more gently with our subject, and after a series of years spent in reducing his land to a state of cultivation and putting up buildings as necessity called for, he found himself surrounded by many comforts, notwithstanding he and his family have always suffered greatly from sickness. In 1882 he had a stroke of paralysis, and was for several months disabled both physically and mentally. From this, however, he has now recovered.

To Mr. and Mrs. Teten there were born ten children, one of whom, John H., died when a little lad nearly two years old. The survivors are Abraham George, who married Miss Anna Ekhoff, and lives on a farm in Rock Creek Precinct; John H., Jacob M., Mary R., Herman J., Maggie M., Frederick and Anna, at home, and Herman, deceased. They are all connected with the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Teten, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has held some of the minor offices of his precinct, and is considered one of its most worthy and reliable citizens.

Mr. Teten has a comfortable and substantial dwelling, good barns and outhouses, fruit and shade trees, a stream of running water through his land, and his home is withal very pleasant and desirable. A view of the place is shown on another page.

JAMES N. ANDERSON, well known throughout Wyoming Precinct and vicinity, occupies a quarter of section 23, where he has a well-developed farm with comfortable buildings. He settled here a pioneer, coming in the spring of 1856, and here has since lived. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in his general farming operations is meeting with fair success. Our subject first came to Nebraska with his father, D. M. Anderson, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. They made the journey from Orange County, N. Y., where were spent the boyhood and youth of our subject, and where he was born Aug. 26, 1839. His father is a farmer by occupation, and the parental homestead in the Empire State was located in Mamakating Township, Sullivan County. There James N. was reared and educated, and lived with his father until their removal to Nebraska in 1856. His mother, Mrs. Mary Anderson, had died when he was a little lad three years of age; he was an only child.

Our subject was united in marriage with Miss

F. W. Rottmann

Nancy L. Hale, who was born in Andrew County, Mo., Oct. 19, 1849, and is the daughter of William and Jane (Neiley) Hale. Her parents were natives of Kentucky, and the father a farmer by occupation. They moved to Missouri in its pioneer days, making the journey from Kentucky overland with teams. The father was successful in his labors of transforming a tract of wild land into a modern farm, and the parents, both living, still make their home in Missouri. Their family consisted of ten children, two sons and eight daughters, of whom Mrs. Anderson was the youngest born. Only three of the daughters of that large family are now living.

Mrs. Anderson was educated in her native county, and came with friends to Nebraska when a maiden of sixteen years. She has since that time been a resident of this county. Of her union with our subject there have been born nine children, two of whom, William N. and an infant unnamed, are deceased. The survivors, Mary A., Isabelle, Maria, George M., Katie M., Nellie C. and Hugh, are all at home with their parents, and comprise a remarkably intelligent and interesting group.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson began their wedded life on the land which they still occupy, and which our subject has improved from a wild and uncultivated tract into a highly productive farm. They endured in common with the people about them the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life, and live to rejoice in the prosperity of one of the most important commonwealths in the Union. Mr. Anderson has been a lifelong Democrat, and has held the minor offices of his precinct, while giving his aid and encouragement to the enterprises calculated to benefit the people around him. He is fully worthy of representation in a work of this kind.

MRS. MARGARETHA ROTTMANN. In Nebraska City few names are better known in business and religious circles or more esteemed than the name Rottmann, which most excellent reputation has been built up and the respect challenged and won by the late husband of the lady whose name is placed at the head of this sketch. Mr. Rottman, whose portrait graces the opposite page, was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 13th of June, 1834. At the age of twenty-one, full of manly ambition, enterprise and energy, balanced and directed by no mean intellectual power, he determined to try his fortunes in the New World, and accordingly came to this county. Until that time his life had been spent almost entirely in the rural district in which stood the old home.

Entirely unendowed or favored by fortune, Mr. Rottmann found that quite a struggle lay before him. He made his way to St. Louis, but after a few months went to Nebraska City, working his way to that place on a boat, serving as cook. Almost immediately he found employment on a farm, and continued for several months. Then he engaged as clerk with Mr. Kalkiman, who was engaged in business as a general merchant, and speedily, by his unwearied application and earnest effort, forged his way to the front as a most efficient help.

During the four years he remained with Mr. Kalkiman Mr. Rottmann made the acquaintance of the lady who subsequently became his wife, and who now mourns the loss and bereavement of an ever faithful companion and affectionate husband. This lady, Miss Margaretha Arends, was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 2, 1844, and is the daughter of Richard and Mary (Teten) Arends, both of whom were natives of the Fatherland. With them she came to America when a little girl. Their home was made in the State of Illinois, and they lived there for five years. Then, migrating westward, they came to Nebraska, and a settlement was effected in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Arends, in making anew their home, settled upon a farm, which the father of our subject conducted in the line of general agriculture, continuing the same until his death in the year 1874. His widow is still living, and makes her home with her son Herman in Rock Creek Precinct, She is the mother of six children; of these four were girls, and Mrs. Rottmann was the third child.

Our subject was eight years of age when with her parents she came to Illinois. Her education was received principally in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Rottmann commenced housekeeping in Nebraska City, at the corner of Laramie and Twelfth streets,

and he engaged in business in the city, beginning almost at the lowest round of the ladder. Nothing daunted him, nothing rebuffed him; his business life from the first was marked with an inflexibility of purpose and unremitting, diligent perseverance. It is within the bounds of truth to say that there is probably no other man who has done so much for Nebraska City as he. He was by no means a selfish man, and always consulted the interests of those with whom he was associated equally with his own. He built all the business houses on the north side of Central avenue, from the Grand Pacific Hotel to Northrup's hardware establishment, and was subsequently President of the Nebraska City Canning Company. It is somewhat remarkable, but nevertheless a fact, that in the days when the future of Nebraska City looked most dark, and when those chiefly interested were well-nigh in despair on that account, he entertained the brightest hopes, and emphatically prophesied a turn in fortune's wheel, and that in the near future. Events have proved him correct in his judgment and fully justified therein. Religiously, he was associated with the German Lutheran Church, and was for many years a member of its diaconate. Politically, he was a Republican, but by all, however they might differ from him in these matters, wherever he was known it was but to be respected and esteemed as a man and citizen.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Rottmann included six children, but one of whom only is now living, viz: Frederick William, who was born in Nebraska City, Dec. 3, 1872, and is now attending school, and lives with his mother. Lela died in 1887, when sixteen months old. The other children died when infants unnamed.

Mrs. Rottmann and her son are members of the Lutheran Church, and are accounted among the most consistent and devout in the community. They hold positions among the first circles of Nebraska society, and are everywhere received with true respect and esteem, although both from natural proclivity and by reason of her bereavement Mrs. R. lives a very quiet and retired life. Her husband departed this life on the 3d of February of the past year (1888), after a brief illness of brain fever. In his death not simply his family but the community recognized that they had lost a true friend, and cherished the desire to emulate the virtues continually exemplified in his daily life.

JOHN C. WALKER. The reader in this sketch is introduced to one of the old settlers of South Branch Precinct, a practical and prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, whose home is on section 19. This home is also worthy of special note because it is of recent erection so far as the building is concerned, and at the same time one of the best in structure, decoration and finish. It is furthermore the abode of true domesticity, comfort and hospitality.

Mr. Walker is the son of James and Almira (Carpenter) Walker. The family is of Southern extraction, the father having been born in Greenbrier County, Ky., in 1796, the mother in Smith County, Tenn., in 1808. They were married, however, in Chambersburg, Ill., where the husband and father followed blacksmithing, and by industry and skilled workmanship had an extensive trade and was prosperous. While in Kentucky he had served as Captain of the militia of that State, a position he held until his removal. He at one time was also Sheriff of Pike County, Ill., and was one who helped in the decision to locate the capital of that county. Politically, he was a Whig. He departed this life Sept. 4, 1859, in Scotland County, Mo. His wife died in 1871, in Hancock County, Ill. They were the parents of four children—Martha A., Ellen F., our subject, and Harriet S. (deceased). The founder of this family in America was the great-grandfather of our subject, who came from Scotland and settled in Jamestown, Va., one of the early colonists.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 26th of February, 1843, in Pike County, Ill. The years of his boyhood and youth passed swiftly, and were filled with the duties assigned him upon the farm and attendance at the graded school. When seven years of age he moved with his father to Missouri, where the latter died, shortly after which his mother with her children removed back to Chambersburg, Ill., and our subject began to work for himself. He obtained work at milling. In Keokuk, Iowa, he also

served at the undertaker's trade. In 1865 he came to this State, and for two summers was engaged in freighting on the plains. At the end of that period, in the year 1867, he entered a homestead claim to his present property, upon which he has bestowed much labor and wrought many valuable improvements.

At Palmyra, on the 30th of September, 1866, there occurred a very noteworthy event in the history of that place and of our subject, for then was celebrated his union with Miss Sarah E. Ellis, the estimable daughter of Franklin and Mary (Brown) Ellis. This was the first wedding in Palmyra Precinct. The ceremony was performed by John Roberts, Justice of the Peace. The parents of Mrs. Walker were born in Virginia and Missouri respectively, and were married in the latter State. Her mother died in 1868, aged forty years; her father is successfully operating a ranch in Oregon. He is the father of ten children, Mrs. Walker being the eldest. Their names are recorded as follows: Sarah, James B., George W., Emily E., Minerva, Owen, Frank F., Mary, Carrie E. and Archie L.

The wife of our subject was born in Davis County, Mo., on the 22d of September, 1850. When she was three years of age her parents removed to California, and settled at Petaluma, Sonoma County, where the father kept a dairy and was very prosperous. After about six years he returned to Scotland County, Mo., removing thence to this State in 1862, and settled on the Big Blue River, near Milford. Subsequently they went to Colorado and made their home near Denver; after they had been there about twelve months Indian hostilities commenced, when they returned to Palmyra. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had met in Missouri, and the friendship was renewed at Palmyra with the above-mentioned result. There have been born to them two children: John T., who was born on the 4th of December, 1869, and Oda V., on the 18th of November, 1879. Both are now attending the Peru Normal School, and doing good work.

Mr. Walker deals largely in farming lands, and is also a member of the School Board. He is a member of the Grange, and in that fraternity held the offices of Master and County Deputy. He was nominated to the position of Representative to the Legislature on the Republican ticket, and received ninety-one of ninety-eight votes cast in the year 1884, but resigned. His popularity, sustained character and manly parts are testified to and respected in the community, as shown by the above demonstration in his favor. Although not a third party man he is a strong Prohibitionist. Mrs. Walker is a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and is one of its charter members. She was largely interested in its organization, and has been one of the inspiring spirits of its onward progress and present existence. She is a very competent lady, one eminently respected and esteemed. Although not a member with her in that society our subject is very liberal, and bore his full share in defraying the cost of the erecting and furnishing of the Methodist Church.

JAMES H. GREGG, deceased. Among the esteemed citizens of Wyoming Precinct, who played well their part while upon the stage of life, was the subject of this sketch, who has left a record behind him of character and ability that is every way worthy. His birth took place on the 20th of April, 1820, near Wheeling, W. Va. His parents were both natives of the same State. When nine years of age he was left fatherless, and his youthful training and care were left to the mother, who strove as well as she was able to fill the place of both father and mother to her children.

The first seventeen years of his life our subject spent in the old home, and then started for Iowa with the thought of beginning life for himself. There he joined his brother, who had been located about twelve miles from Burlington for many years. There he continued to make his home until he came of age, being engaged in farming, and making considerable headway in a financial regard.

June 10, 1856, six miles west of Burlington, Iowa, our subject was joined in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Bloss, who was born in Preble County, Ohio, on the 18th of November, 1830. Her father, Conrad Bloss, was a native of Virginia, as was also her mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Rinehart; both were of German extraction. Mr. and

Mrs. Bloss, shortly after their marriage settled in Preble County, Ohio, where were born to them eleven children, viz., three sons and eight daughters, all of whom are yet living except the youngest son. The father died in Fairfield, Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1878, being seventy-six years old, and the mother, who is now eighty-six years old, still resides in that county.

Mrs. Gregg was educated in the schools of Ohio, and removed to Iowa with her parents when a young woman, and came to Nebraska some two years later with her husband, with whom she came with the firm resolve to make for themselves a home in the inviting, promising, although still undeveloped West. There were born to them five children, viz: Charles W., William Y., Edwin S., Mary E. and Ida. Charles is the husband of Catherine Sale; their home is in St. Joseph, Mo., where he is in business as a grain dealer. William, whose home is in the same city, is traveling salesman for a dry-goods house there, and was married, in 1888, to Miss Emma Ord; Edwin is at home and manages the farm; Mary is the wife of E. A. McCartney, one of the prosperous farmers of Wyoming Precinct; Ida is at home.

The subject of our sketch crossed the Missouri River with his wife and children at Nebraska City in the spring of 1858, and located at what is now known as Greggsport, the northern part of Nebraska City, but then uncultivated prairie. The tract of land taken by him at that time he commenced to cultivate, but later he largely built up that section of the city, and he held the office for some time of Mayor of Greggsport, but since that time it has become incorporated with Nebraska City, although still retaining its original name. He started the first nursery in the district, and was very successful in its operation for several years. Finally, in October, 1868, he sold out his interest in Greggsport and the nursery, and removed to his pre-emption tract on section 10, being the same he had taken up in 1856, two years before he brought his family West. He began life on his new farm in 1868 without the slightest improvement thereon, but it was not long before he had thoroughly transformed it and made it one of the best farms in the county. The original claim cabin gave place to an elegant farm dwelling, around which are clustered substantial buildings required for farm purposes. The house is finely located, and commands an extensive and pleasing view of the surrounding country. He produced largely of grain, many varieties of fruits and of fine graded stock, although his specialty was fruit-growing.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregg were devout and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and our subject was one of its honored officials for several years. His political sympathies were with the Republican party. He was reputed a most honorable man and worthy citizen, and was everywhere greatly respected. His death occurred at his home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 22d of October, 1888. His widow, who through all her trials has exhibited a most Christian spirit, has received the unfeigned sympathy and esteem of the community, which she will always retain.

HERBERT E. STEDMAN, one of the most enterprising young men of Russell Precinct, during his younger years lived mostly upon the farm, and until lately has been operating eighty acres of land on section 32. He has, however, disposed of this property, and in partnership with his brother Charles R., has invested a part of his capital in a stock of groceries, locating at Unadilla, under the firm name of Stedman Bros. There is every reason to believe that from their known good standing in the community they will from the start command a good patronage.

Our subject was born in Whiteside County, Ill., Aug. 23, 1860, and spent his boyhood and youth sporting along the Rock River, and in attendance at the district school. When a lad of fourteen years his father left the Prairie State, and coming to this county located, on the 4th of March, 1875, in Russell Precinct, of which our subject has since been a resident.

Enos C. Stedman, the father of our subject, and now deceased, was born in New York, and married Miss Malvina Wall, who was born in Tioga County, that State. A further history of the family will be found in the sketch of C. R. Stedman elsewhere in

Mrs Henry Pendleton

H Henry Pendleton

this volume. The father departed this life July 31, 1885. Herbert E. continued to reside with his mother one year, then removed to his little farm, upon which he built a house, barn and stables, planting hedge fence, and effecting various other improvements, so that he was enabled to dispose of it to good advantage.

Mr. Stedman was married, Nov. 26, 1885, to Miss Lucy E. Wells, at the home of the bride in South Branch. Mrs. Stedman is the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Kelley) Wells, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of M. G. Wells, to be found elsewhere in this volume. Her father is a prominent resident in this county, and a man of good standing.

Mrs. Stedman was born in Wisconsin, July 20, 1863, and received a good education, employing herself as a teacher before her marriage. The family occupy a very attractive home in Russell Precinct, within which is displayed the cultivated tastes of the presiding genius, Mrs. Stedman. They have one little daughter, Etta, who was born Oct. 15, 1886. Mr. Stedman votes independently, but meddles very little with political affairs, preferring to give his attention to his business and home interests.

HENRY PENDLETON was among the earliest pioneers of Otoe County, and at the same time is one of the most wealthy citizens, although his life has been checkered with many difficulties and losses. He now owns 160 acres on section 32, 320 on section 4, and twenty on section 36, Otoe Precinct; also 600 acres in Hendricks Precinct. He is the son of Isaac and Bridget (Stanton) Pendleton, and is a descendant of the families of that name not unknown to readers of the early history of the Eastern States.

The grandfather of our subject was one of the heroes of the Revolution, and served throughout the war as Captain. The father of our subject was born near Pendleton Hill, Conn., was from his youth a seafaring man, and for many years commanded an ocean sailing-vessel. He retired from his profession when about forty-five years of age. His religious convictions were those of the Quaker community, and he was more often known by the name of Friend or Uncle Isaac than any other. The mother of our subject died aged forty-five years, when Henry was but two years of age. The father died in the year 1843, after a life of sixty-three years. They were the parents of ten children, viz: Amelia, deceased, was the wife of Henry Hull; Lydia became the wife of Daniel Richmond; Rhoda was the wife of Ormand Richmond, and at his death married Benjamin Hewitt; they are now residents of Mystic Bridge, Conn. Nathan; Jane is the wife of Albert Ayer, and they are residents of New London County, Conn.: Sarah is the wife of Charles Breed, and they live in Chenango County, N. Y.; Stanton and Henry; two infants, Isaac and Mary, who died in infancy.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 27th of May, 1830, in Oxford, Chenango Co., N. Y. He was brought up on a farm, but was very weakly as a child, and even on through the earlier years of his boyhood. He had no schooling after he was fifteen, owing to an attack of St. Vitus' dance, which, however, he outgrew as he came to years of manhood. He was brought up under the care of his stepmother, who, after the father's death, married Judge Reynolds, of Cortland, N. Y. Until 1852 he remained working by the month near the old home, but at that time went to Pennsylvania, where he taught school and worked upon a farm. In beginning as a youth he received but $3.50 per month; when he finished working by the month he received $26. In 1855 he went to Chemung County, N. Y., and also to Corning, that State.

Mr. Pendleton left Corning on the 21st of March, 1856, and started West, but under more embarrassing circumstances than he had reckoned upon, for he had saved some $3,000, but had loaned it to his employer in Tioga County, Pa. This gentleman becoming financially embarrassed, our subject lost all his savings, so that he had nothing but a clear head, good health, and ready hands to give him a fresh start. He passed on through the beautiful prairies of Illinois, and went by river from St. Louis to Omaha. From Omaha he went to Elkhorn City, a place much talked of as a very ElDorado, but which was practically non-existent. On arrival he found nothing but a single squatter cabin, and life

was of the roughest and hardest known to the pioneers. He and another person agreed to take adjoining claims, but the companion did not so much as make a settlement. The utter loneliness was too much for one of a social nature like our subject, and he therefore threw up his claim and returned to Omaha, where he found those who had known him preparing to organize a search party, believing him to have met with more or less serious trouble.

Recovering from the effects of his previous expedition, Mr. Pendleton started for the home of the "Otoes," who had been removed to the reservation in the spring of 1856. About the same time he took up the claim which has become the home farm. A squatter had plowed thirty-six acres the year before, but when the land was surveyed it was discovered that the line practically divided this thirty-six in two equal parts, so that really only eighteen acres of plowed land were on his claim, for which he paid the sum of $225. He planted his first crop on the 27th of May, 1856, and put in potatoes, which yielded him ultimately a good return. His first cabin had a roof over but one-third of it, and, as he describes it, he had the "soft side of a cottonwood plank" for a bed, and his boots for a pillow. His first crop of corn, although eaten off by cattle when about a foot high, yielded about forty bushels to the acre, and he realized enough to pay for his claim.

During the summer our subject never went from his claim, excepting when it was necessary to have his plow sharpened, and having developed into a stout-framed, vigorous, strong man, and being accustomed to handle wild cattle from his youth, he got along with his breaking in splendid style, and was the champion breaker both for style and speed for many miles around. But this was not to last always, for in 1859, while threshing, his right arm was caught in the machine, with the result that he lost that most necessary member. His brother Stanton, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Charles Breed, hearing of this accident came to see him, and he took the opportunity to return with them to the old home.

While making this visit our subject formed the acquaintance of Miss Helen M. Cary, who was born near Richfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., Jan. 24, 1831, to Ezra and Freelove (Peck) Cary. Their union was celebrated on the 16th of January, 1860, and shortly after he started back to Nebraska accompanied by his bride. Taking the railroad to St. Joseph, he proceeded by stage, despite the cruel cold, and the depth of the snow of that winter. In crossing the Missouri River at Peru, it became evident that it would be dangerous to cross other than on foot; this they accomplished in safety, but by no means pleasantly, the water on the surface of the ice being more than ankle deep. They then proceeded on their way, and arrived without further accident or special incident at the little 12x14 bachelor shanty, which, however, did not from that time appear so gruesome and lonely as before.

In the years following, until 1863, everything seemed to go against them. Loss followed loss, until he was well-nigh in despair, and but for the companionship of Mrs. Pendleton, would doubtless have succombed to the depressing effects; but in that year, aided by his faithful and devoted wife, he put in twenty-three acres of wheat, seven of oats, and thirty-five of corn, at a cost of only $10.50 at harvest. The good prices of 1864 put him on his feet, and this was the turning point in his life financially. He began buying and raising stock, while his wife undertook her share by running the dairy and cheese department. Mr. Pendleton thought it nothing to ride long and hard in the buying of cattle, sometimes taking 100 miles in a single day, besides feeding sometimes as high as 500 head of cattle per annum, generally though about 100 to 250 head; he also raised quite a large number, and hogs in proportion. Thousands of dollars worth of stock he has shipped to Chicago with gratifying results.

About the year 1875 the wheel of fortune turning brought him heavy losses, but not such as to injure him, as it would have done in other years. He was in the midst of putting up his splendid brick house, at a cost of several thousand dollars, when the grasshoppers came, and with them a loss in material and labor of $1,200. Not having sufficient feed for his cattle, he was compelled to sell at a sacrifice, and ship the remainder to Iowa, where he fed about 250 steers and 600 hogs. Then came the lessened market value in stock, and at the same

time the ravages of hog cholera, resulting in a loss of another $2,000. However, he made a good profit on the cattle fed in Iowa.

The home circle of Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton included six children, whose names are recorded as follows: May; Freelove H., who died when two and a half years old; Grace, Fannie; Minnie E., who died when five and a half years old, and Carrie, who died when eighteen months old. May is now Mrs. J. T. McKinnon, of Franklin, Neb., and is the mother of two little ones, viz: Anna Clare and Alice Rowena; Grace is the wife of George Overton, of this precinct, and they have one child, Mabel A.; Fannie is still at home.

Mr. Pendleton was a delegate for the first Democratic County Convention of this county, and was introduced as a kind of black horse to harmonize three factions of the party, although really not Democratic. His subsequent action was such that it was his to be called by the appellation Black Republican, and to be the first to receive the same in any publication in the county. He was at one time a candidate for the Legislature, but was defeated by two votes. He has stood foremost wherever there has been any enterprise for the good of the county or State, and ever been most loyal thereto. He is a stanch Republican, and takes the deepest interest in political affairs. His religious principles he sums up in the following words: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy might and thy strength, and thy neighbor as thyself."

Among the numerous portraits presented in this ALBUM may be found those of Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton, which are given on an accompanying page.

CHARLES E. COTTON. Among the young men of Syracuse who have made their mark in the business world must be mentioned the subject of the present sketch, who holds the position of cashier in the First National Bank. Our subject was born in Columbia County, Wis., to Henry D. and Christina H. (Huyck) Cotton, on the 17th of February, 1858. His parents were natives of the Mohawk Valley, N. Y. By occupation Mr. Cotton, Sr., was a miller, and continued his residence in the East, where he was fairly successful in business, until 1851; then he moved to Wisconsin, and became the owner of mills in Wyocena and Fall River.

The grandfather of our subject, Owen Cotton, was a native of Vermont, but removed to New York State, where he passed the last years of his life, living for the greater part of the time in the city of Utica. He was married several times and reared a large family, and in the early days of settlement in Wisconsin sent some of his sons to that Territory. They erected mills near Milwaukee, and put up the first gristmill in the State. The father of our subject continued to follow his trade in Wisconsin until 1868, then went to Mitchell County, Iowa; in June of 1873 he removed to Vinton in the same State, where he died in January, 1876. His wife, the mother of our subject, still continues to reside at that place. She is the mother of seven children, our subject being the third born.

The subject of our sketch completed his education at the High School, and a select school at Vinton, and later turned his attention to teaching. In 1878 he came to Nebraska City, and in August of the same year became bookkeeper for Tomlin, Duff & Co. He remained with that firm until it was changed to that of Cotton, Duff & Co., his uncle, W. A. Cotton, becoming the senior partner. In August of 1882 he came to Syracuse, where the firm had just established the Farmers' Bank, and entered upon his duties as cashier. When, in November, 1883, the institution was reorganized, and became a National Bank, he still continued his responsible position, which he holds to-day. He has also become a stockholder in this, and also in the bank at Unadilla.

Upon the 2d of February, 1881, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Ella, daughter of John and Lucy C. Ballantine. This most estimable lady was born in Brunswick, Mo., and received her education at Lexington and Shelbyville, Ky. Of this marriage there have been born three children, who bear the names Earle, Charles E. and Lucy. The home of the Cottons is situated in the northwest part of the city, in one of the most pleasant districts, and internally bears indications of the education, refinement and esthetic tastes of the

family. Mr. Cotton is the owner of sixty-eight acres of land in the vicinity, and fifty acres more on the same section. All the property he has accumulated is the natural result of intelligently directed efforts and laudable ambition, in which he has always been uniformly encouraged by the lady whom it was his good fortune to make the companion of his life.

The bank with which our subject is connected is on a firm basis, its deposits ranging from $60,000 to $80,000, and transacting a large business in the city and surrounding country. Mr. Cotton is Secretary and Treasurer of the Otoe County Fair and Driving Park Association, and is otherwise interested therein. In politics he is a Democrat, but is not ambitious for prominence in political circles. He is loyal to every known duty as a citizen, and it is hardly necessary to remark is, with his pleasant and intelligent wife, held in very high regard. They move in the best circles, and are always sure of receiving a cordial welcome.

RICHARD WEST. The farming community of Rock Creek Precinct numbers among its members no man who is held in higher respect than the subject of this notice. He owns and occupies eighty acres of the first preemption claim which was made in this precinct, having purchased it from its original possessor, William Knott. He has resided here for a period of twenty years, although only assuming the proprietorship of his present land in the fall of 1885, upon the death of Mr. Knott.

Our subject came to Nebraska in May, 1865, and has since been a resident of this county. Three years later he took up his abode upon the land which he now occupies, and where he has since lived. Prior to this, for a period of nine years, he had been a resident of Pike County, Ill., to which place he had emigrated from Yorkshire, England, where his birth took place on the 14th of May, 1845.

Our subject is one of a family of seven sons and five daughters, the offspring of Robert and Harriet (Coleman) West, who were natives of Yorkshire, England, where they were reared and married. The father in early manhood learned the trade of a tailor, which he followed in his native England until after the birth of ten children. The family then, in 1855, set out for America, landing at Quebec, Canada, and shortly afterward proceeded to a point about seven miles south of Pittsfield, Pike Co., Ill., where the father purchased a tract of land and built up a homestead, upon which he and his excellent wife lived the remainder of their days. Robert West departed this life in October, 1879, aged about sixty years. The mother passed away after the decease of her husband, in January, 1883. They were most excellent and worthy people, widely and favorably known throughout their township, and members in good standing of the Methodist Church. Twelve of their children were reared to mature years, and seven are still living.

Our subject continued a member of the parental household until a youth of nineteen years, then, anxious to commence for himself, made his way across the Mississippi into this county. For two years thereafter he operated as a freighter between Nebraska City and Denver, Col. Many were the trips which he took over the plains, encountering all sorts of men, and becoming intimately acquainted with the vicissitudes and dangers of life on the frontier.

Mr. West made the acquaintance of Miss Elizabeth Knott in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, and they were married at the home of the bride, on the 29th of May, 1870. Mrs. West was born in Worcestershire, England, Oct. 1, 1847, and is the daughter of William and Ann (Gardner) Knott, natives of the same county as their daughter, whence they emigrated to the United States after the birth of a part of their family. About 1851 they settled in the vicinity of Green Bay, Wis., and six years later came to Nebraska, the father pre-empting a homestead on section 8, in Rock Creek Precinct. Here the parents lived and labored, enduring in common with the people around them the toils and vicissitudes of pioneer life, and here spent their last days, the mother dying about 1881, when a little past middle age, and the father in 1885, when ripe in years.

Mrs. West was the mainstay of her parents dur-

Yours truly
John C. Rody.

Luzerne Wells

ing their later years until her marriage, caring for them with filial affection. Her union with our subject resulted in the birth of four sons and one daughter, of whom Charles died when two years old. The survivors, Annie, William, John and Walter, are at home. Mr. West, politically, supports the principles of the Democratic party, and his estimable wife is a member of the Baptist Church, attending religious services at Delta.

THOMAS P. MORGAN, of Palmyra, Otoe Co., Neb., was born in Usk, Monmouthshire, Wales, Nov. 1, 1832. In 1854 he became a citizen of the United States, in 1868 came to Nebraska. To the best of his knowledge he never did anything worthy of remembrance except the extraordinary folly of trying to run a newspaper, a weekly known as the Palmyra *Items*, founded in April, 1887, the only merit of which is that it is Republican.

LUZERNE WELLS has been a resident of Otoe County since the days of 1857, when he identified himself with its early pioneers. While doing his share toward developing its agricultural resources and promoting its material welfare, he has accumulated a comfortable property, and is now the owner of a valuable farm on the rich bottom lands of the Missouri River in Otoe Precinct, and he has a herd of well-graded Short-horn cattle that compare favorably with any others in the country. Mr. Wells was born in Hartford County, Conn., five miles from the State capital, May 4, 1823. His father, Rufus Wells, was born in the same county, and it is also supposed that his grandfather was a native of the same county, and there he spent his last years. The father of our subject was reared in his native county to the life of a farmer, and he has always lived there. The maiden name of his wife was Thirza Wheeler, and she was also a lifelong resident of Hartford County. She was the mother of eleven children, ten sons and one daughter, ten of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of our sketch was reared in the home of his birth in that New England town, and received his education in the district schools. He was trained to habits of industry, and inherited a fair share of the thrift and energy that characterized his ancestry. At the age of eighteen he commenced to work on the farm by the month, and was thus employed for four years by one man. Then becoming desirous to learn a trade, he engaged in a shop where planes and saw handles were made, and the succeeding eight years worked there. After that he resumed the calling to which he had been reared, that of a farmer, and bought a small farm in Litchfield County. But he was not contented with that, and thought that he would seek a home in the West, where land was cheap and he could afford more of it. Accordingly he started in 1857 for Nebraska, then a Territory, coming by rail to Jefferson City, Mo., then the western terminus of the railway, and from there on the Missouri to Otoe City, near Minersville. He started from there with a horse and buggy to seek a suitable location. He drove to Cass County with a Mr. Steele, and after traversing the wild prairies for several days returned, and bought a half-interest in a claim on section 13, Otoe Precinct, and the following year pre-empted the land now included in his present farm. He continued to live on section 13 until 1865, when he settled on this place. Besides the 125 acres of his land on the river bottom he has 160 acres on section 25, all improved and under fine cultivation. He is very successfully engaged in general farming, paying much attention to stock-raising, Short-horn cattle being his favorite breed.

Mr. Wells was married, Aug. 15, 1848, to Miss Sarah J. Strong. She is likewise of New England birth and antecedents, New Hartford, Litchfield Co., Conn., being the place of her birth, and her parents were Edward W. and Sally (Shepard) Strong. For history of the Strong family see sketch of G. F. Lee. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wells, as follows: Mary Eugenia, wife of James Rowan; Wallace and Edward H.

Mrs. Wells is a respected member of the Congregational Church, and she is zealous and helpful in all good works. Mr. Wells is a capable, practical farmer, possessing a good fund of sound common

sense, and many other qualifications that go to make a man a good and useful citizen. In his political views he is strongly Republican, and heartily supports the policy of his party at the polls.

The portrait of this pioneer is presented on an accompanying page.

JOHN C. RODDY. One of the most beautiful homesteads on the Missouri River is the property of the subject of this sketch, and is familiarly known to the residents of this section as "Walnut Hill Farm." It is situated in what is now Nebraska City Precinct, and comprises 463 acres of finely cultivated land, with handsome modern buildings, and well stocked with good grades of cattle, horses and swine. The estate of our subject includes in all 780 acres, as he owns over 320 acres elsewhere. The dwelling is finely situated, commanding a view of the river and surrounding country for several miles along its banks.

Mr. Roddy has been a resident of this county since June, 1862, at which time he secured 133 acres of land included in his present homestead. He was then unmarried and poor in purse, and by his own unaided efforts has built up one of the finest estates in the county. Prior to taking up his residence in Nebraska he lived in Dane County, Wis., having settled in the vicinity of Blue Mound in 1856. He had removed to the Badger State from London, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, where he landed in 1851, after having made the voyage across the Atlantic from his native county of Westmeath, Ireland, where he was born in February, 1831, and where he lived until a young man of twenty years.

Our subject was the eldest of eight children, four sons and four daughters, the offspring of Michael and Ann (Cormac) Roddy, who were natives of the same county as their son. In the days of his ancestors, on account of religious persecution, the latter were forced to flee from their native soil and their property was confiscated. They, however, never lost their high character, nor the influence of their early training, and were recognized for generations as among the better classes of the Irish gentry. The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and the mother died two years after her son John C. came to America, when a little past middle life. Michael Roddy was a second time married, to Miss Ellen Coffee, a lady of Irish birth and parentage. To them were born five children, two sons and three daughters, and they came to the United States in May, 1864, making their way westward to Nebraska and settling in this county. The father secured 160 acres of land in Wyoming Precinct, from which he improved a good farm, and where he spent his last days in ease and comfort, passing away at the ripe age of seventy-four years, on the 3d of April, 1878. Mrs. Ellen Roddy is still living, having a snug homestead of forty acres in Wyoming Precinct, with her youngest daughter, Helen A., an interesting young lady of eighteen years. Mrs. Roddy is now fifty-three years old.

Our subject, four years after coming to Nebraska Territory, was married, Aug. 15, 1866, in Nebraska City, to Miss Rose O'Donnell, who was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in the year 1840, and lived there with her parents until reaching womanhood. Then, accompanied by an elder brother, she emigrated to the United States, and from New York proceeded directly westward to Nebraska City in the year 1866, where she lived until her marriage. Her parents died in Ireland, her father, Abel O'Donnell, April 5, 1878, and the mother, Ann (Bohan) O'Donnell, in 1860. The O'Donnells were among the nobility in the early days in Ireland, as is well known by students of Irish history. Their family consisted of six children, five of whom are now living, three residents of Nebraska and two of Ireland. Three of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Roddy died in infancy. The eldest daughter, Anna, completed an excellent education in the convent at Nebraska City, together with her sister Mary. James C. and the younger children, John B., Rose and Michael A., are all at home with their parents.

Our subject and his estimable wife were reared in the doctrines of the Catholic Church, to which they still loyally adhere, and in which they are likewise training their children. Mr. Roddy, after

becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, and is one of its warmest supporters. From 1862 to 1865 he followed the river, being on the steamer "West Wind," which, in the fall of 1864, transported troops to Jefferson City. He fought the rebels along the river and at various places. Oct. 16, 1864, the boat was destroyed by the troops of the rebel Generals, Shelby and Clark. The prisoners, however, were not confined, and later were abandoned by their captors, who were attacked and dispersed by Union troops. Among the portraits given in this volume may be found that of Mr. Roddy.

HOWELL F. ST. JOHN. The man who has been content to labor year after year, perhaps at first with scarcely perceptible results, but still undiscouraged and at last successful, deserves more than a passing mention. These few words give some idea of the career of the subject of this biography, a farmer and skilled mechanic combined, who has now arrived at the point where he can rest upon his oars, and may be pardoned if he looks around him with pride and satisfaction. In looking thus he has before him one of the finest homesteads in Otoe County, an area of land 240 acres in extent, and a set of handsome and substantial farm buildings. The fat cattle and horses grazing in the rich pastures add to the attractions of the scene, while the grain fields yield abundantly the richest products of Southern Nebraska. Adjacent to the building is a fine orchard, with trees of the smaller fruits, and, in fact, our subject and his family are surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. St. John took possession of the land which he now occupies when it was in a wild and unbroken condition, and its present state is due entirely to his industry and perseverance. He is an Ohio man by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Westfield Township, Medina County, that State, Feb. 14, 1836. Myron and Philena (Alton) St. John, his worthy parents, were of old New England stock, and traced their ancestors back to the Pilgrims and the Colonial times. They removed with their parents from New England to New York State, and were reared and married in Onondaga County, N. Y. After marriage the father secured a tract of land in that county, where he lived with his excellent wife until after the birth of a part of their family.

The father of our subject not making the headway he desired decided to push still further westward, and accordingly about 1830 moved from the Empire State, and took up his abode among the pioneers of Medina County, Ohio. The region thereabouts was then an unbroken wilderness, and the family established themselves in a little cabin in the woods, while the father proceeded to fell the timber around, and bring the soil to a state of cultivation. He thus labored until advancing years compelled him to be less industrious, and died at the age of seventy-six years. He was a kind and indulgent father, a good neighbor, and in religious matters a member of the Baptist Church. During his early manhood he was attached to the old Whig party, but upon its abandonment identified himself with the Republicans.

The mother of our subject survived her husband a number of years, and passed away at the ripe old age of eighty, in June of 1884, spending her last days in Ohio with her family. She was in all respects the suitable helpmate of her husband, and with him was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom lived to mature years and were married. All the daughters and four of the sons are still living, being residents mostly of Ohio and Nebraska.

Our subject was the sixth child of his parents, with whom he remained until reaching manhood, acquiring a common-school education, and becoming familiar with farming as carried on in the pioneer times. At quite an early age he developed unusual mechanical genius, and, although never serving at a regular trade, could fashion almost anything with a saw or a jack-knife. These qualities developed to his advantage later, and after coming to this county he became interested in hydraulic jetting well machinery.

Mr. St. John in about 1862 changed his residence from Medina to Sandusky County, Ohio, of which

he was a resident fourteen years, engaged mostly in farming. He was married in his native township to Miss Jane Munn, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, Dec. 10, 1840, and is the daughter of Bethuel and Arvilla (Jones) Munn, who are both now deceased, and who spent their last years in Ohio. They were natives of New York and New Jersey, and the father was a farmer by occupation for a number of years, although having a good knowledge of millwrighting, which he followed considerably in connection with farming.

Mrs. St. John was reared and educated in her native township, completing her studies at Saville Academy. She has been a true helpmate to her husband, contributing her full share in the accumulation of the property, and exerting herself for the comfort of those dependent upon her. Of the five children born of this union, Arvilla, when thirteen months old, was taken from the household circle in 1863, and in February, 1888, a son, Mortimer, died at the age of twenty-seven years. Both were very promising, and their death was a sore affliction to the devoted parents. The son fell a victim of rheumatism of the heart and pneumonia, from which he suffered some time before his death, which took place at the home of his parents. The eldest living child, Clarence, chiefly assists his father on the farm, and the younger son, Charles, gives his attention to the machinery in which his father is interested. Genie D. is attending college at Nebraska City. Mr. St. John, politically, is a sound Republican, and a man whose opinions are generally respected.

EGBERT L. ELLIS, whose property and residence is on section 1 of Syracuse Precinct, where he settled in May of 1885, is one of the capable and much valued citizens of the district. He was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., on the 28th of February, 1834, and is the son of Harvey and Sarah (Woodworth) Ellis, who were natives of New York.

The educational advantages of our subject were those of the common school of his native place, which were supplemented by the initiation into the practical duties of farming. He remained upon the home farm until he attained his majority, and then emigrated to Michigan, and located in Eaton County, in the neighborhood of Charlotte. There he associated with his brother Edgar, and they worked together as carpenters and joiners, contracting for and putting up many of the best buildings of Charlotte, and others of minor mention. In the same neighborhood also he purchased, cleared and cultivated about seventy acres of land, put upon it an excellent set of buildings and a farmhouse of considerable pretensions, admirably designed and constructed, and for some time after bringing it to this desirable condition he continued to follow agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Ellis sold the above property in 1885 and came to this State, taking up a farm of 129 acres, which he has well improved, and provided with a good house and buildings, giving much more care than he had done upon his previous property. He has since that time been very successful in the raising of cattle and hogs, and usually has about fifty head of each upon the farm at one time.

Our subject was united in marriage with Mary S. Conn., at Charlotte, Mich., Sept. 15, 1869. This lady is the daughter of Samuel and Orrisavilla (Fowler) Conn. She was born at North Cohocton, Steuben Co., N. Y., upon the 2d of February, 1838. Her father, who was one of the prosperous and enterprising merchants of that place, was born on the 10th of September, 1809, at Bath, N. Y. In 1843 he migrated from the Empire State to Michigan. The first five years in the West were spent at Saline, then he engaged in mercantile pursuits at Lockport, St. Joseph County, where, in February, 1851, he was bereaved by the death of his wife. Subsequently he returned to Saline, where he died on the 23d of July, 1869. In politics he was an old-line Whig, and later became a member of the Republican party. He was one of the leading citizens wherever he might make his home, and was frequently called upon to fill local offices.

The paternal grandmother of Mrs. Ellis was the daughter of Abijah Guile, who was born in West Winfield, N. Y., on the 17th of March, 1772. He built the first gristmill ever put up in North Cohocton, and was one of the prominent and public-

spirited citizens of that place in its early days. He was a lineal descendant of John Guile, who came from England in the year 1736, and settled in Dedham, Mass.

The subject of our sketch is a stanch adherent and firm supporter of the Republican party. While living in Michigan he was called upon to fill various offices, which he always did in a most admirable and thorough manner. Although a firm believer in the Christian religion, he is not attached to any denominational system, but is somewhat inclined to favor Congregationalism. He has been a resident of this State for but a short time, yet he has made many friends, and has secured the hearty respect of the people; this is also true of Mrs. Ellis and their two children, Henry C. and Cora M. It is not improbable that in future years our subject may have an important place to fill in the history of the county should he be spared, as there is apparently every reason to hope he may be.

JOHN T. ELLIOT. Among the practical and prosperous general farmers of McWilliams Precinct the gentleman whose life story is here presented must certainly be named. His farm and home are on section 28, McWilliams Precinct, and his property is some eighty acres in extent, all of which is under the plow. He has only owned the farm for about four years. Before that he had for twelve years resided in Rock Creek, and came first to Nebraska in 1870. He has an extensive knowledge of the Western country, having spent two years traveling here, there and elsewhere in the Great West.

The subject of our sketch was born in Connecticut, near the city of Hartford, on the 6th of January, 1856. He was taken by his parents to Cass County, Ill., when about three years of age. There he was brought up and educated, and continued to make his home until he came to this State, where as a young man he has made a good reputation, both in regard to character and ability.

Robert Elliot, his father, was by trade a farmer and miller, and learned both occupations before leaving Scotland, his native country. He was born and grew up in the vicinity of the city of Glasgow. There he married Jane Miller, a native of the Isle McGee. Shortly after the birth of their son James D., now a resident of Cass County, Ill., they came to this country and took up their abode in Connecticut, where the father applied himself to his trade, continuing until after the birth of their six children, of whom our subject was the youngest. Then, as mentioned above, a move was made to Cass County, where, in the year 1866, while yet in the prime of life, the wife and mother was removed by death.

Mr. Elliot, Sr., was married a second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Nancy Davidson, of Cass County, Ill. Soon after the birth of their first child, and in the year 1870, they removed to Nebraska, and here Mr. Elliot began farming, but about five years later sold out and went to Kansas, locating near Superior, in that State.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the schools of Illinois and this State, and from his youth has been more or less in daily contact with various farm employments. He was married in Tecumseh, Sept. 5, 1888, to Miss Jennie McClung, who was born in Fremont County, Iowa, in the year 1867. She is the daughter of Edward and Nellie (Young) McClung, who are now living at Talmage. Mrs. Elliot is a lady of education and careful home training, an ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where she is much esteemed. Our subject, who is yet a young man, has not taken a prominent part in political matters, but will doubtless figure in future years. He is a member of the Democratic party, and takes considerable interest in questions of political import.

CHRISTIAN HUSTED, bookkeeper for J. H. Arends, in the city of Syracuse, and well known among the business men of his community, was born near the city of Veile, Denmark, on the 19th of July, 1844. His parents were Eric C. and Anna (Christensen) Husted, whose family consisted of two children only, our subject and his brother Hans, who still resides in his native country.

Young Husted was educated in the schools of

Copenhagen, and lived near the place of his birth until a man twenty-eight years of age, being mostly engaged in teaching. In the spring of 1872 he emigrated to the United States, and after landing upon American soil, proceeded directly westward to Polk County, Wis., where he engaged in farming. In the fall of 1873 he left the Badger State, and, changing his occupation somewhat, engaged in newspaper work, and was for a period of ten years thereafter editor of the *Danish Pioneer*, the largest Scandinavian journal in the United States. In 1883, coming to Syracuse, he assumed the duties of his present position, and has now become one of the indispensable features of the house.

Mr. Husted while a resident of Omaha was united in marriage with Miss Louise Jessen, the wedding taking place in the spring of 1877. Mrs. Husted is a native of the same country as her husband, and came to the United States with her parents, Dr. H. C. and Kirstine Jessen, when about sixteen years old. Her father is a well-educated man, a physician by profession, and is now practicing in Sacramento, Cal. To Mr. and Mrs. Husted there have been born three children—Anna, Harriet and Ella, who are all at home with their parents. Mr. Husted in religion is a Lutheran, and politically, votes the Democratic ticket.

FRANK J. CONKEL. There probably is in Rock Creek Precinct no farm under better cultivation than the land belonging to the subject of this sketch, and which is pleasantly located on section 25, embracing its southeastern quarter. The buildings are neat and substantial, there are shade and fruit trees, the land is well watered, and produces in abundance the rich crops of Southern Nebraska. The present proprietor came to Nebraska Territory in the fall of 1866, purchased his present land two years later, and in the same year put up his present dwelling. The premises wear that air of thrift and prosperity which it is delightful to contemplate.

Our subject is an Ohio man by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Crawford County, that State, Dec. 9, 1843. His parents, George and Beulah A. (Vale) Conkel, were also natives of the Buckeye State, and the father all his life followed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. The household circle included four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject was the eldest son and third child. Of his brothers and sisters five are living, mostly engaged in farming pursuits, and residents of Nebraska and Iowa. Our subject before reaching his majority removed with his parents from the Buckeye State to Logan County, Ill., about 1856, where he attained his majority. They finally left Illinois, and pushed farther westward to Fremont County, Iowa, where the father carried on farming successfully until his death, which occurred in the winter of 1879, when he was sixty-eight years old. He was a well-read man, of decided views, and a Democrat in politics. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her younger son, William, in Fremont County, Iowa.

Upon reaching his majority our subject started out on his own account, and soon thereafter occurred one of the most interesting and important events in his life, namely, his marriage, Aug. 11, 1866. His chosen bride, Miss Elizabeth Duncan, was born in Gibson, Ind., in 1841, and is the daughter of Lloyd and Rosina (Lucas) Duncan, the former of whom died in Logan County, Ill., in 1862. He was a well-to-do farmer during his later years, although spending his early life in mercantile pursuits. The mother after the death of her husband joined her daughter, Mrs. Conkel, in this county, and subsequently took up her abode with her son Thomas in Delaware Precinct, where her death took place about 1884. Both Mr. and Mrs. Duncan were members in good standing of the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Conkel was reared and educated chiefly in Southern Illinois, but before her marriage removed with her parents to Logan County. She is a lady of many estimable qualities, and has been the true helpmate of her husband in all his worthy efforts. Their union has been blessed by the birth of seven children, who yet form an unbroken family circle, all at home with their parents. They were named respectively: Rosa, Grayson, Edgar, Willard, Addie, Frederick and Ettie.

Mr. and Mrs. Conkel after their marriage took pos-

session of a modest dwelling in this township, and in all the relations of life have signalized themselves as useful and worthy members of the community. Mr. Conkel's interest in the temperance movement led him, in 1886, to ally himself with the Prohibitionists. He came to this county with limited capital, which he was fortunate in investing very judiciously, and has left no stone unturned to surround himself and his family with all the comforts of life, and build up a homestead which should compare favorably with that of the enterprising men around him.

JAMES LEWIS, who is one of the successful and enterprising agriculturists and stock-feeders of Palmyra Precinct, and operates 120 acres on section 26, was born in Wiltshire, England, near the town of Swindon, upon the Great Western Railway, on the 21st of July, 1848. He is the son of John and Sarah Lewis, and is the youngest of four children born to them, to whom were given the names subjoined, viz: John, Elizabeth, Joseph and James. His mother died when he was but a small child, and he has no recollection of her. He received his education in the parish schools, attending them until he was thirteen years of age, when he began to serve an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner.

When nineteen our subject made up his mind to come to the Western World, but being apprenticed until he was twenty-one years of age he had to pay his time from nineteen to twenty-one in order to be released from the articles of indenture. This arranged, he sailed from Liverpool on the 1st of April, 1868, on board the good ship "France," whose powerful engines carried him swiftly over the Atlantic rollers, landing him at New York on the 11th of the same month. He came straight through to this State to his uncle, Joseph Green. At first he engaged to work at his trade in Nebraska City. In the fall of 1868 he went to Lincoln and began work on the State House, and afterward on the Insane Asylum, and the residences of Gov. Butler and Secretary Kennedy. He remained working for two seasons in and around Lincoln. The summer of 1871 he went to Syracuse, where he remained until after the Chicago fire. That, however, offered an unusual chance for employment, and he repaired to that city, remaining there about two years. He then returned to Syracuse, and was there through the winter of 1873-74. He then began contracting building upon his own account, and saw no little prosperity.

At Palmyra, on the 9th of August, 1875, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Mary E. McAleer, the daughter of James and Catherine McAleer, who were both born in Ireland. Mr. McAleer was by trade a marble cutter, and was living in Rhode Island, where his marriage was celebrated, and had continued so to do for many years. His daughter Mary was the eldest of seven children, whose names are here recorded, viz.: Mary, James, Miles, John, Thomas F., Frances and Bernard. Mrs. Lewis was born on the 17th of June, 1854, and was eleven years of age when, with her parents, she came to Princeton, Ill., and was nineteen at the time the removal was made to this State. Her father settled on a farm in Russell Precinct in the fall of 1873. He died Sept. 16, 1888, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. Her mother, who is sixty-three years old, still lives upon the farm.

For some years after his marriage our subject combined husbandry with carpentry, but since the year 1880 he has given his attention to stock farming. He is feeding from thirty to thirty-six cattle, and has on hand at least two carloads of hogs. In 1885 for one year he had an interest in a grocery business in Palmyra, and was successful while remaining in it, but his cattle business prevented his seeing his way so to do. There have come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis four children, who bear the following names: Helen, James A., Mary M. and Eugene J.

As Mr. Lewis at an early date conceived the idea of coming to America, he also realized his duty and privilege of becoming an American citizen, and he took occasion shortly after his arrival to declare his intention to enter into that relation with the people of this Republic, and he is to-day one of the most loyal and patriotic. He made good use of his homestead right, and entered eighty acres,

but after improving this somewhat sold it and purchased his present property, which was but then very slightly improved. To-day it is one of the most valuable farms in Palmyra Precinct, and his beautiful residence, which occupies an elevated site, overlooks the country for some distance. His pastures and cattle sheds show that he is thorough, practical and prosperous. His property is supplied with all the modern necessaries in the line of implements, machines and conveniences.

Mrs. Lewis is a lady of education and refinement, and is a graduate of the Princeton High School of Illinois. Her home reveals the fact that she is in every way a lady of refinement. With her husband she is a member of the Catholic Church, and one of the earnest supporters of the same. Our subject is a Democrat in his political proclivities, and although not an office-holder takes the greatest interest in matters connected therewith. He sustains in the community at large a most enviable reputation as a man and citizen.

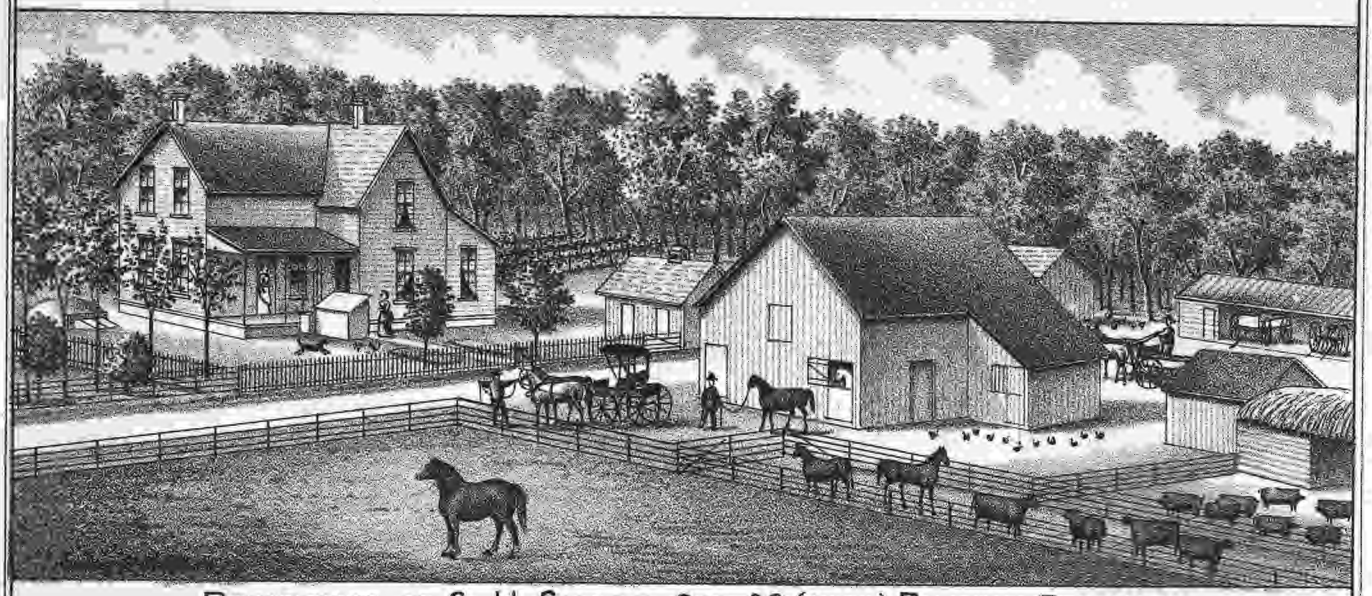
EDWIN ANDREWS. Prominent among the citizens of Otoe County, where he resides on section 34 of North Branch Precinct, and in every way worthy of such a position, is the gentleman of whose life the more salient features are here presented. He is a representative of a very old Eastern family that has occupied a similar high station in other States. He is the son of Bartholomew and Amelia (Meriam) Andrews, both natives of Connecticut. The grandfather of our subject was by occupation a farmer. He removed from his home in that State to Onondaga County, N. Y., where he died. The parents of our subject were brought up in their native State and there married. Afterward they removed to the Empire State, and took up land and carried on farming for the remainder of their days. They were the parents of twelve children, all of whom grew to mature years. Their names are recorded as follows: Anna, Caroline, Lavina, Clarrissa, Alemenia and Curtis, all of whom are now deceased. Six are now living, viz.: Thomas, of Otoe County; Guernsey and Noah, both of Onondaga; Edwin, our subject; Titus, of Onondaga County, and Solomon, of Keokuk, Iowa.

The early days of our subject were spent upon the home farm and in attendance at the common schools. From that time until he attained his twenty-first year he continued to assist his father upon the farm. Beginning life for himself, he commenced work as a carpenter in his native county, and was accounted a skilled workman. In 1852 he was united in marriage with Diana C. Weller. To them there have come nine children: Marsha, and Amelia, who married L. E. Sinsebaugh, are deceased; the surviving members of the family are Charles C., George, Warren, Albert; Eugenie, who is the wife of Clarence Francis; Genevieve and Hannah.

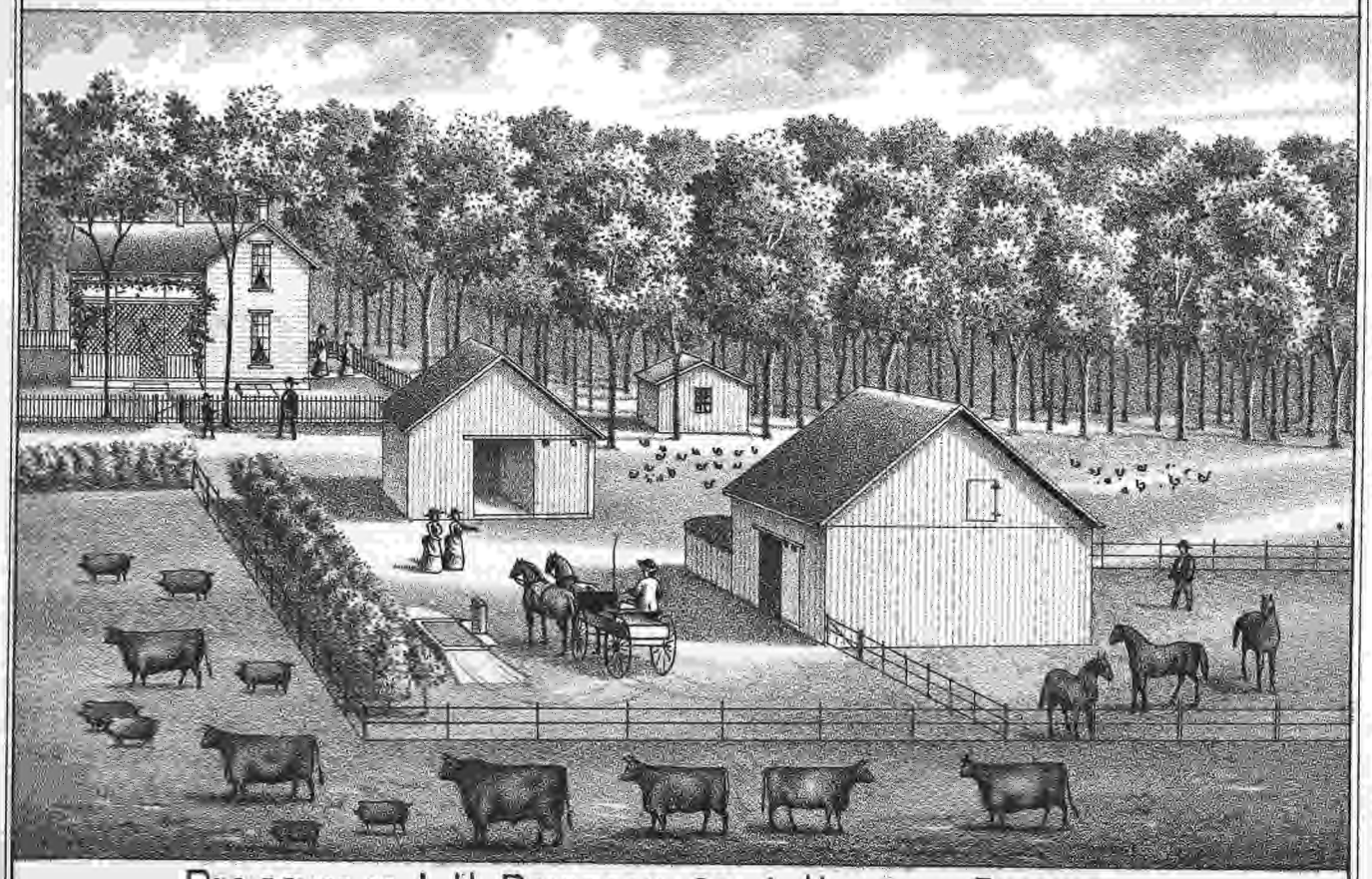
Our subject purchased fifty acres of land from his father, which he later traded for another farm, and then gave his attention to the work connected therewith. He continued to make his home in his native county until he came to Nebraska. Here he purchased 200 acres of land, which is the property upon which he now lives. At that time it was nothing but raw prairie, entirely unimproved, and so far as the raising of crops was concerned, that was an impossibility. By careful, continued earnest labor he has made such a success of his work as to be able to purchase from time to time additional property, and now owns about 1,000 acres, all of which is thoroughly improved.

Mr. Andrews devotes himself to stock-raising, and his reputation as a raiser of thoroughbred cattle and hogs is established, while as a breeder of fine horses there are few who surpass him. During the year 1887 he fed over 16,000 bushels of corn. His ranch has two sets of buildings and sheds, which are as good as any in the county, well built, conveniently arranged, and supplied with every modern convenient arrangement. His residence, which is in keeping with his position in the county and the financial world, was built in 1869, and is one of the finest in the county, and it was at that time by far superior to anything in the county.

When Mr. Andrews came to Nebraska he purchased his land at the rate of $9 per acre, becoming the owner of 200 acres, and had to go in debt before he had completed his house, but as the years have passed he has been increasingly successful, and is



RESIDENCE OF C. H. SHARP, SEC. 36. (SOUTH.) PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. H. DAVIDSON, SEC. 1. HENDRICS PRECINCT.

now one of the most substantial citizens of Otoe County, and one of the original stockholders of the First National Bank of Syracuse.

Mr. Andrews has received repeated assurance of the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-citizens, and has frequently been called upon to accept some public office, but has always declined to do so. He has, however, filled the chair of Justice of the Peace, and while thus engaged evinced his fitness for the office whenever called upon to hear a case and render a decision. He is a stanch friend and supporter of the Republican party and has so continued throughout his life. Our subject is one who justly takes the greatest delight and pride in his family, and is especially proud of his sons, his faithful assistants on the farm.

JAMES H. DAVIDSON, a very intelligent and prosperous farmer, is numbered among the leading men of Hendricks Precinct, where he has a fine homestead on section 1. The fact that he is a correspondent of six weekly newspapers indicates abilities of more than ordinary capacity, and few men in this section of country possess a greater fund of general information. He was graduated from Central College in Morrow County, Ohio, and takes a warm interest in the maintenance and establishment of educational institutions. His home, presided over by a most amiable and excellent lady, a model wife and mother, is one of the most pleasant and attractive to be met with.

In reciting the history of any individual it is but natural to revert to those from whom he drew his origin. The parents of our subject were George and Rachel (Brownlee) Davidson, the former a native of Washington County, Pa. George Davidson was born in 1803, and was the son of James Davidson, a native of Ireland, and of Scotch-Irish descent. The latter married Miss Jane Holmes, and emigrated to America during his early manhood, settling in Washington County, Pa. They became the parents of three sons, who were all graduated from the Medical College at Philadelphia. George began the practice of medicine, and was married in his native State. Thence a few years later he removed to Belleville, Ohio, but three years later, the wife becoming homesick they returned to Pennsylvania, settling in Taylorstown, where the father died. In 1833 a contagious fever raged in the city of Philadelphia, and was of such a terrible nature that finally the stricken ones were almost deserted both by friends and physicians. Dr. George Davidson, however, refused to desert his post, was stricken down with the fever and died. His course as a physician had been a remarkably conscientious one, as he was a man of more than ordinary humane instincts.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Davidson was married in 1838 to Allen McNeal, a farmer by occupation, and Ruling Elder of the United Presbyterian Church at Iberia, Ohio. She had in early life made a profession of religion, and became a member of the South Buffalo Association Church, in the faith of which she passed away after a life warmly devoted to the Master's work. Of the first marriage there were born two children only: James H., our subject, and his sister Georgiana, now Mrs. Francis, and the wife of a well-to-do farmer in Union County, Iowa. Of her second marriage there were born four children: Lizzie B., a teacher at Medicine Lodge, Kan.; Joseph, President of the Citizens' National Bank of the same place; Thomas, a lawyer, a graduate of Hillsdale College, and editor of the Medicine Lodge *Crescent*, also an ex-member of the Kansas Legislature; Mary died at the age of sixteen years.

The subject of this sketch was born in Taylorstown, Pa., and was but three years of age at the time of his father's death. He remained with his mother until reaching his majority, and completed his education in Ohio Central College, being graduated from the scientific department at the age of nineteen years. He was for two years afterward engaged in teaching, then established himself on a farm in Page County, Iowa, and in 1865 purchased 160 acres of land in that county, and after making some improvements returned to Ohio, and was married to Miss Margaret Dickson, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in the town of Tully, May 26, 1861.

Mrs. Davidson was born in Washington County,

Ohio, March 26, 1839, and was the second daughter of Isaac and Mary (Hannah) Dickson, the latter a full cousin of T. S. Arthur, the late well-known author, and founder of "Arthur's Magazine." Mr. Dickson was born in Washington County, Pa., and was a farmer and miller by occupation. He secured a competency, and is still living, being, with his excellent wife, eighty-eight years of age. They are at present residents of Marion County, Ohio, where Mr. Dickson owns a large extent of land. The mother was born in County Down, Ireland, and came with her parents to America in her youth.

During the progress of the Rebellion Mr. Davidson enlisted as a Union soldier in the 23d Ohio Infantry, State Militia, serving as Lieutenant, but the regiment was one year later disbanded by a proclamation of the Governor, their services not being further required. Our subject then returning to Iowa labored on his farm a period of five years, but met with great reverses, his buildings being once destroyed by prairie fires. In the spring of 1871 he changed his residence to Hendricks Precinct, this county, making the journey overland with two teams, and settled upon the place which he now owns. Here he has 160 acres, and by the exercise of perseverance and energy soon found himself upon his feet and on the road to prosperity. At the time of his leaving Iowa the following appeared in the *Page County Herald* in February, 1871: SOLD OUT—Mr. J. H. Davidson, our excellent friend of Lincoln Township, has sold his farm and will emigrate to Nebraska this month. He does not move from Page County because he thinks Nebraska is a better State, on the contrary he regards the glorious kingdom of Page County as standing head and shoulders above all competitors, but he goes thither on account of the inducements of his uncle, hoping to better his condition. May good fortune attend him."

Upon coming to this county Mr. Davidson immediately began the improvement of his land, setting out trees and erecting buildings and fences. The following appeared in the Nebraska City *News* a short time later: "Mr. J. H. Davidson, of Page County, Iowa, moved to his new place eleven miles south of Syracuse in this county on the 3d of last month, bringing his family and stock. By the 25th he had sowed twenty-five acres of wheat, and in the meantime hauled the lumber for his house thirty miles from Nebraska City, and Messrs. J. Lewis & Bailey, his carpenters, erected and enclosed a four-room cottage for him in nine days, with cellar under it. On his second trip he came in and subscribed for the *News*, the crowning glory of his emigration. Thus in twenty-five days he moved seventy miles, did nearly all the work with one hand, and has before him the prospect of ease, comfort and a competence. Why will men grub among the rocks and stumps of old States when there is a garden State so near?" Mr. Davidson has groves of maple, cottonwood and elm, an orchard of 200 apple trees, and a spring of living water which could scarcely be purchased at any price. He has added to his real estate to the extent of 160 acres in Palmyra Precinct.

Mrs. Davidson is a well-educated lady and taught school before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, the eldest of whom, George A., was born in Ohio, Aug. 2, 1862; he completed his education in Peru, Neb., where he attended the Normal School three years, and is at present engaged in teaching. Mary E. was born Feb. 19, 1869, also attended the Normal School at Peru, and is following the same profession as her brother; Isaac, who was born in Boone County, in Iowa, is now pursuing his studie in the Normal School at the same place; Lizzie M. was born in Amity, Iowa, April 26, 1868, has taught school, but is now a pupil at Peru; Robert F. was born July 23, 1870, and died Aug. 12, 1871; Jennie was born Feb. 1, 1873, and is attending school at Peru; Jay was born Feb. 15, 1880.

Mr. Davidson, politically, is a stanch Republican. He served as Justice of the Peace for a period of six years. In January, 1882, he was appointed Notary Public by Gov. Nance for six years, then re-appointed by Gov. Thayer, May 14, 1888, for a like term. Socially, he belongs to Palmyra Lodge No. 30, I. O. O. F., in which he has held all the offices. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, attending services at Hopewell. In this Mr. Davidson has been Trustee and Elder six years. He takes a lively interest in church work, and formerly offici-

ated as Superintendent of the Sunday-school. His career has been that of a useful and honored citizen, and one who will be long remembered after he has passed away.

A view of the Davidson homestead is presented in this connection.

CHRISTIAN H. SHARP, of Palmyra Precinct, came to this county in the spring of 1882, and purchased a school lease, intending to perfect his title to the property as soon as it was possible for him to do so. His land is finely located, and well adapted by nature to the purposes of agriculture. The improvements upon it have been brought about by Mr. Sharp, who has erected good buildings, planted shade trees, an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and grapes. As a member of the community he has made fully as good a record as in his farming operations, being public-spirited and interested in those projects tending to the general welfare of the people. A view of Mr. Sharp's residence is presented in this ALBUM, among those given of representative places in Otoe County.

Our subject is of Swiss ancestry. The first representatives of his family in the United States crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. His parents, Schem and Martha (Hostetter) Sharp, were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in Mifflin County and the mother in Lancaster County. The paternal grandfather, Peter Sharp, was born in Switzerland, whence he emigrated directly to Pennsylvania, and from him descended the families of that name in the United States. The Hostetters have also an ancestry equally old and honorable. The great-grandfather of our subject, Michael Hostetter, was a little boy at the time of the Revolutionary War, and when seven years of age was captured by the Indians and held by them a period of seven years. Among the other terrible atrocities which the savages committed, he was obliged to witness the death by burning of his parents, one brother and two sisters in a pit. It is therefore not to be wondered at that to this day the Hostetters regard the Indian tribes with both fear and hatred. From Michael Hostetter sprang the family of his name in America. They, as well as the Sharps, were residents of Eastern Pennsylvania for more than a century.

The parents of our subject in the spring of 1832 removed from Pennsylvania to Logan County, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1863, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the mother two weeks later, aged sixty-one. Their six children were named respectively: Susanna, Lydia; Christian H., our subject, and Annie, who were twins; Joseph and Jacob.

Our subject was born in Mifflin County, Pa., March 15, 1826, and when we consider the time and locality, it is not to be wondered at that his educational advantages were somewhat limited. By his own love of learning, and his natural abilities, however, young Sharp acquired more practical information than is often possessed by those who have spent a term of years in college halls. By a most fortunate marriage his love of learning was encouraged, and he has become possessed of a good fund of general information. He still keeps up the course of reading which he began years ago, and is a man with whom it is both pleasurable and profitable to converse.

Mr. Sharp accompanied his parents to Logan County, Ohio, where he worked out by the month until the summer of 1853, when he went into Wayne County, and changed his occupation from that of farmer to carpenter. Here he met his future wife, Miss Elizabeth A. Plank, to whom he was married Aug. 22, 1853. This lady was born in that county, Jan. 4, 1831, and is the seventh in a family of nine children, the offspring of John and Elizabeth (Schrock) Plank, the father a native of Lancaster County, Pa., and the mother of France. Mrs. Plank came to America with her parents when a small girl, they settling in Pennsylvania, and she was married in Mifflin County. Soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. P. removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where they lived until 1859. Mrs. Sharp's father is still living in Davis County, Iowa, at the age of ninety-six. The mother died there in September, 1866.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharp after their marriage contin-

ued residents of the Buckeye State for a period of six years, our subject first working as a carpenter, and then renting a farm. The failing health of Mrs. Sharp induced them to try a change of climate, and they removed to Davis County, Iowa, where they lived for a period of thirteen years, and during which time the health of Mrs. Sharp perceptibly improved. Thence in 1872 they changed their residence to Fremont County, where Mr. Sharp purchased eighty acres of land, and thereafter employed his time considerably in fighting grasshoppers, drouth, floods, hail and other storms. The delicate health of his wife still continued, and he thus had many difficulties to contend with. In the spring of 1882 he came to this county, and is now beginning to realize the reward of his labors and his patience.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born nine children, three in Wayne County, Ohio, four in Davis County, Iowa, one in Fremont County. They were named respectively: John K., Jeptha J., Susanna, Lincoln L., Charles William, Jacob C., Mary E., Matilda and Fanny S.

Mr. Sharp laid the foundation of his present property in Fremont County, Iowa, where, notwithstanding the various misfortunes we have mentioned, he made money. During his younger years he was a member of the Mennonite Church, and for six years officiated as a minister, pursuing his studies at night, after the arduous labors of the day were over. He labored zealously in the Master's cause, and in Davis County, Iowa, was Superintendent of the Sunday-school. About 1861 he identified himself with the German Baptist Church, and is now Deacon, and politically, he votes with the Republican party. He cares very little about politics, however, and aside from officiating as Moderator in his school district, has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office.

MARVIN J. COVELL is an able and enterprising citizen of Nebraska City, where he is prosperously engaged in the livery business. He was born Sept. 14, 1839, in Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y., a son of Richard and Sylvia C. (Eldred) Covell, likewise natives of that State, born in Rensselaer County. Richard Covell, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Rensselaer County, of Scotch ancestry, and was a pioneer of Genesee County, where he located in 1830. He bought of the Holland Purchase Company a tract of land five miles west of Batavia, and engaged in agricultural pursuits thereon until his death. The father of our subject was reared in his native county, and there married the daughter of James Eldred, who was, it is thought, a native of Vermont, and was a farmer and merchant, spending his last years in Hoosic, Rensselaer County. Mr. Covell moved from his old home to Genesee County, and bought a farm three miles from Batavia, and was successfully engaged in agriculture in New York until 1855. In that year he disposed of his farm and other property, and moved to Kalamazoo County, Mich., where he purchased a good farm near Galesburg. In 1872 he sold his property in that State, and went to Iowa to live in Cedar Falls. At the expiration of two years he went from there to Minneapolis, Minn., and staid two years. He then settled in Las Vegas, N. M., with his children, but his death finally occurred in the home of our subject in this city in August, 1879, while here on a visit. He was a man of probity, and was much respected by all who knew him, as was also his worthy wife, who departed this life in 1867, in Kalamazoo County, Mich. Nine children were born of their marriage, six of whom grew to maturity.

Marvin Covell, of this sketch, passed his boyhood in his native town, receiving the education and training usually accorded to farmers' lads, and he thus grew to a strong and vigorous manhood. He was sixteen years of age when his parents moved to Michigan, and he continued to make his home with them for several years, managing the farm for his father during the last years of his stay under the parental roof in Michigan. In 1869 he left home, and the three succeeding years was established as a grain dealer in Cedar Falls, Iowa. From there he went to Minneapolis, Minn., and engaged in the same business in that city until 1873, when he moved to Indiana, and there dealt in grain extensively, with headquarters at Valparaiso, until 1877, when he disposed of his business interests in

J J Cornelius Mrs L D Carmichael

that State. He then proceeded to Chicago, and spent nearly two years on the Board of Trade. In 1879 our subject took a new departure, coming to Otoe County to engage in farming, and was thus very profitably employed until 1884, when he came to Nebraska City, and bought a livery stock and hack line, and he is still conducting the business with gratifying success.

Mr. Covell has not lacked the assistance of a good wife to help him in the upbuilding of a home, which she makes cheery and cozy, as he was united in marriage, in March, 1876, to Miss Nannie R., daughter of William and Sarah McCoy, and a native of Illinois. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Fannie E., Phillip, Mattie and Clara.

Mr, and Mrs. Covell are valued members of the Baptist Church, and they contribute liberally to its support. Mr. Covell belongs to Nuckolls Lodge No. 13, A. O. U. W., and was a charter member of Rampkin Encampment No. 331, M. W.

JAMES D. CARMICHAEL, a pioneer of Otoe County, has by his zeal, enterprise and business ability, contributed greatly to its growth and development. His home until recently was very pleasantly located in the town of Minersville, which he himself platted and named in 1874. The present site of the town was formerly owned by a company who purchased it of the Government, and then started a paper in its interests, which was printed in New York, and by that means they advertised it extensively, and sold lots, giving bonds for deeds. Finally all but three of the old company left, a new company was formed, and one of the three signed all his rights and title to the land in favor of Mr. Carmichael, who bought the land at public auction when it was sold by the Government at the land-office. The city was once quite flourishing, having 200 inhabitants. There is a store here with a small stock of goods, and a few dwelling-houses. The town has a very fine location on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect for a long distance both up and down the stream. Mr. Carmichael has upward of 400 acres of land here; the greater part of it is timber, and he carries on a large business in clearing it and selling the wood and lumber.

The subject of this sketch was born in Wayne Township, Mifflin Co., Pa., Aug. 7, 1812. He is derived from a sturdy, vigorous Scotch ancestry, being a descendant of one of three brothers who emigrated from Scotland to America in Colonial times. His father, Duncan Carmichael, and his grandfather were born in Bordentown, N. J., and the latter, so far as known, spent his entire life there. The father of our subject was married in Pennsylvania, and moved from there to Tennessee about the year 1800, becoming an early settler of Grainger County. He first went to that State to seek a location, going to Ft. Pitt (now Pittsburgh), Pa., and from there down the Ohio River to Limestone Landing, near Maysville, Ky., and thence overland to Tennessee. He was accompanied by a brother, and they selected a location and then went back to Pennsylvania for their families. They started on their return to the new homes that they had selected in the wilderness with teams, taking their household goods along, and going through Maryland and Virginia to Tennessee. The land that Mr. Carmichael had bought was heavily timbered, and after building a log house to shelter his family, he vigorously commenced the pioneer task of cutting down the tall old forest trees and preparing his land for cultivation. He resided there ten years, and then returned to Pennsylvania to settle on his father-in-law's farm, and there died Feb. 24, 1812. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Cunningham, and she was born in Wayne Township, Mifflin Co., Pa. Her father, John Cunningham, was born in Ireland, and came to America in his youth. He was a poor boy, and worked about until he could earn enough money to buy a small tract of land in Wayne Township, of which he was an early settler. Soon after that he entered the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and for three years served his adopted country faithfully. While he was away his wife and two small children occupied the cabin that he had erected on his land. The Indians were at that time troublesome, and Mrs. Cunningham used to walk to the

fort, four miles distant, every night, carrying one child in her arms. She would return in the morning to her home, and busy herself all day about the farm work, which she did all alone, and through her diligence all of the grain was saved, reaped and threshed. She was indeed a true helpmate, and to her courage and able assistance her husband was greatly beholden for the prosperity that came to him in after years. After his return from the war Mr. Cunningham engaged in farming and stock-raising, and became well off. He planted two good orchards and erected a large stone house on the home farm, in which he and his wife passed their last years.

In this pleasant home our subject grew to manhood, and there his mother passed away in May, 1848. Of her marriage three children had been born: Abbie, who married William Dysart, is now deceased; John C., who died at the age of twenty, and our subject. He attended the district schools and assisted on the farm until he was nineteen, when the management of the farm fell to him. He resided on the old homestead until 1845, when he went to LaFayette, Ind., where he engaged in buying and shipping grain. He had previously visited that place in 1840, and bought a section of improved land eight miles from the town, which he rented until 1847, when he sold it. In 1850 he moved to St. Louis, but after four months' residence there he moved to Rock Island, Ill., on account of ill-health. He engaged in the latter city as a pilot over the rapids to the river steamers. He became prominently identified with the best interests of Rock Island, and at the end of four years gave up his position as pilot to accept the office of Superintendent of Public Works. He built the first levee at Rock Island, and the first macadamized streets in the city, and various other improvements were the results of his energy and efficiency. In 1857 he started for the Territory of Nebraska, having sold a small steamer to the Union Colony that was coming here to locate. He delivered the steamer at the point in Otoe County known then as Otoe City, now Minersville, In July of that year Mr. Carmichael bought a steam sawmill in Fremont County, Iowa, on the east bank of the Missouri River. He operated that a year, then sold it, and in 1859 started a lumber-yard at the point now known as Minersville, and he ran flatboats from here to Line Island, and did a large business, people coming even from as far west as Beatrice to buy lumber of him. He was actively engaged in the lumber business ten years, and at the same time had a steamboat wood yard to supply the many boats that were constantly plying up and down the river. In 1863 Mr. Carmichael became interested in farming, buying a farm on the southwest quarter of section 2, Otoe Precinct, and in 1868 he removed there and devoted his time almost exclusively to agricultural pursuits until 1881. In that year he sold his farm and returned to Minersville.

Mr. Carmichael was married, March 27, 1838, to Miss Julia Leyman, and on the 27th of March, 1888, they celebrated their golden wedding. This was an occasion of solemn and heartfelt joy to their many warm friends for what the years had brought them, and that they were still in the enjoyment of vigorous bodily and mental health. In the fifty years that they have walked the path of life together, they have not only mutually encouraged and strengthened each other in the trials that come to all, but their friendly hands have often been extended to help others, and many were the grateful hearts that overflowed with good-will and kind wishes toward them on that anniversary. Theirs has been a happy wedded life, affording to the world a spectacle of true marriage. They have one child, Myra, who married George Brown, and lives in Otoe Precinct. They have nine grandchildren living and two great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael reared their granddaughter, Abbie E. Brown, who lived with them from infancy until her marriage to S. J. Thomas. She now resides in Nebraska City, and has two children—Minnie L. and Harry F.

Mrs. Carmichael was born at Clark's Ferry, Dauphin Co., Pa., Aug. 9, 1815. Her father, Henry Leyman, was born in Reading, Pa., and was reared and married in his native State. He learned the trade of stone-cutter, and became an architect and stone builder. Later he entered the mercantile business at Millerstown, Perry Co., Pa., and there died. The maiden name of his wife, Mrs. Carmichael's mother, was Mary Rudy. She was

born in Huntingdon County, Pa., and died in La-Fayette, Ind.

Mr. Carmichael is a man of more than average mental capacity and ability, well dowered with firmness and strength of character, and still retains much of the enterprise and energy that marked his earlier years. He was at one time one of the leading members of the Republican party in this vicinity. He cast his first vote for Jackson, and he afterward voted for Polk and Pierce, and when the Republican party was formed he fell into the ranks and voted for Fremont, the first candidate of the party, and he voted for Lincoln and for Grant, and in 1872 voted for Greeley. He then became a Greenbacker, and was elected to meet at the State Constitutional Convention, which was voted down at the same election. He served as Justice of the Peace in Territorial days and married the first couple in Otoe Precinct. Mr. Carmichael at present resides in Nebraska City, where he has long been favorably known. His portrait and that of his estimable wife are presented in this connection.

HON. WILLIAM BUCHANAN. No pioneer of Otoe County is more entitled to honor and respect than the subject of this biographical sketch, who has borne an active part in the advancement not only of the material and public interests of Otoe County, but has done much to promote the cause of education and religion within her borders. When he came here thirty-three years ago last May (1888) to cast in his lot with the few brave, hardy, adventurous settlers who had preceded him, he found the broad, undulating prairies almost as wild and primeval as if fresh from the hands of Nature. There were but few habitations scattered along the water courses; Indians, who were always friendly, still made their home here, and were frequent visitors at his house, gladly partaking of his hospitality, as, Indian like, they were always hungry; deer, antelopes, wild turkeys and other wild game roamed across the plains, where now stand the most populous and thriving cities of Nebraska, and the first winter that he was here he shot a deer near his present home. Our subject, with courage and persistent endurance, met and surmounted the various sore trials and hardships that are peculiar to the life of a pioneer, and has accumulated a good property, improved a fine farm, and has built up one of the most comfortable homes in Nebraska City Precinct.

Our subject was born April 28, 1826, in Monroe County, Ohio, five miles west of Woodsfield. His father, William Buchanan, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his grandfather was born in Ireland, and was of Scotch ancestry. He came to America and settled in the western part of Pennsylvania, where he followed farming, and spent the remainder of his life. The father of our subject was reared and married in his native State, and moved into Washington County, that State, about 1820, and then to Monroe County, Ohio, the removal being made with teams, and became a pioneer. He bought a tract of timber land, erecting a log house on it, the same in which our subject was afterward born. The surrounding country presented the wildest aspect, and deer, bears and wolves were plentiful there for some years after his settlement. They were forced to live in the most primitive way, and the mother of our subject cooked by the fireplace, and spun and wove the flax and wool out of which she made all the clothing of the family, and the father at the same time made the shoes for the children. The nearest market and depot of supplies was at Bellaire, fifty miles distant, over rough roads through the primeval forest. Salt was scarce and very expensive, and Mr. Buchanan relates that his father used to go to Pennsylvania on horseback and pack salt back for family use. His father lived to clear a good farm and to see the country well developed, dying in 1882, at the ripe old age of ninety years. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Stewart, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. Her father was a native of Ireland, and was of Scotch antecedents. There were eight children born to the parents of our subject, all of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of this sketch resided with his parents in his native county until he was twenty-two years old. He then married, and settled in Lewisville, Monroe County, where he was engaged in the mercantile business continuously from that time

until the spring of 1855. He then sold out and started for the Territory of Nebraska, having resolved to make his home in the future under these sunny skies. He traveled on the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Leavenworth, Kan., thence went to St. Joseph and from there to Savannah, Mo., where he made a short visit. He then resumed his journey and proceeded to Omaha and Council Bluffs, the latter being a small village, while Omaha was but a hamlet. There was no hotel there at that time, and the only place of entertainment for strangers was a small building where meals were served to order. Our subject spent two weeks at Council Bluffs, and then went on to Missouri by stage, and he crossed the stream at Brownville, Neb., where he met S. F. Nuckolls and J. S. Morton, who invited him to ride to Nebraska City. He gladly accepted their kind invitation, and thus, early in the mouth of May, made his first entrance into the city with which his interests were to be so strongly identified in the future. The only hotel in the place was pointed out to him, and he saw that it consisted of a small, rude frame building, not completed, and not a room in the house was plastered. The Government buildings that had comprised Ft. Kearney were partly standing then, and there were three stores with a small supply of goods.

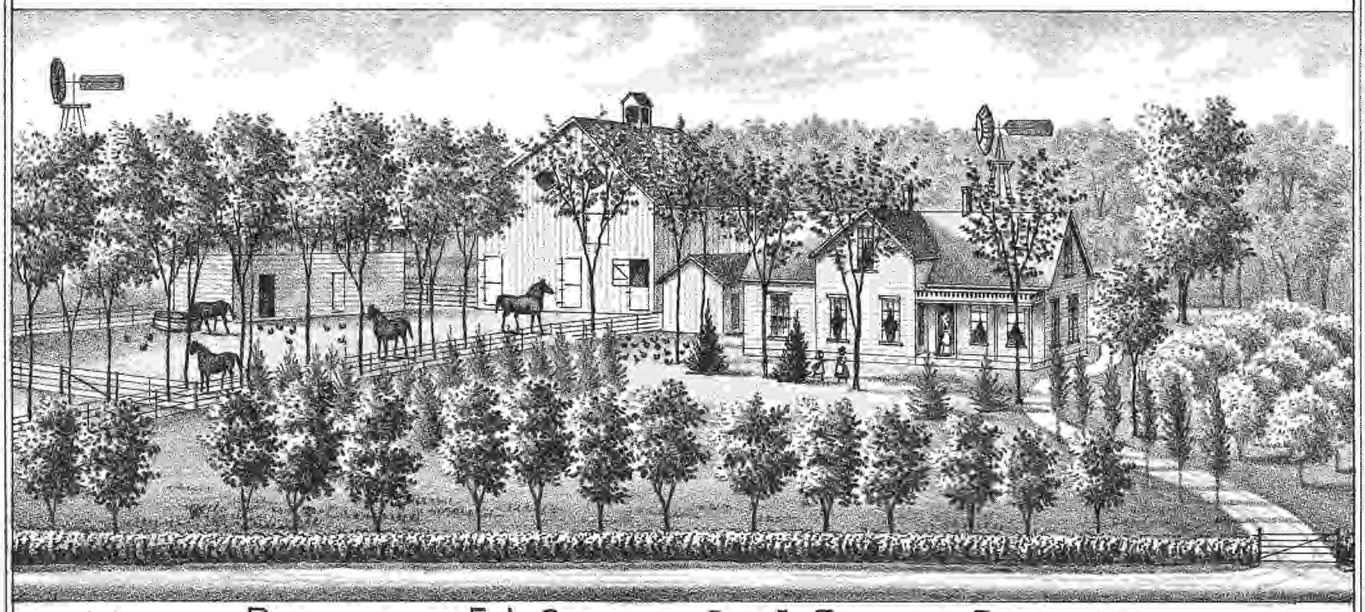
Mr. Buchanan's object was to seek a location for farming. He had explored the country around Omaha for that purpose but did not like it there. He found these surroundings much more pleasing, and he bought lots in the city, and employed a man to build a house for him while he went back to Ohio for his family; he returned with them early in December. He had started to come by water, but the Missouri was so low that the boats could only go as far as St. Joseph, Mo., and from there they came with a team. Our subject found his house ready for occupancy, and during the winter he traded his home for his present farm, it then being held as a squatter's claim. In the spring of 1856 he moved his family here, there being a log cabin and a stable on the place, and twenty-five acres of the land were broken. He at once set about making more improvements, and has been a continuous resident here since. He now has a valuable, highly cultivated farm, has erected a good set of frame buildings, and has planted a fine orchard of fruit trees of various kinds.

April 2, 1850, was the wedding day of our subject, when he was united to Miss N. D. Oldham. Ten children have been born to them, six of whom are living, namely: Samuel Ross, John W., Charles Francis, Ella L., Sarah Anna and Nannie. James J., their second child, died at the age of twenty-three, being killed by lightning; the other three died in infancy.

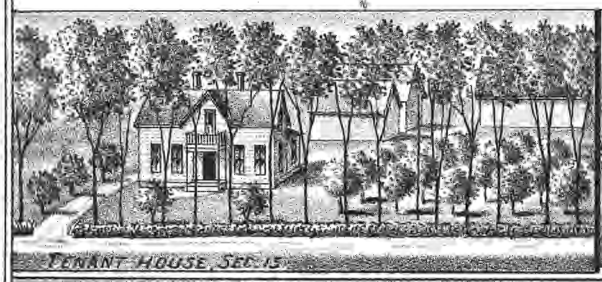
In nothing more strongly did the pioneers of Otoe County show their wisdom and foresight, and their desire to promote the highest and noblest interests of their new homes, than by the early introduction of the church and the school-house, so that the religious and educational institutions have kept pace with the material advancement of the county. Our subject has been an important factor in the establishment of both, in which he is warmly interested. He served on the School Board for a number of years, and he and his estimable wife are devoted members of the Presbyterian Church, and they unite in doing good and in helping others. Mr. Buchanan has also served the public as a member of the Territorial Legislature, having been elected to represent his district in that body in 1861. His political principles are formulated in the platform of the Democratic party, of which he is a faithful adherent.

JACOB HOPP. This gentleman is a member of the firm of Tangeman & Sons, of McWilliams Precinct, engaged in the milling trade, and has been so connected since the fall of the year 1884. He has been directly and profitably engaged with the firm, and is a practical miller, having learned the business in all its details in the mill he now operates. Our subject has been a resident of the county for over ten years, living chiefly in Osage Precinct until he began to learn the milling trade.

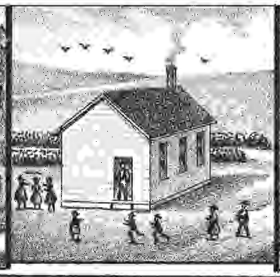
The subject of our sketch was born in Lee County, Iowa, on the 29th of July, 1859. He is the fourth child and second son of Plillip Hopp, now a

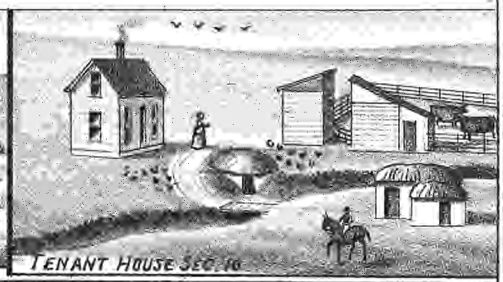


RESIDENCE OF F. J. STOOKER, SEC. 5. BELMONT PRECINCT.

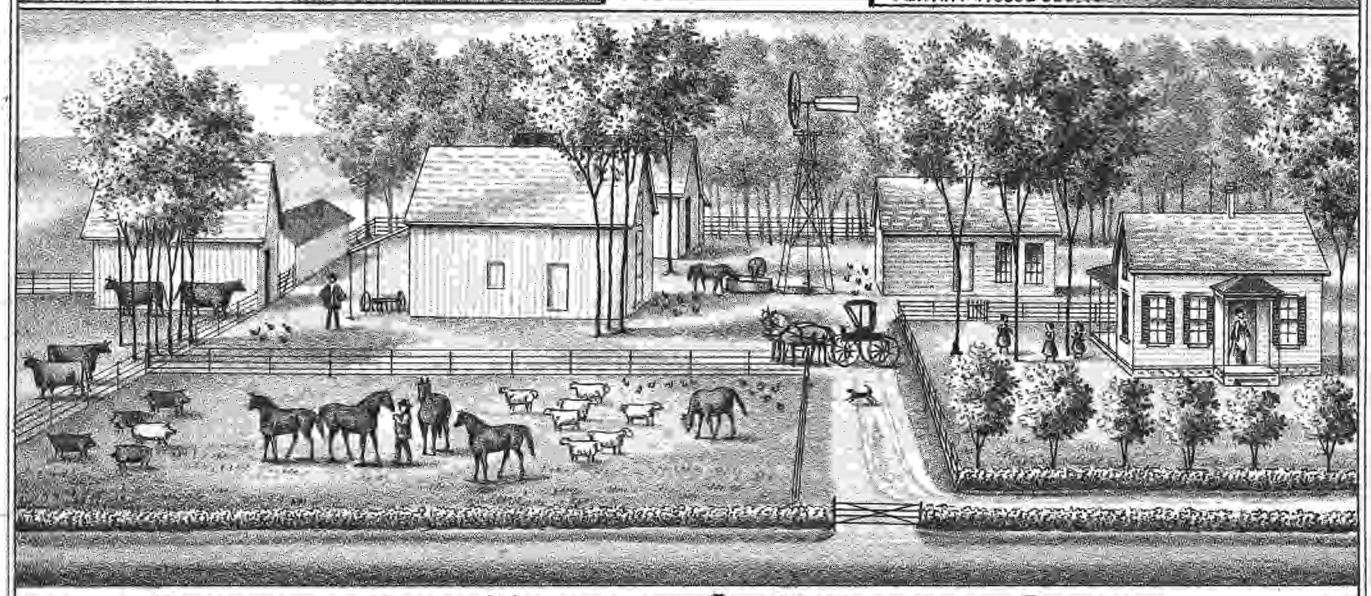


TENANT HOUSE, SEC. 15.





TENANT HOUSE SEC. 16



RESIDENCE OF HENRY WINKELHAKE, SEC. 15. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

prominent citizen and successful and enterprising farmer in Osage Precinct, where he has lived for over ten years. He is a practical farmer, thrifty and careful. He had previously lived in Lee County, Iowa, where our subject was brought up and received his education in the district schools.

Mr. Hopp was about nineteen years of age when he came to this State. He attained his majority while living in Osage Precinct, and continued to make his home with his parents until he came to the Tangeman Mills. He celebrated his marriage in McWilliams Precinct, when he was united with Miss Alvina Tangeman. This lady was born in Clayton County, Iowa, on the 14th of August, 1863, and was but a child of six years when her father, John G. Tangeman, settled in this precinct. To Mr. and Mrs. Hopp has been born one child, who received the name Lillie.

The religious home of our subject and his wife is within the German Evangelical Church, with which they have been connected many years. He is the School Treasurer of his precinct, an office he has held since 1886. He is also one of the stanch Democrats of the district, and takes much interest in political work. Although a young man he has made many friends and is highly esteemed, and without doubt there is before him a future that will grow brighter as the years pass.

HENRY WINKELHAKE. The career of the prosperous German citizen is amply illustrated in the subject of this biography, who is proprietor of 440 acres of land in Rock Creek Precinct, and generally well-to-do. He has a substantial set of farm buildings, good stock and machinery, groves, orchards, and all the other appurtenances of the modern country estate. He came to Nebraska during its Territorial days, and purchased a tract of prairie land, and it is hardly necessary to say that since then his time has not only been industriously but profitably occupied.

The boyhood days of our subject were passed in the Prussian Province of Schambure, where his birth took place April 24, 1843. His father, Gollip Winkelhake, is of pure German ancestry, and is still living upon the old homestead in Germany. The mother died when he was an infant. Their family consisted of six children, five of whom are now living. They all received a good education in their native tongue, and Henry, more ambitious perhaps than the others, when a youth of sixteen years determined to cross the Atlantic, and seek his fortunes in America. Embarking on a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen, he landed eighteen weeks later in the city of New York, and proceeding at once to Madison County, Ill., soon secured employment as a farm laborer. He remained a resident of the Prairie State for a period of five years, then came to Nebraska, locating in the spring of 1865 on a part of the land which he now owns and occupies. Later he added to his landed area, and in the course of a few years, as the result of most persistent and industrious labor, found himself on the road to prosperity, and in the enjoyment of a good income. A view of his place is shown in this connection.

Our subject has around him a blooming family of seven children, the result of his marriage with Miss Sophie Blumberg, which took place March 10, 1869, in Madison County, Ill. Mrs. Winkelhake is a native of the same Province as her husband, and was born July 29, 1850. Her father, a bailiff of the court by occupation, and a native also of Germany, spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying there when middle-aged. The mother in 1866 came to America with her children, and located on a farm in Madison County, Ill., where she is still living among them, and is now quite well advanced in years. Her daughter Sophie came to Nebraska with her husband a short time after her marriage. The sons and daughters of her union with our subject are named respectively: Emma, William, Mary, Anna, Henry, Jr., Frederick and Edward. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest six months. They are being carefully trained and educated, and there is reason to suppose will fill a position in society equal to that of their honored parents. Our subject and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, in which Mr. W. is one of the pillars, and to which he gives cheerful and liberal support. Politically, he is a solid Republican.

FRANCIS J. STOOKER occupies a place among the agriculturists of Belmont Precinct worthy of one who has from his youthful years paid considerable attention to both the theory and practical working of that calling. His property is situated on section 5, Belmont Township, and is 360 acres in extent. When he purchased it in 1867 its appearance was anything but promising to one understanding the difficulties of bringing prairie land into such condition as the farmer requires before he can hope to utilize it and receive from it a ripe and due reward in time of harvest. His house and farm buildings are substantial, well built, and admirably suited to the different purposes for which they were designed. His fields are well cultivated, also his orchards and groves, which cover at least from twenty to thirty acres, showing that he has been careful both in the selection and training of these most desirable adjuncts to farm life in Nebraska, or any other State where the summers suggest the necessity of shelter and shade. A view of the place is shown on the accompanying page.

Our subject is the son of Ambrose Stooker, of Stark County, Ohio, but a native of La Belle France, and he was born on the 10th of December, 1835, in Stark County, Ohio. He was reared upon a farm, and received his education in the common schools of Stark and Wayne Counties. When sixteen years of age he began to learn the machinist's trade and followed the same until 1864, and from that year also did business in the lumber trade. He came to Nebraska City in June of 1858, when there was very little city and almost no improvement beyond its limits. In that place he established and ran a sawmill from 1865 to 1874. He then removed upon his present property, which he had purchased in 1867, and had improved gradually from that time.

Mr. Stooker celebrated his marriage in Carroll County, Mo., Oct. 9, 1866, upon which occasion he received the hand of Nannie J. Jackson, the amiable daughter of Davie and Nellie Jackson. This union has been blessed by the birth of eleven children, six of whom survive, whose names we mention as follows: Nellie G., Belle A., Frank A., Minnie H., Lulu and Robert H., all of whom are still single and reside at home.

With the fraternity of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Stooker has been connected since 1864, and is much esteemed by his fellow members. He and his family are attached to the services of the Presbyterian Church, and although not a member of the communion, our subject is a firm believer in the truths taught, and is a liberal supporter of the organization. In political affairs he is by no means prominent, and prefers not to hold office, though he has served as member of the Council in Nebraska City, and in that connection did good service. He is a Democrat.

FRANK McCARTNEY by reason of his official connection with the affairs of this county needs no introduction to our readers, who at the same time, we are assured, will be appreciative of the endeavor here made to set before them in succinct form a sketch of the history of this gentleman. He was born in Kent Township, Jefferson Co., Ind., on the 12th of December, 1832, where he was brought up, and which supplies the earliest pictures which his memory can recall. He came to Otoe County in 1857 with his father, who settled in Wyoming Precinct.

The subject of our sketch is the second of five children born to his parents. Recognizing the many advantages derivable from a developed intellectual power, his parents provided him with the best education in their power, which was that supplied by the country schools. At the age of twenty-three years he entered the University of Nebraska in order to take the literary course, and studied for two years.

Leaving the university, our subject engaged in teaching for two years in this county, and was then appointed Deputy County Clerk, serving in that capacity for five years. In 1885, after an excellent run for the office, he was elected to his present position as County Clerk. This he continued to hold, being enthusiastically re-elected in 1887, giving every satisfaction to all concerned by the excellent manner in which he undertook and performed the various matters pertaining thereto.

In 1884 Mr. McCartney was united in wedlock with Miss Ida P. Brown, daughter of John P.

Brown (see sketch). She made her home with her parents until her marriage. She is a graduate of the Nebraska City High Schools, and of the Schonenberger Hall, and is eminently fitted to occupy any position in either the social or domestic circles.

The subject of our sketch has always taken a lively and active interest as a young man in questions of political and governmental interest. He is a member of the Republican party, and usually votes the ticket of the same. In the social societies also he is most favorably known, and holds membership in the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W.. He is a man generally respected and esteemed in the county, by his genial affability and uniform courtesy winning many friends to his side.

CHARLES H. KRESSEN is at the head of one of the most important enterprises of Nebraska City, viz, that of the manufacturing of plows and other agricultural necessaries. He was born in Prussia, on the 6th of February, 1845. His father, George Kressen, followed agriculture as his chosen occupation, and never left his native country. Two brothers and a sister of our subject, viz, Martin, Mike and Susannah, came to America in the year 1881.

Until he was about fourteen years of age the subject of this writing was allowed the privilege of attending school, after which he was his father's help upon the farm for about a year, and then commenced to learn the trade of a blacksmith, which, having learned, he continued to follow until 1865, when he came to this country. He had saved enough of his earnings to bring him over, and also to assist his brother, but that left him without capital to start in the New World.

In starting in this country our subject had a rugged frame, good health, and a thorough knowledge of a good trade, but no finances. Our subject started to work in Chicago, but not meeting with anything in his line, he engaged in a lumber-yard, working for a time until he found an opening in that with which he was more familiar. He worked for one year, and then came to Nebraska City, and followed his trade, working first by the day until he was able to start in business for himself. He leased a lot, erected a frame building, and started as a general blacksmith, until his business was well established, and then he turned to the manufacture of plows. He was a splendid workman, and speedily built up a fine reputation.

The business of Mr. Kressen constantly extended and grew more and more profitable to him, until it has taken the shape of the present large establishment, which is one of the institutions of the city, and is located on Fifteenth street and Central avenue, stands 24x80 feet, and is well supplied with all needed machinery for turning out the very best possible work. Adjoining this building is another of the same ground measurement, which is used for the manufacture of the plows used and sold by him. His plows are in large demand throughout Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Washington Territory and elsewhere; he also has a large trade in carriages and wagons.

In 1872 our subject became the husband of Anna Schrittr, a lady of Australian birth, but of German parentage, who was most admirably fitted to fill any place in society, as well as the more important though limited circle of home. She has presented her husband with seven children, who bear the following names: Emile, Katie, Frank, Emma, Annie, Ella and Stella.

The subject of our sketch has become one of the wealthy citizens and much respected members of Nebraska City and society, and one cannot but admire the push and enterprise as well as excellent judgment of this gentleman, who, while building for himself a profitable business, has also brought to the agriculturists of the West an almost perfect implement for their arduous labor.

CHARLES B. CHAPMAN, who is so successful as a general merchant in Nebraska City, and in that connection very favorably known throughout a large section of the county, was born in Backer-Box, Gloucestershire, England, Nov. 16, 1834. His father, Joseph Chapman, was born in Devonshire, of the same country. When a young

man he received the appointment of a revenue officer, and for several years was appointed to service in Gloucestershire, and filled the position until his death. His wife, whose maiden name was Felicia Ham, was a native of Fowey, Cornwall. She came to America in 1872, and spent her last years with her children, in Howard County, Iowa. Her father, the grandfather of our subject, was a ship's chandler, in which business he was obliged to keep in stock almost everything a vessel might need, from the outfit of the cabin boy, the supplies for the men, Captain or passengers, to the most complete furnishing of everything throughout the vessel. He became largely interested in the shipping trade, and part owner of several vessels. He grew to be wealthy, and at the time of his death, in 1848, was one of the rich men of the community.

The family of which our subject is a member included nine children, whom we mention as follows: Elizabeth, who became the wife of Joseph Millward, now living at Minneapolis; Mary, who is the wife of Benjamin Millward, and who resides in Minneapolis; Jane, who was married to George Hayden, and died in England; Edward, one of the successful merchants of Halifax, N. F.; John, who died in England; our subject; William, in Washington Territory; Joseph, in Kansas, and James still in England.

In the matter of education the subject of our sketch was favored in being privileged to attend school quite regularly until his father's death, in the year 1848. He was then apprenticed to the trade of auger-maker, and served the usual term of seven years, and being very steady and quite a lover of work, he made unusually satisfactory progress. He was required to work ten hours per day, and it was not unusual for him after he became better acquainted with his business to do considerable overtime work.

In 1856, accompanied by his wife, Mr. Chapman made his way to this country. Landing at the city of New York by no means wealthy, but ready to do good work, he proceeded to Mauch Chunk, Pa., and there found employment in a mill, and there continued for about a year; then he and his brother received word that they would do better in the city of Philadelphia, and accordingly went there, opening a wire factory for a company, and remained there for a year. There he met with an accident and concluded to leave the mills, and again accompanied by his brother, he went to Howard County, Iowa, and located at Cresco, the county seat, and then the western terminus of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Shortly afterward he purchased 160 acres of unimproved prairie, built a dwelling, and started to improve a farm; but one year of farming in what was then the Far West about satisfied his ambition in that direction, and he wrote to his former employer for his former position, and almost immediately received an earnest request for his return. This he did as soon as he could settle up affairs, and was made foreman of the shops, a position he held for eight years, after which he returned to his farm, where he remained until 1882. He then sold his property and came to Nebraska City, and during two years engaged in farming in the vicinity, when he embarked in general mercantile business, which he has continued prosperously engaged in until the present.

In 1856 Mr. Chapman was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Butler, who was born in the city of Birmingham, England, on the 24th of November, 1834. After a very happy wedded life, which, however, was not without its trials and difficulties, she died on the 28th of August, 1886, leaving two children, who received the names Felicia Mary and George Edward. These were born in England, and are now living with their father.

The subject of our sketch is an ardent member of the Baptist Church, and has been such since the year 1855. He is a strong temperance man, is identified with temperance work locally, being quite enthusiastic and held in high esteem throughout the community.

OLIE N. NELSON, senior partner of the firm of Nelson Bros., boot and shoe dealers of Nebraska City, stands at the head of one of the principal mercantile establishments in the place, and is numbered among its self-made men, who, beginning life dependent upon their own resources have attained to an enviable position socially and

financially. He was thrown upon his own resources early in life, with a limited education, but has developed remarkable business abilities, which, combined with his sound common sense and a fund of general information, have placed him upon a substantial footing and given him a leading position among the representative men of Otoe County.

Mr. Nelson is of Scandinavian birth and parentage, his early home having been in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, where his birth took place April 11, 1859. His parents, Nicholas P. and Mary (Kalson) Nelson, emigrated to America with their family in the spring of 1865, and coming directly to the West located in Nebraska City, but later removed to Eastport, Iowa, where Olie N. spent a part of his boyhood. His first business engagement, when a youth sixteen years of age, was with Blum & Co., at Nebraska City, with whom he remained for one and one-half years. He has spent no idle days since that time, having been steadily engaged in business in Nebraska City. The stock and trade of Nelson Bros. is surpassed by no firm in the city, and they have received many commendations for their excellent management, their promptness in meeting their obligations, and the manner in which they have generally distinguished themselves as business men. In the sketch of the younger brother, J. W., found on another page in this volume, will be noted further mention of the parents, who are now residents of Nebraska City.

Mr. Nelson identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1883, in the Western Star Lodge No. 2, in Nebraska City. He takes a warm interest in the success of Masonry, with whose principles he is entirely in sympathy. Politically, he is a stanch Republican, but has no desire for office, preferring to give his attention to his business concerns. He makes his home with his parents in Nebraska City.

JOHN T. BEETEM, proprietor of 240 acres of land on section 3 in Hendricks Precinct, the whole of which he operates, is recognized as one of the most enterprising farmers of this locality. This property lies one-quarter of a mile from the town of Hendricks, and is consequently quite valuable. The buildings are tasteful and substantial, and everything about the premises is indicative of thrift and prosperity.

The subject of this sketch was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, Nov. 1, 1847. His parents, John D. and Mary (Burnum) Beetem, were natives of Kentucky, the father born in 1809. His paternal grandfather served under Washington in the Revolutionary War, and his father later fought in the Black Hawk War. At the close of the latter the father removed across the Mississippi into Missouri, where he carried on farming several years, then moved to Van Buren County, Iowa. From the Hawkeye State he went to Wisconsin, locating near Shellsburg, where he was engaged in mining. This venture not proving successful he removed to Dubuque County, and carried on farming there five years.

The father of our subject now decided to try the soil of Allamakee County, Iowa, where he purchased 600 acres of land, and there spent the remainder of his life, passing away in 1869, at the age of sixty-three years. The mother is still living, making her home with our subject, and is now sixty-nine years old. The household circle included eleven children, of whom the three elder, Seadford, Adam and Edward, are deceased. Those surviving are: John T. (our subject), Joseph, George, Frank, Louisa, Sarah and Rolf.

Our subject continued at home with his parents until reaching his majority, acquiring a common-school education and becoming familiar with the various employments of farm life. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in Company F, 6th Iowa Cavalry, and was mustered into service at Davenport, going from there with his regiment to the frontier upon an expedition against the Indians; he participated in the battle of Bad Lands. He gave to his country a service of over three years, being mustered out at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1865.

Upon retiring from the army Mr. Beetem began farming in Allamakee County, Iowa, where he continued until the fall of 1870. Then, coming to this county he located upon the land which he now occupies in Hendricks Precinct, and upon which he has made all the improvements which we now be-

hold. He subsequently added eighty acres to his first purchase. The fields are divided by a handsome hedge fencing, and seven acres have been planted to trees, forming a fine grove. He has an orchard of 100 apple trees, and other choice fruits on the place. The farm is supplied with running water and native timber.

Mr. Beetem while a resident of Iowa was married, in Delaware County, that State, May 8, 1868, to Miss Catherine, daughter of John and Katie (Boyne) McPherson. The parents of Mrs. B. were natives of Scotland, whence they emigrated to America in 1849. The mother departed this life at her home in 1869. The father is still living, and a resident of Hendricks Precinct, being now seventy-seven years of age. Their family consisted of six children—Jeanette, David, Jane, Robert, Margaret and Catherine.

The wife of our subject was born in Scotland, in 1846, and came to America with her parents. She was given a good education and developed into a schoolmistress, following the profession of a teacher before her marriage. Her union with our subject has resulted in the birth of seven children, who are all at home with their parents. Mr. Beetem, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, and, with his estimable wife, a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hendricks. He has been Moderator in his district four years, and as an ex-soldier belongs to the G. A. R., Post No. 54, at Palmyra.

WILLIAM I. McKEE, a resident of thirty years' standing in this county, came with his mother's family to Syracuse Precinct when a lad nine years of age, and retains ownership of the homestead which they then began building up. This comprises 186 acres of good land on section 7, together with a comfortable farmhouse and the adjacent buildings necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. For the past few years Mr. McKee has given his attention principally to stock-raising, which has netted him handsome returns annually. He is ranked among the leading representatives of the farming district, a man in whom his neighbors have confidence, and whose career has been such as to gain him the esteem of all who know him.

Morrow County, Ohio, was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place June 2, 1848. His parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Kelley) McKee, were natives of Delaware, and the father died in Ohio when his son, William I., was only four years old. The mother five years later came with her family to Nebraska, and passed to her rest at the homestead, in the fall of 1873. The parental household consisted of nine children, of whom five are living.

Mr. McKee continued under the home roof during his childhood and youth, acquiring his education in the common schools. At the age of nineteen years he was united in marriage with Miss Esther E., daughter of Jacob and Mary (Dunlap) Sollenberger. This lady is also a native of Ohio, and came with her parents to this county in 1858. The family at first located in Nebraska City, but later moved to a farm in Syracuse Precinct, where the father followed agricultural pursuits until 1883. The parents then retired from active labor and took up their residence in the town of York, where they now live.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee after their marriage resided on the homestead until the spring of 1884. Our subject then going into Holt County, purchased 480 acres of land, and engaged extensively in stock raising, buying and shipping. In March, 1888, he returned to the old homestead, where he has since lived, although still retaining possession of his Holt County farm. His home circle now includes six interesting children, one son and five daughters, namely: Della, Mattie, Elizabeth, Mary, Frank and Edna. The eldest is twenty years of age and the youngest ten, and all continue at home with their parents. Mr. McKee votes the straight Republican ticket, and socially, is a Knight of Pythias.

Jacob Sollenberger, the father of Mrs. McKee, was born in Miami County, Ohio, in 1825, where he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a carpenter. He married Miss Mary Dunlap, a native of the same State, and soon afterward they settled in Shelby County. Thence, in 1856, they removed to Richland County, Wis., and fifteen months later came to Nebraska. Mr. S. subsequently home-

steaded a farm near Syracuse, where he resided until his removal to his present home in the town of York, where he now follows his trade. The parental household consisted of nine children, seven of whom are living, namely: Esther E., the wife of our subject; Ann Belle, Mrs. David Brakeman, of York, Neb.; Ona, Lincoln, Etta, Grant and Maggie at home with their parents.

HENRY HUCKINS, editor of the Unadilla and Nebraska City *Times*, established the *Journal-Times*, which he now conducts with great ability, in the winter of 1884. In its first issue it appeared as a small daily, three-column folio, called the *Daily Stock Journal Times*, and its modest request for the encouragement of the public met with a most generous response. It is now recognized throughout the State as a fearless and outspoken paper, independent in politics, but leaning toward Republican principles. Shortly after its first issue it dropped its first title and appeared, greatly enlarged and improved, as the *Daily Evening Times*. It was the first paper in town to use other than hand power in propelling its presses, and connected with it now is one of the most complete job departments in the county. It is always in the lead in any project to advance the interests of the city and county, and is enjoying a steadily increasing circulation.

The main points in the family history of our subject are essentially as follows: He is the son of Daniel and Polly (Banghart) Huckins, who were natives of the Dominion of Canada, both born in 1820. There also they were reared, and were married in the city of Westminster. The paternal grandfather, a native of New Hampshire, served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and spent his last years in Lexington, Mich.

The father of our subject, at the age of seventeen starting out for himself, made his way to Port Huron, Mich., in the vicinity of which he purchased eighty acres of land, which he occupied and cultivated for a period of thirteen years. His experience as a pioneer was not unlike that of others who settled in a wild country and battled with the privations and hardships incident to that region. From 1838 to 1869 the elder Huckins was employed at clearing land and shoemaking in and about Lexington, Mich., then determined to cast his lot with the people of the young and growing State of Nebraska. He made the journey to this county overland with teams, and settled in the embryo town of Nebraska City, where he followed his old trade of shoemaking, and in 1874 established in business for himself. In October, 1888, he took up his residence in Unadilla, where, with his estimable wife, he is still living, and engaged in stock-raising on a small scale.

The parental household included six children, namely: Sarah, who died when four years of age; Roy died at the age of four years; Pembroke also died at the age of four; A. B., M. S. and Henry are those who still survive, and all are residents of Otoe County. A. B. is renowned as a prohibition singer, and M. S. follows his trade of painter. Henry, our subject, the youngest child, was born in St. Clair County, Mich., Dec. 26, 1858, and was eleven years of age when his parents came to Nebraska City. He still recalls many of the incidents preparatory to the removal, and the after experience of pioneer life. He completed his education in the High School of Nebraska City, and began to learn the printer's trade when a boy of fifteen years, four years later escaping from the confinement of the office, and engaged as agent for the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company. His forte, however, seemed to be the newspaper business, and he soon returned to his legitimate trade, establishing, as we have already indicated, the paper which he has since conducted with such success. In April, 1887, he enlarged it to a five-column folio, and in November following added still another column to its size. On the 14th of July, 1888, he removed to Unadilla. In the meantime, in the month of April, 1886, he had established a weekly in connection with the daily, conducting both for a time, then discontinued the daily and enlarged his weekly. The business office in Nebraska City is on Central avenue.

Our subject was married, on the 1st of February, 1887, to Miss Lovina Retherford, who was born in Licking County, Ohio, Jan. 29, 1858. Her parents are now deceased. Of this union there is one child,

a son, Clarence Leon, who was born Oct. 5, 1884. In addition to his office and material, Mr. Huckins owns twenty-five acres of valuable land adjoining the town of Unadilla, besides a house and lot in Nebraska City. He reflects with pardonable pride upon the headway he has made in his publishing business during the last three years, and which has been the result of great industry and perseverance.

AUGUST BESCH. The large and finely improved farm of the subject of this sketch forms one of the most attractive features in the landscape of Russell Precinct, being conspicuous for its improvements and its general air of thrift and prosperity. The proprietor, who is of German birth and ancestry, is one of the best representatives in this part of the State of a nationality which has done so much toward the development of the Great West.

Our subject was born in Prussia, Dec. 25, 1845, and is the son of Henry and Olrika Besch, who were of pure German ancestry, and the latter of whom died when her son August was a child two years of age. The father was subsequently married to Caroline Schaeffer, a native of his own country, and they are both still living. Of the first marriage there were two sons, our subject and his elder brother, Ferdinand, who is now a resident of East Troy, Wis. Of the second marriage there were also born two sons, Charles and John, who continue upon their native soil.

Our subject, in common with the children of the Fatherland, was given an excellent education in the parish school, and when fourteen years old commenced an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until the age of twenty-three. He had been a bright and ambitious lad, and now determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

Young Besch embarked on board a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen in 1868, and seven weeks later landed in the city of Baltimore. Thence he proceeded by rail directly to Milwaukee, Wis., and shortly afterward secured employment as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Racine, being engaged with one man a period of four years. Upon coming to Nebraska in 1872 he first took up his abode in the vicinity of Grand Island, but not being pleased with that section went into Muscatine County, Iowa. There he worked on a farm five years, then commenced farming on rented land for himself, being thus occupied until the spring of 1883.

Our subject now returned to Nebraska, and settled upon 120 acres of land in Russell Precinct, this county, which he had previously purchased, and which he has since occupied. The improvements which the passing traveler views to-day with admiring interest are all the result of the industry and perseverance of the present proprietor. He has set out groves and an orchard of 100 trees, planted hedge fencing, enclosed some of his fields with wire fencing, has put up a house and barn, and the other structures necessary for his convenience. He could now comfortably retire from active labor, and have sufficient to keep him in his old age. The long habit of industry, however, with which he has been imbued and which he has exercised so many years, will probably cling to him as long as he lives, and just so long will he be busily engaged with hands or mind. In the building up of one of the best homesteads in Russell Precinct he has added so much to its real-estate value, and especially to the value of the property around him.

Mr. Besch was married in Muscatine County, Iowa, March 14, 1878, to Miss Caroline, daughter of August and Fredricka (Herwig) Fricke. Mrs. Besch was born in Muscatine County, Oct. 2, 1856, and was the eldest of seven children comprising the parental household, which included six daughters and one son, of whom we name: Caroline, Lizzie, Annie, Henry, Mary and Emma. Those surviving are residents of Iowa.

The parents of Mrs. Besch were natives of Prussia, the father born in 1824, and the mother in 1829. Mr. Fricke came to America when twenty-two years of age, in time to serve as a soldier in the Mexican War. He participated until the close of that conflict, and then settling in the city of St. Louis, Mo., engaged at his trade of carpenter. Later he recrossed the Atlantic, and spent one year among the friends and associates of his youth. Upon returning to the United States he lived for a

Charles H. Cowles

Lawson Cook

few years in Ohio, then returned to St. Louis, where he was married, and shortly afterward homesteaded 160 acres of land in Muscatine County, Iowa. After farming several years in that county he sold out, and changed his residence to Madison County, but a year later moved back to Muscatine County. This time he purchased eighty acres of land, where, with his excellent wife, he is still living, and carrying on farming successfully.

To Mr. and Mrs. Besch there have been born four children—Frank, Walter, Fredericka and Charles. Our subject votes the straight Republican ticket, and in religious matters adheres to the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, in which he was carefully reared by his parents. He has frequently been called upon to serve in the various local offices, not only nominated but elected, but declined to serve. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Besch served in the German Army against Napoleon, and was given a medal for brave and gallant services. He spent his last years in America.

LAWSON COOK. Among the intelligent farmers of Otoe County, who are important factors in developing and sustaining the extensive and varied agricultural interests of Nebraska, no one is more worthy of consideration than the gentleman of whom we write, and we are glad to be able to present a brief sketch of his life to his fellow-citizens. He is the proprietor of one of the finest farms in the Missouri River Valley, it being pleasantly located in Otoe Precinct, and comprises 180 acres.

Mr. Cook was born in Cumberland County, England, July 25, 1818. His father, likewise named Lawson, was born in the same county, but his father, John Cook, was a native of Belfast, Ireland, tradition says of Scotch ancestry. He moved to England after he had grown to manhood, and settled in Cumberland County. He afterward enlisted in the navy, and fought on the side of the British Crown in the Revolutionary War. He spent his last years in the village of St. Bess, Cumberland County, dying at the advanced age of eighty-five years, and he and his wife, whose maiden name was Ann Lawson, and who was a native of England, are both sleeping their last sleep in the ancient churchyard of St. Bess. The father of our subject spent his entire life in his native county, and he married Jane White, likewise a native of Cumberland County. She was a daughter of James White, a native of Dumfries, Scotland, who, after marriage, settled in Cumberland County, England, and there spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Cook was a shoemaker by trade, and pursued his calling until his death, in 1836. To him and his good wife were born nine children, all of whom grew up. James, William, Richard, Alexander and our subject were the only ones who came to America. James now lives in Nemaha County; William, who settled in St. Louis, is dead, as is also Richard, who first settled in Cleveland, and later removed to Wyandotte County, Kan. Alexander lives in Chicago.

Lawson Cook was reared in his native county, and as his father's family was large, he was early taught to make himself useful, and at the age of ten years, when most boys are in school, he began to be self-supporting by working in a spinning factory, whereby he earned six cents a day. He soon received injuries in one of his hands which nearly caused him the loss of that useful member. He then abandoned factory labor, and went to work on a farm, receiving in payment from eight to twelve or fifteen cents a day, but as his usefulness increased his wages were raised to £16 a year, and that was the highest wages that he ever received in the old country. Mr. Cook married in his native England, in 1842, Miss Jane Fellowfield, who was born in the same county as himself. She died in Liverpool, in 1848, leaving two children: Margaret, who lives in London, and William, who lives in Hebron, Neb. In 1849, the year following the death of his wife, Mr. Cook decided to try his fortunes in America, hoping to get more money for his work, and thus be able to build up a much more comfortable home than he could hope to do in the old country, under the low wages that prevailed there. After an uneventful and tedious ocean voyage, he landed in Boston on the 4th of July, and found the patriotic citizens celebrating our National holiday. He did not, however, tarry

to assist them, proceeding directly to New York City, where he found employment in a machine-shop. He had a quick, bright mind, and being a natural mechanic, it took him but a short time to learn the new trade, and as he became an expert he commanded good wages. In 1852 he went to St. Louis, and there put in the tubes into the first tubular boiler ever made west of the Mississippi River. He continued to work in that city throughout that season, and then returned to New York City, where, with another Englishman, he took a job to bore holes in the boilers of the steamer "Adriatic." Mr. Cook worked at his trade in New York City until 1856, and then came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by rail to Alton, Ill., and thence by boat to St. Louis, and from there on a boat to Nebraska City, it taking fourteen days to perform the trip from St. Louis. He started at once to seek a location, and bought a claim of land on section 14, Otoe Precinct. After making his claim, before settling on it, he returned to New York City to cast his vote for Gen. Fremont, the first Presidential candidate of the Republican party. In the same fall he erected a frame house on his claim, and when the land came into the market he bought it of the Government. The next year his family joined him, and he resided on that place until 1868, when he sold it and bought his present farm. He first purchased 200 acres, and later bought an additional tract of eighty acres, making 280 acres in all. But a part of that the river freshets have taken, leaving him only 180 acres. This is good bottom land, of unsurpassed fertility and productiveness, and all well improved.

Mr. Cook has been three times married. His second marriage, which took place in New York City, was to Mrs. Agnes Harrison, her maiden name being Jenkinson. She was born in England, and died on the 1st of March, 1866, leaving one child, Jane, who lives in Custer County, Neb. Mr. Cook's third wife was formerly Fanny Smart. She was born near Oxford, England, and died about 1878. There were three children born of this marriage—Eliza, Archibald and Harry.

Mr. Cook is gifted with a thoughtful and vigorous mind. He is a great reader, a lover of good literature, and is well posted on all public questions. He is a strong Republican and is heartily in favor of protection. He has belonged to the party from its very beginning. He says that he heard Fred Douglas lecture in England in 1847. He has been a delegate to many of the County, Territorial and State Conventions of his party.

HON. CHARLES H. COWLES. In the death of this gentleman, which occurred at his home in Wyoming Precinct, April 14, 1888 Otoe County lost one of its most honored pioneers, and one who had distinguished himself as a citizen of more than ordinary worth. A native of Genesee County, N. Y., he was born May 20, 1818, and was the son of Harry Cowles, a patriot and a soldier, who did valiant service in the War of 1812. The latter, a man of high character and fine capabilities, was also chief of navigation on the brig "Niagara." under command of Capt. Elliott in Perry's fleet of nine vessels which achieved the victory on Lake Erie, which forms no unimportant event in American history.

The Cowles family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry, being among those persecuted people who fled from Scotland into the North of Ireland on account of their religious belief. The family was first represented in America during the Colonial times, and their history has been one of which their descendants may be proud, for among them have been the most eminent men of our times.

Capt. Harry Cowles, the father of our subject, after leaving the army was made a Captain of the home guards in the State of Ohio, where he had emigrated, and met his death while discharging the duties of this position, being run down by a frightened horse and instantly killed. Nine children, eight sons and one daughter, were thus rendered fatherless. Of these three are living. The daughter is the widow of Judge A. A. Bradford, of Pueblo, Col., and the two sons are residents of Colorado. The mother passed away a year after the decease of her husband, and the children were taken into the homes of relatives and friends. Charles H., with the others, was trained to habits of industry, and being of a buoyant and persevering disposition, he

made friends, and was seldom at a loss for employment. He was for a time engaged in a clock factory in the Western Reserve, Ohio, and was a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, until a youth of eighteen years. He then changed his residence to Jefferson County, Ind., living there from 1841 to 1848, and in the latter year, crossing the Mississippi, took up his residence on Platts' Purchase in Missouri, but soon afterward removed to Atchison County, and put up the first house at Linden, then the county seat. In the meantime he had been married in Indiana, Dec. 9, 1841, to Miss Mary Martin, who accompanied him on his journey westward.

Mrs. Mary (Martin) Cowles was born in Venango County, Pa., March 15, 1818, and is the daughter of Solomon and Jane (Thompson) Martin, the former of whom was also a native of Venango County, and likewise a hero in the War of 1812. After the close of that struggle he carried on farming for a time in the Keystone State, and when quite well advanced in years crossed the Father of Waters, and spent his last days in this county, dying at the advanced age of eighty-six years. He was a remarkably intelligent and well-informed man, possessing decided views, and one who commanded respect wherever known. His wife had died in Jefferson County, Ind., when fifty-three years of age. Both were active members of the First Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Martin was a Ruling Elder for a period of fifteen years. Politically, he was in early manhood an old-line Whig, but upon the abandonment of that party identified himself with the Republicans. The parental household included seven children, three of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowles began their wedded life at Decatur, Ind., where they lived until the spring of 1842, then went to Platte County, Mo. In the fall of 1853 Mr. Cowles made his first trip to Nebraska Territory. During the summer of that year it was learned that the Kickapoo, Otoe and Omaha Indians were not only willing but anxious to sell their lands to the Government in order to facilitate trade. Mr. Cowles, with others, determined to call a convention to meet at St. Joseph the following winter for the purpose of memorializing the President and Congress in regard to the necessity of taking early steps to treat with the Indians, organize a Territory, and open it up for settlement. Mr. Cowles was chosen as one of the delegates to this convention, upon which occasion it was "*Resolved*, That the emigrants to the Territory ought to receive the same protection to property that they enjoyed in the States whence they came." Considerable discussion followed, and upon motion of Mr. Cowles, it was agreed to report nothing on the subject. One gentleman, Judge Bradford, was deputized to effect a treaty with the Indians, and another, H. P. Downs, appointed to escort the chiefs to Washington, where, however, the excitement in Congress over the slavery question prevented a treaty being ratified.

Notwithstanding this state of affairs, however, Mr. Cowles crossed the river and got out timber for his house, a little later bringing over a stock of goods, and commenced trading early in 1854, before the Indian title was extinct. He next purchased what is now termed Greggsport, from a Frenchman, selling afterward to Mr. John Gregg, and in 1856 removed to Wyoming Precinct, where he resided for a period of thirty-two years, and until his death.

Mr. Cowles was not only one of the first settlers of this county, but one of its most prominent men both in church and State. He was at once recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, was elected to represent Otoe County in the first assemblage of the Legislature, and subsequently made a Senator. The cares of office, however, had no charm for him, and as soon as possible he quietly withdrew, declining the further honors which his fellow-citizens were anxious to bestow upon him. He was an earnest advocate of Republican principles, having been a member of the party since its organization. He cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Harrison in 1840, a short time before reaching his majority, and while a resident of Indiana. Young as he was, he at that time developed admirable qualities as a stump speaker, and labored in this manner for the General throughout Decatur County.

While a member of the Nebraska Legislature Mr. Cowles introduced the bill changing the name of this county from Pierce to Otoe, and instituted many other projects both pleasing and beneficial to

the people. He had from his boyhood been a lover of books and study, and to these devoted his leisure hours, so that he became one of the best informed men of his time. Genial and companionable by nature, he was a favorite both in social and business circles, and made friends wherever he went. An active member of the Presbyterian Church, he officiated as Elder, and was one of its chief pillars. His estimable wife is still living at the old homestead. She was admirably fitted both by nature and training to occupy a position by the side of such a man as her husband, looking well to the ways of her household, and stimulating both husband and children to worthy efforts and generous deeds. Amiable and kind in disposition, she was ever a most faithful and devoted wife and mother, and although now seventy years old, is bright, cheerful and active, retaining in a remarkable degree her powers of mind and body. She has been identified with the Presbyterian Church for a period of fifty-two years. The three living children of the household are: Lauriston M., who resides on a farm in Jefferson County, and married Miss Mary Campbell; Charles Clayton, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work, and who lives on a part of the home farm, and Emma, the wife of W. H. Moore, who is also represented in this ALBUM, lives in Nebraska City.

ALBERT G. ATKINSON. We are often reminded that "what everybody says must be so," and if popularity be any key to character that of our subject is of a very high order. He is at the same time one of the substantial citizens of Belmont Precinct, and is the owner of a splendid, fertile farm of 240 acres, which he operates chiefly as a stock farm.

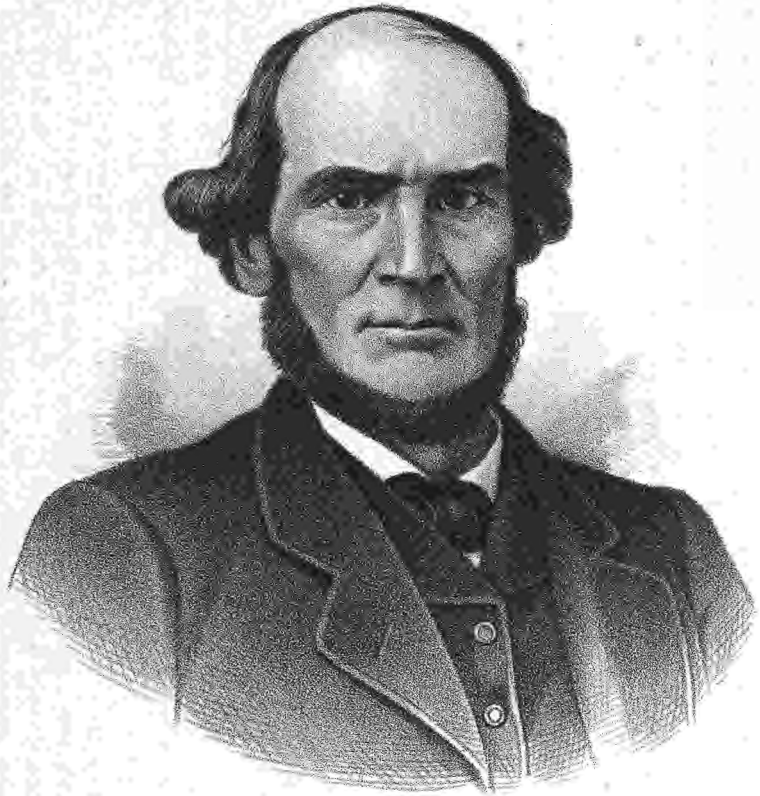
Our subject was born on the 1st of April, 1836, in Fayette County, Pa., to James and Elizabeth (Miller) Atkinson, both of whom were natives of Westmoreland County, Pa. The mother of our subject departed this life at her home in Iowa, Oct. 1, 1872. His father was also born on the 1st of April, but in the year 1811, and is the son of Thomas Atkinson, a native of Scotland. Since the death of his wife Mr. Atkinson, Sr., has been a resident of Rock Creek Precinct, where he still resides.

Our subject came to Belmont Precinct in 1846, but after two years removed to Atchison County, Mo., and from there in the year 1851 to Fremont County, Iowa, which is almost opposite to Nebraska City, but then Nebraska City had no existence and nothing marked the spot except old Ft. Carney and the Government barracks. Our subject has frequently followed the plow and oxen over the place where now stand handsome business blocks, and where the busy, bustling crowds are hurrying to and fro in pursuit of their usual avocations or pleasure.

Prior to the war our subject made several trips to the mountains with ox-teams loaded with grain for the United States Government, and also for private parties. In 1861 he enlisted in the 2d Iowa Battery, that afterward gained a distinctive name for especially effective service in action. In this battery he served over three years. He was present in the following battles: Shiloh, Vicksburg, New Madrid, Island No. 10, Jackson (Miss.), Champion Hills, Raymond, and all the engagements around Corinth. He was once slightly wounded, receiving an injury of superficial character from a gunshot, but still such as in nowise disabled him. Very few members of his battery were so fortunate as he, for the reason of the dangerous duty they were called upon to perform, and largely because of their reputation as accurate and rapid marksmen, most of his companions were either killed or severely wounded.

In the year 1865 Mr. Atkinson settled in this county, and upon the 23d of February of the same year celebrated his marriage with Mary Thompson, the daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Bennett) Thompson, natives of Ohio. Her mother is now deceased, and her father a resident of Oregon. This union has been fruitful in the birth of four children, two of whom are living, and bear the names of William and Katie. John and Edgar died at the ages of fourteen and nine respectively. William was united in marriage with Minnie Shellhorn, of Pawnee County, and lives in DuBois, Pawnee Co., Neb.

Our subject and wife are members of the Meth-



Franklin Ball

Yours Truly
John Martin

odist Episcopal Church, and are highly esteemed members of society. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is attached to the post at Nebraska City. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party, and is a much valued and esteemed citizen.

FRANKLIN BALL. The tall and commanding figure of this gentleman has been familiar to the people of Palmyra Precinct for the past eighteen years. He is a carpenter, builder and farmer combined, and the evidences of his skill are discernible in a large number of business buildings and mills along the western line of this county. He is a typical New Englander, and although past the meridian of life, retains an astonishing amount of strength and energy, the result of correct habits and a clear conscience.

Mr. Ball traces his ancestry on his mother's side as far back as 1120. She was a Lawrence, and the earliest records trace Archbishop Lawrence on his way from Italy to England. Later they speak of one of his descendants, Robert Lawrence, of Lancashire, who was the occupant of Ashton Hall in 1191. Later, and in the seventeenth generation, one of the first representatives in America settled on land near Dedham, Mass., about 1783. Farther on in the family history Samuel Ball, of Alstead, N. H., married and reared a family, and among his sons was Samuel, Jr., the father of our subject, who married Miss Amelia Lawrence, a lineal descendant of Archbishop Lawrence, and the mother of our subject. The Ball family was also of English ancestry, and its representatives on this side of the water settled in New England prior to the Revolutionary War. The great-grandfather of our subject in that conflict served as a Lieutenant Colonel in a New Hampshire regiment, and yielded up his life fighting for his adopted country on the battle-field of Saratoga Springs. His son Samuel later took up the cause in which his father laid down his life, was equally valiant with his honored sire, and was given the commission of First Lieutenant. He at one time, single handed and alone, captured five English soldiers, and marched them trumphantly into camp.

Mrs. Amelia (Lawrence) Ball, the mother of our subject, was the daughter of Joseph, who was the son of David Lawrence, Jr. The latter was the son of David and Betsey Lawrence, who emigrated from England to Massachusetts after their marriage, and settled in what is now known as Norfolk County, Conn., in the seventeenth century. They took up land about 1680 or 1690, and their descendants are now heirs to a large property, which, through a quibble now of the law or some break in the direct line, is about to revert to the English Crown. One of the estates granted by the Crown comprised a large extent of land upon which stood the famous Lawrence and Ashton Hall, from the sale of which was realized $500,000,000, which vast amount of capital lies in the vaults of the Bank of England, when it should be distributed to the Lawrence heirs in America.

The parents of our subject were married in Alstead, N. H., where the father pursued his trades of mason and butcher, and also carried on farming. There also was spent the remainder of their lives, Samuel Ball resting from his earthly labors April 1, 1862, when sixty-five years old. The mother survived her husband a number of years, and died at the age of seventy-eight. Their nine children were named respectively: Hardin, Ransom L. and an infant who were twins, the latter dying; Willard, Franklin, Levi, Alonzo, Amelia and Melissa. With the exception of a deceased infant all grew to mature years, were married, and settled in comfortable homes of their own. Of these five are now living.

Franklin Ball was born in Alstead, N. H., June 14, 1824, and there his boyhood and youth were mostly spent. He was educated in the common schools, and learned the trades of carpenter and millwright. At the age of twenty-two years he was married, in August, 1846, to Miss Susan Bullock, and they became the parents of five children, of whom Martha, Sarah and Joseph died when less than three years old. The survivors are: Nalhin S., who is in the employ of the Rock Island Railroad, and lives in St. Joseph, Mo., and Rosa A., the wife of Fred Eaglehoff, of Russell Township, Otoe County. The latter is the mother of two children.

Mr. Ball in the fall of 1853 left New England and migrated across the Mississippi to Davenport, Iowa, was for a time employed in various sawmills

and gristmills, and finally entered the employ of the Rock Island Railroad Company in the construction of elevators. He put up one of these structures at each of the three towns, Downer, Wilton and Fulton, and for a time was employed in the Eagle Works at Ottawa, Ill., fulfilling the contract of putting in shafting and other machinery.

Mr. Ball also assisted in putting in the machinery of the sawmill of Grinnell, Gillett & Co., of Davenport, Iowa, acting as foreman. Before coming to the West he had put in two years on the machinery of the Lancaster Gingham Works at Clinton, Mass. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he was living on a farm in Scott County, Iowa, and although possessing sufficient patriotism he was not permitted to enter the ranks on account of impaired health. He was personally acquainted with Gov. Kirkwood and Adjt. Gen. Baker, who were anxious to have him go South as superintendent of a bridge gang, but on account of his health he was obliged to decline.

Our subject has met with some severe losses since the commencement of his business career. He had taken up 240 acres of land in Scott County, Iowa, but on account of the imperfect title lost it, together with the labor of years. Subsequently he lost $3,500 by the failure of the bank of Cook & Sargeant, at Davenport. He also lost heavily through the failure of a milling company of that same place, and after having been in receipt of a fine income for a number of years was now obliged to go back and commence over again as a journeyman carpenter.

Mr. Ball labored thus a period of three years in Iowa, and in September, 1868, came to this State, the year after its admission into the Union. He had already pre-empted 160 acres of land, and located his family upon it. He then repaired to the embryo city of Lincoln, assisted in the completion of the State House, fulfilled his contract for other buildings, and was foreman of the carpenter force employed in the erection of the Insane Asylum. In 1871 he put in the woodwork of the mill of George McKee, at Nursery Hill. Later he worked on the Hill Elevator in Nebraska City, then returned to Lincoln, and was employed in the erection of the Cropsey Mill.

During the exciting period of the German whisky riot at Davenport, Iowa, in 1855, Mr. Ball did good service on the police force, having under his charge sixteen men, and through his courage and cool judgment was largely efficient in quelling the disturbance without the loss of blood. He cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce, and has been a stanch supporter of Democratic principles from his youth. Nineteen years of his life have been spent in public service, during which time he has filled the offices of Deputy Sheriff, School Director, Road Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. In all of these he has acquitted himself in the most creditable manner, giving satisfaction to his constituents, and was re-elected to each office.

Mr. Ball was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Young, Feb. 24, 1870. This lady was born in Pike County, Ill., in 1840. Her parents died when she was quite young and she was reared by strangers. Of her union with our subject there have been born six children, namely: Milly, Gilbert, Ellen, Frank, Ransom L., and an infant unnamed (deceased). The two latter were twins.

CAPT. JOHN MARTINE, who has hosts of friends in Otoe Precinct, is the subject of a very interesting history, and a man who has fought his way through many difficulties to a good position among his fellow-citizens, socially and financially. He owns and operates a good farm of 160 acres, comprising the southwest quarter of section 16. He has distinguished himself as a patriot and a soldier, having ample right to his title as Captain, which was obtained through his military service in the Union Army.

The Martine (formerly La Martine) family is of French descent, and allied to the nobility of fair France. The father of our subject, Adam Martine, was of French birth and ancestry, a native of Alsace, which was then Lorraine; he married Miss Catherine Glodney, who was born in the same Province. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom died in infancy; the living are: Our subject, Michael and George. The parents, in the year 1835, emigrated to America, settling in Philadelphia, and later went

to Ohio; there the father was prospered in his labors as an agriculturist, and accumulated a fine property. He rested from his earthly labors in the year 1868, at the age of seventy-six years and five months. The mother survived her husband a period of eight years, her death taking place in 1876, when she was eighty-one years old; she, like her husband, was of noble birth. Our subject's brothers, Michael and George, are both residents of Coshocton County, Ohio, have large families, and are in good circumstances.

Capt. Martine was born near the city of Strasburg, in the Province of Alsace Lorraine, France, Nov. 30, 1830, but when brought to America was too young to have retained any recollection of his native place. He grew up on the farm in Ohio, although he had begun his education in the city schools of Philadelphia. After the removal of the family to Ohio, where they were among the early pioneers, young Martine was obliged to travel three miles through the woods, climbing over logs three or four feet in diameter, through bush and bramble, to reach the temple of learning. Limited as his opportunities were, however, he appreciated them and kept his place at the head of his class. When not in school his services were utilized around the homestead, where he remained until his marriage, Aug. 30, 1852. The lady who at that time became the wife of our subject was Miss Mary Ann Bordenkarker, who was also of French birth and parentage, and by whom he became the father of six children. They lived upon a farm in Lyndon Township, Coshocton Co., Ohio, until the outbreak of the Civil War. Before his enlistment the Captain went to Corinth, Miss., to take care of a brother-in-law who was dangerously ill, but who died before he could reach him. Immediately upon his return home, his sympathies being now doubly enlisted in the cause of the Union, he assisted in the organization of a company made up mostly from the young men and boys of his own neighborhood, with whom he had previously drilled. This was Company C, and was a part of the 80th Ohio Infantry. He went with them to the front, but at Corinth was taken seriously ill, and obliged to accept his honorable discharge. He did not by any means, however, intend to give up the fight, and as soon as his health would permit he left his sick bed and organized Company K of the 1st Ohio Militia, and of which he was elected Captain, receiving a five-years commission from Gov. Todd, then Governor of Ohio. He participated in the efforts made to capture Morgan while on his raid through Ohio, after that did guard duty in different parts of the State, and the regiment was subsequently disbanded.

After the close of the war Capt. Martine removed with his family, in September, 1865, to Brown County, Ill., but staid there only about two years, next crossing the Mississippi and settling in Nebraska City. Here our subject was Superintendent of a section of the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad, which was then in process of construction. Later he had the supervision of a company of men working in the Summit cut on the Midland Pacific. In the year 1868 he purchased the land which he now owns and occupies, and thereafter gave his attention to it. Here the wife and mother died, at the age of forty years, March 8, 1875. The six children of this marriage were named respectively: John, Jr., George, Maria, Jacob, Maude Lena and Ella. John married Miss Rosa Morgan, is farming in the vicinity of Syracuse, and is the father of two children; George married Miss L. Anderson, lives on a farm in Otoe Precinct, and has three children—George, Lena and Joseph; Maria is the wife of Benjamin Griffin, of Buffalo County, and the mother of three children; Maude Lena married James White, of this county, lives on a farm in Russell Precinct, and is the mother of three children; Ella married Otis Brown, is a resident of Otoe Precinct and the mother of three children—Howard, Dessie and John; Jacob is married, and farming in Custer County, this State.

Capt. Martine, on the 12th of May, 1876, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Lucy Scherrer, a native of Baden, Germany, and who became the mother of three children, only one of whom is living, a daughter, Mary, who resides with her father at home. Mrs. Lucy Martine departed this life at her home in Otoe Precinct, Nov. 8, 1880, aged thirty-seven years. Capt. Martine, Aug. 16, 1883, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth High, *nee* Schuster, who was born in Prussia, Sept. 17, 1836, and came to the United States in 1882. She is the mother of

one child, a daughter, Katie, who is now in school. The Captain also has an adopted son, Frank Fuller, now fourteen years of age, and living with them.

The principles of the Democratic party have usually been the exponent of the political opinions of Capt. Martine, although he refuses to be controlled by party lines, and votes for the men whom he considers best qualified for office. He has never desired official honors, and with the exception of serving as School Director one term, has steadily declined holding office in Nebraska. While a resident of Coshocton County, Ohio, he served as Justice of the Peace and Assessor, and was continuously in office of some kind until entering the army. He prefers now to relegate its duties and responsibilities to other men. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Catholic Church at Nebraska City.

LOUIS DAMMA. The subject of this narration became a resident of this county in December, 1864, and has signalized himself as a hard-working and enterprising citizen. This course has not been without its good results, for by it he has become the owner of one of the finest farms in McWilliams Precinct. This property is pleasantly located on section 31, and comprises 273 acres of improved land, with a set of good farm buildings. Mr. Damma located upon his land in the spring of 1868, with little means save his strong muscle and stout heart, and from that very modest beginning has arisen to an enviable position socially and financially.

Our subject was born April 1, 1843, in Franklin County, Mo., and is of German parentage. His father, Henry Damma, was born in Germany, and married a lady of his own nationality. After the birth of four children they emigrated to the United States, and soon after setting foot upon American soil made their way southwest across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. Here the father engaged in farming, and died of the cholera early in the fifties, when about fifty-five years old. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, and thus Louis when a lad ten years of age was left an orphan.

After the death of his parents our subject was taken into the home of his brother, William Damma, who lived in Franklin County, Mo., and with whom he remained until a youth of seventeen. After the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in the 4th Missouri Infantry, Company E, under command of Capt. Montwiler, doing mostly guard duty, and serving a period of eighteen months. Upon leaving the army he returned to his native county, and soon afterward came to Nebraska. In Otoe County he was married, Feb. 17, 1870, to Miss Dora Reimers, a native of Germany, and who came to the United States with her parents when a young woman. They first settled in St. Louis, thence came to this county, and afterward removed to Kansas, settling on a farm in Barton County, where the father, Henry Reimers, is yet living. The mother, Mrs. Mary Reimers, died in the spring of 1888, aged about fifty-five years.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born six children, namely: Anna, Alvina, Julius, Bertha, Amy and Louis. The eldest is seventeen years of age and the youngest seventeen months. They all continue under the home roof. Mr. D. votes the straight Republican ticket, and both he and his wife are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, and takes very little interest in political matters. His chief pride is in being a first-class farmer, and in this respect his career has been one of which he may be proud.

PAUL MASON CAMPBELL, probably the youngest man represented in this work, is at present mail clerk on the main line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, being stationed between Pacific Junction and McCook, and having his home in Nebraska City. He was born Sept. 21, 1865, in Nebraska City, and is the youngest son of Hon. J. C. Campbell, M. D., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject at an early age gave evidence of more than ordinary capabilities, being a lad fond of

Yours truly
A L Davis

Yours Truly
Lewis Leur

his books and ambitious to excel. He was graduated from Nebraska College in the class of '83, taking special honors, and being the subject of much favorable comment at the time. He served as Notary Public in Nebraska City before reaching his majority. He intends in the near future taking up the study of law, which he has chosen for his life profession. He has set out upon a most promising career, one which will be watched with interest by hosts of friends. He is the scion of an excellent family, the members of which have distinguished themselves in many of the public walks of life with credit and fidelity. In the sketch of his brother, Ezra T. Campbell, M. D., on another page in this volume, is given a more extended history of the family and its antecedents, which forms a most interesting record.

LEWIS LEWIS, whose portrait is given on an adjoining page, is one of the earliest pioneers of Nebraska, is numbered among its most honored citizens, and has seen much of life in the Great West. He is a man very highly esteemed by the people around him, one who is a public-spirited citizen, always willing to lend a helping hand in the carrying out of every project tending to the good of the community. His excellent partner, one who has stood by him through the storms and sunshine of many years, is a lady who has proved herself in every way suitable to be the companion of a good man. They have a large family of handsome and intelligent children, of whom they have reason to be proud.

The property of Mr. Lewis embraces the southwest quarter of section 4, Otoe Precinct, where he has lived and labored since 1862; he first came to the precinct in April, 1855. He comes of excellent Pennsylvania stock, being the son of Enos and Elizabeth (Pinnell) Lewis, who were natives of Delaware County, that State, the father born on the very farm where the English Army was centered when Washington was at Valley Forge. Grandfather Lewis had purchased this from William Penn during the first settlement of Pennsylvania. They were Quakers in religion, and Enos Lewis traced his ancestry back to the early Colonial days, when his progenitors crossed the Atlantic from England and settled in Pennsylvania.

The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, spent his entire life in his native county, and died there in 1833. The mother of our subject had been married first to a Mr. Burns, but of this union there were no children. Of her marriage with Enos Lewis there were born three sons and three daughters, the eldest of whom, Wayne, was killed by being thrown from a gig when one year old. The next son, Henry, is a resident of Cloud County, Kan.; he married Miss Isabelle Frost, and is the father of seven children, namely: Henry D., Ida M., Ernest, Alfred B., John W., Edith and Wilbur. Mary, Mrs. Jackson LaTier, is a resident of Taylor County, Iowa; Esther, Mrs. John W. White, resides in West Chester, Chester Co., Pa.; Elizabeth, Mrs. Booze, a widow, is a resident of Philadelphia, Pa., and the mother of three children—Henry, Albert and Lilly.

The subject of this sketch was the fifth child of his parents, and was born on the old homestead, the birthplace of his father, in Delaware County, Pa., Sept. 20, 1831. He was but two years of age at the time of his father's death, and resided with his mother two years, then went to live with his aunt, Mrs. Esther Garrett, of East Goshen Township, Chester Co., Pa. He continued with her until a lad of twelve years, but lived under the same roof until sixteen. His education during those years was carried on principally three months during the winter season, but later he entered Greenwood Dell Academy, where he studied one year, and afterward attended Unionville Academy for eighteen months. In the meantime he worked two and a half years on a farm.

In the spring of 1853 our subject set out for the West, and traveled extensively through Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Later he returned to Philadelphia, Pa., but could not content himself in that region, and started once more for the West. In the fall of 1853 he went to Jackson County, Mo., and in May, 1854, started East, finally landing in Pennsylvania, in August. Mr. Lewis, no more satisfied than he had been before, after returning home, finally made one desperate effort, starting out the

third time from his native State, and determined now to stay. This time he took in Louisville, Ky., St. Louis and Independence, Mo., and remained in this vicinity until the spring of 1854. Later, returning East, he visited Baltimore, New York City, and in the latter visited the Crystal Palace. He next journeyed to Philadelphia, where he suffered an attack of cholera, but fortunately recovered, and then went to Zanesville, Ohio. From there, a month later, he pushed on westward to Iowa, this time accompanied by his brother Henry. They stopped and worked in Rome, Henry Co., Iowa, until the spring of 1855, when our subject started on foot for this county, having for his companion Edward H. Bishop. They had intended to go to California, but changed their minds and stopped in Nebraska City.

Our subject, who had been born with the gift of prudence and economy, occupied himself on the Otoe ferry boat, which made regular trips across the Missouri. On the 11th of July, 1855, accompanied by a party, he started off on the enterprise of removing the Otoe Indians to their Blue River Reservation, and this accomplished returned to this county. In the fall of 1856 he took up a homestead claim, which he still owns, and has for a period of thirty-two years.

The marriage of Lewis Lewis and Miss Susan Wright was celebrated at the home of the bride in Otoe Precinct, this county, in September, 1862. Mrs. Lewis was born in 1840, and is a daughter of Michael and Rosina (Atler) Wright, who were natives of Germany, and came to the United States when their daughter Susan was a child four or five years of age. In the family there were only besides herself her four older brothers—George and John, Joseph now deceased, and Michael, also dead. They lived subsequently at Nauvoo and Alton, Ill., New Orleans, La., and St. Louis, Mo., and at Nauvoo Mrs. Lewis saw the destruction of the Mormon Temple by fire. Her two brothers came first to Nebraska, and she joined them in May, 1858. The mother died in Illinois; the father served as a soldier in the Mexican War, and subsequently visited California, and has never returned. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis there have been born eleven children, eight of whom are living, viz: Mary E., Rosina, Anna, Ella, Lewis, Jr., John, Henry and George. Three children died in infancy. Mr. Lewis voted for the State Constitution in 1866, and in politics gives his support to the Democratic party.

ANDERSON L. DAVIS. The live-stock interests of Southern Nebraska constitute one of its richest sources of profit, and in this industry a large proportion of its enterprising and intelligent men are engaged. The subject of this sketch, whose portrait we give on a preceding page, for the last few years has made of this a specialty, feeding and shipping in large numbers, and to this devotes one of the finest farms in Nebraska, comprising 480 acres of valuable land, including 100 acres of timber. He usually keeps 200 head of cattle and several hundred hogs. In the city of Syracuse he superintends a fine trade in farm implements, having directed a portion of his capital in this important channel. He has been a resident of Nebraska a period of thirty-two years, having arrived here in its Territorial days, on the 3d of December, 1856.

Our subject first crossed the Mississippi when a youth of a little over twenty years of age. He was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, Sept. 26, 1836, and is the son of L. A. and Mary L. Thompson (*nee* Chamberlin) Davis. His paternal grandfather, Jesse Davis, a native of New York State, was of Welsh ancestry, and a farmer by occupation. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and marched with his regiment to Buffalo during the destruction of that city by fire. L. A. Davis, also a native of the Empire State, joined his father in the ranks of the soldiery, being then but a youth, and also saw the burning of Buffalo. The mother of our subject was his second wife, he having married and become the father of five children before his union with Mrs. Thompson. After the death of his first wife and his marriage with the latter he left the Empire State with his little family, and settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, where his death took place about 1862. His wife, Mary L., had preceded him to the silent land some years.

The subject of this sketch was the only child of the second marriage of his father, and continued a resident of his native State until coming to Nebraska. He had been reared upon the farm, and after crossing the Mississippi was employed at farming near Nebraska City, this county. He left the Buckeye State in 1856, and, accompanied by his half-brother, Morris T. Thompson, proceeded by rail to Iowa City, thence by stage to Council Bluffs and Sidney, and from there on foot to a point opposite Nebraska City. The time being in December, the river was filled with loose ice, and they were ferried across in a skiff, the trip being a perilous one. Upon arriving at his destination young Davis secured a job at cutting cordwood through the winter, and in the spring secured employment on a farm. Soon afterward he preempted a tract of land in this county. This, however, he did not improve, but worked with his brother five years.

During this period occurred the panic of 1857, when a man could scarcely obtain fifteen cents for a day's work—in fact there was no money to be had at times—wheat was selling at thirty cents per bushel, and corn at eight cents. Mr. Davis, finally, in 1862, began freighting between Nebraska City and Denver, and in the fall of that year located on a ranch fifteen miles west of Camden on the Blue River. Here he passed two winters, then sold out and resumed freighting, making four trips across the plains, each time being accompanied by his brother. They spent the following winter in Colorado on the Platte River, and in the spring our subject sold his cattle with the intention of returning to Ohio, but on account of the Indians deemed it the better part of prudence to remain where he was.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. Davis set out with a train to Nebraska City, and thence made the desired trip to his native State, where he arrived on the 1st of July, after an absence of ten years. A six-months visit among his old friends satisfied him, and returning to Nebraska he commenced farming. His health, however, had become greatly impaired, so instead of following the plow he began dealing in live stock, which business he has since followed with the most satisfactory results. In 1876 he took up his residence in Syracuse, and since that time has given his principal attention to his stock operations and the trade in farm implements.

Mr. Davis was married quite late in life, in June, 1880, to Miss Meda, daughter of Henry and Mary Phelps. Her parents were natives of Iowa, and are now living in this county. Mrs. Davis was born in Iowa, May 4, 1857, acquired a common-school education, and remained with her parents until her marriage, residing during that time mostly in her native State. The result of her union with our subject is three bright children—Mary L., Arthur and Luella. The family residence is located in the northern part of the city, and its furnishings and surroundings are fully in keeping with the means and station of the proprietor.

A Democrat in principle, Mr. Davis is a reliable supporter of his party, and has served three years as County Commissioner. He is not, however, in the least ambitious for office, preferring to devote his time to his own concerns. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Honor. He is a genuine, capable business man, prompt to meet his obligations, and straightforward in all his transactions.

STARR COZIER GREGORY. Among the worthy and honored citizens of Talmage, one whose life is in many regards an example of good to younger persons, is the gentleman whose life's history is here epitomized. He is one of the well-known and successful men of Talmage, and has been associated with its interests since the first business house was erected. There was at that time a demand for some competent person to make his headquarters at that place for the buying and shipping of stock, there being large numbers in the vicinity. This place our subject was destined to fill. Being the first to occupy the field he has made quite a reputation throughout the county and district, and is one of the most extensively engaged in his line of business. The distinction is his of having shipped the first carloads of cattle and hogs sent out from this place.

Recently our subject has been buying and shipping for LaFayette Higgins, of Auburn, in this State, but not until after he had been in business

for himself for a period of about sixteen years. For the past four years he has been a resident of Talmage, and has won for himself many friends among his fellow-townsmen. As a business man his reputation is fully sustained without the tarnish resultant from dealings of a questionable nature.

Mr. Gregory is the owner of a fine property in Johnson County, and in this place has one of the pleasantest homes. It is a large, roomy house, planned and arranged with a view to comfort. He has also a large brick business house, the upper story of which is occupied by the G. A. R. hall and Roberts Lodge No. 104. After subscriptions for a large part of the expenses toward erecting a hall had been made to the order, Mr. Gregory put up his building, and leased the hall to the order for ninety-nine years.

The connection of our subject with this State began in the year 1867. His first property was 160 acres of land in Spring Creek Precinct, which was at the time simply raw, uncultivated prairie, but under the skillful management and continued efforts of our subject became one of the best farms in the district. It is now valued at $40 per acre. He was in the beginning in a thorough pioneer country, for no railroads then had laid their steel bands across the prairie, and there were no markets as at present, nothing nearer than Nebraska City, which was twenty-two miles distant. He is much gratified to see the splendid progress that has been made within the last decade principally, and justly proud of the privilege of having a part in helping to that end.

In coming to Nebraska the subject of our sketch came a comparatively poor man from DeKalb County, Ill. It was also the scene of his early life, he having been born in Genoa, of that county, on the 21st of August, 1842. His family were pioneers in Illinois and enjoyed an enviable reputation for those qualities that make a family respected and admired in the community. Previous to making their home in Illinois the parents of our subject had lived in New York State.

Mr. E. S. Gregory, father of Starr Cozier, was born about the year 1803, at Johnstown, in the Empire State, as were his parents before him. The family has a history in connection with that State that reaches back almost to the early settlements. He was brought up on a farm and also learned the trade of shoemaker. While yet a young man, he went to Maine, where he met and married his wife, whose maiden name was Jane Brown.

Mrs. Gregory, the mother of our subject, was born and brought up in the Pine Tree State, in the vicinity of Scarboro. After her marriage with the father of our subject they began life together at the bottom of the ladder, the husband plying his trade for about ten years, and then came West, settling in DeKalb County, as above mentioned. There brighter days began to dawn upon them, and the farm proved a perfect success, and served for their home during the remainder of life. Mr. Gregory died at a very advanced age, in January, 1887, beloved and respected by the community at large. He was one of the old-time Abolitionists, and was active in behalf of the party, feeling and expressing himself strongly in behalf of the cause. From the history of DeKalb County, page 481, we take the following, which may be of interest in this connection: "In 1840, his brother-in-law, Ezra Starr Gregory, cast the first, and that year, the only Abolition vote cast in the county, voting for James G. Birney, for President. Mr. Gregory was the pioneer of that grand political movement in DeKalb County, and his name should be honored as the first to come boldly to the front in an effort to remove the dreadful stain of slavery from our civilization. At the next election Mr. Gregory was joined by others of DeKalb County's worthy citizens, who wanted all men under our flag who should obey the laws of the country, to be as free as they were. These men were Jeremiah L. Brown, Abner Jackman, Jutus Preston, Gideon King, John Judd and Benjamin P. Brown, the brother of the subject of this sketch. At the next election these parties were joined by a host of others." (Biography of Jeremiah Libbey Brown.)

Mr. Gregory, our subject, is the first son and second child of three born to his parents, who lived to maturity. He had been very carefully brought up by his parents, and from earliest childhood was taught to abhor everything that verged upon the dishonest and dishonorable. He early began to store his mind with useful information, and

strove hard to obtain an education. He is a man of good taste and excellent judgment, the result of a well-balanced and cultivated mind.

When about nineteen years of age, responding to the patriotic zeal within him, the subject of our sketch enlisted, becoming a member of Company A, 105th Illinois Infantry, under Capt. Henry Brown, This regiment formed part of the Army of the Cumberland, and for seven months Mr. Gregory served in the ranks and was found at the post of duty; but his health never had been rugged, and the exposure and hardships proved to be too much for him and he was taken sick. This resulted in his being honorably discharged on account of disability and his return home,

Upon coming of age our subject started out in life upon his own resources. He was always a hard worker, almost nervously restless in his energies, but at the same time he is thorough in whatever he undertakes, and here must be assigned the cause of the success that has crowned his life. At Genoa, DeKalb County, he was married on the 12th of January, 1865, the lady of his choice being Miss Maria M. Tibbitts, a young, educated and accomplished lady of excellent parentage. She was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, on the 3d of February, 1846, and is the youngest daughter of William and Delila (Cunningham) Tibbitts, both of whom were natives of the United States.

The parents of Mrs. Gregory were married in the Province of Ontario, and the father followed agricultural pursuits. There all the children were born with one exception, Ernest, who was born in Illinois. In 1854, recrossing the line they came to the United States, and located at Genoa, DeKalb Co., Ill. There Mr. Tibbitts took land and went to work to improve and cultivate the same. They were reckoned among the better class of citizens, and moved in the best local society of that State. His death occurred in September of 1869, closing a life of sixty-two years. He had been associated very closely with the Republican party for many years, and was active where the interests of the people were concerned. His wife still survives, and has reached the ripe age of seventy-four years, nevertheless she retains the full possession of her faculties and enjoys good health. She makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Gregory. She is a lady of intelligence and sterling religious character. Almost all her life she has been identified with and deeply interested in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs Gregory was but a little girl when her parents removed to DeKalb County. Both her father and mother were of the now somewhat old-fashioned sturdy Christian and highly moral, upright life and character, and trained their daughter in accordance with these ideas and principles. So far from having made religion repellant to her as is sometimes alleged is the result of such training, it has given tone and beauty to her whole life, and made her what she is to husband, family and friends. She is highly esteemed in the community, and by her faithful, affectionate devotion to her family, holds an unassailable place in the hearts of the various members of the family.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gregory have been born three bright and intelligent children: Grace E., who is now the wife of George W. Gillman, one of the promising young men of Otoe County, at present engaged in the drug business at Talmage, and enjoying an excellent reputation as a business man; the younger child, Roy Starr, is an active boy of six years, who is manifesting a disposition that promises under such care as his parents will doubtless give him a very bright and prosperous future. Frank C. died when six months old. Mrs. Gregory and her daughter move in the elite circles of Talmage society, and are perhaps acknowledged leaders therein. Both are members of the W. C. T. U. and very active workers in the temperance cause, as is also our subject, who is a member of the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Roberts Post No. 104, G. A. R., of Talmage.

HENRY DAMMA. One of the most extensive farms of McWilliams Precinct, and which is 700 acres in extent, is owned and operated by the subject of this sketch. It is largely devoted to stock-raising, and pleasantly located on section 16. It was but a raw prairie when taken in hand by its present proprietor, who settled here in the spring of 1869, commenced the

development of a farm, and can now look with satisfaction upon the result of his labors, which have been crowned with success. He keeps good grades of cattle, horses and swine, and is numbered among the leading agriculturists of Otoe County.

Mr. Damma came to Southern Nebraska from Franklin County, Mo., in 1861, and entered 200 acres of land in Osage Precinct, the larger portion of which comprised all the elements of fertility. He made some improvements, but after a visit to the part of McWilliams Precinct where he now lives, concluded the latter to be more desirable, and accordingly to this transferred the scene of his operations. He has made all the improvements which have given to his homestead the reputation of being one of the most desirable in Southern Nebraska.

A native of Prussia, our subject was born Oct. 4, 1833, and was the eldest but one of a large family of children, the offspring of Henry and Catherine Damma, a further account of whom will be found in the sketch of Louis Damma, found on another page of this volume. He was a little lad of seven years when he emigrated with his parents to the United States, and upon disembarking from their long voyage across the Atlantic, their journey was still further lengthened out by a tedious ride, partly by rail and partly by horse-teams to the southwest, and across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. There the father engaged in farming, and both parents spent the remainder of their lives.

Our subject developed into manhood in Missouri, and was married in Gasconade County, that State, to Miss Charlotte Pahde, who was of ancestry similiar to his own. Mrs. Damma was born in Franklin County, Mo., Aug. 26, 1842, and is the daughter of Frederick and Henrietta Pahde, who were natives of Prussia and are now in Nebraska. Mrs. D. was but a small child when her father emigrated from Prussia to Gasconade County, where she grew to womanhood, receiving careful home training and a common-school education. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, one of whom, Minnie, died when eighteen months old. The survivors are F. Louis, L. John, H. Moses, C. Henry, H. Mary, H. William, Anna C., Lena C. and August W. The parents are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, and Mr. Damma, politically, uniformly votes the Republican ticket.

JACOB W. NELSON, perhaps the youngest business man of note in Nebraska City, is junior partner of the firm of Nelson Bros., who carry on a thriving trade in boots and shoes. They established in business in 1885, and have advanced with a success which has been phenomenal, and which could only be attained by the closest application to business and a straightforward manner of dealing with their fellow citizens. J. W. is especially noticeable as being a young man of excellent judgment and sound sense, with more than ordinary business capacities. Energetic and prompt to meet his obligations, he has already attained an enviable position in business circles, while he is also a favorite in society, and being of a fine personal appearance, is exceedingly popular among the young people of his circle.

Our subject was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, May 27, 1864, and when scarcely more than an infant was brought by his parents to the United States. He is the son of Nicholas P. and Mary (Kalson) Nelson, who were also natives of Scandinavia, and of excellent families. The household circle consisted of four children, the eldest being Olie N., senior member of the firm; Jacob, our subject, and Emma and Eddie, who are now at home. The father is a shoemaker by occupation, and the parents are still living in this city. Mr. Nelson was reared to manhood in Nebraska City, where his parents settled at once upon coming to America. He was given a practical education, and trained in those habits of industry and honesty which form the basis of a true and upright character. He makes his home with his parents, and besides his interest in the store is a member of the Building and Loan Association, which has now established a good foothold, and promises to be of great benefit to those associated with it.

Nelson Bros. carry a large and finely assorted

stock of goods, and number their patrons among the best people along the eastern line of the county. Mr. Nelson is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. Genial and companionable, he is a gentleman of excellent principles, and one with whom it is both pleasurable and profitable to converse. He keeps himself well informed, not only in regard to the details of his especial trade, but to all matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen.

CHARLES W. PIERCE. The life record of this gentleman is indissolubly linked with the early history of Nebraska City, the first settlement in Otoe County, as it was he who surveyed and platted the city, and his name often occurs in its annals in after years. In this connection a few items regarding its origin may not be out of place. Prior to 1854 Otoe County belonged exclusively to the Pawnee, Otoe and Omaha tribes of Indians, although occasional itinerant traders found their way to this point from St. Louis, then the great trading-post of the Northwest. As early as 1841, or some say not until 1844, Col. Stephen W. Kearney (afterward Major General) selected the present site of Nebraska City for a military station on account of its admirable strategical and commercial advantages, and in 1846, on the 22d of April, Company G, 22d United States Dragoons, under command of Capt. Allen, arrived here and proceeded to establish a post, to which they gave the name Ft. Kearney. A block house was at once erected between Main and Otoe streets, on Fifth street, and quarters for the officers, hospitals, etc., were built. In 1848 the fort was abandoned by the Government, and the property left in charge of Mr. Harden, and subsequently of Col. John Boulware, and in 1850, of Hiram P. Downs, who retained it until the Government withdrew all claims to the site upon which the fort was built in the spring of 1854. The American Fur Company made this one of its stations soon after the establishment of the military post, and continued to occupy it until the United States extinguished the Indian title to the land. The original settlers and claimants as squatters were Col. John Boulware, John B. Boulware and Col. Hiram P. Downs, the Boulwares staking off a squatter's claim in the spring of 1853 to what afterward became the Kearney division of Nebraska City, and Col. Downs claiming two quarter-sections of land, 160 acres of which is now included within the corporate limits of Nebraska City, as soon as the land was abandoned by the United States.

When Mr. Pierce came here on the 3d of May, 1854, he found these gentlemen and their families the only inhabitants of the future city. Mr. Downs was then living in a log building erected by the soldiers in the rear of the block house, where the Morton House now stands. Mr. Pierce surveyed the claims referred to, and, furthermore, we are told in a recent history of the county, that "in April, 1854, Stephen F. Nuckolls, and in May of the same year Allen A. Bradford, crossed the river and made arrangements with Hiram Downs whereby they became with him joint owners in the claim which he had taken, and they immediately employed Charles W. Pierce to survey and stake off a city, the work being commenced in 1854." The first permanent habitation in the city, however, and indeed in the county, antedated the platting of the city two years, John B. Boulware having built a ferry house in 1852, on the river bank at the foot of Commercial street. Charles H. Cowles erected the first frame house on the town site near the corner of Fifth and Main streets, and the second one was built by our subject on Main street between Fourth and Fifth streets. The first hotel was built in the fall of 1854 by Mr. Downs. The first post-office, called Table Creek post-office, was established at Nebraska City as early as 1854, and Mr. Pierce was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City.

Mr. Pierce is still an honored resident of the city in whose foundation he played so important a part thirty-four years ago. He is widely known and is highly respected, not only as a pioneer but as a man and a citizen. He is a native of New York City, born in that great metropolis Feb. 21, 1828, coming of good old New England stock. His father, Wilder Pierce, was, it is thought, a native of Massachusetts, as his father, Amasa Pierce, was born, reared and married in that State. He, the grandfather of our subject, moved from his native State

to New York, and was one of the early pioneers of Cortland County, where he cleared a farm from the wilderness and made his residence until a few months before his death. He then went to Niagara County, and died at the home of his son. The father of our subject learned the trade of ship carpenter, and in the War of 1812 served in the United States Navy, and was with Commodore Lawrence when the latter was killed, and the vessel and crew were captured. In 1831 Mr. Pierce went on a cruise in the United States man-of-war "Hornet" in quest of piratical crafts, and was lost with the crew and vessel. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Catherine Ryder. She was born in the Mohawk Valley, N. Y., and spent her last years in New York City, dying in 1845.

The subject of this sketch was for the most part reared and educated by his paternal grandparents. He attended the public schools, and at the age of fifteen commenced the study of civil engineering. In 1849 he went to Dubuque, Iowa, and there engaged with a party of surveyors who were surveying Government land in that State. In December of that year he gave up his profession there and went to Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, which was then a hamlet of a few log buildings, and the two succeeding years he was engaged in superintending a ferry across the Missouri River at Belleville. In the spring of 1852 he went to Sidney, Iowa, but his health being poor he did but little while there. He remained there until May, 1854, and on the 3d of that month he came to the present site of Nebraska City. Charles W. Coles came with him to engage in mercantile business, and was the first merchant of the city. As before stated, Mr. Pierce had come here for the purpose of surveying and laying out the city, and before cold weather set in he had a part of the city platted, and ten or twelve families were settled here by that time, and these early settlers and about 600 Indians spent the winter here. In July, 1854, the Nebraska City post-office was established, and Mr. Pierce was made the first Postmaster. But there was no regular mail carrier for nearly a year, and the citizens used to employ some person to go to Sidney, Iowa, fifteen miles distant, for the mail once a week. In 1855 a mail carrier was appointed, who brought the mail twice a week, and soon three times a week, until the railway was built on the opposite side of the river, and then daily. In 1855 Mr. Pierce resigned his office and was appointed inspector of survey by the Government, which position he held until August, 1857. He then resumed surveying for the Government, and was a United States surveyor in Nebraska for seven years. When Otoe County was organized he was made County Surveyor, and was re-elected to that office several times, until at the end of twelve years he utterly refused to serve any longer. In 1854 Mr. Pierce took the census in the northern half of the Territory, and during the second session of the Territorial Legislature he was Sergeant-at-Arms of the Territorial Council. In April, 1855, he was deputized by the Indian agent to remove the Otoe Indians to their reservation. He made the survey in April, and during the summer removed his charges to their new home.

BARNARD BRADY. Within the confines of Belmont Precinct, and in the southwestern part of section 24, is located the farm of this gentleman, which embraces 160 acres of land, and has been brought to a good state of cultivation. One of its most attractive features is the handsome and substantial residence, while a good barn and all the other necessary out-buildings, with fruit and shade trees, form a most attractive background. Mr. Brady has been thorough and successful as an agriculturist, and is a man of good business capacities. As a citizen he is esteemed as one of the most valued members of his community.

Our subject was born at Port George in British America, Aug. 17, 1830, and is the son of Antwin and Mary (Riley) Brady, who were natives of Ireland, and the former a British soldier in the War of 1812. Later he went to Ireland, and there the subject of this sketch spent a portion of his boyhood. His parents died in Ireland, and Barnard then returned to British America with relatives, and came to this county in August of 1854, while Nebraska was a Territory. He took up a claim that same year opposite St. Joseph in Kansas, but the border war coming on he was forced to flee, and found

Yours Truly

F. W. Robb

refuge in Macon County, Mo., until the troubles were over.

Mr. Brady in the spring of 1863 returned to this county during the progress of the Civil War, but in the meantime had served as a Confederate soldier in Company I, 4th Missouri Infantry. He located permanently on his present farm in September, 1870, and is now the owner of one of the most desirable estates in this part of the county.

Our subject was married, in May, 1870, to Mrs. Sarah Nestor, widow of George W. Nestor, and daughter of Dudley and Kerby Abbott. Mrs. Brady was born Oct. 9, 1843, in Missouri. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and their household consisted of fourteen children. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, four of whom are living, namely: Thomas H., John D., Edward W. and Andrew J. The eldest is sixteen years of age and the youngest nine. Of the first marriage of Mrs. Brady there had been born two children, both daughters, Caroline and Martha, who are living in Oregon and married. Mr. Brady, politically, is a Democrat, and socially, in 1883 identified himself with the Masonic fraternity.

HON. FLEMING W. ROBB, ex-member of the Nebraska Legislature, and one of the early pioneers of this county, first crossed the Missouri on the 23d of June, 1856, at the old town site of Wyoming, and at once preempted the quarter of section 3, where he has now a well-developed farm, which yields in abundance the products of Southern Nebraska. Subsequently he added 120 acres to his first purchase, eighty acres of which he has since presented to his son, Montgomery Robb. He came to Nebraska with moderate means, but has now a good property, and socially, occupies a high position among the leading men of his community and county.

Prior to casting his lot with the pioneers of Nebraska Territory our subject had spent his years in Lycoming County, Pa., having been born near the town of Muncie, that county, Aug. 31, 1815. His father, William F. Robb, was a native of Carlisle, that State, and of excellent Scotch-Irish stock. When two years of age he removed with his father, Robert Robb, to Lycoming County, when that section of country was peopled principally by Indians and wild animals. Robert Robb settled upon a tract of land where he made some improvements, but was finally driven off by the Indians. He finally located in Muncie Township, where he spent the remainder of his life, and where his death took place at the home of his son William F.

The father of our subject became intimately acquainted with the privations and hardships of life in a new country, such as was Pennsylvania during his boyhood and youth, and developed into manhood in Lycoming County. He was there married in Muncie Township to Miss Mary Shoemaker, a native of Lycoming County, and of Dutch ancestry. Her family had lived for a time in Berks County, and were people well-to-do and highly respected. After marriage the elder Robb and his young wife located on a farm in Muncie Township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, doing good to all around them and building up for themselves and their children a comfortable homestead. Their sons and daughters were given a practical education and trained to habits of industry and principles of honor. The father in religious belief was a Presbyterian, while the mother held to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was the fourth son and fifth child of his parents. Of the parental family only he and his brother Charles W., a prominent attorney of Pittsburgh, Pa., are living. Fleming W. was reared to manhood in his native county, where he learned the trade of a tanner, which he followed a number of years in Pennsylvania. In common with the young men of his time, his chief ambition was to have a pleasant and comfortable home of his own, and with this end in view he was married, June 23, 1846, to Miss Ellen W. Montgomery. This lady was born in Clinton Township, Lycoming Co., Pa., Feb. 28, 1826, and is the daughter of John and Mary (Hammond) Montgomery, who died in their native State, Pennsylvania, many years ago, the mother while a young woman and the father at the age of forty-eight years. Their family consisted of seven children, two of whom are living; the sister Elizabeth is the widow of Edward L. Lloyd, of Williamsport, Pa.

Mrs. Robb was only ten years of age at the time of her mother's death. She was carefully educated, first in the common schools, and then in the Female Seminary at Muncie, Pa., remaining with her father until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, three of whom are deceased, namely: Mary H., who died when eighteen months old; John, who died at the age of four years, and Lizzie L. The latter was reared to womanhood and became the wife of W. C. Carpenter, with whom she removed to the town of Ogden, in Utah Territory, and where she died Oct. 3, 1888, leaving one child, a daughter, Eleanor. Two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Robb are married and living: Washington Hammond Montgomery Robb took to wife Miss Jessie Walbridge, and is farming in Wyoming Precinct on a part of the old homestead; Amelia B. married M. J. Fenn, and lives at Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb. Mr. and Mrs. R. are members in good standing of the Episcopal Church; they were the first members here and established the church; Bishop Talbot preached the first sermon of the Episcopal Church in this township at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Robb. Our subject cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Harrison in the year 1836, at Williamsport, Pa., also again in 1840, and since its organization has been a stanch supporter of the Republican party.

Mr. Robb has been prominent in public affairs almost since the time of coming to this county, being a man of more than ordinary intelligence and well informed. In the fall of 1876 he was elected by the Republicans to represent his district in the Nebraska Legislature, and did good service, especially as a member of the Committee of Education. He entertains a genuine interest in the welfare of his adopted county, and has built for himself a worthy record as an honest man and a good citizen.

EZRA S. HAWLEY, a pioneer of Nebraska of 1859, is among the foremost of the wide-awake business men of Nebraska City, to whose zeal and enterprise she is so largely indebted for her position as the leading metropolis of Otoe County. He is a native of New York State, born in the town of Deposit, Delaware County. His father, William Hawley, was born in Connecticut, April 26, 1789. He was reared in his native State, and when a young man went to the State of New York and settled in Delaware County, of which he became a pioneer. He bought a tract of timber land, cleared a farm, and was a resident there some time, and then moved to the town of Deposit, and kept a hotel there for a number of years. A few years before his death, which occurred Aug. 29, 1871, he moved to Elyria, Ohio, and there passed the remainder of his life. He was twice married. He was united to Esther Benedict June 12, 1812. She died Oct. 16, 1831. His second marriage was May 30, 1832, to Elizabeth (Broade) Childs. She was born in Pennsylvania, May 30, 1792, and died Dec. 22, 1862. There were four children by the first marriage. Our subject is the only child by the second marriage.

Mr. Hawley was but six years old when his parents moved to the village of Deposit, and there he received his education in the public school, and at the academy in the same town. When he was eighteen years old he entered upon his mercantile career as a clerk in a general store in Deposit. In 1857 he started West to seek a home on the broad prairies beyond the Mississippi, intending to settle in Kansas, which was then the scene of the great emigration from the East and South, and the battle-ground of the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions. He traveled by rail to St Louis, and from there by boat to Sibley, a few miles below Kansas City, where he met an old townsman, Wheeler Brown. They bought some cattle together and a wagon, and drove to Kansas City to get a supply of provisions, and then proceeded on their way to Kansas. In the afternoon of the third day of their journey it commenced to snow and blow, and they thus had their first experience of a Kansas blizzard. At night they reached a vacant shanty that had been erected by Hackaday and Hull, mail-carriers. The sides and roof of the building were covered with shakes, rived by hand, and there being no chimney, they built a fire on the ground in the middle of the shanty. They then rolled themselves in their blankets on the floor, and passed the night there.

The next morning, the 12th of April, they started again, and had only proceeded a mile when they came to the locality known as Palmyra. There our subject made a claim, and was soon after appointed Postmaster of the town. In May he and Mr. Brown went to Linn County, and made a claim there on land known as the Indian trust land, and soon after, when it came into the market, bought it at Government price. Mr. Hawley soon sold his land, however, and returned to Palmyra, only to find that in his absence someone had jumped his claim in that place. He then went to Kansas City, and was there appointed agent for the Missouri Express Company. Kansas City was then a small place of about 2,500 inhabitants, a frontier town, without any railway connection with the outside world, and with little promise of its present greatness. All the business at that time was done on the levee. The first brick building for business purposes that was built in the city away from the levee was erected in 1857, by Col. Titus J. Nicaragua, for a billiard hall and saloon. in the fall of 1857 the Missouri Express Company sold to the United States Express Company, and our subject was employed as their agent until June, 1858, when he was sent to St Joseph to establish an express line from that town to Omaha for that company. He remained in charge in St. Joseph until March, 1859, when he came to Nebraska City to take charge of the company's office here. Soon after he was appointed agent for the St Joseph and Hannibal steam packet company, and the Luckbaugh stage line. A short time after he formed a partnership with a Mr. Wooley, and engaged in the business of receiving and forwarding freight, Nebraska City then being the headquarters of the freighters, who took supplies to the different military posts, mining camps and towns further west. Their business assumed enormous proportions, and in 1865 the firm forwarded 250,000 bushels of corn and 13,000,000 pounds of merchandise and mining machinery. Corn at that time was worth $1.50 a bushel in Nebraska City, and $8.50 in the mountains. In 1864 the firm, in addition to their other business, concluded to try freighting, and consequently bought a lot of cattle and started two trains loaded with corn for Denver; one train of twenty-four wagons, with six pairs of oxen to a wagon, and the other with twelve wagons, with four mules to each wagon. In 1865 potatoes were very scarce in Denver, selling at fifty cents a pound, and our subject and his partner, concluding that it would be a good speculation to send some to that point, early in the spring of 1866 started a train loaded with the tubers. Before their train arrived, however, potatoes had been carried into the city from other sources, and the prices had consequently been greatly reduced. But the trainmaster had been instructed by Mr. Hawley not to sell for less than fifteen cents a pound, but to leave them with a commission dealer, and the latter concluded to take them at the price asked. In 1867 the Union Pacific Railway had extended its lines to the North Platte, and the occupation of the freighter was gone from that time forth. Mr. Hawley and his partner then turned their attention to mercantile pursuits, and opened a general store, having commenced the sale of farm implements in 1859, and they continued that also. Our subject soon bought his partner's interest in the business, and soon after discontinued all but the sale of farm implements, in which branch of business he is still engaged, selling farm implements great and small, including wagons and carriages, and doing an extensive business. In 1859 he sold the first harvesting-machine ever sold in Nebraska south of the Platte River, and probably the first ever sold in the State.

Mr. Hawley was married, in 1859, to Miss Henrietta Sheldon, and six children have been born to them, three of whom are living—Florence, Fanny and Henrietta. Jay Sheldon, their only son, died when thirteen years of age; Janie died in her eighth year, and Lizzie died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawley are members of the Presbyterian Church, and are workers in the Sunday-school. In politics Mr. Hawley is one of the leading Democrats of the city, and he has always affiliated with that party. He has been prominently connected with various enterprises tending to develop the city and benefit the surrounding country. He was one of the incorporators of the Midland Railway Company, which was the nucleus of the various railways that now enter the city. He is a member and director in the Building and Loan Association,

and is President of the Board of Trade; he is also President of the City Council. In 1872 he was elected County Commissioner, and served three years. When the State was admitted to the Union in 1867, Mr. Hawley was much interested in the location of the capital, favoring and working for Lincoln. In the fall of 1867 he attended the sale of lots in that city, and in company with his partner, J. M. Burke, erected the second business building ever built in Lincoln.

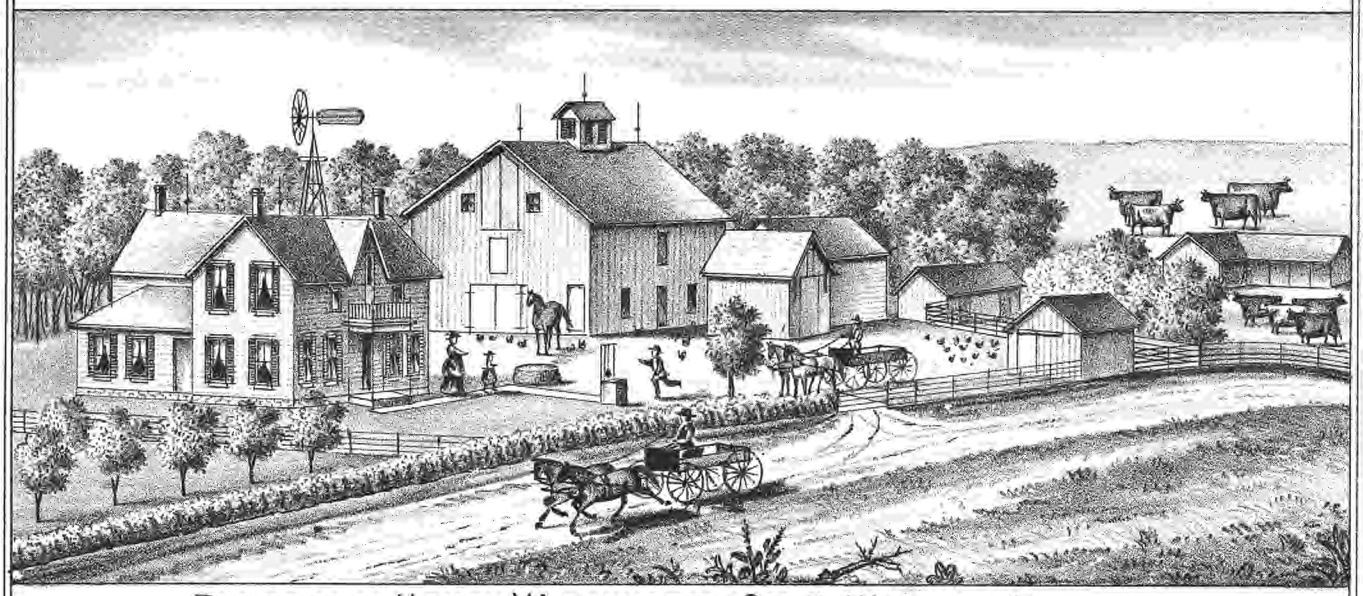
Coming to this portion of the country at an early day, and seeing much of the aboriginal owners of the land, becoming conversant with their manners and customs, Mr. Hawley has gained a clear idea of the Indian question, and can tell many interesting things concerning the red man. He relates that in 1860, the Indian agent, Maj. Dennison, lived in Nebraska City, and that the last boat that came up the river in the fall of 1859 had brought him $40,000 to pay to the Indians that were living on the reservation at Salt Creek. In March, 1860, five Indian chiefs, with about twenty-five braves, appeared in the city and complained that the money had not been paid to them. The citizens called upon the Major for an explanation. He coolly remarked that he made his report to the Government, and not to citizens. The following day the Indians captured Mr. Dennison, bound him with ropes, and took him to the court-house, where a council was held, consisting of five whites and five Indians. The Major finally consented to make a statement of what he had done with the money. It seems that he had made many charges against the Indians, of which the following is a sample: For a certain depredation of the Indians they were charged $1,500. One of the chiefs explained that the braves had been out hunting, and being unsuccessful, on their return had killed a cow belonging to a white settler, and that they expected and intended to pay for it whatever it might be worth, probably not more than $20. And there were many other such charges that took up the greater part of the money. The Indians, however, secured some, and returned to their reservation. There was quite a feeling among the citizens regarding the capture of the agent by the Indians; some declaring whatever he might have done the Indians ought not to have molested him, while others were moved to pity by the distress and sufferings endured by the Indians who had depended upon the money for support during the winter.

Mr. Hawley is a gentleman of pleasing address, of ripe culture, and of rare energy and stability of character, traits well fitting him for the responsibilities of the important offices that he holds. In him we have the rare example, worthy of being widely followed, of a business man without stain, a wealthy man without selfishness, a charitable man without ostentation.

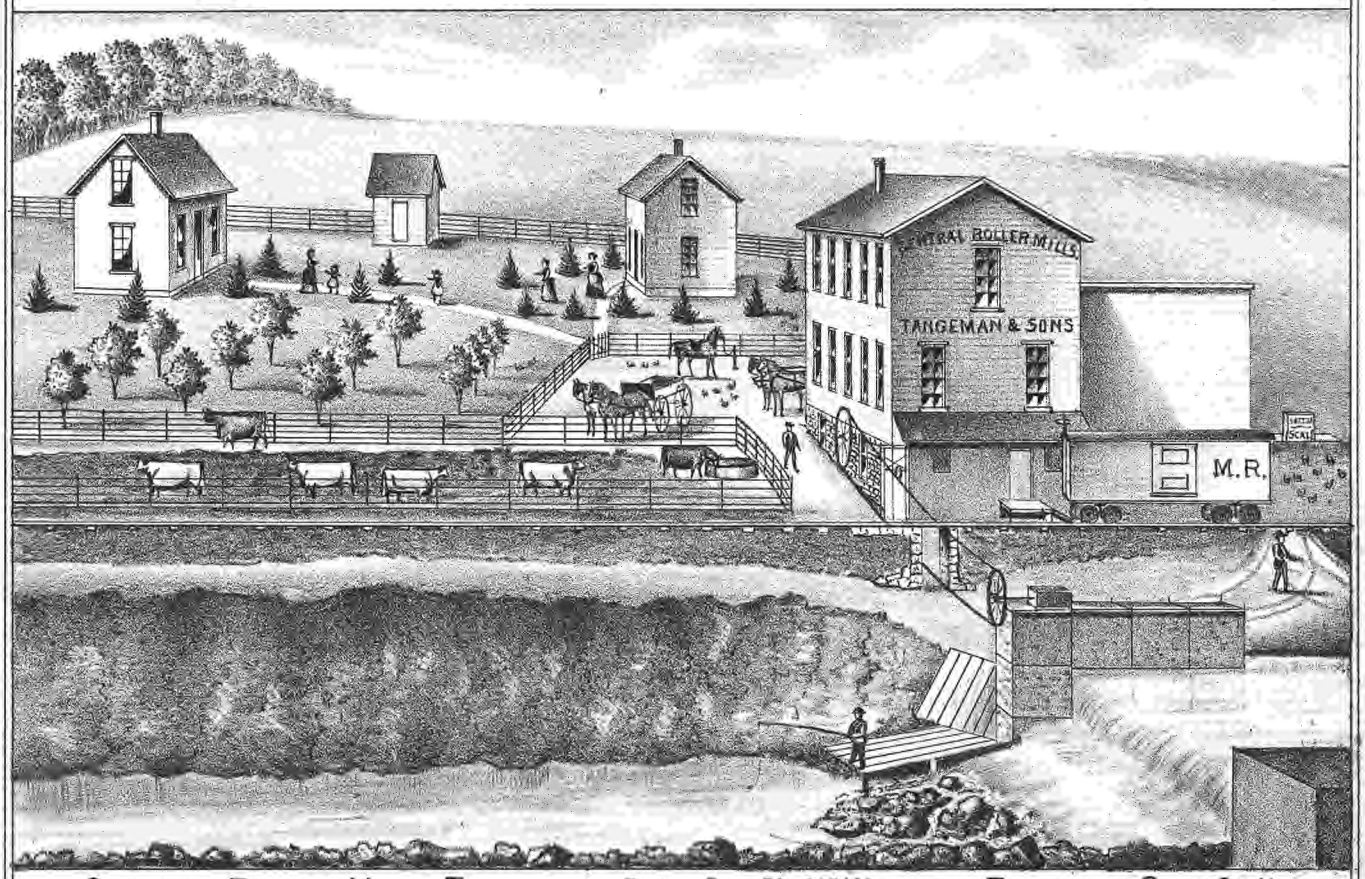
HERMAN H. TANGEMAN, member of the firm of Tangeman & Sons, who operate the well-known flouring-mill on the Nemaha River, in the northwest part of McWilliams Precinct, has reason to be proud of this enterprise, with which he became connected in the spring of 1882. It is one of the leading institutions of its kind in the county, and is patronized by its best citizens far and near. The property is of more than ordinary interest and importance to our subject, the mill having been established by his father, John G. Tangeman.

The present building was erected in 1884, upon the site of the old mill which had been destroyed by fire. It has been fitted up with all the modern machinery, including five double-run of rollers, and operating by the patent process so much in favor in this latter day. There is a 60-horse power engine, driven by water, transported from the wheel to the mill by a cable in an even, unobstructed stream over a groove wheel nine feet in diameter. The entire machinery moves easily and without friction, and in a year's time puts out probably 15,000 barrels of flour, besides meal and other commodities. The firm of Tangeman & Sons are able to compete with the best manufacturers of flour in Southwestern Nebraska, and supply a considerable foreign demand, their patronage extending throughout this and adjoining States. A view of the mill with its surroundings is shown on the accompanying page.

Our subject was the third child of his parents,



RESIDENCE OF HENRY WIECKHORST, SEC. 7. WYOMING PRECINCT.



CENTRAL ROLLER MILLS, TANGEMAN & SONS. SEC. 21. McWILLIAMS PRECINCT, OTOE CO. NEB.

whose family comprised six children, and was born in Clayton County, Iowa, July 4, 1853. He was reared and educated in his native township, and was a youth of sixteen years when the family came to Nebraska. They settled in Osage Precinct, this county, and the father in 1881 established the present mill business, where Herman H. acquired the practical knowledge which is serving him so well at the present time. Since the retirement of his father he has managed the business in an admirable manner, and without embarrassment.

One of the most important events in the life of our subject was his marriage, which occurred Dec. 11, 1881, the maiden of his choice being Miss Mary Hopp. Mrs. Tangeman is a native of Lee County, Iowa, and was born in Charleston Township, Dec. 11, 1861. Her father, Phillip Hopp, a very successful farmer, is a resident of Osage Precinct, where he has lived for many years. The parental family included nine children. Mrs. Tangeman received a fair education in the common schools, and remained with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of one child, a daughter, Leonora L., who was born April 6, 1887. Our subject, politically, is a sound Republican, and, with his excellent wife, a member of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, but at the solicitation of the people of his school district serves as Director.

HENRY WIECKHORST. The homestead of the subject of this sketch, who is one of the most prominent and well-known farmers and stock-raisers of Wyoming Precinct, is finely located on section 7, and embraces 160 acres of land, which has been brought to a highly productive condition. His entire landed estate embraces 480 acres, lying on three different sections, all in first-class condition and provided with suitable buildings. Mr. W. is a fine illustration of the self-made man, beginning in life without other resources than his own industry. He came to the Territory of Nebraska in the spring of 1857, and purchased 160 acres of land from the Government, where he took up his residence, and where he still lives. A view of the place is presented in this connection.

The neighbors of our subject were few and far between at the time of his settlement in this county, when there were little signs of life to be seen except Indians and wild animals. Not only did he come to a new portion of America, but America itself was new to him, as he had but recently crossed the Atlantic from Holstein, Germany, where he had spent his youth and early manhood, and where he was born Feb. 24, 1828. Thus he had more difficulties to contend with than the native-born American, having to learn a new language and become familiar with the habits of a strange people. Too much credit cannot be given him and others of his countrymen who crossed the Mississippi under like circumstances at that period.

The father of our subject was H. Wieckhorst, a well-to-do farmer of pure German ancestry, who spent his entire life in his native Holstein. He, however, only lived to be middle-aged, dying at the early age of forty-two years. He was married in early manhood to Miss Eldora Harderes, who survived her husband many years, and lived to the age of seventy. The parental household consisted of seven children, four of whom are now living. Of these our subject was the third child and third son of the family, and, together with his brothers and sisters, received a thorough education in his native tongue. After leaving school he went into the regular army, where he spent the years from 1849 to 1852, seeing very little of warfare. In the spring of 1857, after having employed himself at farming with indifferent results, and not being satisfied with his prospects in his native Germany, he resolved to emigrate to the United States. He embarked at Hamburg, and landed in New Orleans, whence he proceeded directly westward to Nebraska Territory.

Our subject came to this country a single man. Some years after his arrival in Wyoming Precinct he made the acquaintance of a most estimable lady, Mrs. Fredricka (Miller) Laas, to whom he was married Aug. 17, 1877. Mrs. Wieckhorst is also of German birth and parentage, and was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, in October, 1845. Her parents were Christin and Dora Miller,

who were also natives of Germany, and are now deceased. Mrs. W., like her husband, received a good common-school education, and was first married in Nebraska to Mr. Fred Laas, with whom she came to America in the spring of 1871. Of that marriage there were no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Wieckhorst began their wedded life together on the farm which they now occupy, but which bears little resemblance to its original condition. It has taken years of time and thousands of dollars to develop the homestead and effect the improvements which are to-day observed with admiration by the passing traveler. Of their union there have been born three sons, the eldest of whom, Peter, died when four weeks old. Henry P. was born July 31, 1882, and Herman, Oct. 17, 1886. These are bright and intelligent boys, and are being well educated and carefully trained. Mr. Wieckhorst, politically, is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He and his estimable wife were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere.

The Wieckhorst residence is one of the handsomest in Wyoming Precinct, and with its adjacent buildings occupies a gentle elevation, which commands a fine view of the surrounding country. In the rear is an apple orchard in bearing condition, and there is an abundance of the smaller fruits, which yield bounteously in their season. The dwelling, with its surroundings, completes the ideal picture of the country home of people blessed with cultivated tastes and abundant means.

ANDREW J. REYNOLDS. This gentleman is one of the much valued citizens of South Branch Precinct, where he owns a very fine farm comprising 200 acres on sections 29 and 32. He is prominent as one of the progressive and successful men in his line, and also as a temperance worker and in religious circles. His father, Thomas Reynolds, was born in Orange County, N. Y.; his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Benedict, was born near Obed, N. Y. After their marriage Mr. Reynolds, Sr., continued farming in his native State. He took much interest in political affairs, and was an active worker in that arena; he was numbered among the Democratic party, but later in life became one of the Free-Soil party. Although frequently called upon, he never aspired to or would hold office. His life closed in 1856, his death occurring in Yates County, N. Y., after a life of seventy-four years. He had survived his wife about two years, her demise occurring in 1854, she being at the time fifty-seven years of age.

The grandfather of our subject was in the Revolutionary War, serving as a private under George Washington. He was wounded several times; one especially caused him considerable suffering; it was in the right side, and for some reason did not heal well and kept him in confinement longer than had been expected; but finally it healed, and he was enabled to serve until nearly the close of the war, when he was taken prisoner by the British and placed in a church, and was not further noticed until almost dead from starvation. He is reputed to have been the largest and stoutest man in the regiment, and also the best wrestler.

The family of which our subject is a member included twelve children, viz: Phœbe A., Ellen, Pattie J. (who died when twelve years of age), Joseph, William, Andrew J., Angeline (deceased), Sarah, Hannah, J. Brooks (who died when three years of age), Daniel and Thomas Benton. Daniel enlisted in the 19th New York Infantry, in 1861, and served for two years. In the battle of Antietam, under Gen. Banks, he was taken from the regiment and made foreman of bridge builders. While busily engaged they had all their clothing, tools and weapons taken from them, but managed to effect their escape; they were taken by surprise by a party of Confederates. Thomas B. volunteered at the same time as his brother, but being deaf was rejected. Later, when men were necessary and the need pressing, he was drafted and served under Gen. Gilmore. He was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville, where he was confined seven months, and when released was in a semi-starved condition. Upon returning home fever sought to effect what prison had left undone, but he recovered, although his constitution could never again be what it was prior to the imprisonment.

The subject of our sketch was born in Yates

County, N. Y., near the town of Middlesex, on the 30th of November, 1828. Until he was twenty-one years of age he made his home with his parents, the years being filled with the engagements of school and home until he came to years of discretion, when he became his father's assistant. In beginning life for himself he, in 1858, concluded to go West; he stopped about twelve months in Cook County, Ill., and then went to Pike's Peak. The gold fever was at its height, and he intended to get his share if possible; he had crossed Missouri and was in this State when there was a stampede from the gold district back home. The reports from those returning were such as to decide him to remain in Nebraska; he staid in this county for one year, and then went on to the mountains, where he worked for about eighteen months. He was beaten out of his wages, and did not find life so agreeable as might have been expected, and therefore returned to South Branch, took up his present property of 160 acres, and settled upon it.

In the beginning of his new home Mr. Reynolds found everything to do. There was nothing here but the raw, uncultivated prairie, neither house, barn, fence nor field. Settlers were very few, his being the third homestead claim that was entered in the county, but with strong courage and determination to succeed he went to work; speedily his house was set up, barns and other farm buildings erected, and one by one the various improvements were made. About that time he purchased an additional forty acres, and this has shared with the original 160 in being brought to a well-nigh perfect condition for agricultural purposes. There are few if any farms in the county presenting a better appearance, or actually more productive than that of our subject.

On the 6th of April, 1853, in Yates County, N. Y., was celebrated the marriage of Miss Eleanor M. Bassett and Mr. Reynolds. His wife is the daughter of David Bassett, of New York, and the reader is referred to the sketch of that gentleman found in this volume for items of interest connected with her family. She was born in Allegany County, N. Y., on the 10th of April, 1830. She is a thoroughly educated and accomplished lady, and has taught school for about seven terms. They have adopted two children: Leonora Hughes, who has made her home in Denver, Col., and Edna Reynolds, who was born on the 7th of September, 1876, and still resides with our subject and his wife.

Mr. Reynolds has been Assessor for one year; he has also been on the School Board three years. He is, politically, a very strong Prohibitionist, and is very active in that cause. It is not, therefore, surprising to learn that he is an enthusiastic member of the I. O. G. T., and is affiliated with the lodge at Rockford. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were, perhaps, the principal instigators of the enterprise to build a church house. He deeded the land for the purpose, gave largely himself and solicited the greater part of the money required for the building, and helped in many other ways. For many years he has been one of the Class-Leaders, and also Superintendent of the Sunday-school; Mrs. Reynolds is a teacher in the Sunday-school. There are very few families more esteemed or highly respected than this, and the community is favored in having one so interested, earnest and active.

EZRA T. CAMPBELL, M. D. The medical profession is most worthily represented in the subject of this sketch, who has been located in Nebraska City since March of 1888. He is well educated and of a good family, being the son of Hon. J. C. Campbell, M. D., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Our subject was born in the city where he now resides, June 24, 1864, and is consequently just entering upon a career which bids fair to bring him success and honor. He completed his regular course of study in the High School and the Nebraska College at the age of sixteen years, and soon afterward began teaching, which he followed two years in Otoe County and one year in Nemaha County.

At an early age Dr. Campbell had resolved to enter the medical profession, and after being graduated from the college in Nebraska City in 1883, in 1884 he entered the National Medical College, or Medical Department of Columbia University, at Washington, D. C., where he studied until 1888.

Prior to this, having had ready access to his father's extensive library, he improved the opportunities to inform himself, and thus became well fitted for the duties which lay before him. He stood at the head of his class during the whole course, and after four years spent in the college at Washington, was graduated in the class of '88. He carried off the only prize in clinics. He had a fine opportunity of becoming acquainted with many of the eminent physicians of the day, and met many more in the National Medical Congress which was held at Washington in June, 1887. In that city also he had the good fortune to meet many prominent political men, and lost no opportunity to inform himself both in regard to his profession and the stirring National events which were then transpiring at the capital.

While in Washington Dr. Campbell was one of the attending physicians of the Woman's Dispensary. He is a close student and extensive reader, and keeps himself well posted concerning the new theories which are constantly being advanced in connection with the profession. He cast his first Presidential vote for Cleveland, and vigorously upholds the principles of his party, working actively in its support. In 1888 he was elected Vice President of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Nebraska City, and did especially good service during the campaign. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Campbells of Scotland have been celebrated in poetry and history, and the Campbells of Nebraska trace their ancestry back to that branch who, centuries ago, ranged themselves under the standard of McCallum More in the series of struggles which led to the expulsion of the Stuarts from the British throne. The precise date of the arrival of the first Campbell in America is not positively known, but it is believed a number of them came over in the three ships "George, Ann and John of Dublin," the vessels leaving Ireland May 20, 1729, and arriving on the American coast in August following.

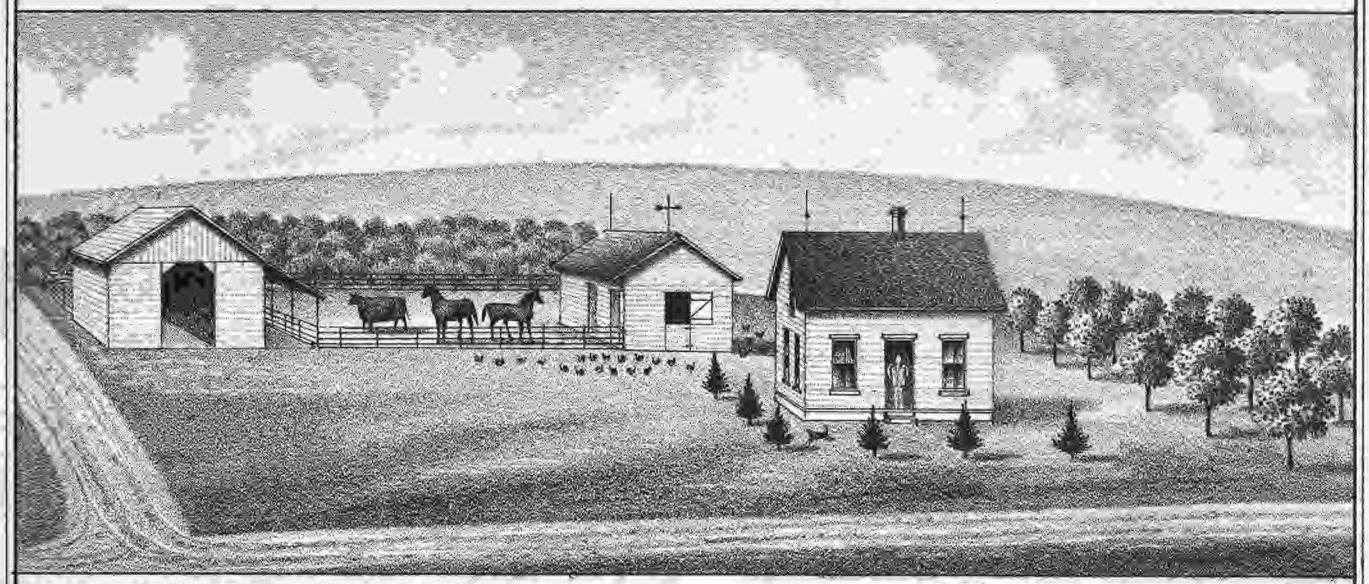
The Campbells then settled in Pennsylvania, and were the compeers of other noted Scotch and Irish families, with whom they intermarried, and perpetuated the vigorous race of people which, to this day, commands universal admiration on account of both its physical and mental qualities. The Campbells, after adopting America as their country, were as eager in its defense and perpetuity as had been their ancestors before them in protecting their own native land from the ravages of the invador; and in the Revolutionary War they were numbered among those who fought most courageously in the struggle for Colonial independence. After laying down the implements of warfare, they entered fully as vigorously into the pursuits of agriculture and the learned professions—became preachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, lecturers, statesmen, legislators, congressmen—in fact, have represented all the honorable employments for which this country has become famous.

The history of this remarkable family it is hoped will still be preserved with that careful fidelity which has always made a record attracting the attention of the reflective mind, and has, at the same time, had associated with it the tinge of romance, making it deeply attractive to the story lover.

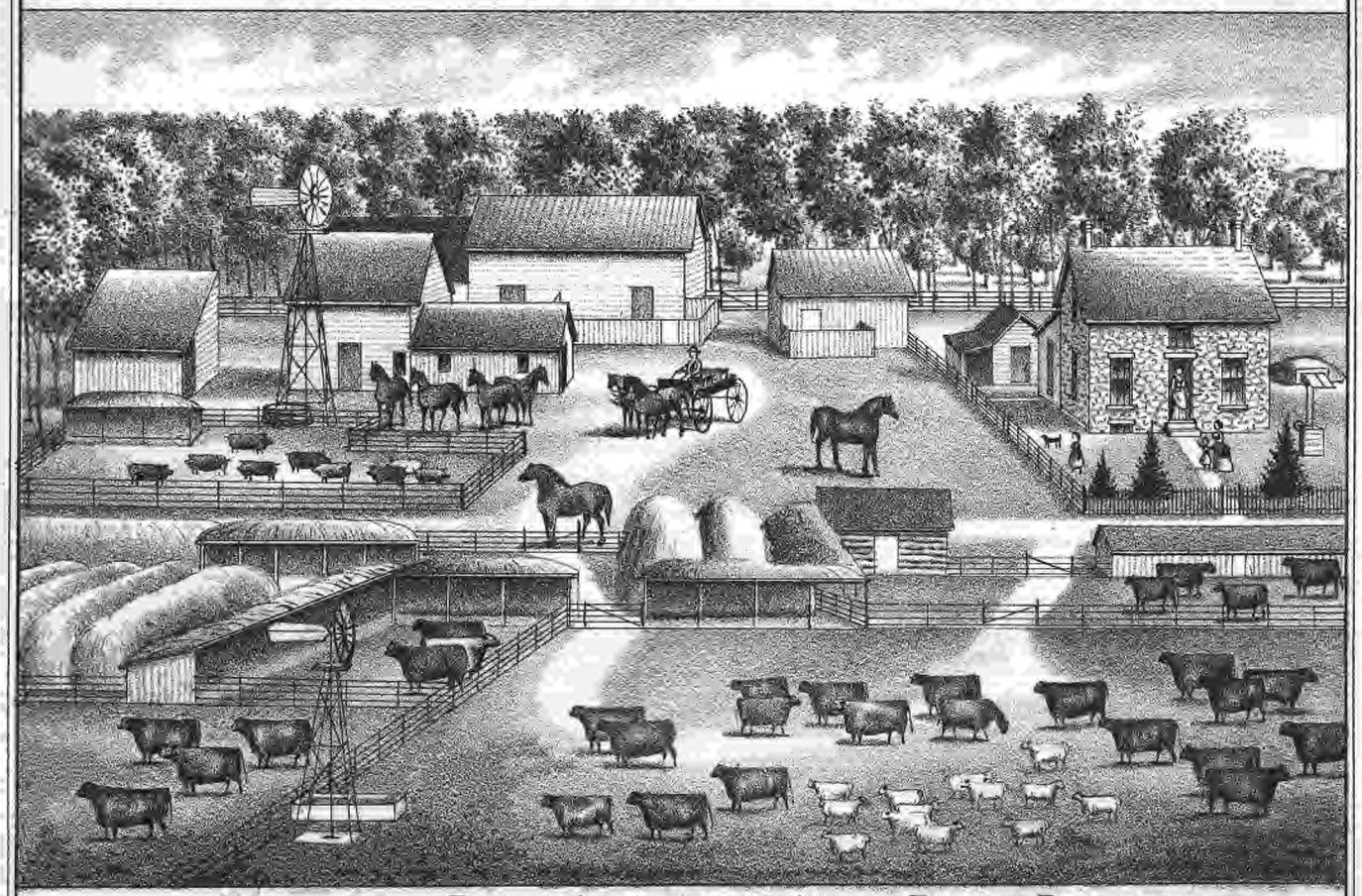
ALBERT L. YOUNG is the owner of a very valuable and highly productive farm of 200 acres on section 35, in North Branch Precinct, and is one of the capable citizens of the county. He was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., on the 7th of March, 1852, and is the son of Josiah H. and Mary (Cook) Young. The father of our subject resides at Berlin. When Albert was a little fellow six years of age his mother died, leaving a place in his life that could never be filled by another.

With the exception of about eighteen months in the years 1859–60, when our subject's father was on the Pacific Slope, during which period Albert lived with his grandparents and an uncle, he had remained with the family at home, and when, in 1872, his father came to Nebraska and settled on section 1, Syracuse Precinct, he accompanied him, and continued upon the farm as his father's helper for about four years.

In 1876 Mr. Young was united in marriage with Lou E. Annabel, the amiable daughter of Isaac and Anna (Crichton) Annabel. This lady was born in



RESIDENCE OF JOHN PETERSON, SEC. 15. (NORTH) RUSSELL PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF ELIJAH LUFF, SEC. 33. (NORTH) RUSSELL PRECINCT.

Winona County, Minn., on the 16th of June, 1859. Her education was received in the district school. Mr. and Mrs. Young first settled upon the property where they now reside, the first purchase including 160 acres. This was speedily brought into shape and prepared for his purpose, well improved and supplied with a good residence and the needed outbuildings for farming purposes and stock-raising. The latter has been the chief occupation of our subject, and that which has enabled him to make the success in life that he has.

Isaac Annabel, the father of Mrs. Young, was born in Saratoga, N. Y., on the 5th of November, 1810, and was the son of Prince and Ruth (Howland) Annabel. The family is of French extraction, but for several generations have been citizens of New England. Mr. and Mrs. Annabel have four children living, viz: Lucy Jane, Lorenzo, George, and Lou E., the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of three children—Nettie Bell, Guy Garfield and Ralph Annabel.

Mr. and Mrs. Young have made many friends in this district, and are much esteemed for their personal qualities and worth. They move in the best local society and are always accorded a cordial welcome. Our subject is thoroughly interested in all questions of political importance, and usually votes the Republican ticket, of which party he has always been a firm friend and ardent admirer.

ELIJAH LUFF. The reader is here introduced to a compendious biographical sketch of the largest land-owner and perhaps most prominent farmer of Russell Precinct. This gentleman operates 1,080 acres of land on sections 33, 19 and 4, and is chiefly engaged in the buying, feeding and raising of thoroughbred and high-grade stock. He is at the same time one of the early settlers of Otoe County, and has been energetic in the various enterprises and undertakings that have advanced its interests.

Mr. Luff is the son of William and Ann (Wallen) Luff. His father was born in Somersetshire, England, as was also his mother. Both come of good old English families, of what might perhaps there be called the upper middle classes, a distinction happily unknown and largely not understood in our free land. His parents died respectively in the years 1878 and 1880, the father being seventy, and the mother seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of seven children, who received the following names: Betsey, William, Joseph (deceased), George, Matilda, Elijah, and Sidney (deceased).

The native place of the subject of our sketch is in Somersetshire. He was born on Good Friday of the year 1834. Until he was twenty years of age he continued at home. He received no schooling as a child, and has felt the injury resulting therefrom all his life, and has labored hard to overcome the same.

In the year 1855 Mr. Luff sailed from Bristol on the good ship "Try," and landed at New York City after a dull and wearying journey of six weeks, experiencing for the greater part of the time bad weather, which was by no means helpful to the comfort or spirits of those who were invading Neptune's realms for the first time.

In beginning life in the New World, our subject went to Wayne County, Ohio, and worked for one summer at masonry; in the winter he found employment on the railroad. In the spring of 1856 he went by rail to Leavenworth, Kan., thence by steamer to Weston. From there he footed it to St. Joseph, a distance of thirty miles, his entire earthly belongings and property packed in an old carpet bag that he carried upon his back in primitive style. From St. Joseph he came to Nebraska City, and spent two years here, and in 1859 he went to Russell Precinct, going from there to Pike's Peak, but being unsuccessful in mining gold, returned after four months, and took up the remunerative, though sometimes dangerous, employment of freighting from Nebraska City west to Denver. He continued thus engaged during the greater part of the war period.

On the 1st of January, 1863, our subject made a change; leaving his freighting he homesteaded the present farm whereon stands his residence. It was then in nowise different to the prairie surrounding it, and he had all the work he could do to bring it to anything like a right condition. He had a fine practical knowledge, and is naturally a fine business

manager. From time to time as he was able he bought land, adding piece by piece until the present noble estate is the result. All is in Russell Precinct. He has a large herd of cattle and feeds perhaps fifty more, but his chief pleasure on the farm is his horses, of which he has some twenty-five or thirty head, all of standard breed, and either pure blood or very high grade. He owns the well-known animals Compeer and Coleus.

Mr. and Mrs. Luff celebrated their union in wedlock in Russell, upon the 6th of November, 1863. The wife of our subject was prior to her marriage Miss Charlotte Mills. Her parents, William and Jane Mills, were born in Somersetshire, England. Her father was a very prosperous farmer in his native country, and died there in 1872, aged sixty-nine, having survived his wife almost twenty years, her demise occurring when she was forty-seven years of age. Mrs. Luff, who is also of English birth, came to this country from Bristol in the year 1863, and came into this State with the above-mentioned result. She is the eldest of three children; her brother George is now deceased, and her sister Harriet is now in Michigan. She is the mother of six children, viz: George, Albert, Annie, Thomas, Charles and Alice, all of whom are still with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Luff hold a very high position in society, and are much esteemed, both on account of the sterling qualities of their character and their social position. Their family is among the best in the county, and in all that means true home life they are in the front rank. As a citizen, man and friend, Mr. Luff is universally regarded by those who know him worthy of every regard. His political sympathies are with the Republican party, and have been since he came to understand the political institutions and principles of his adopted country.

CHRISTIAN BISCHOFF, the champion stock-raiser of Otoe County, owns and operates 400 acres of finely improved land, occupying a portion of sections 28 and 29 in Rock Creek Precinct. As one of the self-made men of Southern Nebraska he has built up for himself a good record, his career having been marked by great industry and perseverance, and the result of which he cannot fail to look upon with satisfaction. His homestead is noticeable for its handsome and substantial buildings, the dwelling being roomy and convenient, and the barns and outhouses finely adapted to the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. His land is well watered by Sand Creek, and the soil has responded bountifully to the labors of the agriculturist.

Mr. Bischoff ranks among the pioneer settlers of Nebraska Territory, coming within its limits as early as the spring of 1858. He then pre-empted 160 acres in Rock Creek Precinct, and began the labors which have been crowned with such flattering success. Prior to this he had been living in the vicinity of Mendota, Ill., where he was employed as a farm laborer eighteen months. To this point he had migrated from Kenosha, Wis., where he settled in the fall of 1854, upon his emigration to the United States.

Our subject, a native of the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, was born Sept. 9, 1834, and there he lived until a youth of nineteen years, receiving a thorough education, and upon leaving school was employed at farming. He was accompanied to the United States by his father, Christian Bischoff, Sr., the mother having died when our subject was a little lad four years of age. She in her girlhood was Miss Dorthia Detrich, and died at the birth of her ninth child, leaving four sons and three daughters. Two children had died before the decease of the mother. The survivors accompanied their father to America, and the latter located in Chicago, Ill., where his death took place three months later, when he was sixty-six years old. Both parents had been members of the Lutheran Church, and were people of honesty and integrity, and of good standing in their community.

After the death of their father the children worked out by the month. Christian came to Nebraska a single man, but not long afterward met his fate in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth (Neolch) Fuchs, to whom he was married in the spring of 1860. Mrs. Bischoff, also a native of the German Empire, was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, May 7, 1832. She crossed the Atlantic with her brothers

and sisters early in life, and was joined later by her father, John Neolch, who had been twice married in Germany, and where both wives died. The first was the mother of Mrs. B., and her maiden name was Godlieber Eslinger. The father was in good circumstances in Germany, and spent his last years with his daughter, Mrs. Bischoff, passing away at a ripe old age at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Seypher, in Holt County, Mo.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bischoff there have been born eight children, three of whom, Lizzie, Christ and an infant unnamed, are deceased. The survivors are: Johanna, the wife of William Eden, a well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct; Christian, Jr., Caroline, Henry and Anna at home with their parents. Mrs. B. by her first marriage is the mother of two children, Joseph and John, who are now married, and reside in Otoe County. Her husband, Joseph Fuchs, was a native of Germany, and died in Cass County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. B. are active members of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a warm adherent of the Republican party.

HON. J. C. CAMPBELL, M. D., the oldest practicing physician not only of this county but the State at large, is the subject of a history more than ordinarily interesting. He has been identified with the interests of Nebraska since its Territorial days, and figured prominently in governmental matters, and all the various enterprises tending to its development and prosperity. Although having nearly attained his fourscore years, he is remarkably well preserved, mentally and physically, standing among his compeers like the sturdy oak, scarcely touched by the storms and changes of three-quarters of a century. He is a man of fine physique, of noble and commanding presence, and Nature formed within him a heart fully in keeping with his stature. He counts among the people of Otoe County hosts of friends, who have watched a remarkable career with that admiration well worthy of its achievements.

Dr. Campbell was born near the city of Lexington, in Fayette County, Ky., Dec. 22, 1812, and is the only surviving member of his father's family. The latter, Dr. John P. Campbell, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., and married Miss Isabella McDowell, a native of the same. He was finely educated, having been graduated from Hampden Sidney College, and at an early period in his life entered upon a successful career as a medical practitioner, which, however, he abandoned later on to enter the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. Although a slave-holder by inheritance, Providence had created him with a hatred for the peculiar institution, and for the purpose of freeing his slaves he changed his residence from Kentucky to Ohio. In the former State a law required a man who freed his colored people to give security for their support in years to come, so that they should not become a burden to the State.

The father of our subject upon his removal to Ohio located in Chillicothe. He had been born and reared as the son of a wealthy Kentuckian, but such were his conscientious scruples that in his later years he was willing to forego many of the luxuries by which he had been surrounded in order to labor in the Master's vineyard. His career, however, was cut short by his untimely death, when he was about forty-seven years of age.

Mrs. Campbell, the mother, after the death of her husband returned to Kentucky with her children, and there fell to her inheritance more slaves, but she, following in the footsteps of her lamented husband, returned with them to Ohio, setting them free also, and in Chillicothe lived with her children for several years. Finally she returned to her native State, where she spent the remainder of her life, passing away at the age of sixty-five years. She was the mother of six children, namely: James McD., Margaret M., Mary U., Jane I., John Calvin (our subject) and Edward H. All of these lived to mature years, but as we have said, all but our subject are now deceased.

The earliest recollections of our subject are mostly of Chillicothe, Ohio, to which he was taken by his parents first when scarcely more than an infant. He was quite young at the time of his father's death, and, much to his regret, has no recollection of one so closely allied to him, and who so nobly performed his part in life. John C. was given a good education in his youth, attending both the common

and a private school, and at the age of seventeen entered the Miami State University of Ohio, where he took the classical course of four years, and from which institution he was graduated with honors about the time of reaching his majority.

The youngest brother of our subject had crossed the Mississippi, and was engaged in mercantile business at Burlington, Iowa, and thither John C. now repaired to join him, not even taking a vacation in which to revisit his home. He had always been bright and ambitious, and thoughtful beyond his years, and now began in earnest the more serious business of life. Soon after reaching the Hawkeye State he pre-empted a quarter-section of land in the vicinity of the embryo town of Burlington, and then made arrangements to pursue the study of medicine, under the instruction of Drs. Lowe and Hickock, in whose office he remained a number of years. He was thus prepared for entrance into the medical department of Kemper College at St Louis, and which is now the medical department of the State University. Two years later he was graduated from this institution, and returning to Iowa commenced the practice of his profession, where he remained three or four years, and built up a good patronage.

During his residence at this place Dr. Campbell was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Henderson, a lady of excellent family, and own cousin to the late Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana. This lady became the mother of one child, and died at Mt. Pleasant, in less than two years after her marriage. The child also soon followed its mother to the silent land. Upon his removal from this place Dr. Campbell established an office in New Purchase, now Agency City, six miles from Ottumwa, and in the spring of 1845 contracted a second marriage, with Miss Martha Rogers. This lady was born in Missouri, and is the daughter of Dr. Rogers, who was a native of Virginia, and his wife of Tennessee; they spent their last years in Missouri. Of this union there were born three sons—John James, Edward Hugh and William H. The two elder are leading business men of Montana, engaged in the drug trade; William H. is a clerk of the Morton House of Nebraska City.

In the fall of 1854 Dr. Campbell once more changed his residence, this time choosing Nebraska City, and of this he has since been a resident. Thus a pioneer of three Territories, viz: Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska, he has had the privilege of witnessing most remarkable changes, and during the vicissitudes of a long and useful career has been no unimportant factor in their development, especially of the latter.

From Agency City, Iowa, Dr. Campbell removed to Sidney, in Fremont County, Iowa, where he became especially interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools, and was elected and re-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, discharging the duties of this responsible office in a most praiseworthy manner. As soon, however, as the purchase of lands from the Otoe Indians was consummated, he found his preferences greatly drawn toward this section of country, and resolved to identify himself with the people of Nebraska Territory. He was one of the very first to make settlement, and as early as 1855 was elected to the Territorial Legislature. The year following he declined to be a candidate, desiring to give his attention more closely to his profession, but in 1857 he was again persuaded to take upon himself the responsibilities of a Legislator. He then was given a period of rest until 1861, when he was elected to the Territorial Council. His cool and temperate judgment and wise foresight were especially useful at that period in the history of Nebraska, and there were few enterprises in which his opinion was not sought and his influence solicited in furthering the interest of the Territory struggling to become a State.

It is hardly necessary to state that Dr. Campbell was a leading member of the convention called for the purpose of drawing up a constitution for the proposed State of Nebraska. Among his coadjutors at that time were Judges Mason, Lake, Manderson, Wakeley, Woolworth, Butler, etc. The first document drawn up in this connection was rejected by the vote of the people, on account of the provision for the taxation of church property.

Mrs. Martha Campbell departed this life at her home in Nebraska City, in 1861. Our subject contracted a third matrimonial alliance in Nebraska City in the spring of 1862, with Miss Sarah P. Childs, who was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., in 1829. Her

father, Capt. William Childs, was commander of a merchant vessel, a man of high character, remarkable intelligence, of English birth and ancestry, and closely allied to the Rothschilds of London. During a mutiny on board his ship he was foully murdered, and his remains cast into the sea. He had been married in Philadelphia, Pa., to Mrs. E. Brodt, and their home was in Philadelphia, Broome and Delaware Counties. Mrs. Campbell came to the West with her half-brother, E. S. Hawley. Of her marriage with our subject there were born one daughter and two sons—Henrietta E., Ezra T. and Paul M. Henrietta is the wife of Rev. G. Sumner Baskerville, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and at present stationed in Tower City, Dak.; of Ezra T., a popular and prominent physician of Nebraska City, a sketch will be found elsewhere in this work; Paul M., who has a taste for the profession of law, of which he purposes soon to become a student, is at present in the United States Railroad Mail Service, from Pacific Junction, Iowa, to McCook, Neb. Mrs. Sarah P. Campbell died at the home of her daughter Henrietta E., in Dakota, Aug. 11, 1888, aged sixty-two years.

The earlier years of Dr. Campbell were particularly signalized by his interest in education, and those acquainted with the early history of Nebraska City will recollect that in the early days its public school system was far ahead of any in this or adjoining States. He had for his associate in this good work Dr. Parker, and once every week they visited every class of this city school, not excepting those of the colored pupils. Dr. Campbell for six years was a working member of the School Board, and even after his withdrawal did not lose the warm interest which he had always felt. As auxiliary to the school he has been the warm defender of religious institutions, and an almost lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church in different places. He assisted in the organization of the churches at Burlington, Mt. Pleasant and Sidney, Iowa, and later in that of Nebraska City. One remarkable fact in connection with these was that the same minister, Rev. Cole, was at different times stationed at the four places.

The career of a man who has lived so long and so well presents to the reflective mind a picture amply worthy its attention, and one that it is most pleasant to dwell upon. Dr. Campbell has labored faithfully, and learned well all through his life, improving the opportunities for the acquirement of knowledge, and for doing good to his fellowmen. He has thus built up for himself a monument more enduring than marble, and one on which his descendants may look with pride in after years. The hosts of friends whom he has gathered around him form a source of comfort and of honor to him during the years of his green old age, and trust that he may for years yet be enabled to shed around him that bright and healthy influence which has been one of the marked features of a most remarkable character.

CHARLES BREHM occupies a position among the general farmers and stock-raisers of McWilliams Precinct; his property and home are upon section 32, the farm comprising 160 acres in an excellent state of cultivation. His farm buildings are complete, substantially built, and of convenient arrangement. When he took up this property in 1874 there was nothing to distinguish this land from the virgin prairie around.

Prior to coming to Nebraska in 1873 Mr. Brehm had resided in Lee County, Iowa, having from the year 1869 successfully operated a farm in that county, settling there immediately upon coming from his native land. He was born in Bavaria, on the 28th of July, 1804. He is the son of Carl Brehm, and grew to manhood in his native place, was educated in its schools, and afterward learned the trade of a carpenter.

When twenty-one years of age the father of our subject enlisted in the German Army and went to fight under Napoleon in the French wars. He fought at the battle of Leipsic, and the night of the 1st of January, 1813, while crossing the River Rhine he was thrown into the stream, but rescued later by his comrades. He was soon after taken sick but soon recovered; this was the only occasion he could remember that he was ill. He died from old age, having attained seventy-five years.

The subject of our sketch is the youngest but

two of eight children who lived to attain their majority. He served in the Bavarian regiment of the German Army for five years, was in the War of 1866, and participated in some of the minor engagements. Shortly after receiving his discharge he came to the United States and located in Franklin Township, Lee Co., Iowa, entered land and began farming.

In 1871 Mr. Brehm was united in marriage with Miss Christina Frank, in Lee County. This lady was born in Bavaria on the 21st of January, 1849. She came to America with her parents in 1855, and lived with them upon the farm which they took in Lee County. Both are now quite aged, and are residing in Franklin County of the same State. Her parents were members of the German Evangelical Church, and the wife of our subject was brought up in that religious faith. She was educated in the Iowa schools, and is thoroughly domesticated. She is the mother of eight children, whose names are as follows: Fred, Minnie, Charles, William, Phillip, Jr., Mary, Martha and Jacob.

Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Church. In politics our subject is independent. He has made the institutions of his adopted county a study, and has learned to understand and appreciate them fully.

WILLIAM REDFIELD. The main points in the history of the subject of our sketch, who is now a resident of the city of Syracuse, are as follows: He was born in LaHarpe, Hancock Co., Ill., Sept. 14, 1845, and is the son of William and Mary (Scott) Redfield. His parents were natives of Livingston County, N. Y., where they were reared and married. They moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where they lived until 1843, then moved to Illinois and settled among the pioneers of Hancock County. There the father improved a farm which now lies adjacent to the flourishing town of LaHarpe. Three years later, however, he pulled up stakes, and crossing the Mississippi located in Liberty, Mo. Not being pleased with this locality he, in the fall of that same year, went to Southwestern Iowa, settling on what is now known as the old Shesher farm. The country was wild and new, and Indians were plentiful. In 1848 the family moved to Silver Creek, Mills County, and the father improved three farms in that locality. In 1856 he changed his residence to Fremont County, Iowa, and opened three more farms. Then going into Page County he took up a tract of raw prairie, and there also opened up a farm, which became valuable, and of which he retained possession until his death, which occurred in 1878, while on a visit to the home of his nephew in Johnson County, Neb. The mother of our subject survived her husband only three years, her death taking place at Shenandoah, Iowa, in 1881. The household circle included seven children, of whom six are living. George Z. Redfield is a well-to-do farmer of Nemaha County, Neb.; Hiram and Frank are in business at Shenandoah, Iowa; Tryphena is the wife of D. W. Hall, of Creston, and Rebecca married Sylvester Whiting, of Otter Tail County, Minn., where she now lives, but when married they were residents of Mills County, Iowa.

William Redfield remained a member of the parental household until July, 1871. He had by the exercise of great perseverance acquired a common-school education, and developed into a youth of more than ordinary intelligence on the frontier. Now starting out for himself he made his way to Salt Lake City, Utah, and took charge of a store of general merchandise in the American Fork Mining District, forty miles from Salt Lake. He was thus occupied a period of five years, and until the camp was broken up. Then returning to Shenandoah, Iowa, he dealt in horses until 1876. He was variously occupied thereafter until 1885, when he took up his residence in Blue Springs, Gage Co., Neb., from there removed to Nebraska City, and thence to Syracuse. He still owns property in Shenandoah.

Our subject while a resident of Utah made the acquaintance of Miss Sarah E. Browning, and was married to this lady in Shenandoah, Iowa, Dec. 1, 1879. Mrs. Redfield was born and reared in Salt Lake City, and is the daughter of James A. and Sarah (McGera) Browning, the former of whom is an accountant and bookkeeper in Salt Lake City, in the employ of one of its leading firms. The mother

died about 1882. Of this union there have been born five children, namely: Ethel, Frederick, Carl, Cleveland and Clyde. Mr. Redfield is a stanch Democrat, politically, and socially, a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was Master of the lodge at Tabor, Iowa, while attending college there.

LEONARD T. SPICKNALL. This gentleman, who represents the brickmaking industry in Talmage, and is in fact an enterprising and prosperous manufacturer of that most necessary article of building material, has in his yards all the modern appliances for the turning out of an almost perfect article, and manufactures over 600,000 per annum. He has been connected with this branch of industry at this place since 1882, and has enjoyed an enviable reputation and a large and extensive patronage throughout the entire surrounding district, supplying the brick for all of the buildings since erected in the town and neighborhood. Linked with this business he has another, in every way diverse if not diametrically opposite, but is no less successful on that account from a financial standpoint, viz: that of a restauranteur, carrying on the same in Talmage.

Previous to coming to this county in April, 1883, our subject had lived in Dearborn County, Ind., where he was born on the 17th of December, 1829. His father, Leonard Spicknall, was a native of Virginia, and came of one of the old and worthy Virginian families. He was a lifelong agriculturist. The father of our subject was first married to Amelia Roland, a Virginian lady, with whom he removed to Indiana after the birth of their first child. She died at the age of twenty-nine years, leaving five children. Subsequently the bereaved husband, who every day felt the pressing need of his little ones for some care other than his own, was married to Emma Horrom, a lady who was born in Vermont, but who had lived in Indiana almost all her life. The family circle came to include ten children, five of whom were sons, and eight of whom attained to years of maturity and are yet living, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. The parents lived in Dearborn County until the end of their days, which were not reached, however, until they had both passed the allotted threescore years and ten.

Our subject, on starting in life for himself, in 1852 went to Illinois, and passed four years in Grundy County, near Morris. Returning at the end of that time to his native place, he was there married to Mary Whitaker, the daughter of William and Hannah (Vozy) Whitaker, both of whom were natives of England. Their daughter Mary was born in Dearborn County, in the year 1841. She was reared and educated there upon her father's farm, which had been brought from an unimproved condition to one of the best and most fertile farms in the county. She has presented her husband with six children, all of whom are still at home. Their names are as follows: William B., Charles O., Jeanette G., Clara L., Olive L. and Evert A.

Mr. and Mrs. Spicknall and three of their children are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which our subject is a Steward and also Trustee, and has for many years held the office of Class-Leader. He is deeply interested in the temperance cause, and is a local Prohibitionist. In general governmental questions he is numbered with the Republican party.

WILLIAM RAY, senior member of the firm of Ray & Hicks, is engaged with his partner in general merchandising in Dunbar, and also has an interest in the City Hotel and livery stable at that point, besides owning a large mercantile house in Woodbine, Iowa. He was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, Nov. 1, 1840, and is the son of George Ray, now deceased.

The father of our subject emigrated from his native State of New York to Grant County in 1847, settling not far from the lead mines of Galena, Ill. In that region William received a common-school education, and in the spring of 1863 migrated across the Mississippi into Fayette County, Iowa. During the progress of the late Civil War he enlisted in Company F, 49th Wisconsin Infantry, serving one year, and doing mostly post duty.

Our subject upon being transformed from a sol-

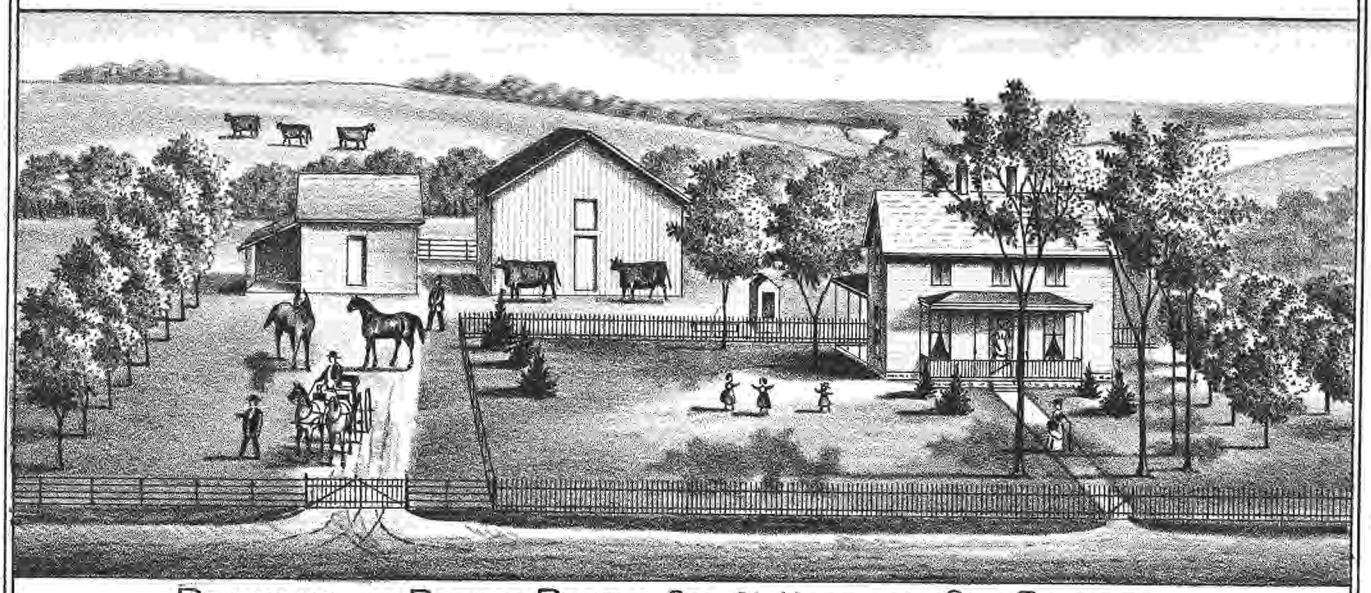
dier to a civilian returned to Fayette County, Iowa, where he lived until 1876. He then removed to the vicinity of Atlantic, and engaged in stock-raising three years. In the fall of 1879 he came to Nebraska, and locating in Holt County, carried on farming and stock-raising together with real-estate business until 1888. He still has a ranch in the vicinity of Stuart. In September of the last-named year our subject came to Dunbar, and in addition to the business already noted, ships large quantities of produce from this county to Omaha. He represents a large amount of real estate, owning besides the property already mentioned 1,920 acres of land in Holt and Brown Counties. His general merchandising transactions yield him a handsome income, as the firm enjoys an extensive patronage. They keep a full stock of everything in their line.

Mr. Ray, on the 4th of July, 1867, was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Bastedo, who was born in Wyoming County, Pa., Aug. 2, 1843. The parents of Mrs. Ray were George and Diadama Bastedo, the former of whom died in Missouri about 1867. To Mr. and Mrs. Ray there have been born four children—George E., Paul L., Mary E. and Beatrice. The eldest is twenty years of age and the youngest ten. Mr. and Mrs. Ray are members of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject is identified with the A. O. U. W. and the G. A. R. Politically, he votes the Democratic ticket, and entertains the interest felt by every intelligent citizen in the building up of its community, and its advancement socially, morally and financially. The mother of our subject, Mrs. Lucinda Ray, was a native of Ohio and is now deceased. The parental family included nine children, five of whom are living and four deceased.

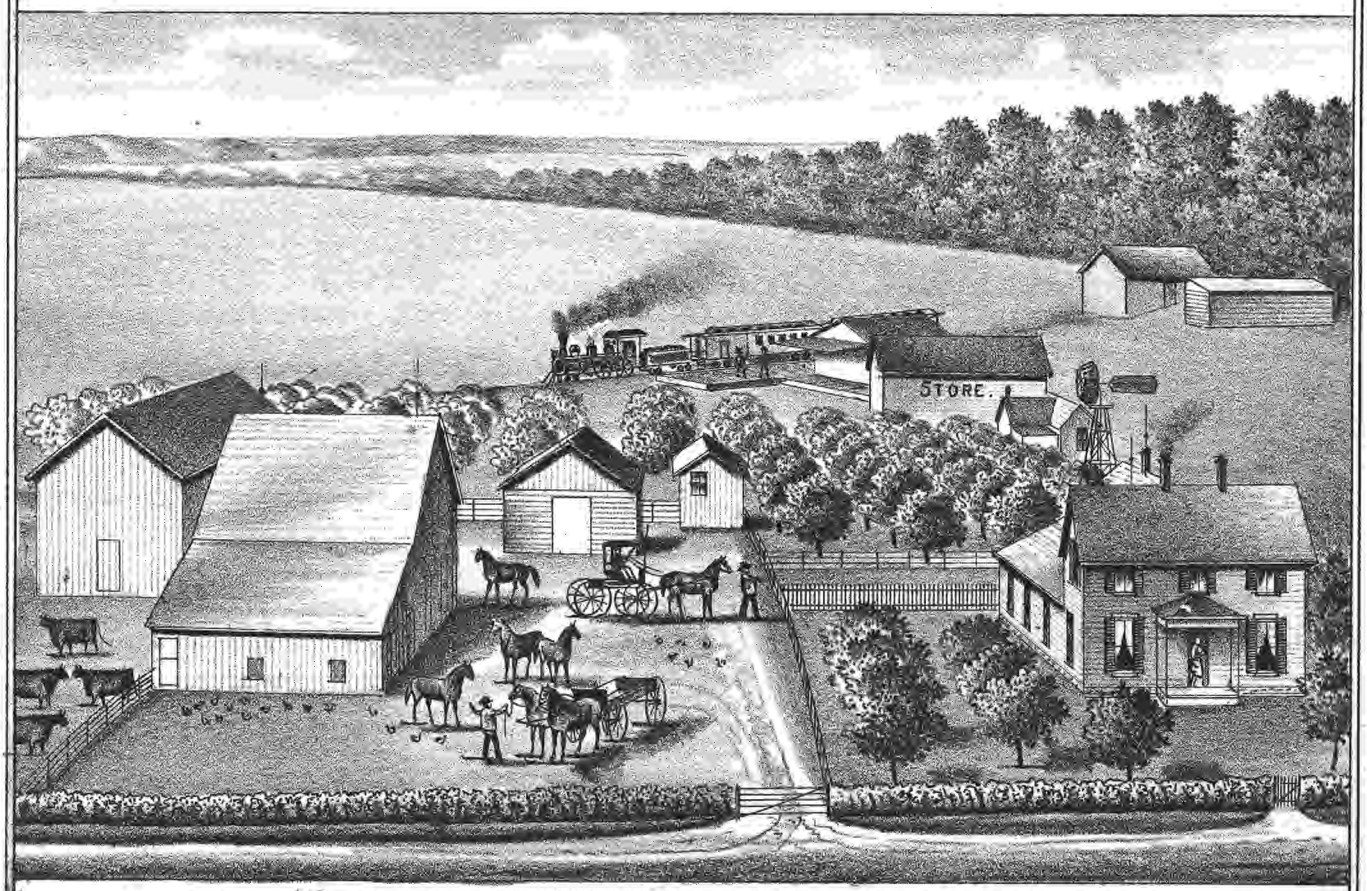
CAPT. PATRICK RODDY, one of the most public-spirited men of Nebraska City Precinct, and a leading land-owner, has a fine farm of 160 acres on section 31, 320 acres in North Branch Precinct, also 160 in Russell Precinct, west of Unadilla, a part of which he secured as early as 1864. The homestead proper includes 160 acres, a very fine tract, under a high state of cultivation and supplied with good buildings. The balance is fairly productive, and is devoted to general farming and stock-raising.

Our subject was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, July 12, 1842, where he lived until a young man twenty years of age, then resolved to seek his fortunes in America. He first settled in Ontario, Canada, where he occupied himself at farming until 1863, then came to the States, and making his way westward engaged on a Missouri River boat. The second year he was promoted to a deck hand, and later became watchman; the third year was promoted to the position of mate, and later became Captain of the "Kate C. Nutt," continuing on the river until 1872. He was for a period of five years in the meantime connected with the Hannibal & St. Joseph Packet Company, and for a like period as Captain was connected with the Missouri River Transfer Company, of Omaha.

While in the city above mentioned our subject made the acquaintance of Miss Mary Henzie, to whom he was married Jan. 9, 1870. Mrs. Roddy is a native of the same country as her husband, and was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, March 17, 1848. She came alone to the United States when a young woman, and lived for a time in New York City. Later she migrated further west, taking up her residence in Omaha, where she met her future husband. Her parents were Daniel and Catherine (Delaney) Henzie; the former is deceased, and the latter resides in Queens County, Ireland. The Captain and his family located on their present farm June 20, 1872. The household circle includes six children, three sons and three daughters, namely: Maggie A., John, Thomas, Mary, Kate and James P. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest three, and all are at home with their parents. Mrs. Roddy and her youngest child in 1887 made a visit to the old home in Ireland. The Captain is an active Republican, sound on the tariff question, and a fervent advocate of the principles of his party. He has never been an office-seeker, although holding positions of trust and responsibility in his school district for a number of years. He is a man held in high esteem among his neighbors, and during the Presidential campaigns has been of eminent service to his party in this district as a



RESIDENCE OF PATRIC RODDY, SEC. 31. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF WM. KROPP, WYOMING STATION.

stump speaker, of more than ordinary force, logical in his arguments, and one holding the attention of his audience. He has uniformly given his encouragement to the enterprises calculated to develop the county, and besides his connection with various other interests, is a stockholder and Director in the Nebraska City Street Railway Company. Capt. Roddy and family are members of the Catholic Church in Nebraska City.

A fine lithographic view of the home and surroundings of Capt. Roddy appears on an accompanying page.

WILLIAM KROPP. Among the men who have assisted in the advancement of Wyoming Precinct as a farming community, the subject of this sketch holds no unimportant position, being one of its most prominent farmers and stock-raisers. He owns a valuable tract of land embracing 1,145 acres, 520 of which are embraced in the homestead, and this latter has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and is provided with a fine set of farm buildings, including a substantial dwelling, and the barns and other structures necessary for the proper shelter of stock and the storing of grain. A view of the farm is presented in this connection.

Mr. Kropp came to this county and Wyoming Precinct in December of 1863, although as early as the year 1857 he had taken a claim in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, Cass County, upon which he settled in the spring of 1858. This he sold five years later in order to change his residence to this county, and first purchased a quarter of section 23, in Wyoming Precinct. He was successful from the start, and added gradually to his possessions, being now numbered among the most extensive land-owners of the county.

A native of what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, our subject was born April 25, 1833, and is the descendant of an ancestry noted for health and strength both of body and mind. His father, Henry Kropp, also a native of Hanover, was one of its most prosperous farmers, to which occupation he was reared from his boyhood up. He married there Miss Lota Twick, who was also of a good family, and a native likewise of Hanover. They settled upon a farm near their childhood home, and there were born to them four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject was the second son and third child. Four daughters and two sons are yet living, and all are married. William, however, is the only one who makes his home in this State, the rest of the children being residents of Lake County, Ill. With the exception of one daughter, the wife of a minister of the Albright Church, they are engaged in agricultural pursuits. One son, Henry by name, was drowned while attempting to cross the Weeping Water, July 4, 1864.

In September of 1853 the parents of our subject left their home in Germany, and crossing the Atlantic, with their children took up their residence in Lake County, Ill. They are both now deceased. William was twenty years old at the time of emigrating to America. He had received a good education in his native tongue, and now set out on his own account, employing himself at whatever he could find to do, frequently working by the day. Upon the advice of Mr. E. Crover, one of the pioneers of Lake County, Ill., he resolved to push further westward, and coming to this county located a piece of land and prepared to settle. He only sojourned, however, for a brief time in this region, but returning to Lake County, Ill., staid there during the winter, and in the spring of 1858 secured to himself a wife and helpmate in the person of Miss Dorothea Stoll, who, like himself, was of German birth and ancestry, and born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, Feb. 2, 1834. The parents of Mrs. Kropp were Peter and Sophia (Huenemoeder) Stoll, also natives of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the father a farmer by occupation. They also came of a hardy race of people, and the father was a farmer by occupation. They were married in Germany, and after the birth of three sons and four daughters, of whom Mrs. Kropp was the third daughter and fourth child, the whole family emigrated to America in August of 1854, and located at once in Lake County, Ill. A few years later, in 1858, they moved to Nebraska, locating again upon a farm in Cass County, where

the death of both parents occurred some years ago.

Mrs. Kropp was reared and educated in her native Province, and was twenty years old upon emigrating to America. She continued a member of the parental household until her marriage, became thoroughly versed in all home duties, and was trained to habits of industry and economy. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kropp started to Nebraska on their wedding tour, and soon afterward took up their residence on the new farm in Cass County. When they first moved upon it they immediately built a small frame dwelling, and after built a small addition, and that remained their home while they lived in Cass County. They worked together, hand in hand, with the mutual purpose of acquiring a competence and a home for themselves and their children. That they succeeded admirably is evident in noting their condition and surroundings to-day.

Of the family of nine children who were given our subject and his estimable wife, only four are living, namely: George W., who is operating the first store built at the station of Wyoming, and who is now Postmaster; John H., William F. and Louis, who are at home with their parents. The two youngest are students of the college in Nebraska City. One daughter, Minnie, died at the interesting age of twenty-seven years. Her death took place April 23, 1887. She was a sweet and intelligent young woman, and her death was a severe blow to the affectionate hearts of her parents. Bertie, a little daughter of nineteen months, died in Cass County, Neb., in the spring of 1862. Edward died in October, 1876, when four years old, and Ernest died at the age of seven, in June, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Kropp are consistent members of the German Methodist Church, and our subject, politically, is a sound Republican.

THOMAS R. WHITTAKER. Along the lines of the great railroads which stretch out into every part of the fertile and growing West hamlets and villages have sprung up. Many of these have grown into prosperous and busy cities, while others are but quiet and ordinary trading places for the neighboring farmers. Among the latter is Delta, a small place in McWilliams Precinct, and to this place our subject, who is now Postmaster, came in 1882, and embarked in the mercantile business. At that time he opened a general store, and for a time conducted the only business house in the place. In connection with still handling all the goods usually found in a country store, Mr. Whittaker also deals in lumber and coal, and in these lines is very extensively engaged. He can be justly classed among the solid business men of the county, and although enjoying no schooling in any particular line of mercantile life, having been brought up on a farm, he has displayed no little business tact and genius, and although a young man, has assumed great responsibilities in the business world.

The biographical writers of this volume met comparatively few men actively engaged in business life who were natives of this county. Most of them came here after they had reaped the advantages of experience in the more serious duties of life, but we find in our subject a native of Otoe County, he having been born in Delaware Precinct, Sept. 4, 1859. He was educated in the public schools of that precinct and at the State Normal School, and such knowledge as he acquired in these excellent institutions was supplemented by a thorough course in Bryant's Commercial College at St. Joseph, Mo. In early life he had evinced a great liking for business transactions, and we see that he has enjoyed unusual success in this particular line. He is straightforward and upright in all his dealings, enjoys in an unusual degree the confidence and respect of the people throughout the community, and we predict for him a bright future.

The father of our subject, Reuben Whittaker, is one of the extensive and well-to-do farmers of Delaware Precinct. He was a pioneer of this section of the State, having come to this region over thirty-three years ago. His wife was Miss Jane Wilson, to whom he was united in marriage here. She is one of the leading ladies of the precinct in which she resides, and the family are not only well known, but highly respected.

Mr. Whittaker, our subject, was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Cooper, in Pottawatomie

County, Kan. This lady was born in the latter-named county, in 1863. There she was reared, and received an excellent education in the common schools and at the State Normal School. She is a refined and intelligent lady, and prominent in the enterprises carried on by the ladies of her neighborhood. Her father is a well-to-do farmer of Pottawatomie County. She has become the mother of two children—Roy and Eugene.

Mr. Whittaker has become a leading member of the community where he resides, and has filled some of its most responsible official positions. He has served as Postmaster for four years, and is at present Postmaster of Delta, by recent appointment. He was also Justice of the Peace, and politically, is a sound Republican.

JOHN WASHINGTON JAMES, one of the most successful general farmers of Wyoming Precinct, has been a resident here for a period of twenty-two years, occupying his present homestead, which is pleasantly located on sections 16 and 9, and now embraces 240 acres of thoroughly cultivated land. The buildings and other improvements are creditable to the industry and enterprise of the proprietor, and the homestead with its surroundings forms the ideal country place, where are enjoyed all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries.

Mr. James came to Nebraska in the spring of 1867, soon after it had been transformed from a Territory into a State. He at once selected the land from which he intended building up a homestead, and after providing a shelter for himself and family, proceeded with the cultivation of the soil, and endured in common with the people around him the difficulties and hardships of life in a new settlement. He had learned farming in all its details in Mercer County, Pa., where he was reared from a boy to manhood.

Our subject was cradled on the other side of the Atlantic, in County Donegal, Ireland, where his birth took place Nov. 1, 1847. He is of excellent Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter being of those people who were driven from their native Scotland to the North of Ireland during the time of the religious persecution, when so many homes were made desolate. His father, William James, was a farmer by occupation, and a native of County Donegal, where he died in middle life. The mother, Mrs. Margret (Buchanan) James, was a native of the same county as her husband and son. After his death she and her children emigrated to America, locating in Butler County, and then a year later into Mercer County, Pa., where they lived for a number of years, then set out for the farther West. Some of the other members of the family had preceded them to this section, and joining them here, the mother took up her abode with her two sons, and here her death took place Oct. 15, 1884, when she was seventy-two years old.

Our subject was next to the youngest child of his parents, whose family consisted of seven sons and two daughters. He was not quite three years old when he went with his mother to Pennsylvania, and was reared to manhood in Mercer County, Pa. There also he made the acquaintance of his future wife, Miss Mary Luella Van Tine, to whom he was married Feb. 24, 1881. This lady was born in Wyoming Precinct, Dec. 22, 1862, and is the daughter of Abraham D. and Eliza J. (Snell) Van Tine, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and pioneers of Wyoming Precinct, to which they came as early as 1857, while Nebraska was a Territory, and where they still live. Mrs. James was reared and educated in this county, and lived at home with her parents until her marriage. Our subject, politically, is a sound Republican, entertaining decided views, although having no desire to hold office.

WILLIAM BISCHOF. Few sojourners in Nebraska City, taking note of its business interests, fail to observe the hardware establishment which is the outgrowth of the enterprise of the subject of this sketch. He came to this place in the fall of 1867, and in partnership with Anton Zimmerer purchased his stock, and they conducted the business together until the spring of 1883. Mr. Bischof then purchased the interest of his partner, and has since operated alone. He

recognized as one of the leading men of the place, and has in the main been the architect of his own fortune, building up a good business from a very modest beginning.

The city of Nuremberg, Bavaria, was the native place of our subject, where his birth occurred March 14, 1835. In common with the children of Germany, he was placed in school at an early age, and prosecuted his studies until a youth of seventeen, completing them in the Polytechnic Institute at Nuremberg. He had been a lad bright and thoughtful beyond his years, and determined to become a man among men, and secure for himself and those who might be connected with him by the ties of nature a good home and a competence. Not being satisfied with his prospects upon his native soil, he determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, in the month of June, 1852, he set sail from the city of Hamburg, and after a safe voyage of six weeks set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he proceeded southwestward to Atchison County, Mo., by rail to Cincinnati, and thence via the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, which was at that time the most convenient route to that point. He left the steamer at what was then called Woerlens Landing, where a few settlers had collected together, and at a time when the country around bore little evidence of civilization. The now flourishing city of St. Joseph, seventy-five miles south, was then an unpretentious village, but the most important point in that region, and the nearest depot for supplies. Kansas and Nebraska at that time were unorganized Territories, inhabited almost entirely by Indians. To this place our subject had been accompanied by his brother, and they, securing a tract of land, began to till the soil. They were thus occupied a period of four years, but not being satisfied with the results, William laid down the implements of agriculture, and repairing to Sioux City, Iowa, engaged there as a clerk in an establishment of general merchandise. This place also was in its first stages of settlement, having only been laid out as a town the year before, but had already six or eight stores.

After a residence of three years in Sioux City Mr. Bischof, in 1859, having with true German thrift and economy saved what he could of his earnings, concluded to become his own man and start in business for himself. Gathering together his personal effects he set out for the farther West, with the intention of starting a ranch and trading-post combined, which should furnish a place of entertainment for freighters who traveled with teams over the country, and to whom a resort of this description was indispensable.

Mr. Bischof selected his location at Cottonwood Springs, near McPherson, in Western Nebraska, at a period when the nearest house was ninety miles east, and nothing but wild Indians and buffaloes were to be seen perhaps for a period of days together. Game of all kinds was abundant, and Mr. Bischof frequently stood in the door of his house, which was built of cedar logs, and brought down with his rifle a buffalo or deer. Elks and antelopes were plentiful, and troops of Indians frequently cast at the new settler and his establishment glances not altogether friendly.

Mr. Bischof had transported a large stock of merchandise to this point, which he traded mostly to the Indians for buffalo skins and furs. A year later he moved to what was called Fremont's Slough, twenty-five miles further west, and remained there six years. At the expiration of this time, having a generous supply of solid capital, he decided to invest it within the bounds of civilization, and accordingly changed his residence to Nebraska City, where he has since lived. Many a man having had his experience, cut off as he was from intercourse with the more cultivated part of his fellowmen, would have deteriorated mentally, but Mr. Bischof through it all maintained his love of reading, and by the best means at hand kept himself posted upon the current events. Mail facilities during his residence on the frontier were necessarily uncertain, but occasionally he would secure a book, paper or periodical, and of these it is hardly necessary to say he made the best use. Upon coming to Nebraska City he had no difficulty in being admitted to the intelligent circle of men here, where he has done good service in the encouragement of the institutions and enterprises calculated to build up the community socially and financially. He has been President of the Board of Education, and a mem-

ber of the City Council, was President of the Board of Trade two years, and is now Vice President of the Merchants' National Bank. He cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and has since continued an earnest supporter of Republican principles. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., being a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3, in Nebraska City.

Our subject while living on the ranch was married in Nebraska City, Dec. 28, 1865, to Miss Kiny Zimmerer, a sister of his former partner, A. Zimmerer, and they became the parents of seven children, namely: William, Lulu, Otto, Eta, Arthur, Olga and Lillie. All of these are living and reside at Nebraska City, except William, who is at Seward, Neb. The mother of these children departed this life at her home in Nebraska City, in the summer of 1884. In the sketch of A. Zimmerer, found on another page in this volume, will be noted further mention of this family.

On the 7th of August, 1886, Mr. Bischof contracted a second marriage, with Miss Matilda Belha, a native of Bohemia, and who came to America alone when twenty-two years old. The parents of Mrs. Bischof are now residing in Bohemia. Of this union there is one child, a son, Frederick, born in May, 1887. The family residence is pleasantly situated in the northwestern part of the city, and opens its hospitable doors to many friends. It is tastefully finished and furnished, and forms an abode entirely suitable to the means and tastes of its proprietor. Mr. Bischof in 1870 invested a portion of his surplus capital in a fine brick block at the intersection of Seventh street and Center avenue, which is occupied mostly by his own business.

FREDERICK PAAP. The career of the self-made man is finely illustrated in the subject of this sketch, who began life in America dependent upon his own resources, without means, a stranger in a strange land. He is now one of the leading farmers and land-owners of Berlin Precinct, holding a clear title to 1,360 acres, which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie to a highly productive condition. The homestead occupies the southwest corner of section 15, and presents one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region, being embellished with fine buildings, a commodious and convenient residence, a substantial barn, and the pens and sheds required for the shelter of stock, of which the proprietor makes a specialty. Within, the home is presided over by a lady well educated, refined and hospitable, who has done her share toward the building up of the reputation of the family, and assisted in drawing around them hosts of friends.

Our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Aug. 31, 1839, and is the son of Frederick, Sr., and Mary (Scholtz) Paap, who were natives of the same place as their son. The paternal grandfather, Dedloff Paap, was a cooper by trade, but served in the German Army during the war between France and Russia. On the mother's side, Grandfather John Scholtz inclined more to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, being for a number of years overseer of a farm. Both spent their entire lives in their native Germany.

The father of our subject occupied himself as a gardener near his native town until 1857, then resolved to emigrate to America. He was accompanied by his wife and children in the voyage across the Atlantic, and for two years thereafter lived in Cleveland, Ohio. In the spring of 1859, coming to this county, he purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, in Berlin Precinct, for which he paid the sum of $70, all the money he had in the world. He commenced in true pioneer fashion the development of the farm, and was prospered in his labors, building up a good homestead, and surrounding himself with all the comforts of life. He doubled his original purchase, and there spent his last days, passing away Aug. 4, 1879, when sixty-nine years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son William, in Berlin Precinct, and is now seventy-eight years of age. Their three children were named respectively: Frederick, our subject; William and Louisa. The two latter are residents of this precinct.

Mr. Paap attended the common schools of his native town until a lad of fourteen years, in the meantime learning the art of gardening of his father. After leaving the day school he pursued

his studies at an evening school four years longer. He came with his father to the United States when a youth of eighteen years, in 1857, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel, the "St. John," embarking at Hamburg, and landing at New York six weeks and three days later. In the meantime they encountered several storms, and at one time the ship took fire, but fortunately this was arrested before very much damage was done.

Young Paap landed a stranger in a strange land, not being acquainted with a soul in America, and almost penniless. He made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where for two years he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, sometimes by the month, and sometimes by the day. In 1859 he resolved to cross the Mississippi, made his way by rail to St. Louis, and thence by steamboat to this county, landing in Nebraska City. He was fortunate in securing employment on a farm, and worked the first year for Dave Martin, receiving at the close in payment for his services $150. This seemed quite a goodly sum, as he had landed in Nebraska with $5.

Our subject the second year of his residence in this county was employed at a hotel in Nebraska City. In 1862 he engaged in freighting to Denver, and later worked in John Bennett's mill near Nebraska City. The years 1863 and 1864 found him freighting again, and later he was employed in a wholesale establishment at Nebraska City. His journeyings across the plains were invested with the usual dangers and hardships of those times, as the Indians looked upon the whites with very unfriendly eyes, and the traveler at no time felt secure either as regarded life or property. Mr. Paap, however, possessed a cool and temperate judgment, which enabled him to keep out of difficulty both with the rough white element of that region and with the Indians. During the early part of 1865 he was one of the company of home guards organized for mutual protection.

The eighty acres of land which our subject occupies as his homestead proper was purchased by him in the spring of 1860, but he did not make any attempt at improvement upon it until after his marriage. Then, fortified by the assistance and sympathy of a good wife, he put up a modest dwelling, and in true pioneer style began the improvement of his property. In breaking the soil the wife frequently drove the oxen while Mr. Paap held the plow. After he had put in his first crop he began setting out fruit and shade trees, and has now fine groves and eleven acres planted with apple trees and choice fruits of the smaller varieties. In adding to his landed area he has paid all the way from $7 to $25 per acre, but for none of it would he to-day take less than $35 per acre. This he has divided into six farms, each being supplied with groves, orchards, houses and barns. For the building of his present fine residence he was obliged to haul all the material from Nebraska City. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and supplied with all modern conveniences.

Mr. Paap began at an early date his operations as a stock-raiser, and has been remarkably successful. He keeps none but good grades of animals, and his horses are especially fine, being draft animals of the Clydesdale stock. Of these he has seventeen head, besides a span of valuable mules. In his stock operations he utilizes 320 acres of his land, over which he has personal supervision, and rents the balance.

The marriage of Frederick Paap and Miss Caroline Sturm was celebrated at the home of the bride in Weeping Water, Feb. 2, 1864. Mrs. Paap was born in what was then the Province of Alsace, France, March 24, 1846, and received a careful education, becoming familiar with both the French and German languages. She came with her father's family to America when a young girl of thirteen years, in the spring of 1859. Her parents were Andrew and Madaline (Understock) Sturm, also natives of Alsace, and the father a prosperous farmer. The mother died in Germany in 1853. The family crossed the Atlantic on the sailing-vessel "Brogress," and not long after landing in New York proceeded directly westward to Nebraska, locating in Cass County, where the father purchased 320 acres of land. Upon this he settled with his family, effected good improvements, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death taking place in April, 1874, at the age of seventy-three years. The children of the paternal household, five in number, were named respectively: Magda-

lene, Andrew, Sarah, Caroline and Mary. The brother and sister of Mrs. Paap are residents of Nebraska. Her maternal grandfather served in the French Army during the war between France and Germany, in 1812. Grandfather Sturm during his early manhood was the owner of a fine property, but for thirty-six years afterward was bedridden from an incurable disease which consumed the most of it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Paap there have been born five children, namely: Omar, Alexander, Albert, Medora and Lydia, the latter twins. The eldest of these is twenty-four years of age, and the younger ones ten. They are being trained and educated in a manner befitting their station in life. Mr. and Mrs. P. are charter members of the German Methodist Episcopal Church at Berlin, and have always contributed liberally and cheerfully to its support. Mr. P. gave valuable assistance in erecting the church edifice, has been a Trustee for many years, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, he is a fervent supporter of Republican principles, and has done his party good service in this county, frequently being sent as a delegate to the State and County Conventions. He has also served on the Grand and Petit Juries. He is a man who keeps himself posted upon current events, one with whom it is interesting and profitable to converse.

NICHOLAS RUSH. Among the prominent citizens of South Branch, and one whose character is such as to commend itself to all, a successful farmer, and an army veteran, is the gentleman whose life story is herein presented in succinct form. He is the son of Antonius and Augusta Rush, and now makes his home on section 28, where he operates successfully along the line of general farming and stock-raising, giving chief attention to the former, eighty acres of fine agricultural land.

The father of our subject was born in Naples, Italy, and followed farming. His mother was born at Naples, and married under the sunny skies of that Southern European kingdom. They became the parents of six children, viz: Joseph, Pasco, Rosa, Caroline, Celestia and Nicholas. The latter was born in Naples on the 8th of May, 1837. His early life was spent in Italy. He continued upon the farm of his father until he was eighteen years of age. Then, in 1855, he went to France, where he studied as a musician, and from there to England in the practice of his chosen profession. In 1861, again taking his journey, he came to "the land of the free," landing in New York City. He traveled at first chiefly through the Southern States, and then went to Illinois.

Although but so recently come to the country and almost before he was fully able to grasp the meaning of the new institutions of the New World, or thoroughly to imbibe the principles of its independence, Mr. Rush saw that country in the throes of a civil war, and enlisted in the Union Corps, serving in Company S, 2d Illinois Artillery. He was mustered in at Springfield in June, 1864. He did not come out of the struggles unscathed. Injuries were first received from being thrown off his horse, which stunned him and left some injury of the head that has rendered him permanently deaf. This the thundering cannon so affected as to almost entirely destroy the hearing, and he must ever remain in the stillness and comparative solitude that such a condition necessitates. He was mustered out at Chicago in August, 1865, and continued in Illinois until 1866, when he came west to this county.

Life in the West has brightened for our subject, both in his farm and home, for upon coming he entered his present property of 160 acres, improved it, made it his own, and has taken good care of it from that time, until now it is one of the best cultivated farms in the district. His home has been made home to him in Nebraska, for here he was united in wedlock; first in Nebraska City, in the year 1873, to Miss Anna Wood, who died in 1875, aged twenty-five years. The second occasion occured in Johnson County on the 17th of March, 1878. The lady of his choice was Miss Jane Powell, the daughter of Stephen and Isabella (Mapps) Powell, who were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. They came to Johnson County in 1857. They were among the pioneers and founders of the county. Mr. Powell died in

1863, aged forty-seven years, and the mother is still living. They are the parents of seven children—William, Angeline, Jane, Thomas, John, Joseph and Elizabeth.

The wife of our subject was born in Joliet, Ill., Feb. 2, 1850. She was seven years of age when she came with her parents to this State, and has seen perhaps more than usually falls to the lot of man or woman in these days of advanced civilization in the West, of real frontier life. To Mr. and Mrs. Rush there have been given seven children, and their names are recorded as Mary M., Celestia E., Ida Sybel, Albert Wesley, Rosa A, Edith Pearl and Willis Logan.

Mr. Nicholas Rush is one of the substantial supporters and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and one of the prime movers in its organization. His wife also is with him in this relation. She is a lady of education and cultivation, and is one who has found the art of making home something more than a mere stopping-place; a place to be desired, looked for and prized. The political sentiments of our subject are strictly harmonious with those of the Republican party, of which he has always been a firm friend.

E. CLARENCE REED, of Syracuse Precinct, stands prominent among its prosperous farmers and stock-raisers, and operates one of the best farms in this section of country, pleasantly located on section 25. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1865, where he completed the rudiments of an excellent education, and later entered the State University at Lincoln. Completing his course in this institution he was employed two winters thereafter as a teacher, but aside from this has been most of his life engaged in farming pursuits. In his labors as a tiller of the soil he has met with more than ordinary success, having secured one of the most comfortable of modern homes, and a competency for his old age.

The main points in the family history of our subjects are substantially as follows: His father, Cyrus Reed, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, and was the son of an old Pennsylvania family, the parents of which spent their entire lives upon their native soil. Cyrus Reed grew to manhood in his native county, where he became familiar with the various employments of the farm, and remained a member of the parental household until attaining his majority. His business career began as a live-stock dealer, buying cattle in Illinois, and driving them to the Eastern markets before the days of railroads. He was highly successful, and became the owner of several valuable farms in Pickaway County, Ohio, which were located near the now important town of Circleville. During the war he lost considerable property.

In the spring of 1865 the father of our subject sold a portion of his Ohio property, and coming to Nebraska purchased 1,600 acres of land in Otoe County, nearly all of which was raw prairie. Upon this the family settled in a small house, and the father, imbibing a great admiration for the West, finally disposed of all his property in the Buckeye State, and turned his attention to stock-raising on his land in this county. He died at his home in McWilliams Precinct, Dec. 4, 1870, at the age of fifty-two years. He was a Republican in politics, and as a son of one of the earliest settlers in Pickaway County, Ohio, saw much of pioneer life, enduring many of its hardships and privations. He for a time engaged in general merchandising at Nebraska City, but his preferences were for farming and stock-raising.

Mrs. Anna (Lowe) Reed, the mother of our subject, was born in Ulster County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Jacob and Susan Lowe, who migrated to Pickaway County, Ohio, during the period of its early settlement. There Mr. Lowe carried on farming until his death. Mrs. Reed afterward made the journey from Ohio to Nebraska in a buggy when she was over sixty years old. She was married to Mr. Reed in 1855, and after coming to this county became the wife of Edwin Parsons, and is now living on a farm in Delaware Precinct. Of her first marriage there were born five children, namely: E. Clarence, our subject; Harry H., Josiah E., Cyrus A. and John W. All of these are living, and residents of Nebraska and Colorado respectively.

Our subject was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, July 29, 1857, and resided under the parental roof

Chas. W. Sherfey

until reaching manhood. A few months after reaching his twenty-second year he was married, Dec. 25, 1879, to Miss Leona Dunbar, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Dunbar. Mrs. Reed was born Nov. 7, 1860, in Dunbar, and is the daughter of John and Anna (Watson) Dunbar, who were natives of Canada, and are now in Nebraska. They came to this county about 1856, settling in Delaware Precinct. Here Mrs. Reed was reared and educated, taking kindly to her books, and developed into a teacher, which profession she followed some time before her marriage and one term afterward. Mrs. Reed received her education at the Peru Normal School. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: Anna Lavina, May 19, 1883, and Clarence Herbert, Feb. 17, 1887.

Mrs. Reed is a very estimable lady, and a member of the Seventh-Day Advent Church. Mr. Reed, politically, supports the principles of the Republican party, but is in favor of prohibition. He is well known throughout the county for his enterprise, being one of its most extensive farmers and stock-raisers, handling large numbers of cattle and hogs, and keeping good horses, these latter mostly for his own use.

PROF. CHARLES W. SHERFEY has been identified with the literary and industrial interests of Nebraska City from its infancy. He is at present engaged in horticultural pursuits, raising flowers, small fruits, and vegetables, and has the best appointed greenhouse in Otoe County. He is a native of Maryland, born July 6, 1829, a son of Solomon and Catherine (McNeil) Sherfey, natives respectively of Gettysburg, Pa., and of Loudoun County, Va. Jacob Sherfey, the grandfather of our subject, lived near Gettysburg, but it is not known on which side of the State line he was born. His father, Casper Sherfey, was born about the year 1735, in Saxe Coburg Gotha, Germany, sixty miles northwest of the city of Hanover. At the age of sixteen years he came to America, and at the age of twenty-three years, 1758, he married Magdalena Deardorff, a German lady, who was born in 1738. They resided in Frederick County, Md. To them were bornfifteen children, six of whom died in childhood. The nine surviving children were five sons and four daughters. Their sons were: John, who removed to Jonesboro, Washington Co., Tenn.; Abraham, removed to Virginia; Benjamin, removed to Augusta County, Va.; Jacob lived at Gettysburg, Pa.; Joshua lived in Frederick County, Md., died in Parke County, Ind. Their daughters were: Rebecca, who married Joseph Carey; Mary, who married Nicholas Oustatt; Catherine, who married John Schriver; Elizabeth, who married Jacob Carroll. Casper's son, Jacob, married Catherine Bosserman, in 1794. He was born in Frederick County, Md., March 4, 1769, and died Aug. 5, 1842. His wife was born in York County, Pa., Aug. 12, 1773, and died Aug. 4, 1844. To them were born eleven children, two of whom died in childhood, namely, Maria, aged two years, and Daniel aged four. Eight sons and one daughter grew to mature years. David was born Jan. 13, 1797, died March 31, 1861; Solomon, born Jan. 26, 1799, married Feb. 6, 1827, died May 5, 1876. Next was Jacob. John was born Jan. 23, 1805, married March 21, 1837, died Feb. 12, 1871; Abram, born Aug. 10, 1807; Samuel, Jan. 17, 1810, married Dec. 29, 1836; Joseph, born June 30, 1812, married Feb. 6, 1840, died Oct. 4, 1850. Simeon, born Feb. 7, 1814, married March 3, 1836, died Oct. 3, 1850. Hannah Sherfey Farnsworth, born Dec. 2, 1817, married Sept. 29, 1848.

The father of our subject was reared in Pennsylvania, and in 1827 he went to Maryland and lived there until 1854. He married a Virginia lady, a daughter of John McNeil, who was, it is thought, born in Maryland, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His father, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Ireland and came to America when a young man with an older brother. His brother soon started to return to his native land, and was never heard from afterward. Mr. McNeil settled in this country permanently, married, and it is supposed, spent his last years in Perryville, Vermillion Co., Ind. The maternal grandfather of our subject married in Virginia, moved from there to Maryland, and thence to Vermillion County, Ind., in about 1835. He was numbered among the pioneers

of that county, where he improved a farm and spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Sherfey removed from Maryland to Tippecanoe County, Ind., accompanied by his wife and four children, the removal being made with the old-fashioned covered wagon drawn by a pair of horses. They took with them their household goods, and as their route lay through a sparsely settled country, they often camped by the wayside. Mr. Sherfey became a pioneer of Tippecanoe County, engaging in the mercantile business there, and he also managed a flouring-mill. In the fall of 1837 he sold out there and moved to Burlington, Iowa. At that time Iowa formed a part of the Territory of Wisconsin, and during the winter of 1837–38 the Territorial Legislature met in Burlington. There were then but few white inhabitants in the Territory, and the greater part of the land was still owned by the Indians. He lived to see it one of the most populous and wealthy States in the Union, and as one of its pioneers he was instrumental in bringing about the great change. He established himself in the mercantile business, and he got his goods either from Cincinnati or St. Louis, Chicago then being a small, unimportant town, with no communication whatever with the West, except overland by teams. Mr. Sherfey resided in and near Burlington until his death in 1876, when that town lost one of its most honored pioneers, one who had done much to build up its mercantile interests. He was a man of marked intelligence, strict integrity, and much capability. His wife, a most estimable lady, died at the home of our subject in Nebraska City, Aug. 6, 1887, at the age of eighty-one. There were four children born to this worthy couple, all of whom are living, namely: Caroline A., widow of E. D. Rand, lives in Burlington, Iowa; Charles W.; John M., lives in Burlington; William E. lives in Council Grove, Kan.

Charles W. Sherfey was in his fifth year when he accompanied his parents to Indiana, and he was eight years old when the family moved to Burlington, Iowa. He there attended the early schools and gained the preliminaries of a liberal education. When he was twenty years old he went to Green Castle, Ind., to enroll his name among the students of Asbury University (now DePauw University), and was graduated from there with the first honors in the class of '54. He decided to fit himself for the legal profession, and with that end in view he entered the law department of Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. After completing his course there in 1856, he returned to Burlington, and in 1857 came to the Territory of Nebraska, bringing with him a printing-press, and locating in Plattsmouth, he established the *Platte Valley Times*, and published that paper quite successfully for one year. Then came the great financial crisis, which made it very hard to run a paper with any profit in that city, so he came to Nebraska City, where he soon began the publication of a paper called *The People's Press*, the forerunner of the *Nebraska Press* of the present day. A short time before the office was burned in 1860, he had severed his connection with the paper, and abandoning the editorial profession, had adopted that of teacher, for which action he may be considered a public benefactor, as in those early days of the settlement of the State it was very difficult to get instructors for the schools who were themselves well educated. He taught in Nebraska City almost continuously until 1879, thus incalculably raising the standard of education here, and giving this community the benefit of his superior literary attainments for nearly twenty years. In 1863 Mr. Sherfey bought six lots in the northern part of the city and built a small frame house, into which he removed with his wife. He has since bought other lots and now owns forty-four in various parts of the city, and in 1877 he erected his present residence, a commodious, comfortable frame house, very pleasantly located on a rise of ground commanding a view of the city.

Prof. Sherfey was married in 1862 to Miss Irene, daughter of Wesley and Mary A. (Booton) Spurlock, of whom see sketch. Mrs. Sherfey was born in Iowa, in February, 1843. The pleasant wedded life of our subject and his amiable wife has been blessed by the birth of four children; the eldest, Carrie A., died when seven and one-half years old; Charles E., Irene Belle, Eulalia. Mr. and Mrs. Sherfey are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and whenever opportunity offers they are among the first to extend a

helping hand to the needy or to sympathize with the sorrowing. Mr. Sherfey is an uncompromising Republican in his political views.

The portrait of Prof. Sherfey appears in connection with this personal sketch.

JONAS SUGDEN. Among the pioneers of 1866 who resolved upon the experiment of invading the Territory of Nebraska, was the subject of this sketch, who landed in Nebraska City in the winter of that year. The early years of his life were spent as a machinist, during which he became an expert as a blacksmith and general mechanic, but upon coming to the West he necessarily changed his occupation, taking up the pursuits of agriculture. For a time, however, before securing a tract of land, he followed freighting across the plains, in the meantime homesteading the northwest quarter of section 33, Syracuse Precinct, which is included in his present homestead.

Our subject, when taking possession of his property, fashioned a dug-out in which to shelter himself and family, and gradually began making improvements about him, although he was obliged to employ himself elsewhere in order to obtain the wherewithal for the sustenance of himself and family. As time passed on he found himself making headway, and the dug-out soon gave place to a comfortable frame residence, which later was flanked by a barn and the other out-buildings necessary to his comfort and convenience, He has steadily progressed since that time, and is now numbered among the well-to-do farmers of this region, who have been the architects of their own fortunes, and thus imbibed that spirit of self-reliance which enabled them to hew their pathway to success.

The subject of this sketch was born in Yorkshire, England, March 7, 1834, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Sugden) Sugden, who, however, bore no relationship to each other before their marriage. The father was a farmer all his life, and the parents are still living, continuing residents upon their native soil. They are naturally well advanced in years, and come of a long-lived race. All of their children, ten in number, are also living and all in England, with the exception of our subject and one brother, who is a resident of Chase County, this State. The others were named respectively: John, Elizabeth, Mary, Robert, William, Ann, Judith and Paul.

Jonas Sugden, when a lad of twelve years, commenced his apprenticeship as a machinist in his native town of Kiefley, at which he served nearly five years, when the firm by whom he was employed went out of business. He then commenced working as a journeyman in Bradford and Birmingham, but about 1853 or 1854, when a young man grown, he sailed for America in company with his brother John. After landing in New York City they proceeded northwestward to Minnesota, but later returned southeastward to Pennsylvania, where our subject followed his trade for a time at Erie. Later he was employed at his trade in the city of Buffalo.

During the progress of the late Civil War Mr. Sugden was in the employ of the Pittsburgh & Erie Railroad Company, and identified himself with the Machinist and Blacksmith Union Brotherhood. On coming to Nebraska, in 1866, he followed freighting, as we have already stated. He had been married while a resident of Canada, in 1862, to Miss Jessie Bulchart, who is a native of Dundee, Scotland, and the daughter of Andrew and Jessie Bulchart, who spent their lives in Canada. Mrs. Sugden came to America with her parents when eleven years old, locating in Upper Canada, where she was married. Of this union there have been born ten children, who were named: Elizabeth, William, Jessie, Judith, Daisy, Rudolph, Thomas, Mary, John and Paul. Elizabeth became the wife of William H. Hill, and died in Chase County, this State, in 1886; Jessie died when nineteen years old.

Our subject and his wife have proprietorship in five farms in this county, comprising altogether 720 acres of land, besides a tree claim in Colorado. Mr. S. for many years devoted his attention chiefly to stock raising, buying, feeding and shipping. The farm residence is convenient and substantial, flanked by a good orchard covering an area of twenty acres, and including all the choice fruit trees which flourish upon the soil of Nebraska. In 1878 he established himself in the harness business at Syra-

cuse, where he operated successfully for a period of fourteen years. He crossed the Mississippi poor in purse, even obliged to borrow money to get his family to their destination. His possessions to-day are the result of his own resolute industry. He has made it a point to live within his income, has been prompt in meeting his obligations, and thus gained for himself a solid foundation financially and in the opinion of his fellowmen. He was one of the pioneers of his neighborhood. His settlement here was rather the result of accident than intention, as he had started for California. In passing through Nebraska City he saw on exhibition specimens of potatoes, corn and other products grown in this State, and being informed that he could secure a homestead, and in due time produce the same, determined at once to make settlement. He has never repented of his decision, and declares that in all his travels he has found no section of country equal to Nebraska. A pleasant, genial and companionable man, he has made hosts of friends wherever it has been his lot to dwell, and none have been warmer or more sincere than those west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Sugden for a number of years was a supporter of Republican principles. During the campaign of 1884 he felt that he would be justified in changing his allegiance, and accordingly wheeled over into the ranks of the Democracy. He, however, meddles with public affairs very little, preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests.

D. J. SCHOMERUS is one of the leading boot and shoe dealers in Nebraska City. He has a commodious, well-appointed store in the Grand Pacific Block, carries a large and well-selected stock, and does an extensive business. He was born May 28, 1831, in Hanover, Germany, and is a son of Christian and Famkam Schomerus, both natives of Hanover. The father was a grocer, and spent his entire life in his native land, dying when but fifty years of age. The mother is now spending her declining years with our subject, and notwithstanding that she is in her ninety-seventh year, she is strong and vigorous, both physically and mentally. There were eight children born to her and her husband, seven of whom grew to maturity: John Herman, Henry M., John Conrad, Christian A., Johanna M., our subject and Fredericka. Henry died in Germany, but the remaining members of the family came to America. Herman located in St. Louis and died there; the others settled in Nebraska City. Johanna was first married to George Strechan; her second husband was Jacob Atkin, who is still living; she died in this city. Fredericka married Frederick Zuck, and lives in Otoe County.

The subject of this sketch obtained a good education in the schools of his native land, which he attended until he was sixteen years old. He then learned the trade of cotton weaver, and was engaged at that in the old country until 1858, when he came to America, where he hoped to be able to earn more money in payment for his labors, and so be able to establish a comfortable home. He landed at New Orleans, and thence proceeded by a steamer up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. He disembarked in that city a stranger in a strange land, without money and without friends, and laboring also under the further disadvantage of being unable to understand the language of the people. But with all these discouragements the heart of the sturdy young man beat high with hope and a firm resolve to make life a success in this to him unknown country. He was endowed with plenty of strength and muscle, and knew well how to use them, so that he did not have great difficulty in securing work, finding employment in Columbia, Ill., with a farmer, receiving as payment the sum of $9 a month and board. His next place of employment was at Alton, Ill., for a few weeks. He then took a job of splitting rails, and as this was entirely new work for him, he could only earn his board that winter. In the spring of 1859 he came to Nebraska City, and shortly after hired out to a German farmer who lived twelve miles southwest of the city, and he worked for that man until the fall of the year, for $12.50 a month. Wishing to become more conversant with the English language, he engaged with an American that fall, for $9 a month, and worked with him that winter. In the spring of

1860 he crossed the plains to Pike's Peak with ox-teams, and there he secured work in a sawmill until fall, at $25 a month and board. In the fall he returned to Omaha, and then came to Nebraska City to work on a farm in this vicinity. In the spring of 1861 he came to Nebraska City, and was employed in a livery stable for a few months prior to his enlistment in the 2d Nebraska Cavalry, with which regiment he went to the frontier, and did gallant service in suppressing the Indian outbreak. He was present at the battle of Whitstone Hill, and continued in the army until the fall of 1863, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment. He was then employed in a restaurant and confectionery store until the spring of 1864. He then went to St. Louis, where he hoped to obtain more profitable work, but being disappointed in that, he enlisted in Company I, 41st Missouri Infantry, and from that time did garrison duty until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment, and once again came to Nebraska City. While he was in the army he had been prudent and economical, and had wisely saved his earnings, so that on his return here he had enough to buy a good breaking team, consisting of five yokes of oxen, and he then engaged in the profitable work of breaking prairie at $4 an acre. He followed that business two seasons, but in the fall of the year 1866 he abandoned that to form a partnership with George Burtz, in opening a confectionery store. In 1867 Mr. Schomerus left his partner in charge of their business, and went back to his old home in Germany, in very much more prosperous circumstances than when he left there ten years before. Having had a very pleasant visit among his old friends, he returned to his adopted country in the fall of that year, accompanied by his betrothed and a brother and his family. In the following year he bought his partner's interest in the business, which they had been conducting together, and carried it on alone for a few years. He then sold out and bought a farm nine miles northwest of the city. He did not move onto his farm, however, but continued his residence in the city, and in 1877 formed a partnership with John H. Minke, to engage in the boot and shoe trade. They were associated together for about five years, and then divided the stock, our subject retaining the old stand, and he is still carrying on a flourishing business.

Mr. Schomerus has been twice married. His first marriage, which took place in New York City in 1867, was to Miss M. E. Wilkan, also a native of Hanover. After a pleasant married life of ten years, she died Oct. 14, 1877. Mr. Schomerus was married to his present estimable wife, formerly Miss Anna Hobbe, of Oldenburg, Germany, Sept. 19, 1878. They are respected members of the Lutheran Church, and are foremost in its good works. They are kind and charitable toward the poor and unfortunate, who find in them true friends in the hour of need. Mr. Schomerus is a loyal citizen, as was proved by his course during the war and by his conduct since. He was a Republican until 1872, when he went with the liberal party, and he now affiliates with the Democrats.

FRANK C. RICHARDS, junior member of the firm of Dundas & Richards, publishers of the Talmage *Tribune*, conducts with his partner one of the best local papers in this county, and a journal which is duly valued by the people. It is a five-column folio, issued every Friday, and fulfills in a praiseworthy manner the object for which it is intended, as a dispenser of local news. It was established in March, 1882, under the editorial management of other parties, later became the property of the Talmage Publishing Company, and came under its present management in July, 1888. Mr. Richards has done his full share in placing it upon a sound basis, financially, and it is in the enjoyment of a healthy and steadily increasing circulation.

Mr. Richards began life in Grant County, Wis., Nov. 13, 1861, the home of his parents at that time being in the vicinity of Georgetown. The latter were John S. and Louisa (Daigh) Richards, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Illinois. They became residents of the Badger State at an early period in their lives, and there their marriage took place. The father engaged in farming, and after the birth of a part of their family the parents removed to Christian County, Ill., lo-

cating near Grove City, where they built up a good homestead and lived until coming to Nebraska in 1861.

The parents of our subject after crossing the Mississippi located first in Nemaha County, this State, and in the fall removed to a farm in Douglas Precinct, that county, where they still live. John Richards is a man of note in his community, a good citizen, and politically, a solid Republican. He is about sixty-three years of age. The mother, a most estimable lady, is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their family includes eight children, all of whom are living, and are residents of Nebraska.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, also John Richards by name, was a farmer in the Old Dominion. He became imbued with the spirit of emigration, and some time in the forties left Virginia with his family and lived for a time in Ohio. Later he removed across the Mississippi to Iowa, and finally to Grant County, Wis., where he spent his last days, yielding up his life at a ripe old age. He had married in early manhood Miss Mary A. Cordell, who died in Greene County, Iowa, about 1884, at the home of her daughter, when about eighty-four years old. These excellent old people, who had been careful and conscientious in all their dealings with their fellowmen, were members for a long period of the Methodist Church.

On his mother's side the grandfather of our subject was John Daigh, a Virginian by birth and a farmer by occupation. He emigrated to Ohio during its pioneer days when a single man, and there married Miss Sarah Porter. Later they came west to Illinois, and settled among the earliest pioneers of Sangamon County, whence they removed to Christian County. There they resided until the discovery of the lead mines at Galena. Grandfather Daigh, however, with a desire to see something more of the world, again changed his residence, this time to Grant County, Wis., and located in the vicinity of Jamestown, about eighteen miles north of Galena, Ill. In 1867, however, he moved back with his family to Christian County, and in 1882, when quite aged, he and his estimable wife crossed the Mississippi into Nemaha County, this State, locating in Douglas Precinct, where his death took place Jan. 27, 1886, at the age of seventy-eight years. As the result of a temperate life and good habits he continued hale and hearty until the final summons came. Grandmother Daigh survived her husband but a few months, her death taking place in August following, when she was sixty-nine years old. She was a member of the Methodist Church.

Frank C. Richards, our subject, continued a member of the parental household until approaching manhood, pursuing his studies first in the common schools of Grove City, Ill. Later he became a student of the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind. He came to Nebraska with his parents, and on the 4th of August, 1887, was married, in Douglas Precinct, Nemaha County, to Miss Harriet E. Bishop. This lady was born near Wyoming, this county, April 12, 1864, and is the daughter of Rev. James and Mary A. Bishop, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, and died at his home in Glen Rock in 1884, when past eighty years of age. Mrs. Bishop is still living, and makes her home on her farm at Glen Rock, being now about sixty years old.

Mrs. Richards removed with her parents from Otoe to Nemaha County when a little child, and was educated in the public schools. She is a cultivated and intelligent lady, and takes great interest in State and National affairs, coinciding with her husband in his Republican principles. Mr. Richards spent his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, and soon after leaving school began teaching in Douglas Precinct, Nemaha County. Later he embarked in the grain trade at Glen Rock, Neb., where he was occupied successfully a period of three years in the interests of the firm of Spear & Hulburd. Later he resumed teaching, and finally became Principal of the Johnson schools, of which he had charge two years. He took a warm interest in the educational affairs of that locality, and by the exercise of great perseverance succeeded in establishing the Teachers' Association and Institute. He was urged to accept the Presidency of this, but declined in favor of Prof. Charles Fordyce, an old and experienced teacher of many years' standing.

Mr. Richards, in 1884, identified himself with the Masonic fraternity, and is a charter member of Blue Lodge No. 124, of Auburn, also a member of

the I. O. O. F. of that place, being connected with Mayflower Lodge No. 76. He has filled the various offices of the order and takes a warm interest in its success. He is rapidly becoming identified with the most important interests of Talmage, where he is recognized as a capable and efficient journalist, as well as a valued member of society.

CHARLES G. FISCHER is one of the worthy representatives of the German-American citizens of Nebraska City. He was born on the 21st of August, 1843, in Saxony, Germany, which was the native place of his father, Frederick Fischer, and also indeed of his family so far as it can be traced. His grandfather, Nicholas Fischer, was a small but successful farmer there, while the father of our subject learned and followed the trade of slate-roofing, and later also learned the trade of a tailor. In 1856, accompanied by his wife and five children, he came to America, by way of Hamburg to Hull, England, across that country by rail to Liverpool, and thence by steamer to New York. Leaving that city the little family of Mr. Fischer went to Cincinnati, where he followed tailoring until his death from cholera in 1866. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Lehmann, who was, we need hardly add, a native of Saxony, bore bravely the trouble that fell upon her household, and did her best to meet the case. She is still living in Cincinnati. Their family included eleven children, only five of whom, however, now survive. These are Mollie, Charles G., Mary, Clara and Otto.

The subject of our sketch was thirteen years of age when he came with his parents to this country. He had attended the schools of the Fatherland, and also joined the classes of the public schools of Cincinnati, continuing for about two years, when he went to learn the trade of a machinist in the shops of the Hamilton & Dayton Railroad. He remained there for four years and then worked in various shops until 1861.

On the 13th of June, 1861, the subject of our sketch enlisted in Company C, 28th Ohio Infantry, and continued in the service until 1863. Among the many engagements in which he took part were those of Fredericksburg, Harper's Ferry, on the Galler River, Va., where he was wounded by a piece of a bursting shell, injuring him in the right arm, thus disabling him from further service. He was therefore honorably discharged in October, 1863, and returned to Cincinnati.

Our subject returned to his old trade and continued to follow it in Ohio until 1869, when he came to Nebraska City and engaged in a furniture store, where he worked until the 27th of July, 1871, when he entered into business for himself, continuing until July, 1875, when his business was destroyed by fire, then going to Colorado. After four months in the mountains he returned to Nebraska City, where he was shortly afterward appointed engineer of the City Fire Department, which he held for one year and a half.

In 1880 our subject opened his meat-market on Central avenue, which is still his place of business and the center of quite an extensive trade. He is well respected in the community, both as a citizen and business man. He is a worthy member of the William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R., and also the Schiller Lodge No. 23, K. of P., and Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.

On the 14th of April, 1864, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage with Barbara Swan, who was born in Bohemia, and came to America with her parents when about six months old. They have become the parents of five children, who bear the following names: Edward, Hart, Robert, Willie and Lulu.

FREDERICK W. SCHROEDER, who has become widely known as the proprietor of the Short System Roller Mill of Syracuse, which he purchased in 1887, is a native of Germany, and was born on the 3d of September, 1835. It was his misfortune to be left an orphan quite early in life. When seventeen years of age he commenced working in a mill, at which occupation he continued, employed for various persons until 1869, acquiring in the meantime the trade of a millwright.

Our subject emigrated to the United States in

1869, landing at New York, and proceeded at once to make his way as rapidly as possible toward the West, finally stopping in Nebraska City. He soon obtained work in a mill at Peru, and although, perhaps, in some few minor details the labor connected therewith was different from that to which he had been accustomed in his native country, he proved himself an able workman. The following year he took a homestead in Buda Precinct, Lancaster County, this State, which he proved up, and later ran a mill in Nebraska City for two years. When the mill was burned, at the end of that period, our subject rebuilt and continued business as before. In 1878 he built a mill at Roca, in Lancaster County. This mill had a capacity of forty barrels per diem. It was destroyed by fire on the 6th of July, 1887. The company in which the property was insured failed, and Mr. Schroeder consequently did not obtain the $3,000 which his policy called for.

The subject of our sketch finally came to Syracuse and purchased his present property, which was then idle and out of repair. He built a dam and has put the whole equipment into splendid working order, expending upon it $4,000. The mill manufactures some of the finest flour of the State, and has a capacity of thirty-five barrels daily. Mr. Schroeder is building up a lucrative patronage, and his customers appreciate his high sense of honor and general business integrity.

The interesting event of the marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 31st of July, 1868, a short time before he came to this country. The maiden name of the lady who then linked her life and interests with his was Anna Dorethea Damka. They became the parents of three sons: Fred W. C., Gustave H. and Fred William, all of whom, by a kindly Providence, are still spared to the father. Mrs. Schroder departed this life on the 9th of January, 1887, sincerely mourned by her family and friends as one who had been in the highest degree faithful to the responsibilities and duties of life, a true wife and mother.

The subject of our sketch is a devout member and able supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is deeply interested in every department of its work. In politics he is a Prohibitionist, and in all points connected with the various issues at stake endeavors to advance the interests of his party.

The view of the homestead and mill property of Mr. Schroeder will be found on another page. The whole is very neat, pleasant and tasteful—a goodly sight to the eye. It not only adds beauty to the landscape, but value to that section of country.

JOHN O. FARMER is one of the most promising, enterprising and practical young farmers and stock-raisers of South Branch Precinct, and operates 160 acres of splendidly improved land on section 24. He is the son of Elias and Mary N. (Wolf) Farmer, who were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. They were married in the latter State, and there continued to make their home until the husband and father died in the year 1862, after a severe sickness, the cause of death being black erysipelas. After this event the mother of our subject was married to Mr. William DeVolt, a gentleman of French family, residing at present in South Branch. Of her union with Mr. Farmer two children were born, our subject and Nathan M. After her marriage with Mr. DeVolt she gave birth to two other children—Elmer E. and Eva E.

The place of the nativity of our subject is Knox County, Ohio, the date of that interesting event Feb. 6, 1860. His father died when he was about two years of age, and he continued to live with his mother until he was ten years of age, and then started in life for himself. He began by working out upon a farm, by which he managed to support himself, and being allowed the privilege of attending school during winter, which he did until he was sixteen years of age, he succeeded in obtaining that indispensability of a successful life, a good practical education.

Mr. Farmer came to Nebraska when eighteen years of age, settling first in Omaha in 1878, and later in Nebraska City, and thence coming out to his present place, which was purchased by the two brothers; later he bought out his brother, and since that time continued it alone. He has made all the

improvements on the place; the grove he set out carefully, the hedges and fences he has planted and trimmed, stretched and kept. The orchard he has been careful to select and put out and tend, the house and buildings are also largely his own work. These are substantial, commodious and convenient. The home is in point of fact a bright, cheery place, that can be appreciated no less by the visitor, to whom a cordial hospitality is always shown, than by the owner of the property.

On the 16th of October, 1884, at Tecumseh, Mr. Farmer and Emma A., daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Miers) Watermerer, were united in wedlock with happiest results. They are the parents of two children: Lola M., born Aug. 13, 1885, and Rosa E., Nov. 10, 1887. The parents of Mrs. Farmer were born in Germany, and upon coming to the United States settled first in Wisconsin, and later in Illinois. Her father was a professor of German and English, and was teaching in Cairo, Ill., when he died in 1874; her mother, who is still living and has reached the advanced age of sixty-seven years, makes her home with our subject. She is the mother of two children: Emil T., and Emma A., the wife of our subject, who was born on the 10th of March, 1862, at the Wisconsin home.

The subject of our sketch has served as Constable, and is also now the School Moderator of this district. Politically, he is Democratic, and takes a lively interest in politics. With his wife, he attends the Baptist Church, and in that, as in every other relation in life, both are held in much esteem. There is evidently a future before Mr. Farmer that will be worthy of his character, power and energy.

PETER SCHARP. Among the intelligent and thrifty German farmers of Wyoming Precinct none held a higher position among their fellow-citizens than the subject of this sketch, who departed this life after a long and painful illness, on the 17th of March, 1888. A native of Holstein, Germany, he was born Jan. 24, 1841, and emigrated to America with his parents in 1856. The latter were Timm and Mattie Scharp, who were also of German birth and parentage, and whose family consisted of six children. Soon after setting foot upon American soil they made their way directly to the West, settling in Wyoming Precinct, this county, where their son Peter grew to manhood and received a common-school education. The death of the father occurred about 1883. He was accidentally killed, having been thrown from a wagon which was struck by a runaway team. Mr. Scharp was hurled with much violence to the ground, and instantly expired. The mother is still living on the home farm with her son Timm.

Upon reaching manhood our subject started out for himself, and managed to secure 160 acres of land on section 21, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. He began in earnest the cultivation of the soil, but feeling the need of a wife and helpmate was in due time united in marriage with Miss Johanna Guencel, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Wyoming Precinct, Oct. 29, 1868. The young people commenced the journey of life together in a manner suitable to their means and station, and labored with one mutual purpose in the building up of a home and the development of a farm. Their first dwelling was a small frame house, which, in 1883, was replaced by the present fine residence.

Mrs. Scharp was born in Gorlitz, Prussia, on the 14th of August, 1840, and is the daughter of Carl and Christiana (Frenzel) Guencel, who were natives of the same, and of pure German ancestry. They were reared and married in their native Province, the father in the meantime serving three years in the German Army. Later he established himself upon a farm, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, his death occurring in 1874, when he was sixty-five years old. Both parents were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, of which they became members at an early age. The mother is still living in Germany, being now seventy-eight years old.

Mrs. Scharp lived at home with her parents until the spring of 1868, and then came alone to the United States, joining her brother, Ernest Guencel, in Nebraska City, where she lived until her marriage with our subject. Of this union there have been born nine children, two of whom, Mattie and Timm, died at the ages of five and two respectively.

The survivors, Mary, Peter J., Hannah, Ernest, Emma, John and Carl, are all at home with their mother, and form a very intelligent and interesting little family, being given the training and education suited to their station in life.

The Scharp homestead comprises 160 acres of land, and in addition to this property Mr. Scharp owned 180 acres elsewhere, including forty acres of valuable timber. Mrs. Scharp since the death of her husband has managed her affairs in a very intelligent manner, and kept up the reputation of the estate in a most creditable style. The farm buildings are first-class in every particular, and Mr. Scharp as a stock-raiser had gained quite an enviable reputation. He was a Republican in politics, and with his wife and children a loyal adherent of the Lutheran faith of his forefathers. His name is held in kindly remembrance by all who knew him, as that of a man honorable in his dealings with his fellow-citizens and one who did good service in the building up of one of the most intelligent communities of the West.

JACOB DIENER came to the southwestern part of this county in the spring of 1877, and settled upon a tract of rented land which he cultivated for a period of five years. In the fall of 1881 he purchased his present farm of 160 acres on section 6, South Branch Precinct, and the year following took possession. It was then raw prairie, and the homestead which the traveler views to-day with admiring interest, with its buildings, groves, orchards, machinery and live stock, has been the result of the persevering industry of the present proprietor, the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He has of late been giving his attention largely to fine draft horses and good breeds of swine. Of these he makes a specialty, and realizes therefrom a handsome income.

Next in importance to the life and character of an individual is that of those from whom he sprang. The father of our subject, John Diener, was a native of Rhenish Prussia, and married Miss Caroline Reim, who was born and reared in his own neighborhood. The paternal grandfather, Phillip Diener, a native of the same Province, spent his entire life there. His son John, upon reaching manhood and being married, settled upon a small farm of sixty acres, the soil of which he tilled until 1835, and not being satisfied with the result, embarked with his little family for America. Here he located first in Carlisle, Pa., and was employed on a railroad. Thence he went to Pottsville, in Schuylkill County, and for a time was employed in coal mining. Later he took up his residence in Northumberland County, where his death occurred in 1874, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother, still continuing a resident of Pennsylvania, died in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty years.

The seven children of the parental family were named respectively: Lena, Margaretta and Caroline, who are now deceased; Jacob, of our sketch; John, living near Syracuse, in this county, and Dorothy, a resident of Pennsylvania. Jacob, like his parents, was born in Rhenish Prussia, Aug. 29, 1823, and until a lad twelve years of age continued with them on the farm in his native Province. Like most of the children of Germany, he was given a good common-school education, and he remembers the incidents of preparation for the long voyage across the Atlantic, together with their stormy passage over. They set sail from Havre de Grace, France, encountering seven weeks of bad weather, and finally landed in the city of Baltimore.

Our subject proceeded with his parents to Carlisle, Pa., and for several years thereafter was engaged in coal mining, during which time he met with many hairbreadth escapes incident to this often dangerous occupation. He was a workman of more than ordinary intelligence and ability, finally operated by contract, and upon several occasions sunk the trial shaft, a difficult proceeding, requiring great judgment and skill. In the spring of 1877, however, becoming very tired of mining and of the constant battle with falling slate and inhalation of gas which often threatened to destroy him, he resolved to change his occupation to something more pleasant and less dangerous.

Putting his resolve into execution, Mr. Diener made his way across the Mississippi, and the first night spent in Otoe County was in the rapidly developing town of Syracuse. After locating upon

the land which he rented in Hendricks, he sent for his family, and subsequently proceeded as we have already indicated. He was first married, Jan. 6, 1844, in Schuylkill County, Pa., to Miss Catherine Diehl, who was born in Germany, Sept. 5, 1825, and only survived her wedding five years, her death taking place in the winter of 1849. This lady was the daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Schound) Diehl, natives of Bavaria, and the father was a coal miner by occupation. Upon coming to America they settled in Schuylkill County, Pa., where the father died at the age of fifty years, in 1842. The mother is still living in Pennsylvania, being now eighty-eight years old. Their children were Lewis, Phillip, Frederick, Caroline, Charlotte, Louisa, Augustus and Lizzie. Philip and Jacob are deceased.

This union of our subject resulted in the birth of four children, all sons: Phillip Albert died when about three years of age; John Frederick is mail agent on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. He served during the Civil War, in the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and in the battle at Dallas, Ga., was wounded and captured by the enemy. He experienced the terrors first of Atlanta and then Andersonville Prison, but his life was spared, and he returned home after being paroled and exchanged. He was mustered out in 1865, with his regiment in Georgia, and is now in Syracuse. Charles is a stationary engineer by profession, and a resident of Schuylkill County, Pa.

Phillip Diehl during the late war served as a Union soldier, and died at Hatteras Inlet. Caroline became the second wife of our subject in the fall of 1852. She was born Sept. 5, 1829, and was a child two years of age when she came with her parents to America. Of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Louis, Ernest A., Laura, Albert, Lizzie, Frederick, Henry, George and William. Louis and Ernest A. are farmers, one in Palmyra Precinct, this county, and the latter in Lincoln County; Laura is the wife of Harry Johnson, a well-to-do farmer of Lincoln County, and the mother of five children. The following are also in that county: Albert; Lizzie, the wife of Peter Lloyd; Frederick and George. The other children are at home with their parents.

Mr. Diener, politically, is a decided Republican, and in religious matters belongs to the German Lutheran Church. His estimable wife is a member of the German Reformed Church. They have one of the pleasantest homes in the county, and their hospitable doors are always open both to friend and stranger, to whom they extend that welcome which is always so grateful to the recipient, and by which means they have gathered around them hosts of warm friends.

WILLIAM M. THALER. The life of this gentleman is illustrative of the fact that thoroughness is the key to success. As a boy this marked his life, whether in school or on the play-ground; it was equally true of him as a young man starting in life, as a soldier, and in his business relations of later years. He is a representative citizen of Palmyra, and has the esteem of his fellows. He is the son of John M. and Margaret Thaler, both of whom were natives of Germany. The occupation of his father was that of a stonemason, and he was considered a skilled worker. In the year 1839, when he had reached the advanced age of sixty years, he started with his family for America, and settled in Springfield, there continuing to follow his trade. About the time he was eighty-two years of age the sands of the hour glass of his life had run out, and he departed this life at Springfield, in the year 1861. His wife lived to be eighty-four years of age; she died at the residence of our subject in the year 1883. The father of our subject was twice married. By his first union he became the father of one child, and by the second, that to which reference is made above, of twelve children. Our subject is one of the younger children; he and his brother Charley, who died at New York in 1839, were twins.

The native place of William Thaler is Honackon, Wurtemberg, Germany. He was born in the year 1836, but his residence in that county was of comparatively short duration, and his early recollections center around the Springfield home. His education was obtained in the Springfield schools, and was supplemented by a course of instruction in the Brooks Seminary. He was all that is meant

by the expression a thorough boy, vivacious, bright, an intense lover of fun, and perhaps at times a little too exuberant for the comfort of some less youthful. There was, however, always present with him a certain sturdy sense of manly honor, and his record is not tarnished as it might have been had his home training been less careful and complete. Upon leaving school the question of trade or calling was placed before him, and he elected to become a stone-cutter. He served an apprenticeship of two and a half years, working on the stone block representing Illinois in the Washington Monument for about six weeks, toward the latter part of his apprenticeship. Difficulty with the boss caused him to leave, and he went to Logan County, Ill., and there engaged on a farm.

While in Logan County our subject met Miss Melinda Lanterman, who was born near Springfield, Ill., in 1834, to John and Elizabeth Lanterman. The father of this lady was a farmer, and prosperous in his occupation, his death occurring when she was about twenty years of age; she shortly afterward went to keep house for her brother, whose home was in Logan County. It was here the acquaintance was formed that resulted in their marriage on the 5th of March, 1857. They lived in Illinois until 1860, and then he came alone to this State, arriving in Nebraska City on the 5th of April, 1860, and his family came in March, 1861. The same day he went out to visit a cousin whose home was in the vicinity, and, upon being asked by his relative how he liked the Territory, replied: "I like it well enough to live and die in Otoe County." He has not yet changed his opinion.

His visit to Nebraska City over, Mr. Thaler returned to Springfield, Ill., where he cast his first Presidential ballot for Lincoln, whom he had served in youth as a chore boy. He remained in Illinois over winter, and in the spring of 1861 returned with his wife and child, and rented first a farm in Otoe County, which he held for two years. At the close of that period, his first impression of the county being strengthened, he purchased a farm, but did not improve it before the war.

At the risk of a retrogression, we mention an incident in connection with the first vote for President mentioned above, as indicating the principles that underlie the character of our subject. At the time Fremont was spoken of for the Presidency Mr. Thaler sympathized with the Fillmore party. A day or two afterward he received from his former employer and benefactor, Lincoln, a sharp letter. Seeing the folly of his conduct, he made a vow that if Lincoln ever ran for office again he would vote for him; consequently, in the fall of 1860, when in Nebraska City, he did not think it too much to return to Illinois to cast his vote. The day after his return home he called on Lincoln, who was well pleased to see him, and filled with strong emotion as he understood the purpose of the journey from Nebraska. With a look that will ever be remembered by our subject he said: "Well, William, you have come a long way to vote for me, will you come that far to defend the principles you are voting for?" The promise was given that he would do so, and has since been nobly fulfilled.

In 1861 Mrs. Thaler died at Nebraska City, leaving to the care of her husband a little daughter, Margaret, and, although the condition was unfavorable to the fulfillment of his promise to Lincoln, and his path in that direction thus rendered very difficult, he was so moved by McClellan's defeat, that, when the call came for 600,000 men, he started once more for Springfield, and enlisted in Company A, 73d Illinois Infantry, for three years, and served during the remainder of the war. Only about one week was allowed for drilling at Camp Butler, before they departed for the front. Everything else was learned under the rebel fire.

The first battle in which our subject participated was that at Perryville, fought on the 9th of October, 1862. The next was at Chickamauga. He was taken sick with typhoid fever at Nashville, and lay between life and death for a long time, in the summer of 1863, in the hospital at that place and Chattanooga. After the battle last mentioned he was again taken ill, and upon recovery served in the engagement at Nashville. He was at Greenville, Tenn., when Lincoln's assassination occurred. At that place he served on detached duty. On the Easter Sunday he and his comrades were having a splendid time in exercises similar to those of the old-fashioned singing school; all were feeling happy and jubilant, but the news reached them just at

that time, and from the heights of pleasure they sank to the lowest depths of sorrow, to know that the President was no more. Receiving an honorable discharge at Nashville, on the 12th of June, 1865, Mr. Thaler returned to his home.

Arriving in Nebraska City on the 20th of August, 1865, after an absence of three years and four days, our subject found things more changed than he had anticipated. On the 1st of September he started freighting over the plains to Colorado and to Ft. Laramie, Wyo. He carried on this business under Government contract for two years, then, coming once more to Nebraska City, on the 11th of January, 1867, he went to his farm, started to improve it, and has since gone on with that good work.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 26th of November, 1868, and he then became the husband of Miss Permelia Ann Cassle, the daughter of John and Sarah (Thomas) Cassle. Her father was born in South Carolina and her mother in Ohio, but removed to Indiana, and finally came to Nebraska, in 1856, and settled near Nebraska City. They became the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living. Mrs. Thaler is the fourth child, and was born on the 1st of July, 1837, in Warren County, Ind. At the time the family removed to Nebraska she was nineteen years of age. This union has been consummated by the birth of four children, whose names are as follows: Bertha M., who died when about sixteen years of age; Florence A., Willie W., and Milton, who died when but an infant. By his former marriage Mr. Thaler had two children—Margaret A., and John M., who died in Quincy. Margaret is the wife of Ira Gordon, and resides at Wabash, Neb., and is the mother of three children.

In 1879 our subject sold his property and purchased a farm near Palmyra. In 1883 he went into his present business, which is that of a hardwareman and dealer in harness and saddlery. He built a brick corner block in 1883, in partnership with C. B. Coswell. This business venture has been most satisfactory in every regard, and he has prospered beyond his most sanguine expectations. He has also built a branch store at Hendricks, in which he has a half-interest, and has erected a good residence in the best part of the town.

Naturally Mr. Thaler is an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R., and has been the commander of the post. He is an earnest member of the Christian Church, his wife and daughter equally so of the Baptist communion. Our subject feels strongly in the matter of Prohibition, and heartily espouses that cause. He has received many indications of the esteem in which he and his are held in the town, and also of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens. At present he is serving upon the Village Board his third term, holding the office of President of the same.

LEMUEL E. SINSABAUGH, of Syracuse, was the first man to locate upon the present site of this city, coming here in August, 1871, and putting up the first building within its limits. He at once established a lumber-yard, and was accordingly the pioneer in this business. He is now engaged in the breeding of fine horses, being the owner of the celebrated Bashaw Stock Farm, where he has a fine stable of Cleveland Bays, the better class of road horses and Shetland ponies.

Bradford County, Pa., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place Feb. 16, 1839. His parents were David and Susan (Peck) Sinsabaugh, and as they died when he was a small boy, he knows little of the history of his ancestors farther than that his grandparents were residents of Orange County, N. Y. Of the parental family there were eleven children, ten of whom grew to mature years. These were: Rachel, the wife of Huston Munn; William, Richard, Alpheus, Hector; Elsie, Mrs. Minard DeGroff; Thomas M., Lemuel E.; Miranda, the wife of James L. Patterson, and Lois, Mrs. George T. Hunt. These are residents of Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska.

Our subject was left an orphan when a lad of ten years, and resided with his brothers for some time afterward. When a boy in his teens he was employed as a farm laborer, and in 1858 entered a factory where were manufactured agricultural im-

plements, at Athens, Pa. In 1860, going to Western, Pa., he engaged in lumbering, and the year following occurred the outbreak of the late Civil War. Soon after the first call for troops he entered the service as a member of Company H, 46th Pennsylvania Infantry, and operated with his comrades along the Shenandoah Valley under Gen. Banks, participating in all the battles of that campaign. On the 8th of August, 1862, the day preceding the battle at Cedar River, our subject was afflicted with a sunstroke, and during the conflict which followed was captured by the rebels, and confined at Libby Prison and Belle Isle until in January, 1863. He was then exchanged, and rejoining his regiment, participated in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, after which this division of the army was transferred to Chattanooga and to the command of Gen. Sherman. Mr. Sinsabaugh afterward fought at Lookout Mountain, Resaca and Dallas, receiving at the latter place a gunshot wound, which, in connection with the effects of sunstroke, so disabled him that he was relieved from active duty, and sent to the hospital at New Albany, Ind. Later, at Harrisburg, Pa., he received his honorable discharge, after having given a faithful service of three years to his country.

Upon leaving the army our subject returned to his old haunts in Bradford County, Pa., resuming his work, the manufacture of agricultural implements, until 1865. He then went into the oil regions, and was engaged in developing wells until the following year, when he returned to the factory. The summer of 1871 found him west of the Mississippi, and preparing to locate upon the present site of Syracuse, this county. He continued in the lumber business until 1878, and was succeeded by H. N. Carpenter. He now turned his attention to the raising of fancy poultry, and for this purpose erected a set of the finest buildings in the United States. His operations proved highly remunerative, his trade extending to every State in the Union, the Sandwich Islands and England. But, alas for human calculations, a conflagration, supposed to have been started by a firecracker, swept away the labor of years, entailing a heavy loss of property upon which there was no insurance.

As soon as he could recover from his calamity, our subject invested his remaining capital in a stock of general merchandise, associating himself with a partner, and the firm of Page & Sinsabaugh continued in existence until the fall of 1884. Mr. S. then withdrew and established the Bashaw Stock Farm, and as a breeder of fine horses now occupies a position in the front ranks among the men of that line in Southern Nebraska. His stables are located near the city limits, where, in addition to his farm, he owns forty acres of land.

Miss Jennie Bloodgood, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Bloodgood, of New York, became the wife of our subject Sept. 12, 1865, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in New York. Mrs. Sinsabaugh was born in Tioga County, N. Y., and departed this life at her home in Syracuse, Neb., May 13, 1873. Of this union there were born four children: Ida M., now the wife of Henry Vose, of Syracuse; Grace is at home with her father, Willie, and one deceased. Our subject, politically, votes the Republican ticket, and is one of the pioneer members of the Masonic fraternity in this region, being the first man initiated in Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57, in Syracuse.

JAMES M. RILEY, the well-known and prosperous liveryman of Syracuse, is a native of the Buckeye State, and was born in Muskingum County on the 16th of June, 1857. His father, John Riley, was a native of that State, and followed the occupation of farming, and in that calling enjoyed even more than usual success. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Christiania McDonald, a native of Virginia, who, throughout the years of her married life, manifested a spirit beautiful in its purity and Christian helpfulness. She was in every sense of the word a true wife and mother. Mr. Riley, Sr., continued to make his home in his native State until 1885, when, owing to the death of his wife and two daughters, each of whom fell a victim to that most fatal of all known diseases, consumption, he determined to seek a climate where the surviving members of his family might have an opportunity to escape the same fell destroyer. Accordingly he sold

his farm and other property in Ohio and migrated to Kansas, where he purchased a section of land in Wabaunsee County, which he has improved and still operates as a stock farm. Of his family five children are still living, his son John M. being the eldest.

The education of our subject was obtained in the usual institution of his native county, and as he made good use of his school days and has not been neglectful of self-improvement since, he is a well-informed man and capable citizen. On leaving school he became his father's assistant upon the farm, and continued thus employed until 1877. At that time he went to Kansas, where he took a commercial course in a college at Lawrence, and throughout the three subsequent years represented L. K. Hill & Co., of Kalamazoo, Mich., as their salesman of plow attachments in the State of Kansas. Upon resigning this position he engaged in stock-raising, in which his success was even greater than it had been as a salesman.

The year 1885 is memorable in the history of our subject as that in which he was united in wedlock with Addie Daly, the estimable lady who has since that time been the companion of his life, and has enriched it by the matured intelligence, culture and inspiration of her womanhood. Mrs. Riley is the daughter of George W. Daly, of Kansas, who was born in the State of New York, but as a young man went to Kansas and taught school. While a resident there he met and married his wife, who was the daughter of one of the pioneers of Kansas. Mr. Daly is now agent for the Kansas Loan and Trust Company of Topeka, and very prosperous as a business man. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Riley has been the more firmly cemented and its happiness augmented by the birth of a daughter, to whom they have given the name Ethel.

Kansas continued to be the home of our subject some time after he was married, in fact, until he came to this State in the year 1886, at which time he settled in Syracuse, and embarked with his usual thoroughness and enterprise in his present business. The good fortune which attended his former occupation did not leave him when he came hither, and although in a new country where are many difficulties and obstacles unknown in older settled districts, these have never turned him from his purpose. He has industriously looked after his business, and has firmly established a reputation in the community.

Like his father before him, our subject is a stanch Republican, and when opportunity offers is always ready to manifest his faith by his deeds, hence is esteemed an extremely loyal and patriotic citizen.

ANDREW STOUT, one of the prosperous farmers of Otoe Precinct, owning forty acres of farming land on section 20, 160 acres being the north quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section, the entire north half of section 30, and ten acres on section 23, a total of 530 acres, his residence being upon the first named, is the son of Emley and Elvira (Denney) Stout. His father was born in the State of New Jersey, but was brought up in Ohio, whence he was taken by his parents when about six years of age. This was the native State of the mother of our subject.

It is believed from family tradition that the ancestry of Andrew Stout were subjects of the British Crown, and that the grandfather of Andrew was the first member of the family to come to this country, where he settled in New Jersey after the Revolutionary War. In the War of 1812 this gentleman served as a teamster for the army.

Mr. Emley Stout and Elvira Denney were married in Morgan County, Ill., near the city of Jacksonville, in the year 1835. They are now residing near Ashland, Cass Co., Ill., and are respectively seventy-nine and seventy years of age. Their family circle includes twelve children, ten of whom grew to mature years. Their names are as follows: Andrew, Caroline, Hannah, Theodore, Aaron and Cyrus (deceased), George W., Charles E.; Mary F. died when one year old; Mary E. died aged about thirty-three; Lucinda and William.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 1st of February, 1837, in Pike County, Ill. He grew up in Cass County from the time he was twelve years of age, previous to which he had lived in Morgan County from the time he was eighteen months old. Being the eldest son he was directed to farm work

at a very early age, and while still a youth was able to take charge of almost any department of such work. This was the more necessary because his father was by no means a rich man, and needed all the help that could be given. For this reason perhaps more than any other the education of our subject was not given that attention that would have been desirable, and, under other circumstances, possible. What schooling he obtained he received during the winter months only, and upon the foundation then laid he has never ceased to continue to build.

After spending the first twenty-two years of his life under the home roof our subject started in life for himself by celebrating his marriage with Mary E., the estimable daughter of Nathan and Catharine (Epler) Blizzard. This lady was born in Clark County, Ind., and there lived until she was six years of age, when, with her parents, she went to Morgan County, Ill., which afterward continued to be her home until her marriage. The date of the latter event was Nov. 18, 1858. Both her parents are deceased.

The young couple spent the first year of their married life in Illinois, and then sold out their property and came to this State, arriving in the fall of 1859. Their first purchase was the northeast corner of section 30. By care and unremitting labor, judiciously carried on, success so far crowned the efforts of our subject that the adjoining quarter of the same section was purchased and incorporated with their previous possessions. Mr. Stout followed for many years general or mixed farming, finding it more profitable than a more special line of operations.

For six years Mr. Stout held the office of County Commissioner, and for two years he was Chairman of the board. While Mr. Stout was a member of the board many of the leading citizens of Nebraska City and the county requested the Board of Commissioners to submit to the voters the proposition to issue bonds to aid in the construction of the Midland Pacific Railroad. The proposition carried, the bonds were issued and the road built. Subsequent bonds were voted on and issued in aid of the construction of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad.

The political faith of our subject is that of the Democratic party, of which he has for many years continued a stanch advocate and friend. When running for the Commissioner's office he ran far ahead of his ticket. He has been prominent in the councils of his party in this county. In religious belief our subject and his wife are members of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a charter member of the church organization at Harmony, and one of the Trustees.

Charles E. Stout, the only son of our subject and wife, was born in Otoe Precinct, April 20, 1860. He has attended in addition to the usual institution of instruction the Nebraska City College, and also the State University at Lincoln. At present he is at home assisting his father in carrying on the farm.

Mr. Stout is a man of fine character, manliness and personal worth. He has a high sense of justice and honor, and commands the universal esteem of his fellows. Concerning him as a public officer J. J. Hostettler, his fellow Commissioner, remarked as follows: "Mr. Stout is an A No. 1 man. In matters pertaining to the public good I found him very active. While we got along very harmoniously, yet when Mr. Stout would take a stand on any point he would do it because he thought it was right, and his natural ability and long experience made him one of the very best Commissioners Otoe County has ever seen."

HIRAM HENDRICKS, of Hendricks Precinct, was the first white child born in the southwestern part of Otoe County. This event occurred on the 30th of December, 1859. Here he spent his boyhood and youth, and grew to a promising manhood. He is now numbered among the most enterprising young farmers of this section, and bids fair to reflect honor upon the name which has been familiar in this section of country for a period of over thirty years.

Our subject, although young in years, has seen much hard labor, having been reared as the son of a pioneer, and at an early age commenced to assist his father in the development of a homestead. In the sketch of his brother, George Hendricks, found elsewhere in this volume, is given the pa-

rental history. The first recollections of our subject are of the wild, uncultivated prairie and the primitive manner in which the people of that time were obliged to live. He spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, remaining with his parents until reaching his majority, and notwithstanding the many difficulties in the way of education, became master of the common branches, the study of which he diligently pursued, and from which he emerged with a goodly portion of practical knowledge. At the age of twenty-two years he purchased the eighty acres which he now owns and occupies from his mother, and began farming on his own account. He has made all the improvements which we see to-day, and which reflect great credit upon his industry and good judgment. He has a fine tract of native timber, and streams of living water running through the farm. He has planted an orchard of 150 apple trees and laid off the fields with beautiful hedge. He has added to his landed possessions by the purchase of forty acres on section 17.

One of the most interesting and important events in the life of our subject was his marriage, which occurred April 17, 1881, his bride being Miss Jennie Fishel. This lady was born in Iowa, Aug. 19, 1861, and is the daughter of Charles and Jessie (McPherson) Fishel, the former of whom is a native of Ohio, and the latter was born on the other side of the Atlantic, among the Scottish Highlands. Mr. Fishel, a farmer by occupation, removed from Ohio to Iowa, thence in 1876 to this county, locating on a tract of land in Hendricks Precinct, where he labored successfully, and where his death took place in 1878. The mother is still living, and resides on the old homestead. Their family consisted of eight children, six of whom are living, and mostly residing in Nebraska. Mrs. Hendricks was the second child, and continued under the home roof until her marriage, acquiring her education in the common schools. Of her union with our subject there have been born three children—Charles Edwin, Carrie Winnifred and Mary Elizabeth. Mr. Hendricks is a stanch Republican, politically, and both he and his amiable wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Solon, in which he has been Class-Leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Like that of his father before him, his house has always been open for religious meetings and every other good purpose. His energy and public-spiritednesss, his enterprise and intelligence, have commended him highly to the people of this county, who expect of him still further good things in the future.

DWIGHT WAIT. This gentleman is one of the enterprising young business men of Palmyra, and occupies the position of chief clerk in the hardware store of Mr. Thomas Bell. His father, Cyrus Wait, was born in Vermont, near Woodstock. Upon the father's side the family is of French origin, while upon the mother's the ancestry were Irish. Mr. Wait, Sr., was an enthusiastic worker in the great cause of religion, and almost as much so in that of abolition. He died at Woodstock, Ohio, in the year 1865, when only thirty-two years of age. After her bereavement Mrs. Wait lived with her sons. She made her home in Nebraska for two years and then returned to Indiana. She died there in the year 1886, having reached the age of seventy years. She was the mother of six children, viz: Cicero, Addison, Dwight, Hinda, Herbert and Fillmore.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 22d of February, 1849, at the town of Woodstock, and grew up there. He was seventeen years of age when his father died. In common with a large majority of those gentlemen who occupy our pulpits, Mr. Wait had not been able to accumulate a competency, so that as a young man his son Dwight had to begin and climb the ladder of life for himself. One thing was in his favor—his parents had been careful to give him a good English education, and had already given some tone and shape to his character.

The first employment of our subject was as a farm hand, and he continued thus engaged in his native State until he came to Nebraska. In company with his brother Cicero he landed in Nebraska City on the 1st of April, 1872, and soon obtained work under Dr. Converse, in the construction of the Midland Pacific Railroad. He was fortunate in having known this gentleman while a boy in Indiana. Taking his shovel he began to work with the

other men and endeavored to do his best, and so well did he acquit himself that he was promoted to the position of foreman, and had the supervision of from four to twenty-five men. He continued in the employ of the Doctor for about six years, prospering financially and otherwise.

In 1878 our subject came to Palmyra and started business as a hardwareman, and built the store now occupied by Mr. Wells. His business grew in a most gratifying manner and he was very successful. In 1880 he was joined in matrimony to Miss Hannah Bell, who was born in England in the year 1858. (See sketch of Thomas Bell.) She was twelve years of age when she came to this country, and has since lived in Palmyra. Mr. Wait has built a two-story frame dwelling that is well located, and provides fully for the comfort of his family. His marriage has been blessed by the birth of four children, who bear the following names: Amy Elizabeth, Lydia, Carrie and Francis H.

The citizens of Palmyra show their appreciation of the business integrity of Mr. Wait and have continued to patronize him, and he has an extensive agricultural implement and harness trade of his own in addition to his engagement with Mr. Bell. In the I. O. O. F. our subject is much respected, and he is the Vice Grand of the Palmyra Lodge. For three years he has filled the office of Village Treasurer with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. His political sentiments lead him to participate with the Republican party in the endeavor to bring to the people of the State a capable governing power, according to the principles they believe to be right. Mrs. Wait is a highly esteemed member of the Presbyterian Church, and in that relation, as also in every other, sustains a happy and enviable reputation.

MRS. PHŒBE OSBORN, widow of the late Lyman Osborn, who was a prominent and wealthy farmer of McWilliams Precinct, is now living quietly in a handsome home in the village of Talmage, where she is surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. She is the owner of a large extent of land in McWilliams Precinct, besides land in Nemaha and Saline Counties, Neb., and Scott County, Iowa. She is a lady of more than ordinary business capacity, managing her farms and controlling her property in a skillful and profitable manner. She has been a resident of the State since Dec. 9, 1869, all of the time in Otoe County and most of the time in Nebraska City.

Mrs. Osborn came to this State from Scott County, Iowa, with her husband, and they settled on the farm in McWilliams Precinct, where Mr. Osborn died six months later, on the 13th of August, 1870. A native of Seneca County, N. Y., Mr. Osborn was born June 19, 1812, and in his native county was reared to manhood on a farm. He was married first in his native county, to Miss Lucretia Sloper, and later they emigrated to Iowa, locating in the vicinity of what was then the unpretentious village of Davenport, during its early settlement. This lady died some years later, leaving a family of six children, all of whom are living, married, and settled comfortably, being prosperous and intelligent citizens. They were named respectively: Sylvester; Erena, who is now a widow; Huldah, Josiah, Eli and Ellen.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Osborn returned to his native State, and was married the second time, April 3, 1851, to Miss Phœbe Calder, of Meigs County. Mrs. Osborn was born in Washington County, that State, Dec. 29, 1828, and is the eldest child of John and Elsa (Rathburn) Calder, who were natives of New York State. They went with their parents to Ohio in their youth, and were married in the latter State, settling there upon a farm in Meigs County, where they lived many years. In their old age they crossed the Mississippi and settled in Scott County, Iowa. The father died at Davenport on the 8th of May, 1877, at the age of seventy-four years, his birth having taken place in 1803. Both he and his excellent wife were members of the Christian Church for many years. The latter, after the death of her husband, came to this county, and died at her home in McWilliams Precinct, April 27, 1882. She was born in 1807.

Mrs. Osborn, our subject, was reared and educated in Ohio, and engaged in teaching some time before her marriage. She and her husband soon afterward took up their residence in Scott County, Iowa,

where they became the parents of two sons. The elder, Lyman, Jr., married Miss Anna Puffer, of Scott County, Sept. 16, 1876, and they live on a farm in Nemaha County, this State; John is a resident of Talmage. Mrs. Osborn, like her parents, is connected with the Christian Church, and keeps herself well posted upon matters of general interest. She has abundant time for reading and recreation and social intercourse with the many friends whom she has gathered around her during the years of a well-spent life.

WILLIAM B. BUXTON. The farm of this gentleman, which is largely devoted to the culture of fruit, a nursery, and the raising of graded stock, occupies the southeast quarter of section 3, in Syracuse Precinct, which has been his home since the spring of 1882. It forms a very pleasing picture of rural life, with its comfortable buildings, and all the other appurtenances in keeping with the requirements of modern and progressive agriculture.

Our subject was born sixty-three years ago, in the State of Rhode Island, Dec. 4, 1825, and is the son of William and Phila Buxton, who were of English ancestry, and whose progenitors had been residents of the New England States for several generations. The descendants of the latter are now to be found scattered all over the Western Continent. The mother of our subject died when he was a lad ten years of age, leaving five children, namely: Mary Ann, now the wife of Arnold Gillson, of Woonsocket, R. I.; Francis, also of that State; Martha, the wife of Caleb Wilson, of Rockford, Ill.; William, of our sketch, and Horatio, of Riverhead, L. I.

After the death of his first wife the father of our subject was a second time married, to Miss Ruth Buffum. William B. soon afterward left home, and was employed on a farm in Connecticut for a period of seven years; then in the town of Stafford he commenced learning the trade of shoemaker, and later engaged in business for himself at Burrillville, in his native State, and a small manufacturing town. About 1856, repairing to the vicinity of Milford, Conn., he engaged in carriage painting, and there, Nov. 28, 1850, was married to Miss Mary L. Godding.

Mrs. Mary L. Buxton was born in Rutland County, Vt., March 1, 1825, and is the daughter of Russell and Abigail (Sherman) Godding, natives of New England. Mr. G. was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life in the Green Mountain State, his death occurring in Rutland County, April 11, 1833. The family at this time consisted of six children, two of whom died at an early age. Mary L., Mrs. Buxton, is the eldest living; Asa is engaged at farming in Syracuse, this county; Susan M. is the wife of George L. Alexander, of Syracuse; Loney married Rev. Walter Ely, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they are living in Connecticut.

After the death of Mr. Godding the mother and children removed to Rhode Island, and the former in 1857 joined her children in Champaign County, Ill. Her death took place in Monticello, that State, Feb. 2, 1882, after she had attained the ripe age of seventy-nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Buxton after their marriage continued residents of Massachusetts, and Mr. B. followed painting in the towns of Spencer and Millbury. In the spring of 1857, leaving his native New England, he emigrated to Illinois, and settled on a tract of land in Philo Township, Champaign County. This consisted of eighty acres, which he improved and brought to a good state of cultivation, and which he occupied with his family until the spring of 1882. His next removal was to this county, when he settled upon the farm which he now owns and occupies. He raises large quantities of all kinds of fruit, which find a ready market at Syracuse and Lincoln, and from the proceeds of which he enjoys a handsome income.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born five children, two of whom died in infancy. Mary A. became the wife of William Ennis, and died in Champaign County, Ill., in the spring of 1881; Lyman E. is farming in Cheyenne County, Kan., and Abbie G. lives at home. Mrs. Buxton has been a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over forty years, and our subject a period of twenty-five years. He

cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce, but was not fully in accordance with his political views; for a period of thirty-four years he has continued a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He has no desire for the responsibilities of office, and has therefore avoided placing himself prominently before the public.

The parents of Mrs. Buxton were of Scotch and English ancestry, and she possessed in a marked degree the admirable characteristics of that nationality, being conscientious, kind-hearted, pleasant and hospitable, and presiding over her well-ordered household in a most praiseworthy manner. Many are the friends who gather under this inviting roof-tree, and no people are held in higher respect throughout Syracuse Precinct than William B. Buxton and his estimable wife.

GEN. ISAAC COE, perhaps the most prominent citizen of Nebraska City, was born in Middletown, Conn., on the 15th of May, 1816. His ancestors were natives of England, and wrote their names Coo. The parents and grandparents, both paternal and maternal, were residents of the above-mentioned town of Middletown, and followed agricultural pursuits. Our subject had four brothers and one sister; the latter was united in marriage with George H. Bliss, and died in the city of Chicago, Ill., in the year 1852, and had one daughter, who is still living. His brother, Lewis Coe, died in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1887, leaving one son and one daughter, who are still living in that place. The remaining three brothers are living in the State of Connecticut.

The subject of our sketch received in youth the educational advantages afforded by the common schools. In 1846 he was united in marriage with Sarah L. Bacon, the estimable daughter of Ebenezer Bacon, whose parents and grandparents, like those of our subject, were natives and residents of Middletown, and followed farming pursuits.

After their marriage Gen. and Mrs. Coe lived upon the farm near Middletown for six or seven years, and one child was born to them, Eloise, now Mrs. F. P. Ireland, who with her husband and one child, Sarah C., now reside in Nebraska City. Mr. Ireland is a practicing lawyer. Not enjoying sufficiently robust health to continue farming, our subject sold his property, and with his family removed to Butler County, Ala., and there engaged in business for a number of years. On selling his interests there he moved to Nebraska City, in 1858. There he invested his funds in Government land sales at the United States Land Office.

Not long after he had identified himself with Nebraska City our subject was elected by the officers of the several volunteer companies of the division south of Platteville in the Territory of Nebraska to the position of Brigadier General, and was in charge of the division for several years, the territory embraced in that district bordering seventy-five miles on the States of Iowa and Missouri and over 600 miles on Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming, as the present boundaries are defined. The term of service included the whole of the period embraced by the Civil War, and the excitement necessarily incidental thereto. Throughout, the personal liberties and effects of the citizens were guarded without exception, and the happy condition of things was very largely due to the wisdom, judgment, and other qualities of those in command of the forces. For the services thus rendered by the officers and forces at large there was made neither charge nor reward, nor was any compensation whatever given by the Territory, and that in order that no war debt might be incurred, with the result that the now State of Nebraska is upon a financially solid foundation and takes front rank among the States in that regard.

Subsequently our subject was engaged in freighting across the plains west of the Missouri River, and continued the same until the laying of the railroad and opening of the same for traffic precluded the necessity of any continuance in that line. In this he was associated with Levi Carter, a citizen of New Hampshire. They worked in partnership under the name of Coe & Carter. In addition thereto he invested money in developing the mineral resources of the various Western Territories, and derived therefrom a large interest from the original investment.

The firm of Coe & Carter assisted largely in the

construction of the Union Pacific, Denver, Pacific & Oregon Short Line Railroads, and a number of other enterprises looking toward the development of the resources of the still wild portions of the district west of the Missouri River. They were also large stock-buyers, and introduced a number of enterprises in the line of stock interests in the various unsettled portions of the western territory, buying largely of land for the feeding of such stock, including also sufficient for the harvesting of hay, etc., for their sustenance.

The family of Gen. Coe consists of two children: Mrs. Ireland, and a son Frank E., who owns a ranch well stocked with cattle and horses in Idaho Territory. In politics the General is a stanch Democrat.

HON. PAUL SCHMINKE, Nebraska City. Sketches of the lives of the representative citizens of Otoe County, men who were its founders and have since taken a conspicuous part in the administration of its public affairs, are found within this volume, and the subject of this biographical notice occupies a prominent place among them. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, Aug. 16, 1835, and is a son of Peter and Dora (Doell) Schminke, natives of the same locality. His father learned the trade of painter in his younger days, and followed it in his native land until 1852, when he emigrated to this country with his wife and five children, setting sail from Bremen in March, and landing in New York in the following May. He proceeded with his family to Pennsylvania, and locating in Luzerne County, followed his trade as a painter there for one year. He then moved to Ohio, and was engaged as a painter in Washington County until 1874, when he came to Nebraska City, whither two of his sons had preceded him, and is now living here in retirement at the age of eighty-two years, honored and respected as one should be who has led a useful, upright life. His faithful wife, who crossed the seas with him to begin life anew in a strange country that they might better their condition and that of their children, died in this city. The record of the children born to this worthy couple is as follows: Justus gave up his life for his adopted country in the late Civil War, he being a member of the 7th Ohio Cavalry, having been killed in battle in East Tennessee; the Hon. Paul, our subject; Kate is the wife of E. River; John, who lives in Nebraska City, served in the same regiment with his brother Justus, and honorably bears the scars of many battles; and J. Conrad.

The subject of our sketch received a liberal education in the excellent schools of his native land, which he attended quite steadily until he was sixteen years old, when he came to America with his parents. He commenced life in this country by working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania at sixty-five cents a day. He was thus employed for one year, when he went with his parents to Ohio, where his father had a farm, and our subject and his brothers carried it on. During the time of his residence there he learned the trade of plasterer, and was actively and profitably engaged in it for some years in that State. In December, 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Annie Kuhlmann, to whose encouragement and assistance he owes much for his high social position in this community. Mrs. Schminke was born near Bremen, Germany, and is a daughter of Deidrich and Margaret Kuhlmann, natives and lifelong residents of Germany.

In 1865 Mr. Schminke sought the Territory of Nebraska, having determined to cast in his lot with its pioneers, and in the young and growing town of Nebraska City build up for himself and wife a substantial home. Otoe County was at that time but sparsely settled, and there was no railway nearer than St. Joseph, Mo.; all transportation and travel was either by water or with teams overland. Being a good workman at his trade he had no difficulty in finding employment, and was engaged as a plasterer here for the ensuing ten years. He then formed a partnership with his brother, and built a steam flouring-mill, known as the "Star Mills," and since then has wholly abandoned his trade, devoting what time he had to spare from his official business to the mills.

Time and again has the wise counsel of our subject been sought in making the laws of his adopted State, and Otoe County may well be proud of his career in public life. None of her citizens, we vent-

ure to assert, can show a more useful or a cleaner record as a civic officer. A leading member of the Republican party (casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln), he has always guarded and defended the dearest interests of the commonwealth of Nebraska with a single eye to her advancement. He has been a member of the council, and has been repeatedly a delegate to the county and State conventions of the Republican party. He was elected as State Representative in 1872, and was appointed one of the commissioners by the Legislature to locate and build the asylum for the blind. In 1876 he was re-elected to represent his district in the Legislature, and in 1886 he was elected to the State Senate. As Senator he served on various important committees; was Chairman of the Committee on Internal Improvements, was a member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of Municipal Affairs, of Labor, was on the Committee of the Hospital of the Insane, and of the Asylum for Deaf and Blind Mutes. Mr. Schminke is a prominent social factor in this community, being a member of Schiller Lodge No. 23, K. of P.; of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., and of Nichols Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W. Our subject in 1877 was appointed Postmaster by President Hayes in Nebraska City, and held the office for nine years.

ORVILLE K. BROWN. Although one of the youngest farmers and stock-raisers of South Branch Precinct, this gentleman is by no means the least worthy of full representation in a volume of this description. Upon section 5 of that precinct he has 160 acres of fine land, devoted somewhat to agricultural pursuits, but chiefly for the purposes of stock-raising and horse-breeding. His father was John H. Brown, who was born in Marblehead, Mass., on the 28th of August, 1830. He was the son of Thomas Peter Brown, a Virginian of old and well-reputed family, who served through the War of 1812, and was otherwise prominent in the expression of his loyal patriotism. The mother of our subject prior to her marriage bore the name of Sarah A. Thomas, and was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on the 7th of November, 1830. Their marriage was celebrated in Adams County, Ill., on the 16th of October, 1853.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Sr., continued to live in Illinois, where they owned a farm of 360 acres, and until March of 1878 he was also engaged as a shipper of stock, but at that time he removed to DuPage County, Iowa, and after four years that were not altogether successful they removed to this State, settling in South Branch, Otoe County, in 1884, where they still reside. They are the parents of ten children, whose names are recorded as follows: Adeline, John F., Milvin, Wilbur and Franklin, all of whom are deceased; Thomas J., now in Arkansas; Orville K., Olive, Nettie and May.

The subject of our sketch was born in Hancock County, Ill., near the town of Augusta, on the 2d of January, 1861. His parents, although needing his help upon the farm, were careful that he should obtain the best education afforded by the common schools. He remained upon the home farm with his father until he was twenty-one years of age, and then began farming for himself in Iowa. This he continued until 1885. He then came to this county, and purchased his present place, which comprises 160 acres. His journey hither was performed by the aid of six teams, and was filled with the incidents usual to such an experience.

Although comparatively young Mr. Brown has had large experience in pioneer life, and has brought his farm from its native wildness and unfitness for agricultural pursuits to a very fine condition of cultivation. He has set out groves where will be found the trees most favorable to Nebraska climate, and also a very fine orchard, where may be found the choicest varieties of fruits that may be grown in the State, and every tree a good bearer, seeing that he had the opportunity from time to time to weed out the less desirable and replace them by better. One valuable acquisition is the stream of running water that passes through his farm. His chief attention is given to the raising of cattle and hogs, but he is also deeply interested in that of high-grade, thoroughbred draft horses of the Norman breed.

Life in all its opportunity and possibility is yet before our subject, and it were futile to attempt

any prophetic utterance, and yet it is safe to say that while the principles that have been his in the past are continued in exercise, the years to come will not be without a record worthy of one whose character and reputation are such as his, and whose family history is of such high order. He is a firm Prohibitionist, and was selected to act as delegate to the State Convention when it was held at Omaha.

WILLIAM TASKER NICHOLSON stands in the front rank of citizens of Otoe County, and is one of the popular and influential men of his district. His admirably cultivated farm of 320 acres is situated on section 27 of Belmont Precinct, and there he is very successful in raising cattle of the Short-horn variety and high-grade Poland-China hogs, though he also raises large crops of grain. He was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 4th of February, 1831, to William and Jane (Tasker) Nicholson, natives of the same shire. The family came to the United States, and settled in this county in 1857, and took up the farm immediately adjoining that of our subject.

The father of our subject died about twenty-six years ago, as the result of a paralytic stroke caused by a fall on the ice by which he injured the spine. His wife survived until the year 1886, and then died while visiting in Chicago. She was brought back, and buried in Nebraska City Cemetery by the side of her husband.

When Mr. Nicholson first came to the county the land billowed away in beautifully rolling prairie mile after mile, without a sign of settlement or civilization, but his property is in nowise behind the phenomenal development of the State at large. His orchards cover six acres and his groves ten. All his improvements are substantial, good and valuable, and his property cannot possibly be of less value than $50 per acre.

On the 16th of September, 1854, the subject of our sketch was united in wedlock with Miss Ann Houndsley, daughter of John and Maria Houndsley, who were natives of England, where the mother died, and the father is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson there have come nine children, seven of whom are living, viz: Emma, Mary J., Elizabeth A., Hettie, Sallie, William J. and Katie. Emma is the wife of George Hill, of Polk County, Neb., now residing in Oregon, and is the mother of six children, whose names are mentioned as follows: Alfred, William, Jessie, Herman, James and George; Mary J. is married to Marion J. Newman, of Greenwood, Neb., and they have two children, named Minnie and Ivia; Elizabeth is married to Mr. John Baker, of Republic County, Kan.; they have three children, who bear the names of Bertha, Roy and Harry Lee. Hettie is the wife of Isaac Crumley, of Colby, Kan.

In the office of Justice of the Peace Mr. Nicholson served most creditably to himself and with satisfaction to the people for several years, and was also Assessor for several terms. He has always been deeply interested in educational institutions and matters connected therewith, and was one to organize the school district, and raise the means necessary to have an efficient school established here. He has also been identified with the various projects, plans and enterprises that have been for the advancement, growth and development of the county.

Religiously, Mr. Nicholson is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and also his wife and those of their children who are still at home. They are there held in high regard, and are liberal supporters of the organization. Politically, our subject is a Republican.

CHARLES Z. SIDLES, who is well and favorably known as one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct, operates 320 acres of good land on section 22. He was born in Somerset County, Pa., in October, 1838, and was the fourth of nine children born to Daniel and Catherine (Zorn) Sidles, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. By occupation his father was a blacksmith, but became an extensive land-owner in Pennsylvania. In 1850 he removed to Stephenson County, Ill., and continued to work at his trade, and later lived a retired life in Dakota, Stephenson County, where he died in 1879, at the

age of seventy years. His wife, the mother of our subject, is still living, and is seventy-four years of age, and is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Springman, of Palmyra Precinct. The family record gives the names of the children of this family as follows: Emeline M., Henry, Charles Z., Frank A., Sarah, Julia, Rebecca, Mary and Daniel.

The education of our subject was limited to two terms, when he attended the usual institution in Stephenson County. He early began to help his father and to work upon the farm, which he continued until he came of age. He then took and operated a farm on shares in Stephenson County. He received the hand of Miss Sarah Lowery in marriage in that county on Oct. 25, 1860. This lady is the daughter of Godfred and Mary Ann Lowery, both born in Pennsylvania; they were the parents of five children, their daughter Sarah being the eldest. She received a good English education and a careful home training, that has borne fruit since she has had a home of her own. They are the parents of the following children: Emily Alice, Ellen, Jennie, Clara A., Laura A., Lillie and Willie.

The three eldest children of our subject were born before the war, which broke out while Mr. and Mrs. Sidles were residing upon their farm near Freeport. In 1864 Mr. Sidles enlisted for a term of three years, or during the war, as required. He became a member of Company E, 46th Illinois Infantry, and was mustered into service at Baton Rouge, was present at Vicksburg, from which place they went to Shreveport, La. During his term of service he was with his regiment in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Alabama. He was at Mobile at the time of Lee's surrender, and was present at the blowing up of Ft. Fisher, and was mustered out of service at Baton Rouge, in July, 1866. Returning home Mr. Sidles sold out his interest in eighty acres of land in Stephenson County, the purchaser being his brother Frank. In 1878 he went to Livingston County, Ill., and became the owner of a farm of 120 acres, which he sold in 1884, and in the spring of that year came to this State.

Of the family of our subject Alice has become the wife of Samuel Tanner, and is the mother of one child, whose name is Charles; Ellen has become Mrs. Arthur Thompson, and she also has a son, bearing the name Charles; Clara is the wife of Clarence Frye, a florist at Lincoln, and Laura is married to Mr. Berry, of Lincoln. Mrs. Sidles is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is held in high regard. The political sympathies of our subject lead him to affiliate with the Republican party, of which he is an ardent supporter.

JEROME B. PRATT. Among the pioneer settlers of this county the name of Jerome B. Pratt is among the best known and most honored. He is the son of Thomas and Alma (Woodard) Pratt; the father was a native of England, the mother of Vermont. His father was in the British Army and fought as a private in the War of 1812. After the war he settled in Genesee County, N. Y., where he met and married Miss Alma Woodard. He followed agriculture in the same county, and was very successful. In the fall of 1836 he removed with his wife and six children to Branch County, Mich., where he became owner of eighty acres of land, and continued to operate the same until 1872, when he died, being seventy-six years of age, and having survived his wife, who died aged sixty-nine years, in 1869. The names of their children were as follows: Jerome B., Nancy, an infant died unnamed, Ferrendee P., Ferdinand C. and Urseba A.

Our subject was born on the 30th of May, 1838, in Genesee County, N. Y., and was eight years old when he went with his parents to Michigan. His father took the second farm ever worked in the township of Algansee. He was very early initiated into farm labor of all kinds, and was but ten years of age when he began to use the ax, and became quite an expert before most lads think of leaving school.

In 1852 our subject prepared to enter the University of Michigan by attending an academy in Ann Arbor, but his health failing, he became unable to enter college. Coming West in 1856, Mr. Pratt crossed the Missouri River at Minersville, and on the 23d of April of the year 1862 engaged with the State Militia of Missouri for two years and seven months. He afterward served three

Mary E. Baker.

R. F. Baker.

months along the Platte, opening up the roads between the Missouri River and Denver, which was obstructed by the Indians, doing good service, and only being discharged on account of physical disability that was the result of exposure to which he had been subjected during his military service. Leaving the army, he returned to his squatter's claim, that lay to the east of the Pendleton farm in Otoe Precinct, and once more went to work for himself. Subsequently he traded his farm for his present home of 160 acres.

On the 23d of April, 1868, our subject was united in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Stevens, a native of Howard County, Ind., where she was born Feb. 7, 1843. She came to this State with her uncle, and made her home with David Watkins and family. They have become the parents of four children, viz.: Minnie A.; Emma, who died when eleven months old; Urseba and Spencer. Minnie is a resident of Nemaha, and is married to Mr. Grant Gates. The other two are at home.

Mr. Pratt is a believer in the Universalist doctrine, while his wife is a member of the Christian Church. They are much esteemed members of society; the political principles of Mr. Pratt are those that govern the Republican party, of which he has for many years been a stout defender and ardent supporter.

REUBEN F. BAKER. In this biographical sketch is presented an outline of the history of one of the prominent citizens of Belmont Precinct, one who stands in the front ranks of the successful farmers and stock-raisers of the county. His home farm lies on section 16 and is 320 acres in extent. His entire landed estate comprises 800 acres: 160 acres lying on section 9, 160 on section 17, and 160 on section 18. This land Mr. Baker has redeemed acre by acre from the wild waste of prairie presented to his eye during the period of his pioneership, and he has accomplished his Herculean task only by the exercise of the most incessant industry. After bringing his land to a thorough state of cultivation he turned his attention to the feeding and raising of stock, making a specialty of Short-horn cattle and Poland-China swine. The land is splendidly improved and beautified by groves and orchards of the present proprietor's own planting. The barn and all the other out-buildings are among the best in the county. The dwelling is pleasantly situated, and constitutes a home bright and comfortable in the extreme.

Mr. Baker was born in Shelby County, Ind., on the 24th of January, 1844. His father, John L. Baker, a native of Covington, Ky., was born in 1803. While quite a young man he crossed the river into Hamilton County, Ohio, and was employed afterward with an older brother, running a flatboat between Cincinnati and New Orleans for a number of years. Later he migrated to Shelby County, Ind., and finally settled upon a tract of land in Sangamon County, Ill., in a region which was then but a wild border country.

The mother of our subject was born in Shelby County, Ind., in the year 1803, and was the daughter of Ephraim Biggs, named after her mother, Rachel. Her parents were pioneers of Indiana, her grandfather having settled there long before it was actually opened for settlement. She became the mother of eight children, of whom our subject was the third. The latter, Reuben F., upon reaching manhood, was married, Sept. 13, 1856, to Miss Mary E., daughter of John and Mary K. (Patterson) Mahard, natives of Maryland. She was born in Maryland and educated in the city of Baltimore. With her parents she afterward lived in Cincinnati, Springfield and in Old Berlin, Ill. Mrs. Mahard is still living, making her home with her children in Missouri.

There have been given to Mr. and Mrs. Baker nine children, of whom seven are living, namely: John M., George L., Horatio S., Mary A., James P., Othello C. and Araminda. John, the eldest son, became the husband of Elizabeth Nicholson, and lives in Republic County, Kan.; they have two children, who bear the names Bertha and Roy. George was married to Ida Wright, of Osawatomie, Kan.; they reside in Belmont Precinct, and are the parents of three children—Reuben, Franklin and Grover. Mary A. is the wife of John Duncan, of Delaware Precinct, and they have one child, a daughter, Mary Lenora.

Mr. Baker settled on his present property in

1871. When it is remembered that he began life a poor boy, deprived of those aids and comforts usually looked for by children from parents and friends, it is both surprising and gratifying to note the successes which have attended his efforts, and to bear in mind that the same successes await those who will as honestly strive to attain them. Mr. and Mrs. B. with three of their children are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Dunbar, with which church our subject has been connected about thirty years. Mrs. Baker has been identified with this church since a maiden of seventeen years.

Our subject is a stanch member of the Democratic party, and has been its supporter since it was his right to use the ballot box. The family represents the most solid and reliable elements of this county and it is eminently fitting that the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Baker should embellish these pages.

DR. J. W. CHADDUCK, the leading and oldest dentist not only in Nebraska City, but in the State, was born in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., Feb. 4, 1831. His ancestors for several generations back were also natives of the Old Dominion. His grandfather, Charles Chadduck, was left an orphan at an early age and obliged to look out for himself. The patronymic was originally spelled in a different manner. The grandfather when a boy was engaged in taking tobacco to market, and one day the weighmaster in writing out the weigh bill appended to it the name "Charles Chadduck," and that spelling has since been in general use among his descendants.

Grandfather Chadduck in due time married, and became the father of Eli, the father of our subject. The latter obtained a good education, developed into a school teacher, and also carried on farming. He was a man of more than ordinary abilities, and achieved considerable fame as a local politician. He turned his attention later to civil engineering, becoming County Surveyor. He spent his entire life upon his native soil. He married Miss Catherine Botts, who, like her husband, was born in the James River Valley, and whose ancestors crossed the Atlantic in Colonial times. Both Eli Chadduck and his wife, Catherine, lived to be more than threescore years and ten. The latter after the death of her husband came to Nebraska, where she spent her last days.

Of the eight children comprising the parental houshold of our subject, three were sons and five were daughters. The two eldest, Mary C. and Susan V., are deceased; Emily J. and Laura E. are residents of Nebraska City; Caroline C. is the wife of James A. Matthews, of this county; George B. is the Treasurer of Holt County, Mo.; Charles T. follows the profession of a teacher in his native Virginia. James W., our subject, was the youngest born. He grew to manhood on the farm and pursued his early studies in the common school. He was married in his native county, June 12, 1855, to Miss Eliza M. Colvin, who was born in Culpeper County, Va., and whose acquaintance he made when she was a young lady of nineteen years.

Dr. Chadduck taught school about two years after his marriage, then removed to Holt County, Mo., where he entered upon the study of dentistry, a profession in which he had for several years been interested and which he had decided to make his life occupation. He found, however, that the American professional man as well as the laborer needs bread, and having no capital while pursuing his studies he worked as a carpenter and brickmaker, also at other pursuits to provide himself and family with the necessaries of life. Leaving Missouri in 1862 he took up his abode in Glenwood, Iowa, having then one child. Here he was enabled to devote himself to his profession, but the year following he changed his residence to Nebraska City, and opened the first dental office in the place. Since that time his interests have centered here. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and a charter member of Lodge No. 12 in Nebraska City. He has passed the various chairs of his lodge and served as Master a number of years. He belongs to the Nebraska Dental Association, of which he is a charter member and of which he has been the presiding officer. He is also connected with the Missouri Valley Dental Association. A Democrat, politically, he has been quite prominent

in politics, having been sent to the State Legislature twice and serving in the Senate one term. His estimable wife is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JAMES HUNT. The traveler passing along the upper line of North Branch Precinct invariably has his attention attracted to the large property of this gentleman, which lies on section 7, and forms one of the finest homesteads in the locality. The farm is 518 acres in extent, and is neatly laid off into pasture and grain fields; the fences are kept in good shape, while the residence, with its adjoining buildings, is of modern style of architecture, and all amply adapted to the purposes for which they are intended. The important feature of the premises is the extreme good order prevailing at every point, and the air of thrift and enterprise which is suggestive of the supervision of one of the most progressive and intelligent farmers of the present day.

Next in importance to the man himself is the ancestry from which he sprang. Henry Hunt, the father of our subject, was a native of Yorkshire, England, and there married Miss Elizabeth Cleminson, who was born in the same locality. They emigrated to America after their marriage, in 1829, and settled on a tract of land in Cambria County, Pa., where the father built up a good homestead, and passed away in the month of October, 1850. The mother is still living in Pennsylvania, and is now seventy-eight years old. They were the parents of seven children: Timothy L.; Robert, who died when about fifty-seven years old; William H., John I. S.; Ruth, who died when thirty years old; Susannah and James (our subject). Of these five are living, and those besides James are residents mostly of Pennsylvania.

James Hunt was born at the parental homestead in Cambria County, Pa., Aug. 1, 1830, and continued a member of his father's household until twenty years of age. He received his education in the common schools, and when nineteen years old commenced an apprenticeship at the carpentry trade, which he followed in his native State about two and one-half years. In the spring of 1856, desiring to see something of the Great West, he crossed the Mississippi into Henry County, Iowa, but there unfortunately was taken ill with typhoid fever, and could neither proceed any further nor look around him in the Hawkeye State. This naturally induced a fit of homesickness, and soon after his recovery he returned to his mother's home.

The spring following, however, young Hunt returned to the West, making only a brief stay, however, and then went back to Pennsylvania and was married in 1859. He purchased a tract of land in Cambria County, and soon afterward began farming. In August, 1864, during the progress of the Civil War he enlisted in Company C, 51st Pennsylvania Infantry, being mustered in at Carlisle, and was, together with his regiment, assigned to the command of Gen. W. H. Bolton. He experienced some hairbreadth escapes at the battle of Petersburg, but aside from that returned home unharmed at the close of the war. Mr. Hunt now resumed his residence in Cambria County, where he continued to carry on agriculture until the spring of 1882. Then, crossing the Father of Waters once more, he came to this State, and was located for one year in Johnson County. In the fall of 1887 he purchased the land which he now owns and occupies. Upon this he has made most of the improvements which we behold to-day. His property lies on sections 7, 17 and 18, and in addition to the thorough cultivation of the soil he has planted fruit and shade trees, and divided many of his fields with beautiful hedge fences.

On the 16th of May, 1859, occurred one of the most important events in the life of our subject, namely, his marriage with Miss Christiana B. Keefer. This lady is the daughter of Ernest and Mary M. (Baird) Keefer, both of whom were natives of Germany, and upon emigrating to the United States settled at once in Cambria County, Pa. The father was a coal miner, and being a very industrious and prudent man, accumulated a good property. He died about 1868, at the homestead which he had built up in the Keystone State. The mother is still living, and has now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years. Their children, five in number, were

named respectively: John, Christiana B., Maggie, William and Hannah. Those surviving are residents of Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

Mrs. Hunt was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in February, 1841, and was a little girl four years of age when she came with her parents to America. She received a common-school education, and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in all housewifely duties. Of her union with our subject there have been born nine children, namely: Henry E., Harvey M., Mary E., Elizabeth C., Sanford R., Thomas S., Bertha A., Laura E. and Mabel. Henry married Miss Myrtie Holland, and lives on a farm in South Branch Precinct. The other children are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and Mr. H., politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has been a member of the School Board two terms, and is one of the most highly respected men of his community, one whose word is considered as good as his bond. The Hunt family is one of the most highly respected in this part of the county, and the homestead, a view of which appears on another page, comprises a prominent feature in its landscape.

CAPT. LOGAN ENYART stands conspicuously among the prominent men of Otoe County as one largely identified with its business and agricultural interests, a man public-spirited and liberal, one who has seen much of life, who distinguished himself in the army during the war, who suffered the loss of an eye in fighting for the principles he believed to be right, but who in the battle of life has evidently come out with flying colors. He is widely and favorably known throughout Nebraska, as much for his genial and hospitable disposition and broad and extended views of life as for his practical business talents, his perseverance and his energy.

In the vicinity of Nebraska City, where he makes his home, Capt. Enyart has been foremost among its leading enterprises, few of which have been carried to a successful issue independently of his countenance and encouragement. He is President of the Farmers' Bank, one of the wealthiest institutions of the State, an extensive land-owner in Otoe County, having the warrantee deed to a number of farms, and largely interested in live stock. His homestead proper is located on section 33 in Belmont Precinct, and comprises a fine tract of land in a highly cultivated condition, with modern farm buildings, fruit and shade trees, and all the appurtenances of a modern country estate. He has no family except his amiable and excellent wife, a lady highly respected in her community, and well fitted to be the companion of such a man as her husband.

The Enyart family is of French descent, and was first represented in the United States probably during Colonial days. Its men were of stalwart frame and noble constitution, traits which our subject has inherited in a remarkable degree. In fact, he may be called a man of iron nerves, and his high courage was amply displayed during war times, when, although he suffered great loss of property, he never permitted himself to sink under his misfortunes, but rallied from the shock, commenced again the battle of life, and became again wealthy.

A native of Monroe County, Ky., Capt. Enyart was born June 20, 1831, and is the son of Hezekiah W. and Mary (Kidwell) Enyart, who were both natives of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, John Enyart, was born in the city of Paris, France, where he was reared to manhood and married. His last years were spent in Virginia. The father of our subject left Kentucky in 1833, and removed with his family to Clay County, Mo., where they lived two years, and then changed their residence to Davis County, that State. The father was principally interested in live stock and farming, and died very suddenly, at the age of seventy-six years, upon the day of Lee's surrender, April 9, 1865. The mother survived her husband a number of years, her death taking place in Missouri, in the year 1882, at the old homestead, when she was seventy-five years old. The nine children of the parental family were named respectively: Logan, Louisa; Permelia, who died when twenty-five years old; Milton, Amanda; Josephine, who died at the age of twenty years; Albert, Hezekiah, and Mary Ann, who died when

thirty-three years old. The survivors are mostly residents of Missouri, California, Colorado and Nebraska.

The first recollections of the Captain are of his childhood home in Davis County, Mo., where he commenced going to school in a little log cabin three months each year. His education being completed in two winters, it may therefore be called quite limited, and what he has learned he has had to learn himself. By a course of reading and observation he has always kept himself fully posted upon matters of general interest. He was reared a farmer's boy, and taught those habits of industry and principles of honor which have been the secret of his success in life. The people of that day labored early and late, and many a time young Enyart worked by the light of the stars in his Missouri home, and being willing, active and muscular, accomplished an astonishing amount.

Our subject when twenty-three years of age was married, but not long afterward enlisted in the Confederate Army under Gov. Jackson (first call for soldiers to enlist in Missouri), becoming a member of Company G, 1st Missouri Cavalry. He was at once elected Captain of his company, and this fact indicates his popularity, as he entered the ranks without any military experience. He, however, possessed the natural abilities which secured him the confidence of his superior officers and the respect of his comrades, and that he seems to have held until the last gun was fired, and his subsequent course indicated how correct they were in their judgment. He led his company in his first engagement at Blue Mills, Mo., and was later at Lexington, where he distinguished himself and led his troops to victory. Later he was at the onset in the vicinity of Springfield, covering Price's retreat for ten days and ten nights. He fought at Pea Ridge under Gens. Van Dorn and Price, where he was twice wounded in one engagement, being struck first in the left shoulder and the second time in the forehead, but, notwithstanding, he kept upon his feet by his extraordinary will power, and never deserted his post until the conflict was ended.

Later Capt. Enyart was transferred to Corinth, Miss., from the West, where he fought with Gen. Beauregard in all the engagements around Corinth in the spring of 1862; at Iuka, Miss., in the fall of 1862, and later under Gen. Price. In the second battle of Corinth, under Gen. Van Dorn, while still fighting, he witnessed the defeat of the army under that General, and also at Champion Hills fought in that desperately bloody battle. Capt. Enyart in this latter engagement received a very close call, a musket ball fracturing his nose and putting out his left eye. Although suffering untold agony for days, he never entered a hospital. We next find him at the siege of Vicksburg, where the entire army was captured, and our subject was an eye witness of the surrender of Gen. Pemberton's army to Grant and of the explosion which destroyed the Confederate boats. He was soon paroled, however, and was among the first to be exchanged at Demopolis, Ala. He was transferred to the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, at Dalton, Ga., and was with this renowned warrior in the famous retreat from Dalton to Atlanta, when every inch of ground for 110 miles was disputed with Sherman. In this retreat the most noted places at which fighting occurred were Lone Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope Church, Peach Tree Creek, and wound up with the siege of Atlanta.

Later Capt. Enyart fought at Jonesboro, and subsequently joining the army of Gen. Hood, went back through Georgia and Tennessee, fighting at Altona, and Tilton, Ga. At the latter place the Confederates captured the 18th Iowa Regiment. Afterward they engaged in battle with the Union forces at Huntsville, Ala., Columbia and Franklin, Tenn., where blood flowed like a river, and at the latter place Capt. Enyart was again captured, Nov. 30, 1864, and taken to Johnson's Island, in the State of Ohio, where he was confined a prisoner seven months and eleven days, until June 17, 1865, when he took the oath of allegiance to the Union, the war being over, and was released in disgust with mankind, and started for the West.

Capt. Enyart during this memorable period traveled over all the Southern States with the exception of Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland. He is pardonably proud of the fact that he was never in a hospital, and notwithstanding his wounds and extraordinary suffering attendant upon the loss of his eye, never quit the army, but fought to the

last, and was the Sir Simon Captain of his State, and certainly is amply entitled the balance of his life to the rank of Captain. In the year 1865 he made his way without a dollar in his pocket across the Mississippi to Nebraska, then a Territory. In his native State of Missouri before the war he was the owner of 1,000 acres of good land, with buildings, live stock, and all the other valuable appurtenances of a well-developed country estate. His stock was driven off and confiscated, his buildings burned and his land left waste. In Nebraska the first thing he did was to buy a yoke of oxen and a wagon on credit, which, be it said to his honor, he had no trouble in obtaining, and loading his wagon with freight for Denver, he hired a man as driver, and on the first round trip made enough to pay for his team and his expenses, and had $50 left.

In the spring of 1866 Capt. Enyart engaged several more teams, and forming a partnership with J. W. Potter and Mont. Tremble, started with a train of thirteen wagons loaded with corn, for which they paid thirty-five cents per bushel, to Ft. Sanders. They sold this at six and a half cents per pound, and then secured a contract from the Government to remove Ft. Hollock to Ft. Sanders. This employed them a whole season, and yielded them handsome proceeds. In his travels he has been in California, Oregon (in the days of gold-hunting), also over nearly all the territory down as far as Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Capt. Enyart now returned to Nebraska City, purchased a tract of land in Belmont Precinct, and began farming, together with raising and buying stock. It must not be supposed that these labors and journeyings were effected in an easy manner, on the contrary, Capt. Enyart endured the severest hardships, going through a wild and savage country, battling with its storms, and at intervals almost impassable roads, being obliged to accept poor fare at times, and surrounded by all the other difficulties of frontier life.

In the year 1871 Capt. Enyart turned his attention to the cattle business in Colorado, establishing his ranch fifteen miles west of Ft. Benton, on the Arkansas River. Later, as time passed on, he acquired a cattle ranch in New Mexico, and land in other sections of the Southwest and Otoe County, Neb. He supplies stock to feeders, and in the latter part of 1888 brought up 1,300 head of cattle from his ranch in Colorado to Nebraska. In the meantime, duriug these years, he has given due attention to the building up of his homestead, and in his domestic life is surrounded by comfort and luxury.

The marriage of Capt. Logan Enyart and Miss Lucy Ann Childs was celebrated at the home of the bride, in Jackson County, Mo., in 1855. Mrs. Enyart was born in Clark County, Ky., but was reared in Jackson County, Mo., to which her parents removed at an early day. She is the daughter of Christopher and Rachel Childs, who were natives of Kentucky, and whose household consisted of nine children. The parents and children are now all dead but three.

The Captain and Mrs. Enyart were separated during the entire period of the Civil War, our subject never being able to visit his home until after the conflict was ended, and Mrs. E. could not go to him. Upon his retirement from the service she joined him in Nebraska City, and has stood by his side now for a period of thirty-three years, one of the most faithful wives and helpmates which a man could desire. The Captain generously acknowledges that his success in life is largely due to the good judgment and wise counsels of this excellent lady. She has stimulated him to every worthy effort, and been his encourager both in storm and sunshine. She is a lady held in high esteem by all who know her.

Capt. Enyart, although born and reared a Southerner, has been largely instrumental in extinguishing the old prejudices inseparable from the vicissitudes of the war, and the fact that he has been a prominent and popular Democratic politician in a Republican county and State speaks well for the inherent traits of his character. After filling other positions of trust and responsibility, he was elected in the year 1872 to represent Otoe County in the Nebraska Legislature, and so faithfully did he discharge the duties of his office that he was re-elected in 1874. He has been an important factor in the councils of the Democratic party in this section, frequently representing it as a delegate to the various State conventions.

The Farmers' Bank, of Nebraska City, in which our subject is a Director, and of which he is President, was incorporated June 1, 1884, and in September, the same year, it opened for business, and is considered one of the solid institutions of the State. Its stockholders are estimated at a sum approaching $1,000,000, and it is hardly necessary to state that they are among the wealthiest and most substantial men of the county. Capt. Enyart in 1856 identified himself with the Masonic fraternity, in Missouri Lodge No. 65, now being a member of Nebraska City Lodge No. 12. This is the only organization of any society he ever belonged to.

GEORGE A. STRONG. Among the farming community of South Branch Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies a good position socially and financially. He has one of the most attractive homesteads in this region, finely located on section 28, and embracing 160 acres of land. He has acquitted himself as an enterprising farmer and good business man, one largely devoted to the interests of his home and his family, living quietly and unostentatiously, and preferring the comforts of his own fireside to mingling with the busy world. Although by no means advanced in years, he served in the Union Army during the late war, and preserves a vivid recollection of many of the experiences of that terrible time, in which he endured in common with his brother soldiers the hardships and privations of army life. He belonged to the home guards.

The parents of our subject, David B. and Betsey (Kagie) Strong, were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania, whence they removed in their youth with their parents to Trumbull County, Ohio, where they were married. The mother died many years ago. Both David B. Strong and his father, the paternal grandfather of our subject, are still living. The parental household included three sons and one daughter; the latter, Mary H., died when about thirteen years old. The other sons, John A. and Henry A. are living in Ohio and Wisconsin.

George A. Strong was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, May 12, 1846, and soon after the death of his mother, which occurred when he was seven years old, began life for himself. He worked on a farm until the spring of 1862, and then, although but a youth of sixteen years, enlisted in a regiment called the Trumbull Guards, being mustered in at Gallipolis, and at the close of the war was mustered out at the same place. He had participated in several skirmishes.

After the close of the war young Strong began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, at which he worked three years in the Buckeye State. In the spring of 1868 he resolved to seek the farther West, and came to this county, homesteading the quarter-section of land from which he has transformed a valuable and productive farm. He has put up most of the buildings which he now occupies, and for the last nine or ten years has operated a blacksmith-shop on his farm, which has not only been the source of a great convenience to himself, but his neighbors also. His fields are divided by beautiful hedge fences, and he has planted fruit and shade trees, having an apple orchard of 200 trees, besides the smaller fruits.

Mr. Strong after coming to the West was married in the town of Syracuse, this county, Sept. 12, 1877, to Miss Sopha, daughter of T. J. and E. J. (James) Edwards, who were natives respectively of Kentucky and Ohio. They removed with their parents to Missouri and were married in that State, where the father for a time followed his trade of mason. In 1873 they came to this county, lived for a time in Nebraska City, and then on a farm in Fremont County, Iowa. Finally returning to Syracuse, they lived there a short time, then changed their residence to Johnson County, where they still make their home. Of their children, twelve in number, seven are living, namely: Amelia, Susan, John, Sopha, Thomas, Josephine and Frank. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Strong are residents mostly of Nebraska.

The wife of our subject was born in De Kalb County, Mo., July 28, 1856, received a good education, and taught school four terms before her marriage. She is a very intelligent lady and a favorite in the social circles of her neighborhood. Of her union with our subject there have been

born five children, viz: M. Luella, Fred C., Susie B., J. Alta and E. Ruth. They are all at home with their parents. Mr. Strong is a Republican, "dyed in the wool," and an uncompromising Harrison and Morton man. He has been a member of the School Board of his district for the past three years, and Road Supervisor six years.

WILHELM WILHELMY. Throughout the Northwest perhaps few business men are better known than the gentleman whose biography is here presented. He is the senior partner of the firm of Wilhelmy & Overton, the popular and reliable hardware firm of Nebraska City. Our subject was born near the city of Bremen, in Germany, to Christian and Mary (Arnds) Wilhelmy, July 26, 1835.

The parents of our subject came to this country with their only child in the year 1839, and for one year made their home in Buffalo, but at the end of that time removed to the western part of Ohio, when it was all new and undeveloped country. At the time of his death in 1862 the father was engaged in the hotel business at New Bremen, Ohio. His mother is still living, and makes her home with our subject, and has now reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years. Their family circle included in all three children, the two younger being born in this country. Of these Minnie died when eighteen months old, and Frederick F., who was spared to them, has grown up, entered into the affairs of life with an earnest purpose, and is a member of the firm of Rector, Wilhelmy & Co., wholesale hardwaremen of Omaha.

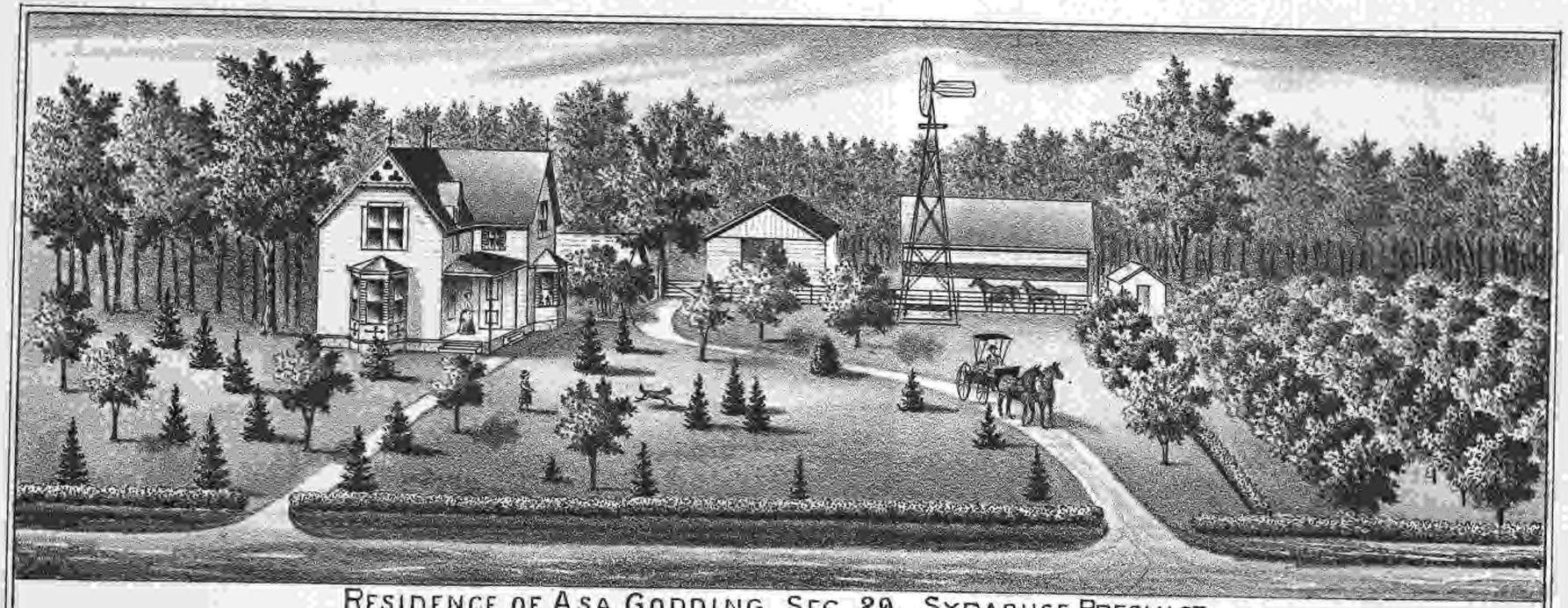
The first recollections of our subject gather around Buffalo, N. Y., but the days of his boyhood were passed in Western Ohio, where at the time when everything was in a formative condition and pioneer life was the regular order of things, he as a youth had every opportunity to show what was in him. The schools were supported by voluntary contributions given chiefly by the German settlers of the district, and there he received initiation into the mysteries of education.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Wilhelmy engaged as a clerk in a general store which was located close to the Indiana and Ohio State line. Until this time he had been brought into contact with hardly any but the German settlers, but now acquired the English language, in order to successfully carry on the business he had entered into. From clerking he embarked in hotel-keeping, taking charge of his father's hotel, which he continued after the death of that parent.

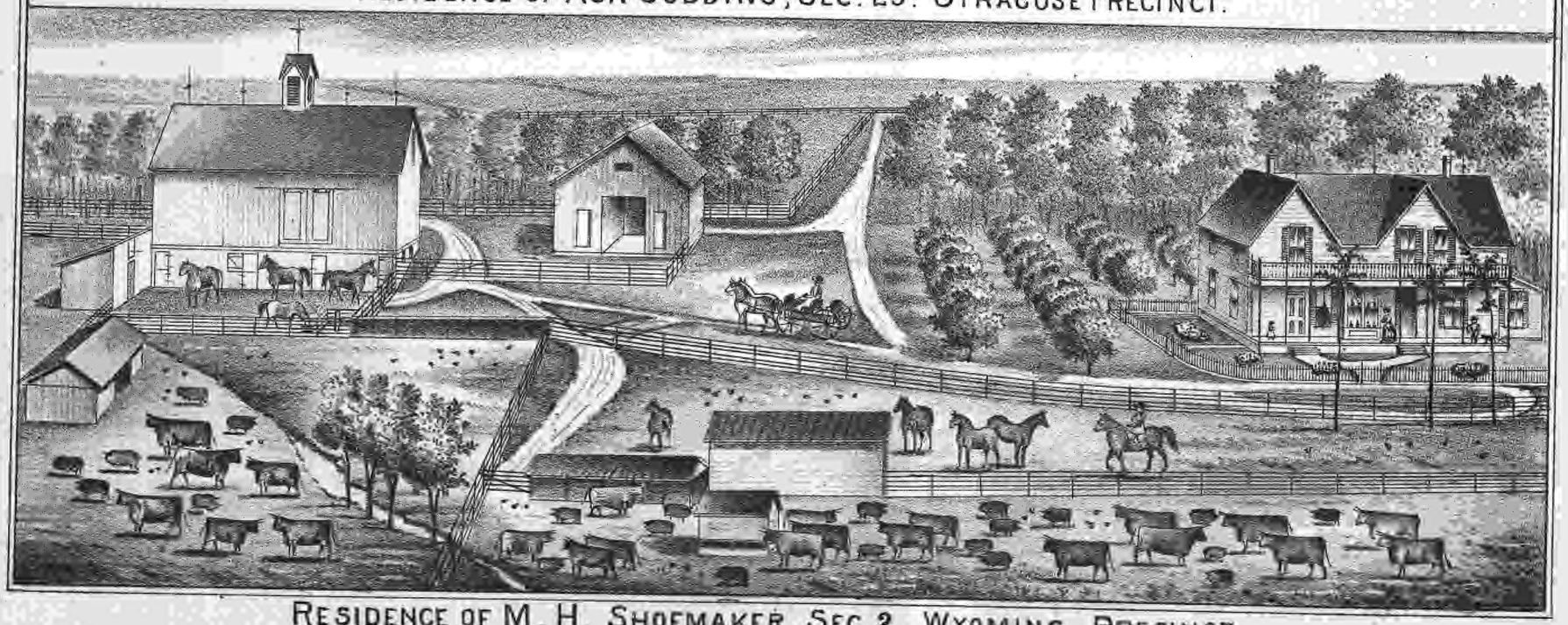
In 1864 our subject was united in wedlock with Miss Margaret Koop, who is a native of Ohio, and the daughter of John F. and Matta (Willembroke) Koop. Her parents were among the number who had emigrated to Western Ohio and purchased their homestead direct from the Government, settling in the year 1833. They are still living, and are eighty-eight and seventy-eight years of age respectively. They were the parents of ten children. Of these their daughter Margaret was the second child and only daughter.

The subject of our sketch came to Nebraska in the spring of 1869, and at once engaged in the agricultural implement business, being one of the first in that line in Nebraska City. With an ever-increasing agricultural population around him he did well from the beginning, and it was not long before he was enabled to complete satisfactory arrangements for his family to join him. With his brother he continued engaged in the business until 1875, when he sold out his interests to his brother, and engaged with Rheindthard Ballard & Co., as traveling salesman, selling threshers, engines and other implements. In this he continued for about nine years, and during that time did business in almost every part of the North and Northwest. At the end of that time the two senior members of the firm died, and our subject was retained by those who had charge of affairs, and for two years continued engaged in settling up the business of the firm, making a total of eleven years he served this firm.

In 1886, in company with a Mr. Draper, Mr. Wilhelmy bought out the Simson hardware business, which is still run by him. Mr. Draper in the spring of 1887 sold his business interests to Mr. Overton, and the firm's name was changed to that above mentioned. The business has grown rapidly and is on a most satisfactory basis, and enjoys the rep-



RESIDENCE OF ASA GODDING, SEC. 29. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF M. H. SHOEMAKER, SEC. 2. WYOMING PRECINCT.

utation of being strictly honest in its representations, prompt and faithful in its engagements. It is one of the best houses in the State, and is known favorably to quite a large section of country.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelmy comprises five children, viz.: Willie, who died in Ohio when a babe; Eddie, who was born in McGregor County, Iowa; Minnie, born in Nebraska City; and Leon and Lillie, twins. Eddie is engaged in business with his uncle at Omaha; the other surviving members of the family are at home. The residence of our subject is one of the finest in the city, and is situated in the western part thereof. It is thoroughly in keeping with his position in the business world, of which he is certainly one of the representative men.

Religiously, the subject of our sketch and his family are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Wilhelmy is a Democrat, but has at no time sought to take a prominent part in such matters. He is one of the prominent members of the order of the Royal Arcanum, and holds the position of Grand Regent in the same. There, as in every other circle, he is accorded the unfeigned esteem and regard of those who know him, and these sentiments extend also to his wife and family.

ASA GODDING. In March of 1882 the gentleman a sketch of whose life is here briefly presented purchased 160 acres of land on section 29 of Syracuse Precinct, and settled upon it. This commenced his history as connected with this county. The above property, which he still occupies, is situated on the southwest quarter of the section, and was homesteaded by Jacob Sollenberger, who sold to Charles Adams, and from the latter it was obtained by our subject. The old homestead claim shanty still stands, and was occupied for one year by Mr. Godding during the building of his present residence, which is one of the most commodious and pleasant in the county.

September 29, 1826, witnessed the birth of our subject to Russell and Abigal (Sherman) Godding, in Rutland County, Vt. When he was but six years of age his father died, and thus he has been deprived of all the help and care that otherwise would have been received, and which is of inestimable value to a young man in starting in life, and on through the first few years at least of his experience.

Not long after the death of the head of the family, a removal was made to Rhode Island, where the mother did everything possible to keep her family together, and, as she was able, to give them the opportunity of making their way successfully in the world. At the tender age of nine years her son Asa was put to work in a woolen factory. There he continued for a number of years, learning the trade first of spinner, and afterward of wool finisher. His connection with this trade continued until 1856, at which time he emigrated to Illinois and purchased land in what is now Philo Township, Champaign County, where he was one of the pioneers.

At the time our subject located in the Prairie State there were hardly any settlers in his neighborhood, and he was prominently identified with the organization of Philo Township, and the first school district. At that time he was operating a half-section of land, but subsequently sold 160 acres. In 1874 he rented his farming property, and engaged in mercantile pursuits at Philo, becoming partner in the firm of Van Vleck & Godding. They were largely interested in grain, owning and operating an extensive flouring-mill in connection with the elevator which they built, and continued financially successful to an unexpected degree for about five years.

In 1879 Mr. Godding withdrew from the firm and removed to St. Louis. He there embarked in the manufacture of vinegar, pickles, and articles of a kindred nature. There also he built up an extensive business, continuing for nearly three years, returning at the end of that period to Monticello, Ill., and coming to this State in 1882.

While resident at Urbana, Ill., in the year 1866, our subject was united in marriage with Sarah A. Driver, of Urbana, who was born in 1840, in North Carolina. After a happy married life of ten years Mrs. Godding died at Philo, in 1876, leaving no children.

Upon the 1st of January, 1882, our subject reentered the married state, becoming the husband

of Delia J. Heislar, daughter of George and Rebecca Heislar, of Champaign County, Ill. This lady was born in Fredericktown, Ohio, on the 6th of November, 1846. Her mother, Mrs. Heislar, died in August, 1849, leaving four children, viz.: Daniel; Mary R., now Mrs. Perry Silver; Delia J. and Theodore. Of the second marriage there is one child living, Delmont, now a resident of Hutchinson, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Godding have become the parents of one child living. A son, George H., born June 2, 1885, died nine days after his birth; they have a daughter, Grace A., born Sept. 23, 1882; and an adopted son, who bears the name Joseph V., who has made his home with them since he was three years of age.

Among the stanch Republicans of the county must certainly be named our subject, who has sustained since his ability to take part in political matters a reputation in that regard. While in Philo Township he served as Collector for two years, at a time when wolf scalps were accepted as payment for taxes. Mrs. Godding is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is greatly esteemed therein. Their home, a view of which appears on another page, bears fair comparison with those of the other intelligent people of Syracuse Precinct and vicinity.

MATHEW H. SHOEMAKER. The farming and stock-raising interests of Wyoming Precinct recognize in the subject of this sketch one of their most energetic and successful representatives. Since the spring of 1882 he has operated successfully 160 acres of fertile land on section 2, bringing about a great improvement in its original condition, and erecting thereon some of the finest buildings in this part of the county. A view of his homestead is presented in this volume.

Mr. Shoemaker has been especially fortunate in his live-stock operations, and has also given much attention to the planting of trees on his farm, having a fine apple orchard and the smaller fruits in abundance. Besides the home farm, he has a fine tract of land 240 acres in extent in Liberty Precinct, Cass County, which fortunately lies adjacent to the homestead. He has been kept busy in the improvement of his 400 acres, which when coming into his possession was raw prairie upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. He was a resident of Cass County for a period of fifteen years before taking possession in the spring of 1882 of the homestead which he now occupies.

Mr. Shoemaker first set foot in Nebraska in the year 1857, and is consequently one of its pioneers. He has seen it transformed from a Territory into a State, and commenced at the foot of the ladder to build up the homestead and secure a competency. That he has been in a large measure successful is indicated in his present surroundings. He comes of substantial stock, being the son of Samuel G. and Mary (Pott) Shoemaker, who were both natives of Pennsylvania, and the father, like our subject, was born in Lycoming County. After marriage the parents settled in Muncie Creek Township, under the roof where the father was born, and later his son, Mathew H., our subject, the birth of the latter taking place March 31, 1833. In 1857, twenty-four years after the birth of their son Mathew, retiring from active labor, the parents moved to the village of Muncie, where the father passed from the scenes of earth in the year 1871, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was born in the year 1789. The mother survived her husband a few years, her death occurring in the year 1880, and her age being eighty-three. They were married on the 22d of May, 1817, their married life therefore had reached a period of nearly fifty-six years. They had a family of six sons and two daughters, of whom four sons and both daughters are still living. Our subject is the only one residing in the State of Nebraska. Jasper and Robert F. live in Pennsylvania, where also Mary Melissa, who is still single, resides; William P. lives in Bourbon County, Kan., near Ft. Scott; and Catherine, wife of Noah Mackey, lives in Missouri, not far from St. Louis.

This branch of the Shoemaker family were of Dutch ancestry, and people usually of wealth and standing, who exercised a decided influence in the affairs of the community where they lived. They were principally agriculturists by occupation, men prompt to meet their obligations, and whose word

was considered as good as their bond. The mother of our subject also came from an excellent family, and the town of Pottsville, Pa., was named in honor of her grandfather, by whom it was founded. The Shoemakers originally, in religious matters, held to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, but later we find them with the Episcopalians. Henry Shoemaker, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Lycoming County, Pa., where he was reared to manhood, and married Miss Susan Dudder, of Dutch ancestry. They continued their residence in Lycoming County the balance of their lives, living to be ripe in years, and were also connected with the Lutheran Church.

Mathew H. Shoemaker was the sixth child of a family of six sons and two daughters, all of whom received careful home training, and a practical education in the common schools. Of these six are living. In April, 1860, Mr. Shoemaker and three of his neighbors, viz: Daniel B. Robb, Thomas Lindsey and Amos Weaver, clubbed together and got an outfit consisting of a wagon and three yoke of cattle, and provisions for six months, and started over the plains for Pike's Peak, where, after a pleasant trip of forty days, they arrived. Denver was then but a hamlet, and the first thing that attracted their attention on arriving there was to witness the hanging of a man by the citizens, for murder. This gave Mr. S. a fair idea of the character of the people and their methods of administering the laws as they made them for the evil doers. He remained in Colorado for two years, and the whole party spent their time diligently employed in different occupations. During his stay in Colorado he was very successful.

Our subject continued a resident of his native State until a young man twenty-four years old, when he crossed the Mississippi and resolved to cast his lot with the pioneer element of Nebraska. Some years afterward he made the acquaintance of a most estimable young lady of Wyoming Precinct, Miss Alice E. Olds, to whom he was married Nov. 16, 1874. Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Symcoe, Lower Canada, Oct. 12, 1857, and came to the States with her parents when quite a young child, they settling in this county, where she was reared to womanhood. She is a very estimable lady, and by her marriage with our subject has become the mother of six children, three of whom are deceased, namely: Kate, Mary E. and Clara. The survivors are Edward, Artie and Jessie, who are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker attend the Episcopal Church at Wyoming. Our subject was a member of the Republican party a number of years, but his warm interest in the temperance work led him in 1888 to identify himself with the Prohibitionists.

THOMAS D. SABIN occupies a prominent place among the farmers of this county, and resides on section 9 of Syracuse Precinct, his home being about one-half mile from the town of that name. He is a native of the Buckeye State, and was born on the 8th of September, 1839, in Knox County. His parents were David and Nancy (Baird) Sabin; the father was a native of Washington County, Pa., the mother of Perry County, Ohio. The latter is deceased.

The grandfather of our subject, David Sabin, was born in Vermont, which is as far as our subject has been enabled to trace his ancestry. He removed from Vermont and settled in Washington County about the time of his marriage, where he lived for many years and brought up his family, then going to Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his days in Licking County.

The father of our subject grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, and was about eighteen years of age when he took his place with his father among the pioneer settlers of Licking County. In that place he lived until the year 1856, when he migrated to Illinois and settled upon the farm near Bloomington, where he continued to follow agricultural pursuits until 1872, when he removed to Piper City, where he still resides, and although he has reached the advanced age of eighty years, enjoys the use of his faculties and fairly good health. He has been a successful man and a leading citizen; has been able to educate his children and give them a start in life.

The mother of our subject was born in Perry County, Ohio, in the year 1812, and died upon the 14th of February, 1871. Her married life extended over a period of forty years, which, from commence-

ment to close, witnessed the same affectionate devotion and faithfulness to the obligations resting upon her as a wife and mother; she filled a place in the hearts of her family that can never be otherwise occupied. She was the mother of ten children, only five of whom, however, attained to years of discretion, viz: Daniel E., who resides at Albion; Mary J., now Mrs. Fowler, who resides near Piper City, Ill.; Thomas D., our subject; Jemima W., of Chicago, and Eliza, who was married to Mr. David Hall, and died at her home at Danvers, Ill.

The subject of our sketch attained to years of manhood before leaving his native State. In 1856 with his parents he removed to Illinois and began life for himself. In 1864 he went to McLean County, Ill., and engaged in farming. The same year he was united in marriage with Eliza V. Wood, the estimable daughter of William and Mary (Campbell) Wood, who were natives of Frederick County, Va., but removed to Clinton, Ohio, where their daughter Eliza was born on the 10th of January, 1836. Their home in Clinton County was only made by cutting their way, foot by foot, in the dense forests of that district, and thus redeeming, piece by piece, the land for cultivation. Their residence in Ohio continued until 1853, when they removed to Knox County, Ill., where the mother died in 1861. The family removed to McLean County. The father died in the year 1869, at his home in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood were the parents of eight children, seven of whom attained their majority. These are: Mary L., who became the wife of Joseph Strickle; William R., of Colorado; James H., who died at Denison, Tex.; Robert M., of Nebraska; John F., of Bloomington; Eliza V., the wife of our subject, and Dakin D., who resides in Nebraska, and is engaged in farming.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sabin settled on a farm in McLean County and began life in earnest. Our subject gave his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land, in the endeavor to bring his farm to as near a perfect state of cultivation as possible. He put up some first-class farm buildings, and gave attention generally to stock-farming, also to the buying and shipping of stock. In this he continued until 1883, when he came to Nebraska and purchased his present property, which comprises 240 acres of land, and is well provided with the various appliances and buildings needed. They have but one child, a daughter, Cora, born Feb. 8, 1871, who has displayed a character and disposition most happy. The position of our subject and wife religiously is in the Christian Church, of which they are highly esteemed members and active workers. In matters of political import Mr. Sabin usually votes the Republican ticket, supporting it in any effort that is made when he conscientiously can; but he is not confined within the circumscribed limits of party fence-building, and is guided in this as in everything else by the high principles that have characterized the decisions of his life, and is swayed by the condition of the situation to be met, the needs of the constituents, and the power of the candidate to meet those needs, so that he might be called independent. He is a man who stands high in the community in every regard.

WILLIAM J. DOUGALL. The name of this gentleman is familiar to a large proportion of the residents of Palmyra Precinct, he being numbered among its leading men. His career has been creditable in the extreme, and one which his children may look upon with pride. During the late Civil War he did good service as a soldier in the Union Army, and upon returning to private life has been one of the most useful members of an intelligent and prosperous community. Genial, companionable and conscientious, he is popular among his fellow-citizens, and his personal appearance alone would commend him as a man of more than ordinary capabilities. He is of commanding presence, with fine features, and a remarkably intelligent eye—a man who would be singled out among a thousand.

Mr. Dougall has the greater part of his life been engaged in farming pursuits, and his property in Palmyra Precinct embraces eighty acres on section 14, and forty acres on section 10, besides the home farm on section 15. To the latter he has given especial attention, having gathered around himself and his family those conveniences and comforts

naturally suggested to the kindly husband and father and the self-respecting citizen. He is in the prime of life, having been born Sept. 1, 1842, at the farm of his father in Princeton Township, Schenectady Co., N. Y. His parents were John D. and Jennie (Walker) Dougall. The father, a native of Scotland, was born about seven miles from the city of Edinburgh, and was given a fine education, attending school during his youthful days until coming to the United States. After taking up his residence in Schenectady County, N. Y., he engaged in teaching and farming combined, and in the Empire State made the acquaintance of his future wife.

The mother of our subject was born in the above-named county, and was there married to John Dougall. Their union resulted in the birth of five children, namely: Thomas, George, William J. (our subject), Peter and Margaret. The latter was taken from the home circle under the most distressing circumstances, she being burned to death when a child. All of the others grew to mature years, and three are now living. The parents, a brother and a sister, died during the Civil War.

Mr. Dougall spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, pursuing his first studies in the district school. At the age of sixteen years he became a student of Jonesville Academy. Not long after the first call for troops to assist in putting down the Rebellion, he enlisted in Company E, 44th New York Infantry, which was styled the "Ellsworth Avengers." His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and young Dougall participated in many of the important battles which followed, namely: Big Bethel, Little Bethel, Yorktown, Williamsburg, and was in the seven-days fight at the second battle of Bull Run. At Antietam he was promoted to Sergeant, and afterward severely wounded in the left leg. He was conveyed to the hospital at Harrisburg, Pa., where he lay a short time, and was finally obliged to accept his honorable discharge on account of disability. He had, however, given a faithful service of one year, and felt that he had performed his duty.

During the attack of Lee upon the city of Gettysburg there were 2,200 disabled and discharged soldiers waiting at Camp Distribution, not yet having been assigned to their respective regiments. Observing that the Union troops were in need of their aid, they at once took up arms, and as if by magic, submitted to the orders of the War Department. Our subject at the time assumed command of a squad of men, and through the united efforts of the brave recruits, the plans of the rebel General were materially changed if not absolutely defeated. Mr. Dougall re-enlisted with the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry, and six days later was again found in the thickest of the fight at the battles of Fredericksburg, Kelly's Ford, and the first and second battles of the Wilderness. At the latter he was struck by two balls at about the same time, and about four rods away seventeen color-bearers fell. Corporal Dougall, notwithstanding his wounds, seized one of the falling banners, and was about bearing it on to victory, when a musket ball struck his breastplate, and although not penetrating it, dealt him such a blow that he reeled, and was in the act of falling when another ball struck him in the left heel. He was carried to the rear. At the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, when every inch of ground was disputed, the troops first advancing, then retreating, Sergt. Dougall while nearing the third line of the rebel breastworks, cleared them, and seizing the rebel colors, started for his own lines, but before he could reach them fell, severely wounded in the head. The cry went up from his comrades that "brave Dougall was no more." The latter lay unconscious on the ground nearly all day, while thousands of bullets flew thick around him, and when the ground was strewn with the dead and wounded of both armies. At night he crawled into his regiment's ranks.

Sergt. Dougall later recovering from his wounds, was given a thirty-days furlough and returned home. At the expiration of this time he rejoined his regiment and participated in the series of battles along the Chickahominy, prior to laying siege to Petersburg. Here he was promoted to Corporal, and was again wounded several times. During his army service he participated in thirty-two general engagements, besides unnumbered skirmishes and all the other vicissitudes of war, the wearisome marches, hardships and privations, insufficient food, and the various other experiences incident to life

in the army. He was present at the final grand review in Washington, and received his honorable discharge in Philadelphia, Pa., after a service of four years and thirteen days.

Our subject, April 9, 1866, crossed the Mississippi, and coming to this county homesteaded 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct. In November following he was united in marriage with Miss Emma, adopted daughter of Homer Chamberlain. This lady was born in 1848, in Canada. They began their wedded life together under the modest roof provided by our subject on the new farm, which they have since developed into a comfortable and well-ordered homestead. Their union has been blessed by the birth of five children, the eldest of whom, Minnie B., died when an interesting young girl of fifteen years. The others, Homer J., William E., Elizabeth A. and Joseph G., are all at home.

Mr. Dougall voted for the adoption of a State Constitution in 1866, and has been an ardent supporter of Republican principles. He has served as Justice of the Peace four years, Road Supervisor twelve years, and Constable for a period of fifteen years. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, attending with the Mt. Zion congregation in Palmyra. Socially, Mr. B. is Adjutant in the G. A. R., in which he has also served as Officer of the Day, and as a delegate to the National Encampment.

MASON H. WILES, whose highly productive and splendidly kept farm is situated upon section 14 of Delaware Precinct, was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, on the 15th of February, 1847. He is the son of Mason S. and Helen Wiles, natives of New York State. His father removed to Ohio when a young man, and there followed his trade, that of a carpenter. In 1861 he removed with his family to Eaton County, Mich., where he pursued carpentering, while his sons attended to the farm. In the fall of 1869 they migrated to Bates County, Mo., and the following spring settled in Peru, Nemaha County, this State.

The subject of our sketch was early initiated into the various duties of farm life, and in the common school of the district received such instruction as would serve as a basis of operations in business or other engagements to which he might give his attention in after years. He accompanied his parents as they migrated from one place to another, finding such employment upon the farm as was both congenial and helpful.

Finally, leaving home and beginning life for himself, Mr. Wiles settled about six miles west of Peru, where he lived until 1879, engaged in farming. He came to this county in the spring of 1882, and lived for three years near Nebraska City, moving to his present farm in 1885. He owns 160 acres of land amply adapted for agricultural pursuits. He has labored industriously to bring it to its present condition, and is usually rewarded with abundant harvests. In the stock department of his farm he raises chiefly cattle and hogs, and upon an average has each season no less than eighty head of graded cattle.

In no other country in the world are there so many of the masses of the people owning their own homes. This is an indication that, deep-rooted in the heart of the American citizen, is the desire for a fireside of his own, and that he finds the atmosphere of the domestic circle eminently congenial. A country has therein one of its strongest and stoutest bulwarks. Napoleon the Great is said to have remarked that if he had a nation of mothers he could conquer the world. Our subject, in common with American citizens generally, having the same desire for the home relation, sought and obtained the hand of Lenora A. Kent in marriage, that event being celebrated on the 22d of January, 1880. Their union has been fruitful in the birth of three children, who bear the names of Wyman S., Hiram L. and Frank S.

Mr. Wiles is of a retiring disposition, and consequently is not prominent in political affairs. He is, however, a loyal and true citizen, careful to do his duty, usually voting with the Republican party, but reserving to himself the right of the free citizen to support such candidates for office as he may deem most worthy and efficient.

The homestead views of this volume form one of its most attractive features, and the Wiles

residence, with its surroundings herein given, aid greatly in perfecting the illustrative department, as indicative of the tastes and industry of an intelligent community.

THOMAS WEATHERHOGG is a resident on section 3, Palmyra Precinct. A native of Lincolnshire, England, he was born in 1829, and is the son of John and Hannah (Coats) Weatherhogg, of whose children six are living, namely: Charles, Jane, Thomas, William, Henry and George.

The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and the boyhood of Thomas was spent in his native county, where he became familiar with the employments of rural life. Upon leaving home he was in the employ of one man on a farm for a period of nine years. He was married, in 1853, to Miss Mary, daughter of Thomas and Mary Halford, who was born in 1828. Mr. H. was also a farmer by occupation, and the parental family consisted of three children—William, Rachel and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Weatherhogg lived in England about four years after their marriage, and became the parents of one child. In 1857 they started for America, and after a prosperous voyage landed in New York City, whence they proceeded soon afterward to the vicinity of Mendota, Ill. There our subject engaged in farming. Later, with his brothers, Charles, William and Henry, he started to Pike's Peak, in 1863, and there experienced the truth of the maxim that "all is not gold that glitters." After one year spent in fruitlessly prospecting, he turned his attention to something more tangible, and paying an exorbitant price for a team of oxen, began freighting. Later he returned to Illinois, and remained there until coming to Nebraska in the fall of 1865.

Mrs. Weatherhogg is deceased. Their only child, a daughter Anna, became the wife of George Hailey, and is now living at Long Pine, in Brown County, Ill. Mr. H. is a farmer by occcupation, and they have one child, a daughter Lilly.

Upon coming to Nebraska Mr. Weatherhogg settled upon 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct, and put up a small house, paying for the lumber at the rate of $40 per thousand. Here he lived by himself, his daughter Anna having taken up her abode with his brother Charles, where she lived until eighteen years of age. She then came home to her father. Our subject in 1869 contracted a second marriage, with Mrs. Harriet (Smith) Longstreet, widow of the late Henry Longstreet. Mrs. Weatherhogg was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and went with her parents to Michigan. There she was first married and lived until after the war, when she came to Nebraska with relatives and took up a tract of land in Palmyra Precinct. Of this union there have been born four children, all sons —Frank, John, George and Frederick.

Mr. Weatherhogg, politically, is independent, and has never had any aspiration for office. He has fought the grasshopper plague successfully, and has now a comfortable homestead in the midst of fruit and shade trees, including an apple orchard and a quantity of grape vines, and has a grove of cottonwood, ash and honey locust trees. His fields are laid off with neatly trimmed hedge fences, and his home forms an exceedingly pleasant picture of country life.

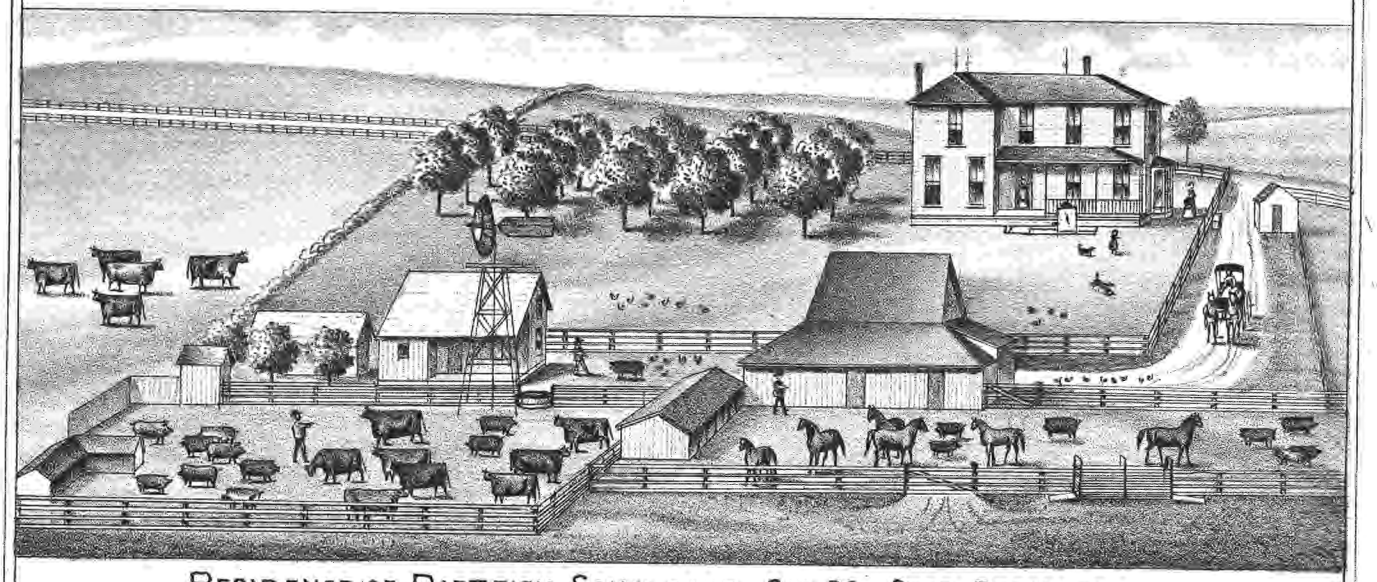
ROBERT T. McPHERSON may be placed among the substantial, well-to-do citizens of Russell Precinct, and operates successfully from a financial standpoint eighty acres of excellent farming land on section 6. Joseph McPherson, the father of our subject, was born in Scotland. He came to this country a young man and began farming in Pennsylvania, and he was the owner of 200 acres in that State and there died in 1856. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, whom he met and married in the State of his adoption, was Miss Anna Barr, who was born and brought up in Pennsylvania. The maternal side of the family represents a French ancestry. Grandfather Barr was in the War of 1812, and was one of the children born in this country, although of French parents. The mother of our subject is still living, and is sixty years of age. She was the mother of six children, of

whom the following three survive: Hugh, who resides in Pennsylvania; John and Robert T. Elizabeth, Mary and Jane are deceased.

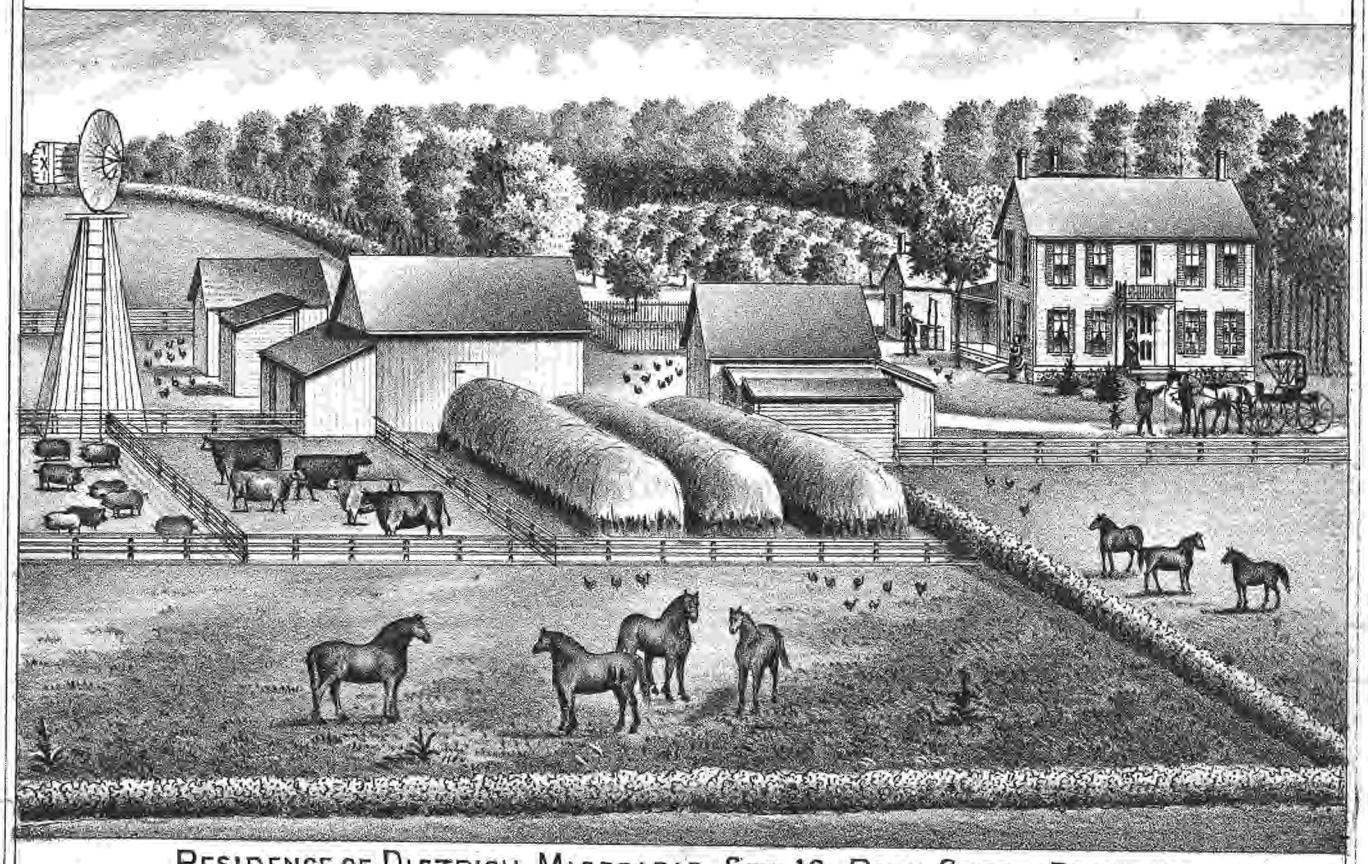
The subject of our sketch was born in Indiana County, Pa., on the 28th of August, 1851. He made his home with his parents until fourteen years of age, and then went to Illinois, and worked out upon a farm by the month for about six years. He managed to pick up while at home and during the winters of his absence a fairly good practical education, through the instrumentality of the common schools. In the year 1871 he started overland and came to Cass County, in this State. He remained there one year, and then came to Russell Precinct, in this county, where he was enabled to purchase eighty acres of land, his present property, which he has improved in a most commendable manner.

DIETRICH SCHINDLER. The agricultural interests of Otoe Precinct are no better represented than by the subject of this sketch, who owns a large and well-managed farm in this locality, pleasantly situated on section 22, and comprising 360 acres of as rich and fertile farming land as is to be found in Eastern Nebraska. Mr. Schindler is a native of Switzerland, having been born in the Canton of Glarus, July 10, 1843. His father, Jacob Schindler, and his grandfather, Joachim Schindler, were also natives of the same canton, and the latter spent his entire life there. The father of our subject learned the trade of locksmith in his native land, and pursued it there until 1857, when he set sail from Havre de Grace in the month of February in an American-bound vessel, accompanied by three of his five children. They landed at New Orleans sixty days later, and there took passage on a steamer up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and landed at Otoe City, now Minersville, Otoe County, and from there Mr. Schindler started out to seek a location. He soon bought a claim in Otoe Precinct, section 22, where our subject now resides. He soon completed his purchase with the Government, and moved into the log cabin that stood on the place nearly finished. He had ten acres broken, and planted that with corn and potatoes, and continued to live there until 1859, when he rented the land and went to Arkansas, where he bought a tract of land in Dallas County, and there the family were reunited by his wife and other two children joining them. He was prosperously engaged in farming there until his death in 1864, which was brought about in this way. It was during the war, and the country was infested by guerrillas, who, while he was on his way to Little Rock to see Gen. Steele, waylaid and killed him, and at the same time the greater part of his stock and personal property was killed or destroyed by the bushwhackers. Soon after his death the family returned to Otoe Precinct, and settled on the land that he had purchased from the Government. The mother of our subject was a resident of the precinct until her death. The record of the children born to her and her husband is as follows: Ursula, wife of Henry Vallman; Emilie died soon after the return of the family from Arkansas; Dietrich; Annie E., wife of Jacob Baltensperger; Edward died in Arkansas.

The subject of this sketch gained a good, practical education in the Swiss schools, which he attended quite regularly as long as he lived in his native land. He was fourteen years old when he accompanied his father to this country, and he remembers well the incidents of the long voyage, and of his subsequent pioneer life here on the farm where he now resides, over which deer, wolves and prairie chickens used to roam, and occasionally wild turkeys. He went to Arkansas with his father, and lived with him until 1862, when he was drafted into the Confederate Army, and was obliged to serve in its ranks as a member of Company G, 21st Arkansas Infantry, doing duty in Mississippi for one year. While at Vicksburg he obtained a furlough, and after his return home communications were cut off by Gen. Grant, and our subject was detailed to superintend the sulphur works at the Hot Springs until the Federals took Little Rock. He then went into the Union camp at that place, and gladly took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. After that he went to Cairo, Ill., where he worked at the baker's trade for six months, when he returned to the old homestead, and in the summer of



RESIDENCE OF DIETRICH SCHINDLER, SEC. 22. OTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF DIETRICH MISEGADIS, SEC. 16. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

that year teamed for the freighters over the plains, and in the fall engaged with Col. Shoorp, of the 3d Colorado Militia, who was then on the frontier to suppress Indian troubles, as teamster, and he continued with the command on the frontier until the following February, and he then returned to the old homestead to resume the calling of farmer, to which he had been devoted under his father when he first came to live in this country. Ever since he has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and to reward his persistent labors has as fine a farm as any in the county, well supplied with substantial buildings for every purpose, and in 1885 he erected a good frame house, in which he and his family live surrounded by every comfort that heart could desire. Mr. Schindler has paid special attention to raising stock, and derives from that branch of agriculture a good annual income.

Our subject was married, Nov. 25, 1867, to Mary Anna Tschanz, a native of the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. She came to America with the family of her father, John Tschanz, who settled twenty miles east of St. Joseph, Mo. Nine children were born of the marriage of our subject and his wife, namely: Rosa, Edward, Jacob, Lewis, Henry H., Albert H., Clarence, Emily and Madeline.

On the 29th of February, 1888, this happy household sustained an irreparable loss in the death of the wife and mother, who had been faithful in all the duties of life, and had been devoted to the interests of her family. She has left behind her a memory that will be fondly cherished by her relatives, friends and neighbors. Dec. 3, 1888, Mr. Schindler married a second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Lizette Wissler, daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Rufenacht) Wissler, from the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, but now of Humboldt, Richardson Co., Neb.

Mr. Schindler is one of the best citizens. He is a man of more than ordinary enterprise, practical sagacity, and decision of character. His public-spiritedness and liberality are well known, as he is always among the foremost to encourage and promote any scheme for the advancement of the precinct or county. Otoe Precinct is partly indebted to him for her excellent schools, as he has taken a deep interest in educational matters, and has served several terms as Moderator. He was Road Supervisor for eight years, and in 1884 was a candidate for the State Legislature, but on account of his wife's sickness he was obliged to retire from the canvass. He has always been a Republican, and by voice and vote has worked for the interests of his chosen party.

DIEDRICH MISEGADIS, a large landowner and stock-raiser of Rock Creek Precinct, has his home farm on section 16, and this embraces 160 acres. On section 9 he owns 160 acres in one body and fifty acres in another, and on section 17 he has eighty acres. The whole of this is in a good state of cultivation and yields the proprietor a comfortable income. A view of the homestead is given on another page.

Our subject became a resident of this county on the 27th of October, 1873, and his labors as an agriculturist have been crowned with success. Prior to that date he had been a resident of Grant and LaFayette Counties, Wis., a period of thirteen years, having emigrated to the Badger State from his native Hanover, in Germany, in the fall of 1860. He was then a young man of twenty-five years, having been born on the 12th of May, 1835. His father, Frederick Misegadis, was a native of the same Province, which at the time of his birth was a kingdom by itself, and where for a period of eleven years he worked on the farm and drove the four-horse team of King Frederick. There also he was married to Miss Adeheida Lofrutian, a native of the same section of country. The mother died after the birth of five children, when a young woman. The father lived to be seventy-eight years old, spending his entire life on his native soil. They were Lutheran in religion, and most excellent people, honest and industrious, and respected by all who knew them.

The fourth child of his parents and their second son, our subject had two brothers and two sisters, two of whom are now in Wisconsin, one in Otoe County, Neb., and a sister in the old country. He remained in his native Province until twenty-five years of age, still unmarried, this interesting event

taking place in Dodge County, Wis. The maiden of his choice was Miss Augusta Chanfish, a native of Prussia, and who was born April 28, 1847. Her father, Ferdinand Chanfish, died when she was quite young, and she came with her mother and stepfather, William Blancke, to America when a little girl eight years of age. They settled in Watertown, Wis., where she lived until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Misegadis became the parents of ten children, the eldest of whom, Frederick, died at the age of four years. The survivors are all at home with their parents, and form an interesting group, of which the latter may well be proud. They are named respectively: William F., E. W. Emma, Ida A., Lizzie M., Edwin H., George D., Christina A., Louis R. and Alva A. The eldest was twenty-one years of age Oct. 29, 1888, and the youngest one year old at that date. They are all members and regular attendants with their parents of the Lutheran Church. Mr. M., politically, is a conscientious Democrat, and has held the minor offices of his precinct.

HON. JAMES FITCHIE, of Nebraska City, occupies a prominent position among the intelligent and cultured citizens of this county, who, as pioneers, have witnessed and assisted in its development. He is thoroughly conversant with its history—indeed, is regarded as an authority on the subject—and he has written many interesting articles concerning its early settlement. He was at one time conspicuously identified with the civic life of the county; was early appointed Justice of the Peace, and by his vigorous and impartial administration of the affairs of his office during the four years that he was an incumbent thereof, he contributed greatly to the peaceful settlement of the county and to its general prosperity by assisting in the maintenance of law and order, winning the commendations of his fellow-citizens. In 1869 he was a member of the State Legislature, and his record at the capitol stamped him as an honorable and enlightened legislator.

Our subject is a native of Ireland, but descended from a good old Scotch family, who had settled in County Down many years previous to the birth of our subject, which occurred May 3, 1810. in that county. Thomas Fitchie, his father, was a native and lifelong resident of the same locality, where he carried on farming for many years. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Elizabeth Hays, and she was likewise of Scotch ancestry and a native of County Down, where she always made her home. There were nine children born to the parents of our subject, eight of whom grew up, namely: John, Samuel, William, Margaret, James, Jennie, Mary and Thomas. John, Samuel and our subject were the only three who came to America. John settled in Newburg, N. Y., and Samuel in Brooklyn, that State.

James Fitchie, of whom we write, was reared and married in his native county, Miss Eliza Douglas becoming his wife Oct. 29, 1833. She was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1812, a daughter of Samuel and Alice (Wood) Douglas, natives of Ireland, and of Scotch ancestry. James Fitchie learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, and followed it in Ireland until 1834, when, with his wife he set sail from Belfast for America, coming by the way of Liverpool to New York, where he landed on our National holiday. He first located in Newburg, and worked as a carpenter there until 1837. From there he went to Pittsburgh, Pa., going by the way of Philadelphia to Harrisburg, which was then the western terminus of the railway in that State, and thence to his destination. He worked at his trade for awhile, and then engaged in the grocery business, continuing his residence in Pittsburgh until 1852. In that year he cast in his lot with the pioneers of Iowa, still keeping ahead of the railway, as Central Illinois was then its western terminus.

Mr. Fitchie was employed at carpentering in Muscatine until 1855, when he concluded to explore Nebraska for the purpose of securing a home in that part of Uncle Sam's domain. Accordingly, in the spring of that year, he started in company with a neighbor, Mr. Hays, equipped with a pair of oxen and a wagon, and crossed the river above Omaha, proceeding thence to Tekamah, Burt County, where he took up a claim. The "city" consisted of one log house covered with bark, and two tents, and his

claim was one mile distant from its present site. He spent but two nights on his land, and then returned to Omaha, which was at that time but an insignificant village, with the post-office in a sod house, and the other buildings of pretty much the same rude description. Mr. Fitchie stopped at that place about a week, and then came to Nebraska City to spend a few days before retracing his steps to Muscatine. He walked nearly the entire distance, and slept two nights on the open prairie.

After settling his affairs in Iowa, Mr. Fitchie started with a team, accompanied by his family, to take up his abode on the wild prairies of Nebraska. He arrived with his wife and children in Nebraska City on the 10th day of October, 1855, and moved into a vacant log cabin in that part of the town now known as Kearney. There were then probably about 100 families in the city, and but one store to supply all their wants. He had shipped his chest of carpentry tools by the river, but they did not arrive until the following spring. So here he was, a stranger in a strange land, without money or the means of obtaining it. But he was not one to sit down and mourn over what could not be helped without stirring himself actively to find a remedy. He immediately went to a store and bought some tools on time, and was thus enabled to obtain plenty of work. After a few weeks he made a claim on Camp Creek, nine miles south of the city, built a house, partly with sod and partly with logs, and in midwinter moved into it with his family. There were no settlers west of him at that time, and no other than log houses anywhere in the vicinity. The land was nearly all owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 an acre. Deer were plentiful and roamed at will over the broad prairies. There was a gristmill two miles distant from where he had located; it was worked by water power, but it took so long to grind the grist that one would get very hungry waiting its slow movements.

In the fall of that year Mr. Fitchie ingeniously contrived a grater, and picking the corn before it was hard, grated it to make bread. Having cows, milk was plentiful, and mush and milk was the principal food of the family for a time. A few months after coming to Nebraska City Mr. F. bought a house and lot in that part of the city now called Kearney, paying $100 for both. He made a few repairs, and in a short time the boom came and he sold his little property for the snug sum of $775, taking stock in part payment, and he was thus enabled to settle on his land and improve a farm. He resided on it until 1877, and by that time it had greatly increased in value, and he sold it for a sum far above the original cost. Since that time he and his wife have made their home in Nebraska City with their son-in-law, Hon. William Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitchie have six children living: Martha D., widow of John K. Gilman, resides in Nebraska City; Margaret C., widow of S. B. Davis, in California; Samuel D. resides in Weeping Water; Elizabeth A. is the wife of Jeremiah Gilman, and Jennie, the wife of William Campbell; Thomas resides in Nebraska City. William N., their fourth child, died at the age of eighteen years; Ella I., the eighth child, died in infancy; John T., the ninth child, died at the age of thirty-three.

October 29, 1883, marked the golden milestone of the wedded life of our subject and his wife, who for fifty years have walked hand in hand through sunshine and shadow, and in sharing each other's joys and griefs have grown nearer and dearer to each other. On the occasion of the golden wedding, commemorative of that other wedding day that lay back in the past half century, when they united their fresh young lives for better or for worse, a large concourse of friends gathered to congratulate them, and showed the warm place they occupied in many hearts by the expression of kind and loving wishes and the presentation of many valuable gifts.

Mr. Fitchie identified himself with the Democratic party when he was a young man, and continued to advocate the policy of that party until 1860, when he voted for Lincoln, as his views in regard to the course to be pursued relative to suppressing the Rebellion coincided with those of the leaders of the Republican party, and he has been a stanch supporter of that party since that time. At the age of fifty-three years, when the Indian outbreak occurred in Nebraska, Mr. Fitchie, shouldering his musket and buckling on his armor, went out to defend his county and the firesides of the

pioneers in the western part of this State. He furnished his own horse, served four months, and accepted his pay in an honorable discharge. As will be observed, he was one of the old pioneers, and from an article which he wrote for the *Nebraska City Press* in connection with the early reminiscences of Otoe County, we clip the following:

"For want of better timber they made a 'Squire of your humble servant, and it was fortunate for both myself and the solemnity of the ceremony, that the first pair I married were so Dutchy they scarcely knew what I said, and it would have been hard to tell who was the worse frightened, they or I. The fees were an item in those days. I have heard of editors being compelled to take pumpkins and saw logs on subscription, but I suppose there are few men who have taken cottonwood rails as a fee for performing the marriage ceremony. Let me tell of one in particular who requested that I should wait for my fee until he could make and haul some posts, and to-day this man is worth over a cool $100,000, a credit to himself and an honor to old Otoe County, as showing what a thoroughly hard-working man can do in this great country of ours."

FREDERICK ZUCK. The German element of Rock Creek Precinct, here as elsewhere, has aided largely in the growth and prosperity of the community. The subject of this sketch is one of its most successful farmers, and a native of the Fatherland, born in one of the Rhine Provinces, Nov. 6, 1840. He owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 36, and in addition to general agriculture, is interested in live stock, making a specialty of the popular Jersey-Red swine.

Mr. Zuck settled upon his present farm sixteen years ago, in the spring of 1873. He took the land in its wild and uncultivated state, and has transformed it into one of the most desirable homesteads of his precinct. He has labored early and late, through sunshine and storm, battled against difficulties and hardships, and is now enjoying the fruit of his labors. He came to Nebraska in October, 1867, landing in this county on the 30th day of the month, locating first in Nebraska City. The Territory had become a State two months previously. He has watched the growth and prosperity of the people around him, and in the building up of one of the best farms in his precinct has largely contributed to the position which it occupies among the intelligent communities of this section.

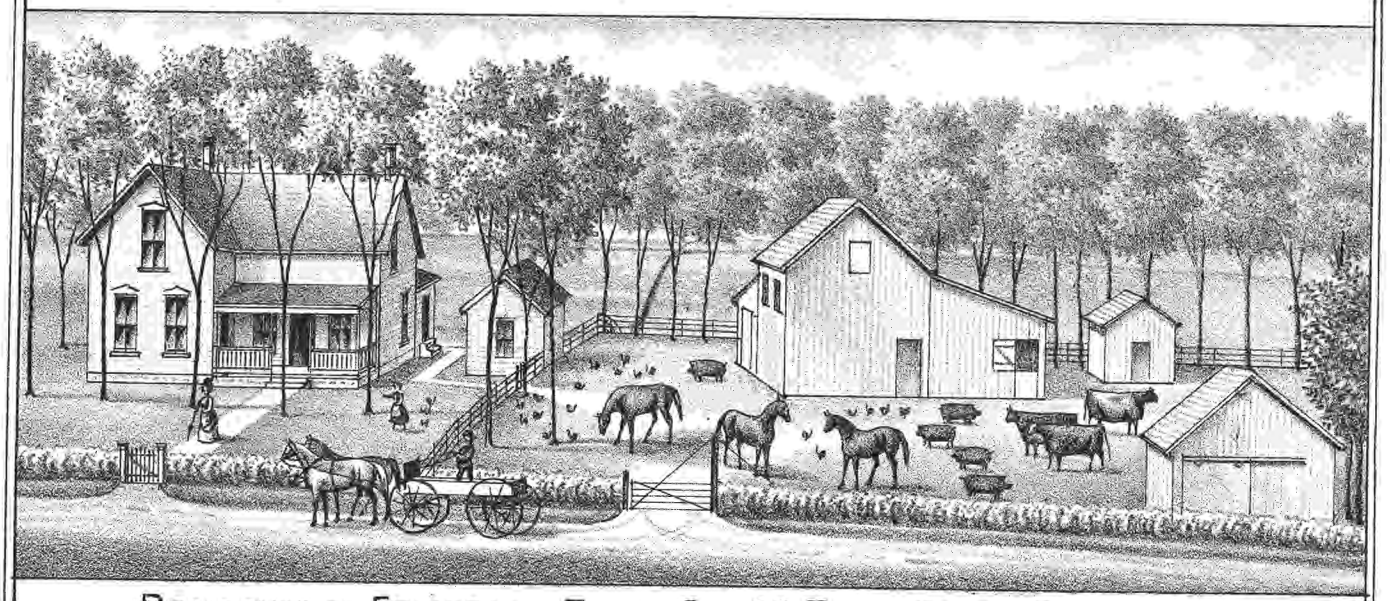
Mr. Zuck crossed the Atlantic when a young man of twenty-five years, and took up his residence first in Perry County, Ind., whence he removed to Rock Island, Ill., and from the Prairie State came to Nebraska. In his native Empire he had served three years in the German Army, and when at home had been engaged with his father in agricultural pursuits. He had little capital aside from his strong hands when coming to the West, and these have served him well.

Mr. Zuck was married in Nebraska City, March 28, 1873, to Miss Fredricka Schomeius, who was born in Hanover, Germany, July 6, 1836, and is the sister of D. J. Schomeius, a prosperous boot and shoe merchant of Nebraska City, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

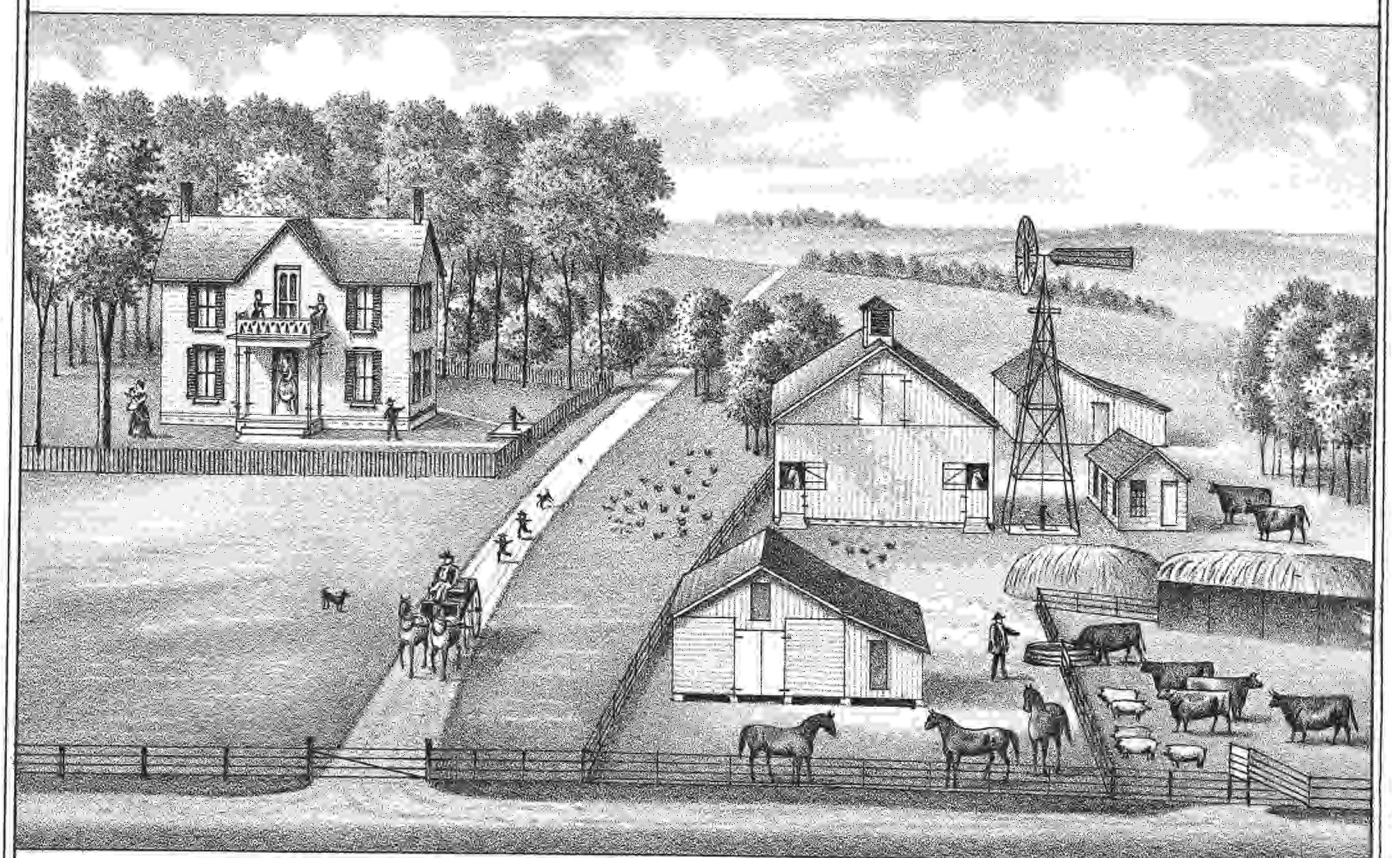
The wife of our subject came to America with her mother in 1871, and lived in Nebraska City until her marriage. Of their union there is one child only, a daughter, Mary E., who was born Dec. 20, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Z. are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, votes the Democratic ticket.

A view of Mr. Zuck's homestead is presented in connection with this brief personal sketch of its proprietor.

JAMES CARLIN has carried on farming successfully in Rock Creek Precinct since the spring of 1871, when he purchased on section 16, 160 acres of school land from the State. It was in its wild and uncultivated state, and for two years Mr. C. employed himself at teaming before settling upon his purchase. In 1872 he put up a dwelling, and gradually added the other buildings necessary for the successful prosecution of his calling, the comfort of his family, the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. He was prospered in his labors, and in due time pur-



RESIDENCE OF FRIEDRICK ZUCK, SEC. 36. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES CARLIN, SEC. 16. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

chased eighty acres more on another section of the same precinct, and which he has also brought to a good state of cultivation.

The farm of our subject is well stocked with cattle and horses, and from this and the raising of the crops which flourish best in Southern Nebraska he enjoys a good income. Prior to his arrival in this State he had been a resident of Scott County, Iowa, to which he removed with his parents when a child. The latter were James and Mary (Dougherty) Carlin, who were natives of Counties Donegal and Tyrone, Ireland; they were married after coming to America, and settled in Philadelphia, Pa. There James, Jr., was born Nov. 15, 1840. The father was a weaver by occupation, and after coming to this country followed that trade. The parents were married in Philadelphia, where were born their seven sons and three daughters, of whom our subject was the second son and third child. From the Keystone State they moved to Illinois, where the father conducted a small store of general merchandise, and where the family lived about three years. They next changed their residence to Scott County, Iowa, settling upon a tract of land three miles from the city of Davenport, where the mother died when about fifty years of age. The father survived his partner a number of years, his death taking place in September of 1877, at the age of seventy. Both were members of the Catholic Church.

Our subject was reared to manhood in Scott County, Iowa, and was there married, Oct. 7, 1862, to Miss Bridget Moran. This lady was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in November, 1843, and came to the States with her parents, Michael and Mary (Egan) Moran. They located in the vicinity of Oswego, N. Y., where they lived a number of years. About 1855 they changed their residence to Rock Island, Ill., and later crossed the Mississippi into Davenport, Iowa. There the mother died in 1879 when little past middle life. The father is yet living there, being now about seventy-five years old. They also were members of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Carlin was one of the elder children of her parents, and lived with them until her marriage, acquiring a common-school education. The household circle of our subject and his wife has been completed by the birth of eleven children. They are named respectively: Mary, Anna, Elizabeth, Agnes, Maggie, James, Jr., John, Michael, Hugh and Leona. William died when an infant. Mrs. Carlin is a very capable and intelligent lady, one who has many friends in her neighborhood and community. Kind and hospitable, she makes her home pleasant for her own family and an attractive resort for all who may take shelter beneath their roof. Both Mr. and Mrs. C. are members of the Catholic Church, and our subject, politically, is a stanch Democrat. Mr. Carlin owned a farm in Rock Island County, Ill., where he farmed three years before coming to Nebraska, at which time he sold it.

A view of his farm property is shown in this connection.

PETER SIBERT and his estimable wife, Mrs. Sarah (Neal) Sibert, have for many years been favorably known among the people of Palmyra Precinct, where they are spending the evening of life, sheltered in a comfortable home and enjoying the esteem and confidence of hosts of friends. Although quite well advanced in years, they are remarkably well preserved, very intelligent, kind and hospitable, and possess all the elements of character which endear them alike to young and old. Their property includes a good farm of 160 acres, lying on sections 28 and 29. Although making little pretension to elegance or style, they have everything around them comfortable, and their home possesses the added charm of contentment, which is the mainspring of happiness in all the relations of life.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sibert were the children of humble homes in their youth, and both were endowed by a kind Providence with those elements of character which enabled them to rise above their early surroundings and educate themselves by a course of reading and communication with intelligent minds. The early home of Mr. S. was in Washington County, Pa., where he was born Sept. 17, 1817, and where he grew to manhood on a farm. He was twenty-two years of age when the free-school system was agitated among the voters

of the Keystone State, and he was one of those who most urgently labored and voted for its adoption.

Our subject began life on his own account as an apprentice to the blacksmith trade, which he followed a number of years. In 1848 he was married in his native county to Miss Hannah Fleek, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Mary, George, Jacob, and one who died in infancy. In the fall of 1840 Mr. Sibert, leaving his native State, emigrated to Wyandot County, Ohio, and for a period of eight years thereafter followed his trade at Little Sandusky. He was prospered in his labors, and accumulated a good property, including 160 acres of farm land and real estate in the village.

Our subject, however, was anxious to remove still further westward, and in 1848 left Ohio for Knox County, Ill. He invested a part of the proceeds of his Ohio property in 160 acres of land, but now began casting his eyes beyond the Mississippi. Selling out again he moved to Marion County, Iowa, where he became the owner of a farm of forty acres, and leaving there in the spring of 1860, he came to this county and secured the homestead which he now owns and occupies.

Mrs. Hannah Sibert departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, on the 10th of August, 1859. Our subject in the year 1860 married for his second wife Mrs. Sarah (Neal) Horseman, the widow of Isah Horseman, and daughter of William and Mary (Agerhardt) Neal. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and the father was a cooper by trade. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and spent his last years in Pennsylvania. The mother died in Ohio. The family consisted of thirteen children, namely: Susannah, Sarah, Elias, Joseph, Henry, William, Ellen, Mary A., Margaret, Jane Eliza; James A., who died young, and two infants who died unnamed.

The wife of our subject was trained to habits of industry and economy, and at an early age became familiar with household duties. She remained with her parents until twenty-two years of age, and was then married to Isah Horseman, a native of Ohio. They became the parents of eight children, the eldest of whom, William, died in the army during the late Civil War; David and Joseph served each respectively three and one years in the army, and are now in Omaha and California; Plena, John, Samuel and Martha are all living. Melissa B. died when four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Horseman began their wedded life together in Ohio, and Mr. H. died on the journey from Kansas to Iowa in 1859.

Of the union of our subject and his present wife there has been born one child only, a daughter, Emma Jane, who married John Stewart, a farmer of Palmyra Precinct, and has become the mother of three children—Nancy B., Sarah E. and Benjamin.

Mr. and Mrs. Sibert upon coming to this State in the spring of 1860 looked upon Nebraska City when it was simply a trading-post. They were the only family in what is now Palmyra Precinct, and took up their residence in a little log cabin. In June of the following year Mr. Sibert built a larger dwelling, also of logs, and this was frequently the rendezvous for traders and other travelers to and from Denver and Nebraska City. Our subject and his wife have had a ripe experience in pioneer life, and have watched with warm interest the development of Nebraska Territory into one of the most important States of the Union. They labored together with one mutual purpose, the building up of a home for themselves and their family, and are now enjoying the rich reward of well-spent lives. The log house where they spent so many happy years is still standing, and although their circumstances have greatly improved since the time they first occupied that humble dwelling, they look upon it as one of the old landmarks which they would regret to see destroyed.

Mrs. Sibert is a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, and has not suffered care or trouble to dampen the natural cheerfulness of her disposition. Her plump figure and pleasant face are suggestive of what she might have been when a maiden of sweet sixteen. The loss of her first husband left her alone with a large family of children, who were entirely dependent upon her for support. To this duty she bent her energies with all the natural strength of her character, doing for them as well as she could, and it is safe to say that they rise up and call her blessed.

Mr. Sibert has been a pioneer, as we have seen, in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. He has lived to see the public school system of his native State become one of the most admirable of any in the Union. He voted for Harrison in the time of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." It is hardly necessary to say that he is a stanch supporter of Republican principles. Notwithstanding the long and varied experiences of his life, he is a hale, hearty and well-preserved old gentleman, bright and quick mentally, and one with whom it is pleasurable and profitable to converse. In speaking of the time when he officiated as "mine host" in the old log house, he says that the guests were often so numerous he was obliged to pack them on the floor like sardines in a box. They accommodated themselves to the situation philosophically, however, and it is hardly necessary to say, often engaged in great hilarity, in which they were joined by their whole-hearted host and hostess. The parents of our subject, Isaac and Fanny (Robison) Sibert, were natives respectively of Maryland and England, and the father served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother emigrated to America with her parents when a young girl, they settling in Maryland, where she was afterward married. Isaac Sibert learned the trade of shoemaker, and after marriage the parents removed to Washington County, Pa., where the father died when a comparatively young man, in 1828 at the age of thirty-nine years. The mother survived her husband only a few months, and passed away, in 1829, in Washington County, Pa. The parental household included five children, namely: Nancy, Isaac, Hannah, Joseph, and Peter, our subject. Grandfather Sibert was born in Germany, and emigrated to the United States early in life, settling in Maryland, where it is supposed he remained until his death.

LOUIS B. SMOYER, a leading farmer of Otoe County, homesteaded his first land in 1865, this being located on the southwest quarter of section 2, in Syracuse Precinct. A native of Lehigh County, Pa., he was born Feb. 23, 1842, and is the son of Jacob and Anna (Biery) Smoyer, who were also natives of the Keystone State. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, Abraham Smoyer by name, was a native of Baden, Germany, whence he emigrated to the United States early in life, and settled in Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by his brother, and from these two are supposed to have descended the Smoyer families of the United States.

Great-grandfather Smoyer reared a large family, and his son Abraham retained possession of the old homestead, where he passed his entire life. Jacob, son of the latter, was born there and reared to manhood, where he married, and continued to reside on the old homestead until 1852. Thence he removed to Ohio, and from the Buckeye State in 1861 to Jackson County, Mich., where he carried on farming, and where his death occurred July 4, 1875. The mother died while a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, April 10, 1854. Their family consisted of eight children, all living, namely: Emeline, the wife of A. C. Geiger; Martha, Mrs. Schuester; Louis B., our subject; Kate, Mrs. Alfred Troxel; Amanda, Mrs. Pells; Mary A., Sylvanus and James.

Our subject was eleven years old when the family removed to Ohio, where he pursued his studies in the district school. He accompanied the family to Michigan in 1861, and soon after the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in a regiment of cavalry, but on account of his age was not permitted to serve. He then began farming, which he pursued in the Wolverine State until the summer of 1865. Then coming to Nebraska he homesteaded 160 acres of land in Syracuse Precinct, and in due time had brought the soil to a good state of cultivation, erected the buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience, and laid the basis of a future competency. Mr. Smoyer, after taking up his residence in this county was married, Oct. 17, 1866, to Miss Adelaide V. Sawtelle, who was born in Branch County, Mich., July 12, 1842. Her parents were Zera T. and Eliza A. (Cornell) Sawtelle, who were natives of New York State, whence they emigrated to Michigan during its pioneer days. The father followed farming, and, with his excellent wife, is still living, their residence being in the vicinity of Battle Creek. Their family consisted of three

daughters, there being besides Mrs. Smoyer, Abigail V., a twin sister, who married Caleb Manchester, and died in October, 1881, and Etta, the wife of Zera Masters, of Otoe County.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smoyer there have been born seven children, namely: George E., Jesse S., Etta V., Cora M., Gertie P. and Gracie P. (twins) and Nellie A. Mr. Smoyer, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has steadily declined becoming an office-holder. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Honor.

JOSEPH BEETEM is one of the prominent and representative citizens of Palmyra Precinct, where he is farming eighty acres of fine land on section 36. For the family history of this gentleman the reader is referred to the sketch of J. T. Beetem, which will be found upon another page of this volume.

The subject of our sketch was born in Shullsburg, Wis., on the 14th of August, 1844. When he was about six months old his parents took up their residence in Dubuque County, Iowa; when nine years of age they once more made a change, and he became a resident of Allamakee County. He continued with his parents until he was about nineteen, and then entered the arena and began life for himself. The first year he rented a farm, and was so successful that he was enabled to buy eighty acres, upon which he continued for five years, in that time making many improvements and bringing it to a high state of cultivation.

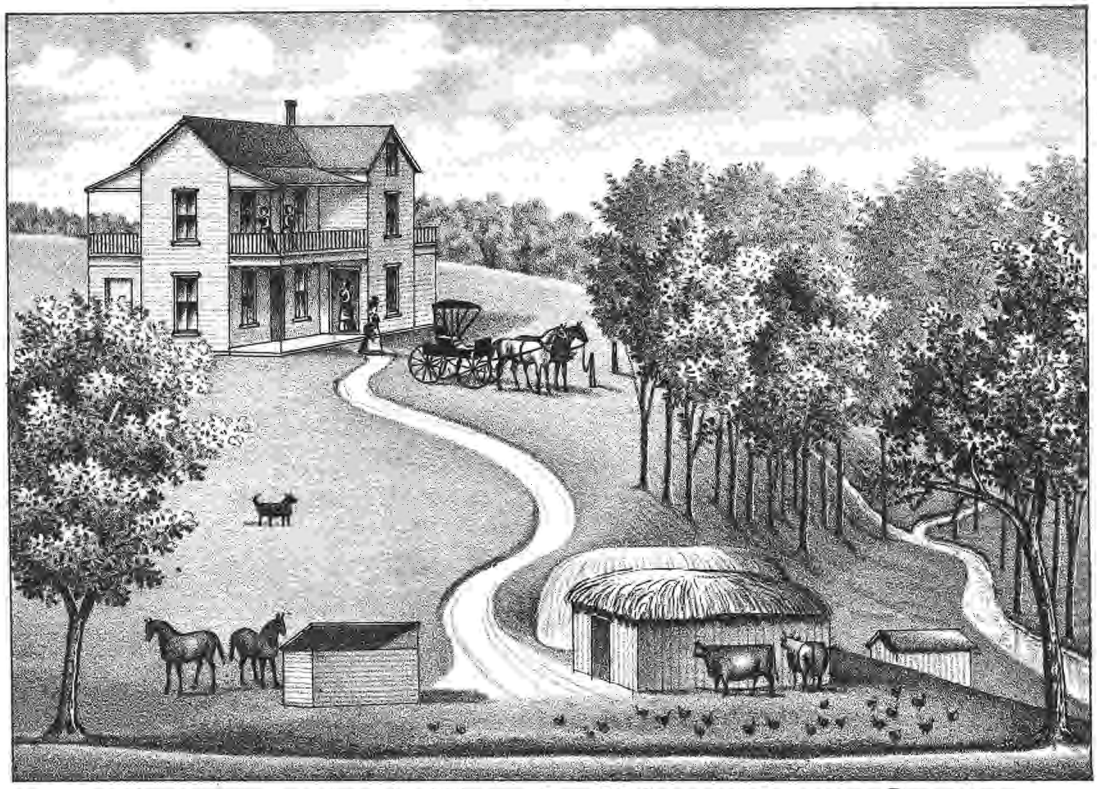
In 1872 our subject sold the above-mentioned farm and moved to Hancock County, Iowa, where he became the owner of 160 acres of wild, unimproved prairie. This he brought into good condition and put upon it various valuable improvements, when he again sold out, and went to the northern part of the county, purchasing 120 acres of prairie land, and repeated the process so far as it was possible of improvement. He continued there for seven years, but met with failure after failure in his crops, which resulted disastrously.

In 1877 Mr. Beetem came to this county and for three years rented property. He then moved to South Russell, where he made his home for about a year, then in 1881 bought his present place of eighty acres. His Iowa experience again took shape, and he had all the work of improving his land, from the turning of the first furrow to the erection and finishing of his buildings. To-day his farm is one of the best cultivated and most valuable, other things being equal, within a large district.

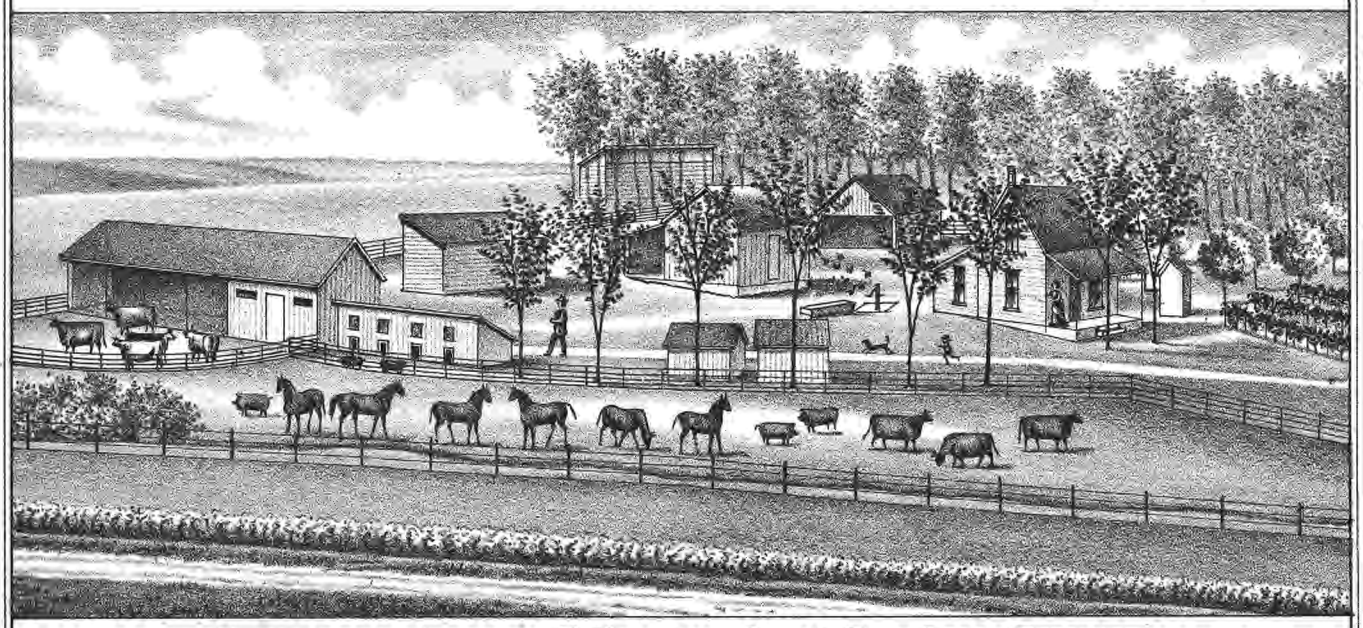
In Allamakee County, Iowa, on the 24th of January, 1864, the subject of our sketch became the husband of Miss Hester Greenup, the estimable daughter of the Rev. S. H. and Elizabeth (Hoyt) Greenup. Her father was born in Kentucky, her mother in New York. Her father was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and served in that capacity in the State of Iowa for twenty-five years. He is still engaged in the work of his profession, and holds a charge in Morrison County, Minn. Both parents are now sixty-seven years of age. They are the parents of eleven children, to whom have been given the following names: Hester A., Julia E., Edwin (deceased), Jason S., Wilbur F., Allen, Albert, Lucy (deceased), Frank, Edward, and also Elizabeth who is deceased. Edwin, who was in the war fighting in the 12th Iowa Infantry, died at Memphis, Tenn., in 1863.

It will be noticed that Mrs. Beetem is the eldest child of her parents. She was born in Peoria, Ill., on the 23d of September, 1843. She attended the classes of both the common and High schools, and after passing a very successful examination and being graduated from the latter institution, was engaged in teaching for about five years, revealing the possession of talents of more than ordinary value. She is the mother of ten children, of whom three are dead. The names given to her children are as follows: Mary Elizabeth, Sarah E., George S. (deceased), Louisa M., Caroline A., Joseph, Jr. (deceased), Charles, Jennie (deceased), Johnnie and Benjamin. Mary is happily married to John Jose, who is successfully engaged in farming in Colorado; they are the parents of two children, named William and Joseph. The other members of the family are all at home.

The subject of our sketch has been prominent as a politician; he is an active member of the Democratic party and has served as delegate to the County



RESIDENCE OF JOS. L. WEBB, SEC 35 (*NORTH.*) PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF HERMANN F. HELMERS, SEC. 17. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

Convention. For three years he has held the office of Supervisor of Roads, and is at present School Treasurer. He is a man of sterling worth and enjoys the confidence of the people. For twenty-four consecutive seasons Mr. Beetem was engaged in threshing, which is not a usual record. Nine seasons he was thus engaged in Missouri, fourteen in Iowa and one in Nebraska.

HERMAN F. HELMERS. The snug 80-acre farm, owned and occupied by the subject of this sketch, is finely located on section 17, Rock Creek Precinct. Mr. Helmers has been residing here since the fall of 1875, and has in the meantime given his time and attention strictly to the improvement of his property. The results indicate with what industry he has labored, and should be a source of abundant satisfaction to him. A view, illustrating his homestead, is presented in connection with this brief sketch of its owner.

Mr. Helmers came to this locality from Chariton County, Mo., of which he had been a resident four years. Prior to this he had lived in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and his earliest home had been on the other side of the Atlantic, in the little Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. There he was born Sept. 4, 1843, being the son of John Frederick and Mary (Alfke) Helmers, who were also of German birth and ancestry, and the former of whom spent his entire life on his native soil, dying when fifty-six years old. He was a mason by trade, and after his death his widow and children, Sept. 3, 1882, joined our subject in America, and have since resided in the vicinity of Berlin, this county. The mother is now sixty-seven years old.

Our subject was the second child of the family, which consisted of two sons and two daughters, all of whom are living and in this county. Herman F. was the first member of the family to cross the Atlantic, a journey which he never regretted, and it was through his means that his mother was persuaded to come with her family. He first settled in Wisconsin in the fall of 1865. He also had learned the trades of a mason and plasterer, which he followed until coming to Nebraska ten years later. He was married, near the town of Syracuse, to Miss Sophia Beckefeld, also a native of Hanover, and born April 20, 1855. She came to America when nineteen years of age with our subject, and by her marriage with him became the mother of six children, only two of whom are living, Alfred and Oscar, who are eight and six years of age, and occupied at home. Mrs. Sophia Helmers departed this life at the birth of her last child in Rock Creek Precinct, Nov. 11, 1882. She was a lady greatly beloved by her husband and friends, a kind and affectionate wife and mother, a good neighbor, and a devoted member of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject in the fall of 1885 contracted a second marriage, with Miss Dora Bueckman, who was born in Hanover, in 1847, and came alone to the United States when thirty-three years of age, two years before her marriage. Of this union there is one child, a son William. Mr. and Mrs. Helmers are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a straight Republican.

JOSEPH L. WEBB, now operating a farm of 130 acres on section 35 of Palmyra Precinct, must be mentioned among the list of honored pioneers of Nebraska. He is the son of William and Mary Webb, who were born in New Jersey. The great-grandfather of our subject lived near May's Landing. He was one of the honored and prosperous citizens of his time, and of some pretensions to affluence. He had seven fine, stalwart sons, all of whom, with the exception of the grandfather of our subject, sought their fortunes in other States. The name of this gentleman was Frederick Webb. Upon the marriage of his son William arrangements were made for the young couple to settle at Bridgeton, in New Jersey, and there they made their home upon a farm. There were born to them eleven children, seven of whom grew up to years of maturity. Our subject is the youngest of this family, and was born on the 27th of February, 1833, near Morriston, Burlington Co.,

N. J. Upon the migration of William Webb and his family to Greene County, Ohio, our subject was about ten years of age.

Educational advantages in Ohio at that time were not so good even as those of more eastern localities, but such as they were he was privileged to enjoy. The memory is easily revived of the old log school-house that manifested all the signs so common in the days of the pioneers, but from these school-houses have come the men who have made America, and have brought it upon its way as a people and Government, until it occupies the first seat in the Hall of Nations. At nineteen years of age he went to Indianapolis and worked in a peg and last manufactory. From that he went back to Ohio and staid one year, and then went to Iowa, locating in Lee County for about twelve months. From there he drove across the plains in company with Elias Adsit and his family. They continued their journeying until they arrived at Nebraska City, in May, 1857. In beginning life in this State our subject and Mr. Adsit took land and farmed together. There he remained prosperously engaged.

Our subject was married, in the year 1861, to Miss Amanda White, the estimable daughter of George and Elizabeth (Nesmith) White. Her parents were from New Hampshire, but had become pioneers of Indiana. She was born in Jeffersonville, of that State, on the 9th of February, 1836. She was the youngest of seven children, three of whom came to mature years. She received an excellent education, which, with the careful home training received, has fitted her for almost any position she might be called upon to occupy. She came with her mother to Nebraska City in 1859, and was shortly after engaged in teaching in a private school. She was also a teacher of music on the piano, and was the first to follow that profession in that place. Her father, who was a well-educated man, and for many years a teacher in Pennsylvania, died in the year 1852, when she was about sixteen years of age. Her mother died in Seward County, of this State, at the advanced age of eighty years.

Our subject took up his homestead in Palmyra Precinct in 1863, and was among the first homesteaders in the United States. In 1880 he removed to his present home, and by the erection of his commodious and comfortable dwelling, with its pleasant surroundings, supplemented by the financial success that has come to him, he has been able to make his family a very fine home. Five children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Webb, whose names are as follows: Mary, Cora, Josephine, Freddy and Clara. Cora, Josephine and Clara are engaged in teaching.

Mr. Webb is a representative American citizen. In political matters he is one free from the confining bonds of party policy, and votes independently, although at one time he was a Whig, and later a strong Republican. He is a stanch friend of the temperance cause, and an active worker therein. Both Mr. and Mrs. Webb are earnest and consistent members of the Baptist Church, he being one of the Trustees. He has taken a continued and growing interest in Sunday-school work, and for many years held the office of Sunday-school Superintendent. In religious circles and throughout the entire community he is eminently respected and esteemed. This is also true of Mrs. Webb and the daughters.

A view of Mr. Webb's homestead is presented on an adjoining page.

JOHN HERMANN ARENDS, one of the wealthy men of Rock Creek Precinct, is a leading land-owner and agriculturist, being proprietor of nearly a section of land finely improved and well stocked. His homestead, a view of which we present in this volume, lies on section 32, and is a place creditable to the intelligence and industry of the proprietor. The buildings are convenient and substantial, the dwelling tasteful and commodious, the barns and out-buildings admirably adapted to the general requirements of farm life.

Mr. Arends crossed the Mississippi as early as 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory, and located in this county, where he has since lived. A native of Madison County, Ill., he was born Aug. 26, 1855, and is the son of Reka and Talk Mary (Tetten) Arends, who were natives of Hanover, Germany, where they were reared, educated and married.

The father served the allotted time in the regular army, but after the birth of six children, not being satisfied with his prospects or his condition in the Fatherland, resolved to emigrate to the United States. They made the voyage across the Atlantic early in the fifties, locating in Madison County, Ill., where our subject and his sister Catrenia were born. A few years later the family all came to Nebraska, there being now nine children in the household circle. The elder Arends pre-empted a quarter of section 30, Rock Creek Precinct, but less than two years later traded it for the same amount on section 32. Their neighbors at this time were few and far between, and the family were first sheltered in a log cabin. The father immediately set himself to work to cultivate the soil and build up a homestead, and was prospered in his labors. His death occurred on the 19th of September, 1874, when he was sixty-four years of age. He was an honest and industrious man, and a lifelong member of the German Lutheran Church. The circumstances of his death were peculiarly sad, it having been occasioned by his falling from a wagon-load of lumber, and he was instantly killed. This was during the erection of the First Lutheran Church in Rock Creek Precinct, the building material of which Mr. Arends was hauling from Nebraska City. He was a man greatly respected by all who knew him, and his death cast a gloom over the community. The mother is yet living, and makes her home with her son, our subject, being now seventy-one years old. She is still active in mind and body, and also a member of the German Lutheran Church.

Our subject was a child four years of age when he came with his parents to Nebraska, and acquired his education in the pioneer schools of this county. He was at an early period in his life taught those habits of industry and economy which have proved the secret of his success. Upon reaching manhood he was married in Rock Creek Precinct. Nov. 4, 1880, to Miss Lizzie Kastens, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 15, 1862. Her parents were Chris and Dora (Mesegadus) Kastens, also natives of Hanover, who came to the United States while their daughter Lizzie was an infant. They settled first in Wisconsin, but about 1875 moved from there to Nebraska, settling in Rock Creek Precinct, where they now live upon a good farm, and surrounded by all the comforts of life. Mrs. Arends received a common-school education, and lived with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of four children—Mary T., Dora S. Leta M. and Reka F. They are all at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Arends were brought up in the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, and are numbered among its most cheerful and liberal supporters. Mr. A., politically, is a stanch Republican, and has held the various minor offices of his precinct.

R. G. BEETEM, the genial and popular landlord of the Hendricks Hotel in the little city of this name, is numbered among its leading men, as one taking a prominent and active part in all worthy public enterprises. He commenced at the foot of the ladder in life, and has worked his way up to a good position socially and financially. He put up the house which he now controls in 1888, and in its management has been ably assisted by one of the most excellent of women, Mrs. Beetem being an entertaining, intelligent hostess, who makes friends of all who have the good fortune to sojourn within her hospitable doors.

The subject of our sketch is the son of John D. and Mary (Burnum) Beetem, who were natives of Kentucky. In the sketch of his brother, John Beetem, found elsewhere in this volume, will be noted a more extended history of the parents. Our subject was born in Alamakee County, Iowa, near the then humble village of Lansing, on the 11th of June, 1855. He was reared as a farmer's boy, and attended the common school until fourteen years of age. Death then entered the family circle, removing the father and head of the household, and our subject was thrown mostly upon his own resources. In company with his brother John T., in June, 1870, he started overland to Nebraska, and they spent the following six months in Hendricks Precinct, this county. On their journey hither they

came through a stretch of country where wild game was plentiful, and saw numbers of elk and deer, who had hardly learned to be afraid of the rifle of the white man.

At the expiration of the time spoken of our subject returned to his old home in Lansing, where he remained three weeks, when he took up his residence in Hancock County, where he was employed on a farm about five years. Then returning to Lansing, he began operating an elevator, but not having recovered from the Western fever, one day took the train for Syracuse, this county, and soon afterward we find him again in Hendricks Precinct. Here he began farming, at which he continued for a period of ten years, at the end of which time he put up the Hendricks Hotel, which he has since conducted.

Our subject was married in Hendricks Precinct, April 2, 1883, to Miss Mary Flinn, a native of Sangamon County, Ill. Mrs. Beetem was born March 24, 1864, and was the sixth in a family of sixteen children, the offspring of Charles and Ann (Keegan) Flinn, who were natives of Ireland, and came to America in 1866, locating shortly after their arrival in this county. Mr. K. has been very prosperous in his adopted country, and is now the owner of 280 acres of fine land, comprising a good farm with the necessary improvements, and located in Hendricks Precinct.

Mr. and Mrs. Beetem became the parents of two children, Mary A. and John C. The latter died when one week old. Our subject and his estimable wife are members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and Mr. B., politically, is one of the most reliable adherents of the Democratic party.

JOHN R. STEELE, one of the old citizens of Otoe County, and in fact, also of the State, is widely known and greatly respected, and carries on a successful business at Talmage, where he is connected with fire and life insurance, working for the Commercial Union, North British, Mercantile, the German of Freeport, and the German of Peoria Companies, and with the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York City. His connection with insurance dates from 1882, when Talmage Village was chartered. He has identified himself with almost every enterprise that is calculated to be a permanent benefit to the place, and has earned a reputation accordingly.

Mr. Steele was the first Postmaster of the town, and held the position for three years. He is now the Treasurer of the Building and Loan Association of Talmage, which has done good work since its organization in February, 1883. Its influence has been felt even beyond the city, and is one of the institutions that has helped to make the town what it is. Three years also he was Director of Public Schools, an office that he filled most creditably.

Before coming to this county Mr. Steele was successful as a farmer in Four Mile Precinct, and he now owns a fine property of forty acres near the town limits of Talmage, and also an addition, embracing eighteen lots, part of which has been sold and improved. He helped in the erection of the first building in Talmage, and has with much pride and pleasure watched the rapid progress recently made in the extension and welfare generally of the place.

With the exception of the years 1868, 1869 and 1870, Mr. Steele has been a resident of Nebraska since 1855. Prior to coming to Talmage his home was in Nebraska City and in the vicinity of that place for twenty-five years. There also he was engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, and being a thoroughly practical man, saw much prosperity therein. During the three years of his absence above mentioned he was farming in Nodaway County, Mo., but was not sufficiently enamoured of that district to remain longer.

The subject of our sketch was a resident of Fremont County, Iowa, from the year 1849 until he came to this State, and was one of the first settlers and pioneers of that district. He passed through the then not unusual experiences inseparably connected with such a new order of things, and helped in the development of that recently opened district.

Virginia is the native State of our subject, and was his home until he went to Fremont County, Iowa. He was born in Tazewell County, Va., on the 13th of June, 1841. The great-grandfather of

our subject was the first member of this family to settle in America, coming from his German home and settling in Wythe County, Va. There was born to him a son, David Steele, whose son William R. is the father of our subject.

David Steele was a prosperous and extensive Virginia farmer, and married a lady a native of that State, who presented him with nine children. After their children had almost all grown up he removed to Kentucky, and there died in the year 1863, at an advanced age. His wife, whose maiden name was Martha Peery, survived him, and afterward went to Missouri, where she died at the home of one of her children, having passed the allotted threescore years and ten.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. David Steele nine children, the father of our subject being one of the older children. He grew to years of manhood in Tazewell County, Va., and was married to Nancy Peery, who was born of Virginia parentage, in Tazewell County, and was there educated and brought up. The family of which she was a member was one of the oldest and most respected in Virginia, and was of Scottish extraction. W. Peery became prominent in both religious and political circles. He was for many years a minister of the Methodist Church, and in addition held many offices of political connection, receiving on several different occasions marked expressions of confidence and esteem from his fellow-citizens. He departed this life at the age of ninety-four years. Mr. Peery is still remembered as the writer of many religious and other songs, and various literary efforts on a number of subjects. His son John was the father of Mrs. Nancy (Peery) Steele.

After his marriage the father of our subject began farming, but never accumulated a very large competency. In 1849, he, with eight other heads of families, accompanied by their wives and children, left their homes in Tazewell County and started for the Golden State, taking passage at Kenoa, on the Ohio River, and went west to the Mississippi, thence up the latter river, intending to leave the boat and go by land from St. Joseph, Mo., but after the boat got on its way to St. Joseph, the dread disease cholera attacked those aboard, and before they got to St. Joseph six of the original nine promoters of the enterprise had sickened and died, the father of our subject being one of the number.

The above-mentioned disaster frustrated the intentions of the little party, and left the families in almost destitute circumstances. Mrs. Steele with her children, and in company with another family, then went to Fremont County, Iowa, settling in the wilds of that comparatively unknown district. The family was poor, the children small, and the circumstances and surroundings the very reverse of favorable. Nevertheless, mother love was sufficient to supply spirit, nerve and strength enough to provide for and take care of the five little ones for several years. In the year 1854 Mrs. Steele married her second husband, John W. Bounds. They settled in Four Mile Precinct, where they continued to live for several years, and there she died at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Bounds had died about two years previously while on a visit to Missouri.

The subject of our sketch was the first son and second child of five children born to his parents. He was eight years of age when the disastrous river voyage was undertaken. One year after landing in Iowa it was his misfortune to meet with an accident that left him a cripple for life. From the age of nine years until he was sixteen he was unable to do without his crutches and do anything to earn his living. When sixteen years of age, in spite of having had but few educational advantages, he had through the long years of his sickness become quite a bookworm, and by that means had become quite a student and a well-educated man. He is a splendid business man, and has a large circle of friends, more especially among the business men of the county.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated in Four Mile Precinct, this county, the lady of his choice being Miss Jane Biggs, who was born in Weston, Tenn., on the 29th of April, 1844. She is the daughter of Allen and Polly (Flatford) Biggs. Her mother died in Tennessee in the year 1856, and her father, who is a native of Tennessee and a farmer by occupation, is still living, and makes his home in Delta, this county, at the age of sixty-eight years.

There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele eleven children, five of whom are yet living, and

whose names are as follows: William A., Frank P., Lucy B., Stully and Gladys. The deceased children bore the subjoined names: Douglas, Nancy A., Mary, John R., Roscoe and Dora. The surviving members of this family are still at home with their parents.

Mr. Steele is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and well received among his fellow-members of Eureka Lodge No. 8, of Talmage. He is recognized as one of the leaders of the Prohibition party, and has the distinguished honor of being the father of the party in this city. He is a liberal contributor to many Prohibition newspapers in a literary way, and the articles from his pen, terse, logical, trenchant and finished, are proof of his abilities in that direction. His fellow-townsmen manifested their confidence and esteem by nominating Mr. Steele for the State Legislature from this county on the Prohibition ticket.

MAGNUS TAYLOR JOHNSON. In the fall of 1857 the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this biography established himself in a modest way in his present business. In time this expanded to important proportions, and Mr. Johnson has now for many years been general agent for the lines of steamers from America to all points of the world. His natural intelligence and faculty of observation have proved qualities amply adapted to his branch of the business, of which he has made a success. By prompt attention to the details thereof, and his courteous manner of dealing with the general public, he has become widely and favorably known, especially among the circles where he has been the most largely called to operate. He is a man now of wealth and prominence, and one amply worthy of representation in a work of this kind, which comprises a record of those who by their enterprise have been important factors in the building up of Nebraska City.

The parents of our subject, Anderson and Ellen Johnson, were natives of Scandinavia, and are now deceased. Their family consisted of four children, of whom our subject came to America. Magnus T. was born in the district of Christianstadt, Aug. 31, 1829, and attended school quite regularly near the home of his childhood until a lad fourteen years of age. He was then sent by his parents to the city of Berlin, Germany, where he prosecuted his studies in the High School until 1851, being then a young man twenty-two years of age, the master of fine acquirements, and having become familiar with several languages.

Before the close of his last term in the High School young Johnson, who had signalized himself as a youth of more than ordinary intelligence, was solicited by a Scandinavian colony to accompany them to America as interpreter, to which he consented, expecting to return to his own country when his mission had ended. After landing in the city of Quebec, however, he determined to explore a portion of the West, and coming over into the States, proceeded first to Chicago, and from there to Knox County, Ill., with teams. He stopped for a short time in the then little hamlet of Knoxville, and later went to Oquawka on the east bank of the Mississippi River, and in Henderson County. At this point Mr. Johnson engaged as clerk in a store, where he staid one year. He then went to Monmouth, in Warren County, and opened a clothing store, being engaged in this business there until 1856. Having in the meantime sold a considerable proportion of his goods on credit, he was in consequence a heavy loser, and was obliged on this account to close up his business, disposing of the remains of it for almost nothing.

Notwithstanding this experience, however, Mr. Johnson still believed there were opportunities in America not to be found in his own country, and he determined here to abide. The winter of 1856–57 we find him in Nebraska City, to which he had come via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, landing with a capital of $70 in his pocket. He at once procured employment, carrying chain for a surveyor, at which he was employed during that summer. In the spring of 1858 he established the business at which he is still engaged, and which has been, especially during late years, the source of a handsome income.

The marriage of Magnus Taylor Johnson and Miss Charlotte Waterfall was celebrated at the

home of the bride in Nebraska City, Oct. 12, 1858. Mrs. Johnson was born in Hampshire, England, Aug. 11, 1837, and came to America with her parents. Her father was a watchmaker by occupation, and the parents settled first in Cleveland, Ohio. The mother spent the last years of her life in St. Joseph; the father died in Illinois. Their family consisted of five children.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson commenced the journey of life together in a modest home in accordance with their means, and have now for a period of over thirty years been residents of Nebraska City. They have watched with lively interest the growth and development of one of the most flourishing commonwealths of the West, and Mr. Johnson, in the building up of one of its most important industries, has thus contributed his quota to the advancement of his adopted city. They have now a handsome and comfortable home, and enjoy the friendship of a large number of the best people around them. Their union has been blessed by the birth of six children, namely: Frederick, Henry, Crena, Charles, Nellie and Monas. The eldest of these is twenty-nine years of age and the youngest is eight. Mr. Johnson, politically, votes the Republican ticket, and in religious matters he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Episcopal Church.

In the spring of 1869 Mr. Johnson opened a hotel on Central avenue, where he officiated as "mine host" for a period of eight years. The house under his management became extremely popular, and was the favorite resort for travelers throughout this region.

COL. S. N. STEWART, the well-known inventor and builder of the Pontoon bridge, which has proved such a boom to Nebraska City, is worthy of more than a passing mention in this work. At the organization of the Pontoon Bridge Company, he was unanimously selected as its President, and still holds the position. He is a native of Ohio, having been born at Marietta, April 27, 1845, and there spent the early years of his life. His father was a wholesale boot and shoe merchant, and the family moved across the Mississippi to Iowa in 1859, when our subject was a lad of fourteen years.

Young Stewart continued a resident of the Hawkeye State until the outbreak of the Rebellion, and at the early age of sixteen years enlisted as a private in Company E, 18th Iowa Infantry, which was assigned to duty on the frontier. He went in as a private, and by the faithful discharge of his duties was in due time promoted to the rank of Captain. Later his strong Abolition sentiments induced him to resign his captaincy in the 18th Iowa for a First Lieutenantcy in a colored regiment—this being the 62d Regiment United States Infantry, serving on the Rio Grande. In the conflict at Palmetto Ranch, in Texas, on account of his gallant services, he was breveted Lieutenant Colonel. This was the last battle of the war, and Lieut. Stewart was the last man wounded, May 13, 1866, on the Union side in the late Rebellion.

After the war was ended our subject devoted himself to invention, and in 1876 crossed the Atlantic and remained in Europe for a period of five years, during which time he secured letters patent for his River Motor, disposing of the Austrian and Russian patents to a company in Vienna. In the meantime he traveled extensively in most of the countries of Europe, making the acquaintance of various notable personages, princes and potentates. Upon returning to the United States in 1881, he settled in Philadelphia, and has devoted himself entirely to his inventions for the past six or seven years. About half of this time, however, he has spent abroad. The Deep Sea Sounder, described in the *Engineering News* of 1883, is his invention, and is now largely in use in the English navy. The Current Motor, described in the same periodical, is also his invention.

The Pontoon bridge, however, is perhaps one of the most popular and useful inventions of Col. Stewart. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1888, and at once arranged to put in one of these across the Missouri River. It has given universal satisfaction, and is considered a great advantage to the city. Although Col. Stewart has become widely and favorably known among the business men of this place, he still calls Philadelphia his home. His

wife was formerly Miss Nannie Wilson, the only daughter of Hon. John S. Wilson, the well-known philanthropist of Adams County, Ohio, and whose latest benefaction was $50,000 donated for the purpose of founding an orphan asylum in Adams County. To Mr and Mrs. Stewart there have been born three children—Lulu, Noble and Donald. Col. Stewart makes his Western headquarters at Nebraska City, in whose future he has great faith. He is a liberal-minded and public-spirited citizen, and his generosity in assisting to build the street car line will long be remembered by its people.

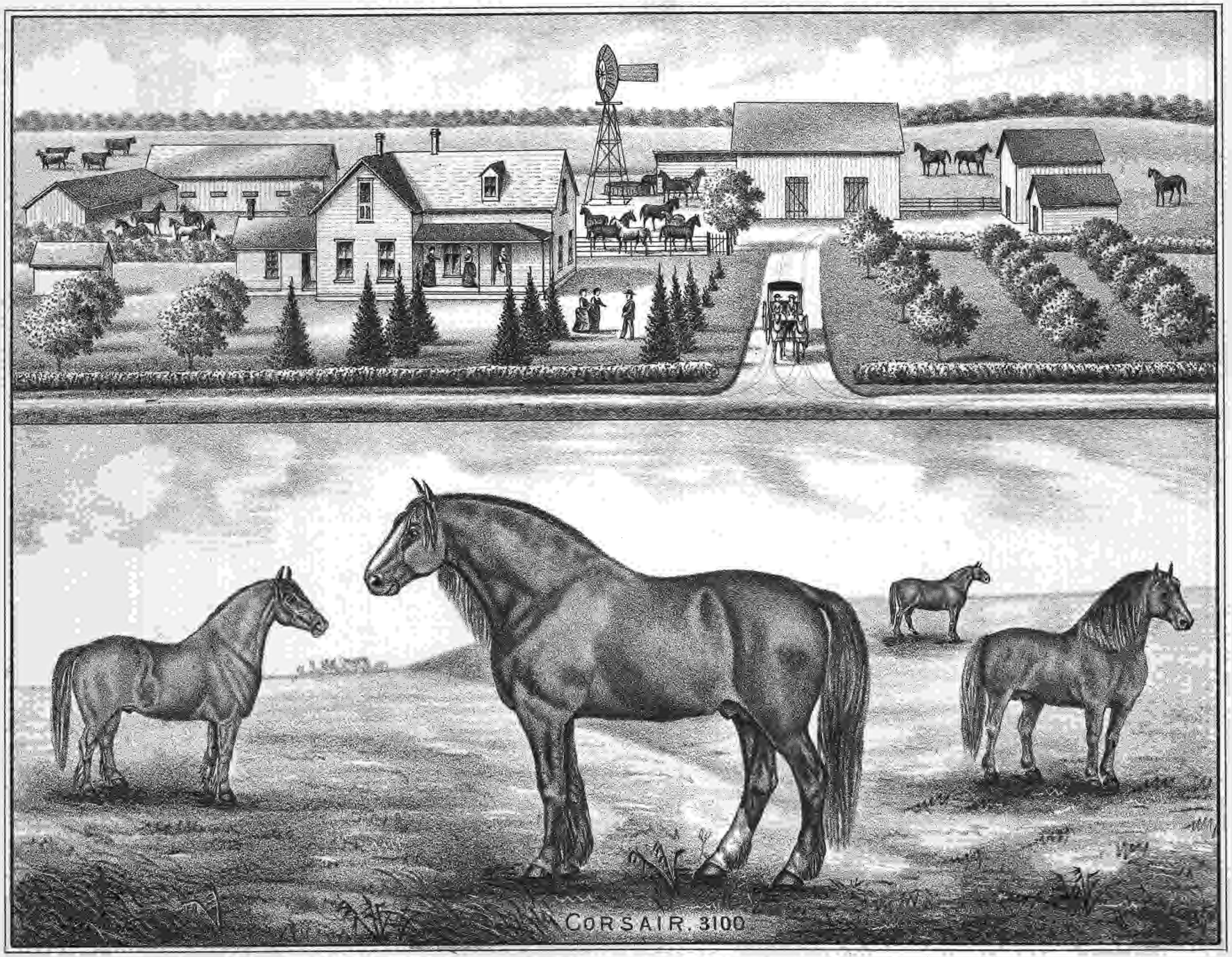
LEWIS B. RICHARD. Among the agriculturists of Palmyra Precinct few are more thoroughly practical, enterprising and truly successful than Mr. Richard, who operates 160 acres on section 31. He is the son of Phillip and Sarah (Buchanan) Richard, who were natives respectively of Lycoming and Union Counties, Pa., where their parents settled and continued to reside after their marriage. There the father died in the year 1849, when our subject was about seven years of age, he himself being in the prime of life, and but thirty-five years old. This left his wife with the care of six children, viz: Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, Louis B., Albert and John Jacob. Edward served in the army, and fell at the post of duty. Albert served for two and John for five years with the army.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 30th of June, 1842, at Williamsport, Pa. He enjoyed the advantages of a common-school education, in spite of the fact that he began to work out at the early age of eight years. In 1868, in company with his mother he went to Stephenson County, Ill., and there remained for about two years. There subsequently he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellen Snyder. This lady is the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Snyder (the reader is referred to the sketch of Mr. Snyder, which appears in this volume.) Her mother died while she was quite small, and her father died in 1886, aged eighty years. This is a step they have never had occasion to regret, and their home is one of the bright and cheery places that are at the foundation of the prosperity of the nation. Their union has been happily consummated by the birth of three children, William, Luella and Jessie, of whom they are justly proud.

The first few years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Richard lived in Stephenson County, where he operated a farm. The same year that Lincoln was located he paid his first visit to Nebraska, and took a great fancy to the country. The second time that he came to this State was in 1879, and then he was accompanied by his wife and two children, and located on the northwest quarter of section 31, which he purchased almost immediately on arrival.

Mr. Richard has not been prominent in civic affairs, but has served one term as Director of Schools. In politics he is strictly independent, being swayed only by principles, and voting only for men of principle. He is a pronounced temperance man, and a worker in that cause. With his wife, he is numbered among the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in good standing, and there, as elsewhere in the community, they are held in high regard. The property of our subject is thoroughly improved, his residence is a pretentious, pleasant and comfortable dwelling, and his farm buildings are as good as any that can be found in the county. He has recently erected a very fine frame barn, standing 46x50 feet, and designed to meet every requirement incidental to the farm.

JOHN J. CASPERS. The subject of this narrative represents a large amount of property in Rock Creek Precinct, his landed estate embracing 480 acres on section 32, and a like amount in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County. The most of this is in a productive condition, and yields to the proprietor a handsome income. The homestead is located on section 32, occupying one of the finest situations in the county, and affording an extended view of the surrounding country. Everything that taste and means could suggest has been done to render it attractive, and



RESIDENCE OF REUBEN CHURCH, SEC. 13. OTOE PRECINCT, OTOE COUNTY. NEBRASKA.

the inmates are surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Caspers came to Nebraska while it was a Territory in the fall of 1856, and pre-empted 120 acres of land in Nemaha County. He took up his residence in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, in 1872. The distinguishing trait of his character has been a resolute perseverance that has kept him steadily at work, and which has enabled him to accomplish the fine results which are apparent to-day in his surroundings and his possessions.

Our subject was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, Feb. 10, 1831, and is the offspring of a good family, his father being John Caspers, Sr., who carried on agriculture successfully upon his native soil and there spent his entire life, dying at the ripe old age of eighty years. He had married in early manhood Miss Hilka Zimmermann, a native of the same Province as her husband, and who died several years before his decease, also well advanced in years. They were people greatly respected in their community, members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and the parents of seven children. Only one brother of our subject emigrated to America, and is now a resident of Nemaha County, Neb.

Mr. Caspers received a good practical education in his native tongue, and worked with his father on the farm until reaching manhood. He was then married to Miss Margaret Barans, who was also born in Hanover, Oct. 10, 1827. Her parents, Lawrence and Ricksta (Johnson) Barans, were also natives of Hanover, and the father a farmer by occupation. They died not far from the place of their birth, when quite aged. Their daughter Margaret remained with them until her marriage.

To Mr. and Mrs. Caspers there have been born nine children, with five of whom they have been called to part, namely: Maggie (1st), Thomas, Maggie (2d), and two infants unnamed. John, their eldest son living, married Miss Mattie Hillis, and is farming in Benton Precinct, Nemaha County; Lawrence married Miss Mary Hillis, and they are living on a farm in Rock Creek Precinct; Benjamin married Miss Ida Pracht, and lives on a farm in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County; Ellen is at home with her parents. Both parents and children are members of the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Caspers, in politics, is a fervent supporter of Democratic principles. Mr. Caspers upon reaching the United States located in Madison County, Ill., where he lived two years, and thence came to Nebraska. A view of Mr. Caspers' place is shown on another page.

REUBEN CHURCH. Both physically and mentally considered, the subject of this sketch would at once attract the attention of any intelligent individual, and within the confines of Otoe Precinct there are none held more generally in respect on account of sterling worth of character combined with more than ordinary capabilities. Of noble stature and commanding presence, he also has a mind in keeping with the physical qualities bestowed upon him by a kindly Providence. Presiding over his domestic affairs his wife, Mrs. Lydia Church, is a lady in every way suited to her position as the companion of such a man as her husband, and one who in her younger years must have been a lady of uncommon beauty. She still retains a large measure of her youthful attractiveness, and is the mother of a blooming family, which the parents may be pardoned for looking upon with great pride.

Mr. Church owns and operates 245 acres of valuable land lying upon sections 13 and 18. Upon this he has labored for the last twenty years, and has very nearly brought it to perfection, the soil being in a highly productive condition, and the farm buildings, live stock and machinery of first-class description. The residence, a tasteful and commodious frame structure, is flanked by good barns and outhouses, an ample orchard, shade and fruit trees, and the usual appliances of the well-regulated country estate. The farm is largely devoted to the raising of fine stock, Mr. Church making a specialty of the celebrated Clydesdale horses. In this line he exhibits some of the handsomest specimens of the equine race to be found in Southeastern Nebraska.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, being the elder of two children born to Charles and Sally (Dutton) Church, who were both natives

of Rutland County, Vt., born near the town of that name. The paternal great-grandfather carried a musket in the Revolutionary War, while Grandfather Church served in the War of 1812. The family is of English ancestry, and the first representatives it is supposed settled in the Green Mountain State during the Colonial days. The parents of our subject were married in New York State, and settled on a farm in St. Lawrence County, where they lived until 1835. Thence they removed to Ohio, and thereafter for a time lived in the vicinity of the Black River, in Lorain County. The father, however, in 1848, not yet satisfied with his surroundings, pushed on still further westward with his family, locating first in DeKalb County, Ill. Later he crossed the Mississippi into Iowa, and settled upon a farm in Hancock County, where he was greatly prospered in his labors as an agriculturist and accumulated a fine property. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-four years, and died at the homestead in Iowa, Dec. 25, 1884.

Mrs Sally (Dutton) Church, the mother of our subject, had died when a young woman only twenty-three years of age, during the residence of the family in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., leaving two children: Reuben, of our sketch, and his sister Polly. The latter is now the wife of Henry Cunningham, of Boone County, Ill., and they are the parents of one child. Charles Church after the death of his first wife was married again, in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., to Miss Calista Smith, and to them were born eleven children. The stepmother and her children are still living in the Hawkeye State.

Reuben Church was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., Nov. 26, 1826, and was a lad of eight years when his father removed to Ohio. He was educated in the common schools, and remained a member of his father's household until reaching his majority. In the fall of 1850 he started out for himself, making his way first to Chippewa County, Wis., where he was employed in the lumber regions for a period of four years. During this time he received a salary of $26 per month the year around, saved what he could of his earnings, and thus laid the foundation of a future prosperity.

Up to this time Mr. Church, although now nearly twenty-nine years of age, had wisely refrained from taking upon himself the responsibilities which too many men and women thoughtlessly assume, but he now judged it proper to begin the establishment of a home and domestic ties of his own. He had in the meanwhile formed the acquaintance of Miss Lydia Little, one of the most attractive and estimable young ladies of the Prairie State, as sensible as she was beautiful, and who fully appreciated the manly qualities of her stalwart suitor. Returning to DeKalb County, Ill., our subject was united in marriage with this lady at her home in Belvidere, March 27, 1855, amid the congratulations and best wishes of many friends, who voted them the handsomest pair seen in that region for many a day.

A few months after their marriage our subject and his young wife moved to Iowa, and Mr. Church purchased 160 acres of land in Avery Township, Hancock County. He entered earnestly upon the cultivation and improvement of his purchase and was greatly prospered. While at the same time prosecuting his labors as an agriculturist he became prominent in the affairs of Hancock County, his evident talents having obtained ready recognition among the people in that section of the Hawkeye State. He was instrumental in the organization of the county in 1858, and was elected its first Treasurer. He was twice re-elected to this office, serving a term of six years, and for four years of this time was also the County Recorder, holding both offices, as was frequently done in the new counties. For a number of years he officiated as Justice of the Peace. He was the Postmaster at Upper Grove in the same county during the administration of three Presidents, Buchanan, Lincoln and Johnson, resigning the office upon his removal from the State.

Although having little to complain of in his experience as an Iowa farmer and citizen, the reports reaching Mr. Church from the Territory of Nebraska induced him to change his location. He certainly has had little reason to regret this change and neither have the people around him. Since that time he has been a resident of Otoe Precinct, this county. He has studiously avoided mixing in public affairs since coming to Nebraska, preferring to give his attention to his farm and his family, al-

though he keeps himself well posted upon current events and continues a warm supporter of the principles of the Republican party. He has acquitted himself in an admirable manner, both as an agriculturist and a citizen. No man stands higher in the community, which he has been no unimportant factor in bringing to its present position, representing the intelligence and the enterprise of Southern Nebraska. The Church homestead is regarded with unalloyed admiration by every traveler passing through this section of the country, and a view of this, which we present in connection with this sketch, serves not only to embellish the ALBUM of Otoe County, but illustrates the labors and successes of one of its most prominent and valued citizens.

Of the eight children born to Reuben and Lydia (Little) Church the record is as follows: The eldest daughter, Sarah E., is the wife of Edgar Clayton, a well-to-do and highly respected farmer of Otoe Precinct; Reuben D., a youth of great promise, is a student in the State University at Lincoln, expecting to be graduated in the class of '89; Frances, a young lady of fine attainments, and a graduate of the Peru Normal School, is a popular teacher at Exeter, Neb., having charge of the grammar department; Ella, the third child, died Jan. 18, 1888, at the age of twenty-six years; Andrew died when a babe of fifteen months; Anna, also a graduate of the Peru Normal School, is a teacher in the grammar department of the graded school at Stromsburg: John and Katie I., also pupils of the Peru Normal School, give promise of distinguishing themselves in a manner similiar to that of the elder children. Together they form a bright and interesting group, and will in due time take their places in the community as the most worthy representatives of one of the leading families of the "Water Valley."

GEORGE W. EISER, of Nebraska City, has been successfully operating a meat market for the past twenty years, during which time he has built up a prosperous trade. A native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, he was born Jan. 31, 1845, and is the son of George G. Eiser, who with his wife was also of German birth and parentage, and both died in their native land. There were two brothers beside our subject, Casper, who died in Peoria County, Ill., and John M., who still resides there.

Our subject remained a resident of his native province until sixteen years of age, in the meantime attending school until fourteen. He then commenced learning the trade of tanner, which he followed until 1862, in which year he came to the United States. He set sail from the port of Bremen and landed in New York City, whence he proceeded directly to Peoria, Ill., where he arrived with a capital of $1.50 in his pocket. He secured employment with a butcher at $10 per month and remained one and one-half years. He became familiar with this trade also and finally started for Nebraska, landing in Omaha, where he worked a few months and then migrated to North Platte, where he stayed six months. Thence he returned to Omaha, from there drifted back to Peoria, remaining until 1868. We next find him in Minonk, Woodford Co., Ill., with a capital of $150, opening a meat shop on his own account. He soon commenced buying and shipping cattle, and in a comparatively short time accumulated $12,000. He soon parted with this, however, and in 1870 concluded to seek his fortunes again in the farther West. He started out with a team of horses and wagon and traversed the State of Missouri, thence went to Solomon, Kan., and later turned his steps toward Nebraska, locating not long afterward in Nebraska City.

A few weeks later Mr. E. purchased a meat market and has been in business continuously since that time. In 1874 he returned to his old home in Germany and was married to Miss Lena Spengler, like himself a native of Hesse-Darmstadt. The newly married pair shortly afterward set out for the United States. They are now the parents of six children, Geo. W., Hattie, John M., Carl, Carrie and Amelia. Mr. Eiser, politically, supports Democratic principles. In 1882 he was elected Alderman of the second ward and re-elected in 1887. Socially, he belongs to Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., Eureka Lodge No. 3, K. of P., Nuckolls Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W., and Camp No. 331, Modern Woodmen.

FRANCIS E. BROWN, Attorney-at-Law of Syracuse, located here in 1878. He was born in Livingston County, N. Y., July 1, 1847, and is the son of Francis and Harriet Brown. He was reared to manhood in his native State and received his education in the common schools. In 1859 he went to Darlington, Wis., where he remained until 1864. The Civil War being then in progress he enlisted in Co. E., 142d Illinois Infantry, in which he served until the close of the struggle.

In 1866 young Brown commenced the study of

medicine in the office of Drs. Hoyte and Johnson, in Hudson, N. Y., where he remained one year. Next in Mount Morris he read law with the firm of Wisner & Gamble, and was admitted to the bar at Rochester in 1871. He commenced practice at Mount Morris with Judge Norton, but subsequently removed to Newark, in Wayne County. In 1878 he started westward and not long afterward located in Syracuse, this county.

Mr. Brown was married in 1883 to Hattie W., daughter of Geo. Hartley of Syracuse, and they have two children, Duane and Vida. Politically he is an active Republican, and has frequently held the local offices. He was one time made the candidate of his party for State Senator, but was defeated by sixteen votes. Socially, he belongs to the Masonic Fraternity and is an Adjutant-General in the G. A. R. under Commander-in-Chief Vandervoort.

DR. W. C. CLARY, familiarly known as a competent veterinary surgeon of Nebraska City, was born in what was then Sangamon County, Ill., but is now Menard County, at Clary's Grove, Feb. 26, 1823. He was the seventh child and sixth son in a family of fourteen children, the offspring of John and Rhoda (Armstrong) Clary, the former a native of Lincoln County, Ky., and the latter of Tennessee. They were married in the latter State and removed to the Territory of Illinois in the fall of 1817, settling in Sangamon County, and the father thereafter voted on the slavery question and the adoption of the State Constitution.

John Clary made the first entry of land in the Springfield district, carried on farming, took an active part in politics and served as Justice of the Peace and County Commissioner. He and his father in the spring of 1819 settled at what was afterward known as Clary's Grove, when there were no white residents within five miles. Our subject received his education in the primitive schools, the first building in that vicinity devoted to this purpose being a log house on his father's farm. He waded through slough and snow across the prairie in the pursuance of his studies, and from his boyhood up entertained a remarkable liking for animals. He grew up strong and healthy, and when attaining manhood was married Aug. 19, 1847, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Green) Watkins, who was born and reared not far from the early home of her husband.

Our subject came to Nebraska with his family in 1858, employing ten days in making a trip which can now be accomplished in nineteen hours. They located on a claim in Nemeha County, and endured the common lot of pioneers. Our subject improved a farm, which he left in 1877 for Nebraska City, where he entered upon the practice of his profession, in which during all these years he had been perfecting himself. He has signalized himself as a liberal and public citizen.

To Dr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Clary there were born nine children, namely: Robert M., George, Andrew J., who died in Illinois; Mary F., John L. also died in Illinois; William M.; Henry L., an infant, and Anna S. The present wife of our subject was formerly Miss Angeline G., daughter of James and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Hayes, to whom he was married April 30, 1871. This lady was born in Atchison County, Mo., and lived there until eleven years old. Thence she removed with her mother to Iowa, the father having gone to California, where he died. She lived in Iowa until her marriage. Of this union there are five children, the eldest of whom, Cora E., is a successful teacher; Martha E., Charles C., Lula E. and Ralph F. are at home with their parents.

The Dr. in 1874 lost $6,000 by going security for a friend, which left him bankrupt. He endeavors however, to make the best of circumstances. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party. During the Mexican War he enlisted June 16, 1846, in the 4th Illinois Infantry and served about six months, being discharged for disability. During the late Civil War he also participated in the conflict for union and freedom.

JOSIAH ROBERTS, a resident of Syracuse Precinct, settled here in February, 1883. He was born in Clinton County, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1830, and is the son of James and Mary (Antrim) Roberts, who were natives of Tennessee and of Welsh and English parentage respectively. The paternal grandfather, John Roberts, settled first in Tennessee, whence he removed to Ohio, where he spent his last day. He married Miss Phebe Myers, who was of German extraction. The maternal grandparents were natives of England.

The parents of our subject were married in Tennessee whence they removed to Ohio, settling in Clinton County during its pioneer days. Later they were residents of Logan County. James Roberts served under Gen. Andrew Jackson in the War

of 1812. Both he and his wife died in Logan County, Ohio, leaving a family of fourteen children, all of whom grew to mature years and of whom our subject was the ninth in order of birth. He was but two years old when the family took up their residence in Logan County, where he lived until eighteen years of age, and in the meantime commenced work at the blacksmith trade.

From Ohio, in 1851, Josiah Roberts removed to Knox County, Ill., and from there later to Fremont County, Iowa. Still later we find him at Fort Kearney, Nebraska, where he operated a blacksmith-shop in the employ of the Government eighteen months. He next migrated to Atchison County, Mo., where, in 1854, he was married to Elizabeth H. Wilson. Mrs. Roberts was born in Indiana. After marriage they came to Nebraska and our subject pre-empted land in Nemeha County upon which he made some improvements, then returned to Fremont County, Iowa, where he followed farming and blacksmithing until 1862,

The next removal of Mr. Roberts was to Mills County, Iowa, and at Glenwood he conducted a blacksmith-shop until after the war. He them settled on a farm in that county where he prosecuted agriculture until 1883, the year of his removal to this State, when he settled where he now lives. He owns 320 acres of good land here, besides two tracts, 320 and 160 acres respectively, in Russell Precinct. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping about 150 head of cattle. His success has been largely due to the increasing value of his land. In Iowa he owned a whole section. He paid for his present farm $8,000, for the 320 acres in Russell precinct $5,000, and for the 160 acres $2,500.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have ten children living, namely; Lucinda, James N., Isaac M., Jasper M., Emmett, Bartley, Fanny, Edward, Luke and Alvira, Mr. Roberts, politically, is Independent, supporting such men as he believes are qualified for office. His estimable wife is a member of the Christian Church.

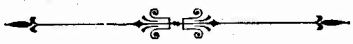
HON. SAMUEL HOWARD CALHOUN, a prominent resident of this county, was born in Boston, Mass., May 27, 1836. His father, Charles Calhoun, was also a native of Boston, and his paternal grandfather, Andrew Calhoun, was born in Ireland. The latter came to America when a young man, locating first in Boston, and from there removed to New Hampshire, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. He spent his last days in the city of Concord. He was a Presbyterian in his belief, and in this faith reared his children. Of these there were nine who grew to mature years. Their mother in her girlhood was Martha Chamberlain. Charles Calhoun, the father of our subject, was reared in his native city, and took to mercantile pursuits, which he carried on in Boston. About 1830 he was elected Secretary of the Massachusetts State Senate, and, with the exception of two years, when the Know Nothing party was in power, served continuously nearly thirty years. He accumulated property and became owner of a country seat at Woburn, where he spent a part of each year. In 1866 he came to Nebraska, and died at the home of his son, our subject, in September, 1869.

The father of our subject, politically, was an old line Whig. He married Miss Almira Stevens, who was born in Burlington, Mass., and who survived her husband until February, 1874, having also spent her last days with her son, Samuel H. There were in the family, besides the latter two daughters, Martha, who died at the age of twenty years, and Mary, who died when twelve years old. Samuel H. attended the city schools during his boyhood, and later was graduated from the Latin School of Boston, under Prof. Francis Gardner. He next entered Williams College, and was graduated in the class of '57.

In the fall of the year above mentioned Mr. Calhoun came to Kansas to accept a position in the office of an uncle, who was Surveyor-General, with headquarters at Lecompton. The year following the office was removed to Nebraska City, and in the month of August, that year, our subject made his advent in this place. There was no railroad nearer than Jefferson City, and transportation was effected by water and stage. The town comprised an outfitting point for freighters going with Government stores to Utah. When the gold excitement broke out the Pike's Peak emigrants came this way, business was lively and money plenty. Nebraska was a Territory, much of the land belonging to the Government, and unsurveyed. Indians of various tribes frequented this locality.

Mr. Calhoun remained in the office of the Surveyor-General until the beginning of the year 1860. In the meantime he had been reading law, and in December of that year was admitted to the bar. He commenced practice in Nebraska City, continuing until 1886, when he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the district of Nebraska, comprising this Territory and Dakota, with headquarters at Omaha. Politically, he has always been a Democrat, and prominent in the party here. He served several terms as Mayor of Nebraska City, and Prosecuting Attorney for Otoe County.

He represented the county in the State Senate, and has been a delegate to the various conventions. In 1875 he participated in the revision of the State Constitution, being Chairman of the committee appointed therefor. He was married, in 1864, to Miss Matilda McMechan, and they have four childeren —John C., Annie, S. Howard and Alexander. Mrs. Howard was born at Glasgow, Mo., and is the daughter of John and Matilda McMechan, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.



HON. J. STERLING MORTON. This is one of the names inseparably associated with the early history of Otoe County. Coming to Nebraska when it was a wilderness, he located on a tract of unbroken prairie, adjacent to which Nebraska City afterward grew, and his career has been marked more by the desire to establish a home, in the truest significance of the word, than the acquisition of wealth or political fame. Arbor Lodge forms one of the rarest spots in the landscape of this county—the ideal country home blessed by happiness and content, a home of culture and refinement, but from which one of the lights went out on the 29th of June, 1881, when the wife and mother, to whose efforts had been largely due the building up of this home, departed hence. There were left four children—Joy, Paul, Mark and Carl.

A native of the town of Adams, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Mr. Morton was born April 22, 1832. The first representative of the family of whom there has been preserved any authentic record was Richard Morton, a Scotchman by birth, a Puritan in religion, and a blacksmith by trade. He removed at an early day from Hartford, Conn., to Hadley, Mass., and thence to Hatfield, about 1668. One of his immediate descendants was Abner Morton, the paternal grandfather of our subject, who was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1799. After his marriage he settled in St. Albans, Vt., and became the father of a son, Julius Dewen, the father of our subject.

Julius Dewen Morton was a man of marked ability, and made for himself an honorable record, both as a business man and a citizen, and at the time of his death was President of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, of Detroit. He married Emeline Sterling, Sept. 30, 1830, and they removed from New York State to Michigan when their son J. Sterling was but a lad. He subsequently attended school at Albion, was then admitted to the State University at Ann Arbor, and finally entered Union College, N. Y., then under charge of Dr. Eliphalet Nott, from whom he received his diploma in 1854. Prior to this he had shown strong predilections toward journalism, being a frequent contributor to the Detroit *Press*, and other papers of reputation.

On the 30th of October, 1854, occurred the marriage of J. Sterling Morton with Miss Caroline Ion French, of Detroit, with whom he had attended school from childhood, and to whom he had been betrothed at the age of sixteen. On the wedding day, accompanied by his wife, he started for Nebraska, and a few weeks later became owner of five town shares and seventy lots included in the present site of Nebraska City. He also became editor of the Nebraska City *News*, and was engaged in editorial work at intervals until 1877. In the meantime, the year after his arrival, he was elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was made a candidate the second term, but defeated by eighteen votes, in consequence of his opposition to the chartering of "wildcat" banks. He was reinstated as a member in 1857, and took an active part in the adjournment of the Legislature to Florence, a struggle as bitter perhaps as any in which Nebraska has been interested.

Mr. Sterling succeeded Thomas B. Cuming as Secretary of the Territory, in the spring of 1858, and a few months later, following the resignation of Gov. Richardson, became acting Governor. In the fall of 1860 he was nominated by the Democracy as a delegate to Congress, and was elected by a majority of fourteen votes. Secession coming on, and his party being in the minority, his seat was contested, and the question finally decided in favor of his opponent. He was at this time but twenty-nine years old, and on account of his more than ordinary capabilities there were enlisted in his behalf the strongest intellects on the Democratic side of the House. An able argument was made by Pendleton, sustained by speeches from Richardson, of Illinois; Vallandigham, Voorhees and John J. Crittenden, the last mentioned having moved and successfully insisted upon the passage of a resolution granting the defeated contestant mileage and pay for the time he was in Washington.

Upon returning home Mr. Morton took no active part in politics until the spring of 1866, when he received the gubernatorial nomination, contesting with David Butler the honor of being the first Governor of Nebraska as a State. In consequence of alleged irregularities in Rock Bluff Precinct, Cass County, by which about 160 ballots were thrown out, Butler was declared elected. Later, without a caucus being held, Mr. Morton received the entire strength of his party for United States Senator, but since that time he has withdrawn from political life, declining all nominations. He was

appointed to represent Nebraska at the Paris Exposition, and was one of the Commissioners at the National Centennial in 1876. He has served as President of the State Board of Agriculture and Horticulture, and is the originator of "Arbor Day," a festival adopted by many of the Western States.

CHARLES M. HUBNER, editor of the *Daily* and *Weekly News*, Nebraska City, is one of the leading journalists of Otoe County. He has traveled much in the United States, is a man of varied information, is fluent in conversation, and wields a ready pen. He was born in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 24, 1855, and is a son of Dr. George Alfred Hubner, a learned physician, a native of Mulhausen, Alsace, which at the time of his birth was a Province of France. His father, grandfather of our subject, belonged to one of the old Alsacian families of that place, and was a lifelong resident there.

Dr. Hubner was reared in his native town, and attended school quite regularly until he had attained manhood. He then commenced the study of medicine, going to Germany to take a course in one of the noted medical schools of that Empire. He afterward pursued his studies in one of the famous hospitals of Paris, and was graduated from there at the conclusion of seven years' study and practice, having attained high rank, and was thus well fitted for a career in which he gained considerable eminence as a physician of more than ordinary skill and learning. He traveled in different parts of Europe, and in about 1840 set his face toward America. After his arrival here he located in New Orleans, and practiced there for a time. He then bought a plantation in the Ouachita parish, and also became quite an extensive slave-owner, and for a number of years he spent only his winters in New Orleans, and the rest of the year on his plantation. He died in New Orleans in 1858, and a valued citizen was lost to that State, as he was a man enterprising and liberal, with shrewd business talents, and of well-balanced mind. His amiable wife, who was a fitting companion for such a man, now makes her home in Columbus, Ohio. Her maiden name was Ann Morton, and she was a native of Wales. Her father, William Morton, was also a native of that country, and he was a manufacturer of cloth. He came to America in 1839, located in Franklin County, Ohio, being quite an early settler there, and took a Government contract to build a bridge in that county, of which he was a resident until his death.

Charles Hubner, of whom we write, may be said to have grown up with Nebraska City, as he was brought here when an infant, on account of ill-health, and in this fine climate grew to a vigorous manhood, receiving his education in the city schools. When he was fourteen years of age he commenced life for himself as a printer's devil in the Nebraska City *News* office, and in the course of time thoroughly mastered every detail of the art preservative. He then started out to see something of the world, and worked at his trade in several different cities in the United States. In 1879 Mr. Hubner took charge of the city department of the Lincoln *Globe*, and in 1881, in company with J. R. Dietrich, started a paper at Red Oak, Iowa, the paper being called the *Weekly Democrat*. The name may have been significant of the fact that the paper did not have a very strong hold on life, as after a few months its publication ceased, the venture not proving a success. Our subject, however, rose superior to this failure, and returning to Nebraska City in 1882, took charge of the *News*, with which he has been connected ever since, and by his energy and ability he has made it one of the best, newsiest, and most reliable papers in this section of the country, with a large circulation. On the 27th of February, 1887, the paper became the property of a stock company which was then formed, of which he is a member, his associates being E. D. Marnell and Thomas Morton. This company publishes the Nebraska City *Daily* and *Weekly News*, besides doing a large business in job printing.

Politically, Mr. Hubner is a Democrat; socially, he is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., and a thirty-second degree member of Alpha Consistory, A. & A. S. R.

ALEX. S. McCARTNEY, of Belmont Township, has a farm of 400 acres on section 18, with a fine brick residence, a good barn and all the other outbuildings required for the successful prosecution of agriculture. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping Poland-China swine, and good grades of Short-horn cattle. The land is in a good state of cultivation and the whole premises indicate comfort and plenty.

Our subject was born in County Antrim, Ireland, April 21, 1835, and is the son of James McCartney, a native of the same locality, and who is now deceased. The family emigrated to the United States in 1838, and sojourned for a time in New York City. Afterward they lived in Orange and Oneida Counties, N. Y., until 1845, when they changed their residence to Guernsey County, Ohio.

where Alex. S. completed his education in Madison College. For five years thereafter he taught school in Guernsey County.

Mr. McCartney came to Kansas in 1856, settling in Johnson County, and as a soldier under Gen. Jim Lane and John Brown participated in the border troubles. He returned to Ohio in 1858, and thence in 1863 came to Nebraska with five car loads of sheep. He visited the State in 1864, bringing four car loads of sheep, Spanish Merinos, and very valuable, and the year following superintended the transportation of a car load of horses to Iowa and Nebraska.

Our subject located on his present farm in June, 1866, at the time when it had undergone very little improvement. He worked diligently early and and late for a number of years, and is now enjoying the reward of perseverance and industry. He was married to Miss Mary P., daughter of Thomas Milligan, and of this union there have been born eight children, six of whom are living, namely; Thomas B., Maggie, Martha A., Andrew, William and Robert. The two daughters are attending college in Tarkio, Mo. Mr. McCartney, politically, is identified with the prohibition party and was one of four men and three women who attended the first Prohibition convention in the county. During the late war he proffered his services as a soldier of the Union army but was rejected by the examining surgeon. In religious matters he is a member of the United Presbyterian Church,

RUFUS A. LITTLEFIELD, engaged in the practice of dentistry at Syracuse, was born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., Mass., Dec. 17, 1850. His parents were Rufus A. and Abigail R. (Whitman) Littlefield. He was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools, and made his home under the parental roof until twenty-seven years of age.

At this period of his life Mr. Littlefield went into the State of New Hampshire at Enfield, Grafton County, engaging in the manufacture of shoes. This place was located on the west shore of Mascoma Lake, and on the east side was a settlement of Shakers. Our subject sojourned here until the fall of 1880, when he returned home, and the year following came to Nebraska, joining his brother George H., who had previously settled here and become a prominent physician of Syracuse. In May, 1881, our subject commenced the study of dentistry in Tecumseh with Charles H. Philpot, D. D. S., as preceptor, with whom he remained nearly three years. He practiced his profession in that place until December, 1884, when his office and dwelling were destroyed by fire. After this calamity he removed to Syracuse, of which he has since been a resident.

Dr. Littlefield was married, Oct. 24, 1884, to Miss Anna E. B. Emmons, daughter of James A. and Nancy Emmons, who was born in Brownville, this State. Her parents were among the first settlers of that region. The Doctor and his wife have two bright children, both sons—Rufus A. and James A. Politically, he is a Republican, religiously, a Congregationalist, and socially, a K. of P.

AUGUST CLAIR, the successful manager of the Planters' Stock Company of Delta, established in April, 1888, and now in a prosperous condition, and also the owner of a well-improved farm of eighty acres near Delta Station, and in these connections widely and favorably known throughout Otoe County, is the youngest of three children born to his parents. This interesting event occurred on the 18th of December, 1848, in Burgoyne, France. There he spent the first nine years of his life, coming with his parents to the United States in 1857. Their home was made in Nemaha County, this State, upon a pre-emption claim in Glenn Rock Precinct, where the father spent the remainder of his days, and also his mother, who survived him about twenty-three years; both had reached a very advanced age.

Miss Emily Carlin and the subject of our sketch celebrated their union in marriage in the above county, in September, 1879. His wife was born in France, which she left with her parents when she was about eleven years of age, and subsequently spent two years in Ohio, and then came to this State, growing to womanhood in Nemaha County; her parents are yet living upon a very productive and well-cultivated farm in Otoe County. Of this marriage there have been born four children, two of whom are deceased, viz: Julie and Nora. The two surviving children bear the same names, and are still with their parents.

Mr. Clair came to this place from Nemaha County in 1882. Prior to that date, until the year 1858, he had successfully operated a farm in Glenn Rock Precinct, comprising 160 acres, which had been originally entered by the father. He is energetic in business, and by no means short-sighted. He is one of the promoters, if not indeed the chief, of the

organization of the Planters' Stock Company, which he now represents as grain buyer, and was instrumental in the erection of the splendid elevator at Delta, which is their property, and has a capacity of 6,000 bushels, with an annual shipment of about 200,000.

Our subject was reared and has continued his allegiance as a Catholic, while his wife, for similar reasons, is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Clair is a firm supporter of the Democratic party, and is also an affiliate of the Knights of Pythias.

CHARLES JAMES. There came from Mercer County, Pa., in the spring of 1867, one who has since been numbered among the most successful and enterprising men of this county, the subject of this sketch. Nebraska had then but recently been transformed from a Territory into a State, and Mr. James, taking up 160 acres of the first school land that was put up on the market, applied himself at once to its improvement and cultivation, and in his labors met with most gratifying success. He is now notable as a land-owner and stock-raiser, and has his homestead on section 16, in Wyomrng Precinct, embracing a tract of 160 acres. On section 8 he has 160 acres, which, like the other, has been brought to a good state of cultivation, and is considered one of the finest tracts of land in the precinct. The home farm is supplied with first-class buildings, including a comfortable residence and a fine large barn, the latter occupying an area of 32x64 feet, and underneath is a warm stone basement for the shelter of stock.

Our subject was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1845, and is consequently in the prime of life. He was one of a large family of children, the offspring of William and Margaret (Buchanan) James, the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was of Irish birth and ancestry, and died when his son Charles was a little lad five years of age. The widow with her seven children emigrated to America in 1850, and settled in Mercer County, Pa., where she took up a tract of land, and where our subject developed into manhood. He was employed for a number of years in the oil regions of the Keystone State, which he left in 1867 to seek his fortune across the Mississippi. Upon first coming to Nebraska he employed himself at farming six years in Otoe County, then returned to Pennsylvania, and was married, in Venango County, to Miss Maria S. Strawbridge, Aug. 23, 1863. This lady was born in the latter county in 1845, where she was reared to womanhood and received her education in the common schools. Her parents, Benjamin and Alvira (Sheffield) Strawbridge, were natives of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, and the father was a farmer by occupation. They spent their last years in Venango County, Pa., dying at an advanced age. Their family included three sons and six daughters, all of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. James soon after their marriage returned to Nebraska, and took up their abode in an humble dwelling on the land which our subject had secured from the State, and here they have since made their home. The household circle was completed by the birth of four children, one of whom, a son, George W., died when seven weeks old. The survivors are Mary E., Charles S. and Hattie F. The eldest is thirteen years of age and the youngest eight, and all are at home with their parents. Mr. James, politically, is a sound Republican, and both he and his estimable wife hold a good position in the social circles of their community, enjoying the friendship of its best people.

WILLIAM SCHACHT. The name which stands at the head of this sketch is a familiar one to a large majority of the people of Osage Precinct, of which he was one of the very first settlers, and is now one of its most extensive land-owners. His broad fields, embracing an area of 1,200 acres, includes some of the finest farming land along the southern line of the county. Situated in a beautiful and level valley, its soil, under careful cultivation, yields abundantly the richest products of Nebraska. The farm buildings of Mr. Schacht invariably attract the attention of the traveler through this region, as comprising all that is convenient for use and handsome in architecture. The dwelling, a fine and imposing structure, is commodious and well arranged, and, within, presided over by a lady of great amiability and good taste, illustrates the modern idea of the complete home. The family move in the highest social circles of Osage Precinct, and have everything about them to make life pleasant and desirable.

The subject of this sketch was born in the Prussian Province of Westphalia, March 25, 1832, and is the son of Christof and Wilhelmina (Brine) Schacht, who were also natives of Prussia, and of pure German ancestry. The father was born in 1797, and was an extensive farmer and land-owner in his native Province. When a youth of eighteen years he entered the German Army, and fought under Frederick William III. against the

first Napoleon. He continued in the army until the close of the war, then returned to the occupations of rural life, to which he had been familiar from his boyhood. He spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying at the advanced age of eighty-five years, in the winter of 1882. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land fourteen years, her death having taken place in 1868, when she was fifty-five years old.

The ten children of the parental family all lived to mature years. They were named respectively: Francis, August, William, our subject, Charlotte, Katherine, Herman, Wilhelmina, Henry, Louis and Frederick. Of these six are now living, making their homes mostly in Nebraska.

William staid with his father until a youth of sixteen years, and then determined to seek his fortune on another continent. Embarking on the "Edmund," at the port of Bremen, he was tossed about on the waves of the Atlantic for a period of ten weeks and three days, finally landing in the city of New Orleans. Thence he went up the river by steamer to St. Louis, and from there to Franklin County, Mo., where he was engaged one and one-half years at his uncle's in farming.

We next find our subject in Macoupin County, Ill., where he was engaged in farming four years. Thence he returned to Missouri, and was in the employ of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company two years. The spring of 1857 finds him first in Nebraska City, where he was occupied in draying three years. Next he rented a tract of land near the city, upon which he farmed two years. In the fall of 1859, when the first land sale was opened in Nebraska, he purchased 160 acres of land in Osage Precinct, and settled in a log house, in April, 1862, being one of the earliest pioneers of that place.

The neighbors of Mr. Schacht were at this time few and far between. As soon as possble he provided a shelter for his family, and set about the improvement of his property. It is hardly necessary to recapitulate the story of the early settler and the difficulties which beset him on either hand, the far-away market, the lack of railroad facilities, the indifferent machinery for farm purposes, and the numberless other difficulties with which he had to contend. Our subject, however, had inherited too largely of the traits of his substantial German ancestry to permit him to give way to discouragements. He fought his way successfully, and in due time found himself surrounded by the results of his labor, in the shape of a good area of cultivated soil, convenient and comfortable farm buildings, and all other accessories of the progressive agriculturist. In due time he added to his real estate, purchasing at different periods 160 acres in Johnson County, 520 acres in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, and enough in Osage Precinct to make up the sum of 1240 acres. The most of this is now under a state of cultivation, and represents a value approaching $100,000. In 1884 he helped start the Bank of Talmage, of which he is now a stockholder. When we consider that the proprietor began at first principles, having no capital save his courageous heart and willing hands, it must be admitted that he has done well.

To Miss Caroline Bock, of Missouri, our subject was married, at Nebraska City, on the 14th of April, 1859. Mrs. Schacht, like her husband, is also a native of Prussia, and was born Oct. 18, 1836. Her parents were Christof and Caroline (Krappig) Bock, also of German birth and parentage, and the father a farmer in good circumstances. He died in his native Germany in 1843, when but forty-three years old. The mother subsequently came to America, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. Hofman, in Leavenworth, Kan., Feb. 22, 1879, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. The parental family included four children—Minnie, Dora, Caroline and Hannah.

The mother of Mrs. Schacht, when the latter was a young girl eighteen years of age, came with her family to America, settling in Gasconade County, Mo., where Miss Caroline made the acquaintance of her future husband. Of their union there have been born ten children, two of whom, Johanna and Henry, died when fifteen years and several hours old respectively. The others are Charlotte, Minnie, Emma, Herman, Caroline, William, Matilda and Christof. Charlotte is the wife of Charles Brandt, a traveling salesman for an agricultural implement firm of Omaha; they reside at Nebraska City. They have two children—Martha and Otto. Minnie married Henry Armknecht, and they are living on a farm in Arapahoe County, Col.; they have three children—Bertha, Martha and Ellen. The younger children of our subject continue under the home roof. Herman is an especially bright boy, and was for a time a student in the Business College at Burlington, Iowa.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schacht are members in good standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Osage. Mr. S. was one of the charter members, assisting in its organization, and has been uniformly a most liberal and cheerful contributor to its support. Politically, he votes the straight Republican ticket, has been a member of the School Board in his district for a period of eighteen years, and Road Supervisor for several years. He is a man whose influence has been most sensibly felt in this region, and one the very force of whose example has worked good to the entire precinct.

CASS COUNTY,

NEBRASKA.

Yours Truly
James M Patterson

BIOGRAPHICAL.

HON. JAMES M. PATTERSON, Cashier of the Bank of Cass County, is one of Plattsmouth's most influential and highly respected citizens, and as such it gives us much pleasure to record a sketch of his life on the pages of this volume. He was born in Cross Creek Township, Washington Co., Pa., Sept 28, 1836, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and his name and lineage are closely interwoven in the annals of the Keystone State from an early date in its colonial history. His father, James Patterson, was born in the same township as himself, April 24, 1798, and his grandfather, the Hon. Thomas Patterson, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Oct. 1, 1764. The father of Thomas, who was named William, was born in the same county in 1733, and his father, James Patterson, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1708, of Scotch-Irish parentage. He came to America when a young man, in 1728, settled in Lancaster County, Pa., and eventually married there. He was a farmer, and followed that occupation in that county until his death. He and his wife reared a family of ten children. The great-grandfather of our subject was reared and married in his native county, and moved from there to Washington County about 1779. He crossed the Alleghany Mountains with pack horses, accompanied by his family, and settled on a tract of heavily timbered land in the midst of the primeval forest that covered that part of the country, which was then considered in the "Far West." He made the journey to Philadelphia on horseback to secure a patent to his land from the State, the patent that he obtained bearing the signature of Benjamin Franklin. He cleared and highly improved a good farm from the wilderness there, whereon he made his home until death called him to a better life, June 29, 1818, and his body now rests in Cross Creek Cemetery. In 1794 he erected a substantial stone house that is still standing, and is occupied by his great-grandson. Robert M. Patterson.

The grandfather of our subject was reared in his native county, and when a youth of fifteen accompanied his parents to their new home in the wilderness in Washington County. He was married, in Westmoreland County, Oct. 6, 1795, to Miss Elizabeth Findley. Her father, great-grandfather of our subject, the Hon. William Findley, was for many years a prominent Member of Congress from Pennsylvania. The grandfather of our subject, Thomas Patterson, settled in Washington County, and erected saw and flouring mills on Cross Creek, which are still owned by his descendants. The locality became known as Patterson's Mills, and his death occurred there in November, 1841. Politically, he was a Democrat, and one of the leaders of his

party. He served four terms in Congress, and won an honorable record as a statesman. He held a commission in the State Militia, and was known as Gen. Patterson. His wife died Jan. 8, 1837. Twelve children had been born to them, of whom three died in infancy, and seven sons and two daughters grew to maturity.

The father of our subject passed the early years of his life in the home of his birth, and when a young man engaged in milling, but later he turned his attention to the mercantile business at Patterson's Mills, where he was Postmaster, also, for a number of years. The last few years of his life he lived retired, enjoying a handsome competence, and died Aug. 17, 1861. The maiden name of his wife was Eliza Walker, and she was born in Cross Creek Township, Feb. 22, 1802. Her father, Alexander Walker, grandfather of James M., was born in Bedford County, Pa., and there began life as a farmer. He subsequently moved to Washington County, where he bought a tract of land, and there he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. The mother of our subject died at Patterson Mills, Dec. 9, 1886, having rounded out the venerable age of eighty-four years. There were eleven children born to her and her husband, nine of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Elizabeth, Mary A., Thomas M., Alexander W., Jane, Ambrose, James M., David F. and Emily A.

James M. Patterson, the subject of this sketch, received his education in the public schools, and when quite young commenced clerking in his father's store, and later, in company with his brother Thomas M., succeeded to his father's business. In 1860 he sold out, and in March, 1861, came to Nebraska, then a Territory, and located at Rock Bluff. That place was then a small but flourishing town, nearly as large as Plattsmouth at that time. In company with his brother Ambrose he established himself in the mercantile business there, and they carried it on together for three years. At the expiration of that time they sold out, and the subject of this sketch returned to Pennsylvania to buy sheep, purchasing 1,000, and shipping them by rail to the western terminus of the railway at Ottumwa, Iowa. From there he drove them to Cass County to graze on the large tracts of wild prairie. Three years later he sold the sheep, and again engaged in the mercantile business at Rock Bluff, in company with his cousin, James A. Walker, under the firm name of Patterson & Walker, continuing until 1873, when they disposed of their stock and business at a good profit. In 1874 Mr. Patterson came to Plattsmouth to take up his residence. He soon became influential in public affairs, and in 1877 was elected City Treasurer. His administration of that office was marked by a faithful devotion to its responsibilities, and it added to his reputation as a financier of more than ordinary ability, and it was indeed so satisfactory that he held it for five consecutive years. In the fall of 1877 he was elected County Treasurer, and was re-elected in the fall of 1879, his experience amply qualiying him for that important office. When the Bank of Cass County was organized, in 1881, its Directors gladly availed themselves of his valuable services as a financier, and elected him to be cashier, which position he still holds. His invariable courtesy and kindly manners make him popular with the patrons of the bank, as well as generally liked by many others in the community. He is influential in politics, standing high in the Democratic party, with which he has always affiliated. In 1884 he was candidate of his party for Presidential Elector, and in 1888 was candidate for State Treasurer. In him this county has found an able representative of her interests in the halls of legislation. In 1862, in Territorial days, and again in 1870 he was elected a member of the House, and served on a number of important committees, and in 1882 he was elected to the Senate, and represented his constituency with ability and honor.

Mr. Patterson was married, Aug. 17, 1858, to Ellen H. Campbell, a native of Cross Creek Township, Washington Co., Pa., where she was born Oct. 31, 1838. Her father, Samuel Campbell, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, and his father, David Campbell, was born in Washington County, Pa. He was a farmer, and spent his last years in Washington County. His wife, Mrs. Patterson's grandmother, whose maiden name was Ann Rea, a daughter of William Rea, was a native of that county, and there spent her last years. Samuel Campbell is a farmer, and is still a resident of Washington

County, his home being in Independence Township. The maiden name of his wife was Jane McGugin, and she was a native of Washington County, Pa. Her parents, who were the grandparents of Mrs. Patterson, were David and Jane (Vincent) McGugin, natives and lifelong residents of Pennsylvania, the former dying at the age of eighty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson's married life has been blessed to them by the birth of ten children, two of whom are deceased: Kate Florence, who was born in Pennsylvania, and died in the second year of her age; and Ella, who was born in Rock Rluff, and died in Plattsmouth at the age of ten years. The names of the other children are Jennie C., James, Thomas M., Samuel, Eliza W., Edith, Charles A. and Rea. Jennie married the Hon. R. B. Windham; James married Grace A. Anderson, and he is assistant cashier in the bank; Thomas M. married Nettie Myers, and is bookkeeper in the bank. The other children are single and at home. James, although only a little over his majority, was elected City Treasurer of Plattsmouth in the spring of 1888, which position he still holds, and fills to the entire satisfaction of his constituency.

On an adjoining page we print an admirable portrait of this honored citizen of Cass County. Standing as he does in the front ranks of her best citizens, it is fitting that it should appear as a frontispiece to the biographies of her leading people.

FREDERIC F. REXFORD, a stalwart and sturdy representative of the pioneer agriculturists who came to Cass County while it was yet in its infancy, and have watched with especial interest its rapid growth, is an influential and leading citizen of Centre Precinct, where he settled in 1866, on his present homestead. He is well and favorably known throughout the county as a man of unusual ability, great energy, and of unswerving integrity. He fought valiantly in the late war for the defence of his Nation's honor, and of his war record he has reason to be proud, for few men served longer, took part in more severe engagements, endured more hardships, or exhibited more personal bravery. He was born in Chateaugay, Franklin Co., N. Y., Sept. 14, 1839, and lived there until seven years of age, then moved to Malone in the same county, where he grew to man's estate, receiving a good common-school education. His father, Isaac Rexford, was born Oct. 28, 1807, in Vermont, and there passed his early life, and there learned the cooper's trade. He married Miss Louisa, daughter of Frederic Fuller, who was a blacksmith of Keeseville, Essex Co., N. Y. After marriage they moved to Canada, where Mr. Rexford worked at his trade for awhile, then returned to New York and located in Franklin County. Mr. Rexford also served two years during the late Rebellion, but was finally discharged on account of disability. He afterward moved to Dayton, Ohio, where he spent his last years, dying there in November, 1886. He was a member of the Baptist Church, and a worthy man and citizen. His widow is still living, and makes her home with our subject.

F. F. Rexford, of whom we write, moved from his native county to Ohio, and soon after the breaking out of the late civil strife enlisted, Aug. 16, 1861, in Company A, 2d Ohio Cavalry. After sufficient drill the company was sent to St. Louis, Mo., and was at Camp Benton Barracks a week, then went to St. Joseph and Ft. Leavenworth, thence to Kansas City, and had its first engagement at a town (Independence) twenty miles east, where the first man in the company was killed; then proceeded to Ft. Scott, Kan., and had that place as headquarters. In the summer of 1862 the company made different raids in Missouri, Arkansas and Indian Territory, having a number of small engagements, and in the fall of 1862 was ordered back to Columbus, Ohio. There the members were remounted and re-equipped, and sent into the Army of the Ohio, under command of Gen. Burnside. In April they were ordered to Kentucky, having Somerset as headquarters, and in the middle of June five companies made a raid into Eastern Tennessee over the Cumberland Mountains, our subject being among the number. They had a hard time to get back, having to fight their way through, losing most of their horses, some of the soldiers being two weeks without horses, and in a starving and ragged

condition. While they were away the balance of the division went for Morgan, and helped to capture him at the Ohio River. They then went into camp at Crab Orchard, Ky., where they were again refitted, and sent with Burnside to East Tennessee to keep possession of it, and there took an active part in the siege of Knoxville. They staid there until January, when provisions and provender for the horses gave out. They were in a good many engagements in the valley during the fall and winter, and our subject lost his tent mate, many of his company being killed or dying from exposure. In January his company veteranized, and was sent home on a thirty-days furlough. The sufferings of the men had been so great that they were willing to do anything for a few days at home. The soldiers afterward met at Cleveland, and were transported to Cincinnati, and from there ordered to the Potomac. They went to Annapolis, Md., and staid there until ordered to Washington, where they were again re-equipped. On May 1 the company of which our subject was a member was ordered to the front to take part in the Wilderness campaign, being in the thick of those hardly fought engagements, forcing Lee back to Richmond. The army then crossed the river on pontoons, moved on to the south side of Petersburg, then up on to the Weldon Railway. A raid was organized, and our subject and his comrades were sent into Virginia, destroying rebel railways and supplies for eighty miles. They had more or less engagements all of the time, captured many trains, tore up rails, and burned trains. On their return the enemy got in front of the cavalry, and harassed and divided the company, so that they were forced to cut their way through, some riding hard for three days and nights on circuitous routes, finally bringing up in Union quarters.

Our subject was disabled, not being able to wear his boots for two months, but not a day of rest did he have, and for two weeks did not unsaddle but once, and then for fifteen minutes only. After getting back to Sandy Point on the James River, they left their worn out horses there, and took transports for Baltimore, with hardly enough clothes to be decent. They had neither hats nor shoes, many with simply underclothing. They got off at Baltimore, and lay on the pavement the rest of the night. The sanitary commission clothed them as best they could, and proceeding to Washington, our subject's regiment arrived there just in time to head off Gen. Early, who was within four miles of the city. The rebels retreated up the Shenandoah, and Mr. Rexford was one of the number who was despatched in pursuit. The Army of the Shenandoah was then formed, Sheridan taking command. Gen. Custer commanded the 3d Division of cavalry, to which our subject belonged, and in that valley they were in many hard battles, namely: Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek, and so on up the valley, drawing the enemy clear up beyond Danville. They went into winter quarters near Winchester, staying there until the latter part of February, 1865. They were then ordered up the valley to join Grant at the south side of Petersburg. The regiment was engaged in the battle of Five Forks, where it lost very heavily. Our subject was also present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. The war closing his regiment was ordered to Washington to take part in the grand review, and was thence ordered to Missouri, going to the Ohio River by railway, and then on transports to St. Louis, thence to Raleigh and Springfield, where the members did duty in fort, guarding ammunition until September 1. They were then sent to St. Louis, where they were mustered out, and thence transported to Columbus, Ohio, and discharged after a continuous service of four years and one month, with but two furloughs, one of five days and one of thirty days.

In the spring of 1866 our subject concluded to try his fortunes in the Great West. The broad prairie land of Nebraska, with its rich soil and genial climate, seemed a great inducement to him to settle. He then bought the farm which he now owns, a part of it lying on section 25, and a part on section 36, his residence being on the former section. The land was in its normal condition, not a furrow having been turned, and not a tree of any description in sight. Nothing daunted by its appearance, Mr. Rexford immediately began its improvement. He put up a small house, set out five acres of forest trees, planted an orchard and plenty of small fruits, which have borne much and good fruit the past fif-

Robt. R. Livingston

teen years. The land is under good cultivation, and surrounded by either fence or hedge. He does an extensive business in general farming, raising grain, horses, hogs and cattle. Besides attending to that business, which is as much as any farmer usually has time for, our subject is interested in the manufacture of sorghum, having been working up the enterprise for several years. He is now using an evaporator and crusher sent him from Buffalo, which is one of the most complete machines of the kind, and is putting in steam power. He has already given much time and thought, and invested a good deal of money in his efforts to place the business on a paying basis, and he now thinks he sees his way to a profitable end. Our subject has also discovered a fine bank of potter's clay on his farm, and is now trying to utilize that in some manner. His ability and judgment are recognized by all, and he is as anxious to benefit his town and his townspeople as himself, and works for their interests as unselfishly as his own. Having held the various precinct offices he has materially advanced the cause of good government within its limits.

Mr. Rexford was united in marriage to Miss Susan Torrence, in Percival, Iowa, March 16, 1868. (For her parental history see sketch of Sylvester Torrence.) Of this union four children have been born, of whom three are still living, namely: Willis, Ada and Charles. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rexford are valued members of the Congregational Church and of the Sunday-school, he having been Deacon for more than twenty years. He is also a prominent member of the G. A. R., LaFayette Post No. 61, of Weeping Water.

GEN. ROBERT RAMSEY LIVINGSTON, M. D., was born in Montreal, Canada, Aug. 10, 1827, and his father, also named Robert Ramsey Livingston, was a native of Scotland. Gen. Livingston was reared in his native city, and received his preliminary education in the Royal Grammar School, which was then under the charge of Alexander Skakel, LL. D. He afterward pursued the study of medicine at Magill University, in the same city, from which institution he was graduated with honors. Subsequently he attended medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. A few years later he became interested in the copper mines of Lake Superior, and was appointed Secretary of a company formed for working those mines, spending a part of his time at the mines, and a part at the office of the company in Boston. In 1857 mining, in common with many other branches of industry, suffered a collapse, and our subject resumed his profession as a physician. In 1859 Dr. Livingston came to Plattsmouth, then a small town, and here opened an office and established himself in his profession in this city.

In 1861, during the absence of the proprietor, Dr. Livingston assumed the charge of the Plattsmouth *Herald*. While he was filling the editor's chair the Civil War broke out, and he, with patriotic zeal and ardor, took a prominent and active part in sustaining the Union cause. At the time of the arrival of the news of the firing on the "Star of the West," the weekly issue of the *Herald* was in the press; work on it was at once suspended, and the Doctor immediately had a large number of posters struck off, calling on all loyal men of Cass County to meet that evening in the hall over the printing-office. The call was promptly responded to, and a full company of infantry was organized that night, Dr. Livingston's name heading the list of privates. He was immediately and unanimously elected Captain of the company. To him is due the credit of having raised and organized the first military company in the Territory of Nebraska for the suppression of the Rebellion. This was before there had been any call for troops, but he held his company in readiness, and June 11, 1861, it was mustered into service as Company A of the 1st Nebraska Infantry, and was sent South. In December of that year Capt. Livingston was promoted to the rank of Major, and in June, 1862, another promotion gave him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. A few months afterward he was made Colonel of his regiment. He was a brave and gallant officer, and took an active part in the battles of Ft. Henry,

Ft. Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and many others. In the summer of 1863 Col. Livingston was appointed commanding officer of the post at St. Louis, and a few months later received the appointment of commanding officer of the District of St. Louis. He served with distinction in Arkansas, and received the thanks of the Legislature of that State for ridding it of the roving bands of guerrillas and bushwhackers that infested that region. The following is a copy of the resolution of thanks passed at that time by the Arkansas House of Representatives:

"WHEREAS, Col. R. R. Livingston, Commandant of the Northeastern Division of the State of Arkansas, has manifested on all proper occasions an earnest and patriotic desire to ameliorate the suffering condition of the numerous loyal refugees that have been driven from their comfortable homes and firesides by the ruthless, wanton and traitorous bands;

"*Therefore*, Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, that, in consideration of the sterling worth exhibited in the chivalric and generous character of Col. R. R. Livingston, 1st Nebraska Regiment, Commandant of the Northeastern Division of Arkansas, we feel it to be our duty to, and hereby do express in our own behalf, and in behalf of those who have been relieved by many repeated acts of disinterested humanity, the thanks of this Legislature, and sincerely hope that he will be preserved to humanity, to whom he has rendered such valuable service."

In the latter part of the year 1863 the regiment commanded by Col. Livingston veteranized, and while at home on furlough he was assigned to duty on the northwestern frontier, to take care of hostile Indians. With his command he soon rid the territory of the savages, and restored peace and quiet to the settlers. In the spring of 1865 our subject was breveted Brigadier General. In July of that year his regiment was mustered out of service, and Gen. Livingston laid down the sword for the scalpel, and resumed his professional duties in Plattsmouth. In 1869 he was appointed Surveyor General of Iowa and Nebraska by President Grant, serving in that capacity two years. Meanwhile he became interested in the building of the Burlington & Missouri River Railway in Nebraska, and in 1870 he was appointed surgeon of that road, and held that position until his death, which occurred Sept. 28, 1888, at his home in Plattsmouth. He was a public-spirited citizen, and materially aided the improvement and growth of the State, much credit having been due him for organizing the Nebraska State Medical Society, of which he was the first President one year, and Corresponding Secretary several years. He was also devoted to the best interests of his adopted city, and actively promoted various beneficial schemes for its advancement during the several terms that he officiated as Mayor. He was, from the time of its organization to his death, a member of the State Board of Fish Commissioners, having been President of the same for a time, and at the time of his death was Chairman of the city Board of Health.

Gen. Livingston was a thoroughly busy man, and, in addition to attending to his public and private business, he served for a number of years as President of the faculty of the Omaha Medical College, and gave lectures on the principles and practice of surgery in that institution, and also in the State University at Lincoln. Socially, he was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and was Master of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M., for four years, and High Priest of Nebraska Chapter three years, and Grand High Priest of the R. A. M. of the State eighteen months. At the time of the organization of the Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5, K. T., in 1873, he was made Eminent Commander, and served acceptably for several years. Politically, Gen. Livingston was a Republican until 1872, when he supported Horace Greeley, and after that time he affiliated with the Democratic party. A portrait of Gen Livingston, M. D., is shown in this volume.

Theodore P. and Robert Livingston, physicians, Plattsmouth, Cass Co., Neb., are worthy successors to the practice of their father, the late Gen. R. R. Livingston. The former was born at Dingman's Ferry, Pike Co., Pa., Feb. 6, 1864, and the latter in Plattsmouth, Neb., Sept. 23, 1866. They are both graduates of the Omaha Medical College, Theodore having received his diploma in March, 1885, and Robert his March 22, 1888. They are bright, talented young men, and have a promis-

ing future before them, their practice gradually increasing in this city, where they are well known, and are rapidly gaining the confidence of their patrons.

JOHN T. MARSHALL is a man of more than average enterprise and force of character, and well represents the agricultural interests of Cass County, owning and managing a farm on section 25, Weeping Water Precinct, on which he has one of the finest residences in the southern part of Cass County. Mr. Marshall devotes his time mostly to raising stock, paying especial attention to raising thoroughbred horses of the Hambletonian race.

Our subject was born in England, Dec. 8, 1857, and is a son of John Marshall. (For parental history see sketch of William Marshall.) He lived in his native land until fourteen years of age, working the last two years at the shoemaker's trade, which he learned of his father. At the age mentioned he accompanied his parents to this country, coming directly to Nebraska as soon as they landed. His father took up the land now included in the farm of our subject, and he and his family lived here one summer. They then moved into the city of Weeping Water, where Mr. Marshall, Sr., went into business, at first manufacturing and repairing boots and shoes, continuing thus engaged until 1876, when he and his son, our subject, opened a store under the firm name of John Marshall & Son. The store is still standing, being the first, and is still the only exclusive boot and shoe store in Weeping Water. The firm continued business under its original name for five years, and built up a large trade in that time. John Marshall then sold out to his son William, and the firm name was changed to Marshall Bros. The father still continues to work for the firm in the repairing department. Three years later our subject, wishing to devote his time more exclusively to agriculture, sold his interest to his brother Arthur U., and the business is still carried on under the old style, Marshall Bros., although there has been another change, their brother Charles being admitted into partnership, William and Arthur retaining the management of affairs. The farm on which our subject lives was when his father took it up wild prairie land owned by the railway company, and he paid $10 an acre for it. It now presents a very different appearance with its many valuable improvements, and indeed is considered one of the best farms in the precinct. There is a good grove of forest trees, an orchard of choice fruit trees already in bearing order, and a variety of small fruits, our subject raising all that he needs. There is a good hedge around the farm, and a substantial set of buildings is provided for every possible use, even the stock being housed, Mr. Marshall not liking to have his animals suffer when he is comfortable, reminding one of the saying, "a merciful man is merciful to his beast." He has expended $1,500 on his buildings alone. Mr. Marshall devotes his farm principally to raising horses, cattle and hogs, and carries on a very lucrative business in that line. He is raising a high class of thoroughbred horses, and has a fine Hambletonian mare and stallion.

The marriage of our subject with Miss L. Medella Smith was solemnized in the month of May, 1880. In the years that have followed two children have been born to them—Clara C. and T. Walter. The elder stays with her grandparents during the school year. Mrs. Marshall is a twin daughter of C. P. Smith, formerly of Plattsmouth, but now a resident of Lincoln. He is a native of the State of Vermont, as was his wife, whose maiden name was Callista Felch. He went to Mississippi to teach before the war, and there his daughter, of whom we write, was born. Soon after the war he moved to Nebraska, and is now living in retirement in Lincoln. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Lincoln.

Mr. Marshall is a man whose character is above reproach, and his generosity and liberality are well known, every appeal from the suffering and needy sounding a responsive chord in his large, warm heart. He is faithful in his discharge of his duties as a citizen and as a man, and while a resident of the village of Weeping Water his fellow-citizens honored him by entrusting to him the office of Trustee, which position he held for three years. He is prominently identified with the K. of P., the I. O. O. F., and the Masonic fraternity, serving three years as Secretary of the latter, and he has held the of-

fices in the Odd Fellows' Lodge up to Representative to the Grand Lodge and District Deputy. He and his wife are among the most active members of the Congregational Church at Weeping Water, and in the Sunday-school. Mrs. Marshall, socially, is a Daughter of Rebecca, a lodge connected with the I. O. O. F., located at Weeping Water. Mr. Marshall is also manufacturing boots and shoes at the village of Avoca in connnection with his farming.

EDGAR A. STOPHER. As an enterprising and wide-awake business man of Cass County, and one who, through his own efforts, has established himself among the prominent and wealthy men of his community, we take great pleasure in placing a brief sketch of the varied life experience of this gentleman before the public. He is a native of Iowa, born in Princeton, Feb. 27, 1842. His father, Samuel Stopher, was of German descent, and was born in Lancaster County, Pa., but removed from there with his parents when quite young to the Western Reserve in Ohio. He afterward learned the carpenter's trade, in Portage County, and subsequently removed to Kalamazoo, Mich., where he married Miss Wealthy French, a native of New York. In 1838, accompanied by his family, Mr. Stopher went to Scott County, Iowa, traveling with teams, there being no railways, and not even a stage route across Illinois, and located seven miles below the mouth of the Wapoo River. He was one of the first settlers of that State, and entering 160 acres of land from the Government, improved a fine farm. In 1860, being seized with the mining fever, he went to the Rocky Mountains and engaged in mining and hotel-keeping, then for a year freighted on the plains. In 1863 he enlisted for one year in the 2d Nebraska Cavalry to fight against the Indians. When his time had expired he returned to Iowa, and engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own farm. In 1874 Mr. Stopher disposed of that farm, and coming to Nebraska, bought eighty acres of land, where he resided until his death, in 1881. His widow is still living on the home farm, in Nebraska, at the age of sixty-nine years. She is a woman of rare Christian character, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. To her and her husband were born three children—Edward and Ellen, both of whom are dead, and Edgar A.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and his schooling consisted of an attendance of three months each winter in the district schools of Iowa until he was eighteen years of age. Educational advantages were not as good then as at present, and he can remember when the first High School of his native State was established at Mt. Vernon. In 1860 he went with his father to the Rocky Mountains, and engaged in mining. He also had several claims, but was not successful in his ventures. He continued there two years, and then went back to the farm in Iowa with his mother and sister. In the fall of 1863 he went to Omaha, where he enlisted in the same company with his father, Company K, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and was sent, under command of Gen. Sully, into Dakota, skirmishing and scouting. At the battle of White Stone Hill they routed the Indians, and his father escaped death only by the fleetness of his horse. He served his time, and was mustered out of service at Omaha, in December, 1863, and honorably discharged. Mr. Stopher then engaged in rafting on the Mississippi River, and continued until June, when he returned to the home farm. Sept. 20, 1864, he was drafted into the army, and mustered in as a private, in Company C, 14th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, at Davenport. He did garrison duty for awhile, and was twice sent to Louisville, Ky., serving until the end of the war, when he was honorably discharged at Davenport, in July, 1865.

Our subject then farmed in Iowa until 1868, when he again came to Nebraska. He came by rail to Pacific Junction, then walked to Cass County, and took up a homestead claim of eighty acres on section 30, Stove Creek Precinct. Having secured his land, Mr. Stopher returned to Iowa for his family, and in the fall came back with them across the country with teams, and settled on his land. It was unbroken, but by incessant toil and skill he has evolved a fine farm from the wild prairie, on which he has erected a handsome residence, a commodious barn, and other necessary farm buildings. He has set out groves of trees, an orchard, built

windmills, and made more thorough improvements than are to be found on many Western farms. As his means have allowed he has purchased other land, until his home farm comprises 320 acres, and he has besides two farms in Tipton Precinct, Cass Co., Neb., one of 120 acres and another of 160 acres. Besides carrying on farming on an extensive scale, Mr. Stopher deals largely in stock, buying and feeding cattle, and shipping them to Omaha, where he always finds a ready market. He also raises hogs of a fine breed, having as many as 200 at the present time. On his home farm may be seen many fine cattle of the Durham stock, and also a large number of horses of fine grades.

The marriage of Mr. Stopher and Miss Hannah Hogan was solemnized in Princeton, Iowa, Jan. 17, 1867. Her parents, Hiram and Susan (Reynolds) Hogan, were born respectively in Cambridge, Washington Co., N. Y., in 1800, and in Haybridge, Adams Co., Vt., in 1807, being of Irish and Scotch origin. Both her paternal and maternal grandfathers served in the Revolutionary War seven years, her grandfather Hogan having been cut down with a sabre and left for dead, but subsequently recovered. Mr. and Mrs. Hogan were married in the State of New York, but shortly afterward removed to Indiana, where he worked at carpentering one year. In 1845 they removed to Canada, and he worked at his trade there for several years. In 1865 he emigrated with his family to Scott County, Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1871. Desiring then to establish himself in a permanent home he came to Nebraska and pre-empted a claim of eighty acres in Cass County, which he proved up and converted into a fine farm, remaining here until his death, in September, 1878. Mrs. Hogan died during their residence in Canada, July 16, 1851. To them had been born eight children, as follows: Janet, Solomon, Melancton S., Leonard, Harvey and Levi, all deceased; Hannah and Ozial. The wife of our subject was born in Ontario County, N. Y., Aug. 25, 1840. She received a good education, and taught school with success previous to her marriage. Of her union with Mr. Stopher seven children have been born, namely: Edward, Frank, Belle, Hattie, Walter, John and Minnie. Belle is attending school at Crete, Neb., and Frank is on a ranch in Lamar, Wyo.

Mr. Stopher is well and favorably known throughout the county, being one of its most influential and prominent citizens. He has a fine physique, is tall and well formed, has a commanding figure, and with an intellect equally well developed, he is a worthy representative of the highest class of manhood, and a man of whom his fellow-citizens are justly proud. Mrs. Stopher is a refined, well-educated matron, having all the attributes of a noble woman, and presides with much grace over the hospitable home of herself and husband. Our subject takes a warm interest in educational matters, and has served for twelve years on the School Board. He is a member of the G. A. R., Kenesaw Post No. 123, at Elmwood, being a charter member, and is at present Commander. He is likewise a member of the A. O. U. W. at Elmwood. In politics he is a straight Republican, fearlessly expressing his opinions at all times, and has been a delegate to county and State conventions. Religiously, Mrs. Stopher is a communicant at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

PETER COON was one of the very earliest settlers of Centre Precinct, as when he settled here in 1867, he and his brother were the only residents of this part of the county for awhile. Our subject early identified himself with the agricultural interests of Cass County, and is now a prosperous grain and stock raiser, with a fine farm on section 20, township 11, range 11. When he first became the possessor of this place it was in a state of nature, forming part of an extensive, wild prairie, and on this prairie, where since have sprung up valuable farms, he broke the first furrow and set out the first tree.

Peter Coon, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in New York, either in Columbia or Dutchess County. He received a good practical education in his native State, and was there married to Miss Elizabeth Wheeler, and there, in their home in Columbia County, a family of nine children, all of whom grew to maturity, was born to them. In

1837 Mr. Coon disposed of his farming interests in New York, and moved with his family to Luzerne County, Pa., and there lived on a farm until his death in 1843, when scarcely past the prime of life, at the age of forty-five years, five months and eleven days, he having been born in 1798. His widow survived him and married again, living until about 1878, in Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch was born in Columbia County, N. Y., Aug. 31, 1833, and lived in the place of his birth until he was four years of age, when his parents moved to Pennsylvania. He acquired a sound education in the common schools, and at the age of twenty-two left home and made his way to LaSalle County, Ill., and was there engaged in farming for twelve years. April 6, 1865, he enlisted in defense of his country, and served until the close of the war as a member of Company C. 104th Illinois Infantry. He was in the Army of the Cumberland under Gen. Sherman, and was honorably discharged July 12, 1865. In 1867 Mr. Coon concluded to invest the money that he had made in farming in Illinois in Nebraska land, and came here with his family for that purpose. He lived for a year in Weeping Water, and in the meantime looked about for a suitable location, and finally selected a tract of eighty acres of land now included in the present homestead. He also owned an 80-acre farm a mile to the east, and a farm in Clay County, but he has since sold them to use the funds in other ways. His present farm was at the time that he took possession uncultivated prairie, but by hard labor and wise management he has improved it into one of the best places for miles around. It is ornamented by a beautiful grove of five acres of forest trees, and a good orchard, and he has built a fine house, that would grace any Eastern village, it being a model of taste and convenience, 22x28 feet in demensions, two stories in height and an L. It was one of the first good houses erected in this locality. The farm is highly cultivated, and our subject raises a large amount of grain and a good deal of stock of high grades.

Mr. Coon in early manhood, while still living in Pennsylvania, took unto himself a wife in the person of Phœbe A. Bennett, their union being consummated in December, 1854. To them the following children have been born: Sarah Alice, Mary Rosella, George Edwin, Katie Belle, Henry Everton, Frederick Eugene. Sarah Alice married Aaron Jenkins, of Cass County, and they have two children, Walter and Charles; Mary married Charles Bouton, and now lives in Cheyenne County; they have one child, Lloyd E. The remainder of the children are at home, and have been given good educational advantages. Mrs. Coon was born in New York, May 27, 1833, and lived there until about fifteen years of age, when she accompanied her parents, Hezekiah and Sally (Flint) Bennett, to Pennsylvania. Her father was a shoemaker by trade, and he died in his Pennsylvania home. His widow is still living in Dundaff, Susquehanna County. She reared a family of six children. Mrs. Coon has been a faithful wife and a loving mother. She looks well to the ways of her household, and to her co-operation our subject is undoubtedly greatly indebted for his prosperity.

Mr. Coon is a man of sterling common sense and a good capacity for business. He has always been deeply interested in the welfare of his adopted county and township, and has done what he could to further their advancement. He has not taken part in public affairs, excepting as a member of a local school board. He is a firm believer in the policy of the Republican party, and always casts his vote in its favor.

ELIAS SAGE. Adjacent to the city of Plattsmouth is one of the pleasantest homes in the northeastern part of this county, situated on a rise of ground overlooking a goodly portion of the surrounding country and especially of the town. This has been the abiding-place of the subject of this sketch for the last nineteen years, who became a resident of Nebraska in the fall of 1858. A native of the Empire State, he was born in Lewis County, April 17, 1820, and is the son of Harvey Sage, who, it is believed, was born near Copenhagen, N. Y., in 1794.

Our subject was named after his paternal grandfather, Elias Sage, Sr., a native of Sandisfield, Mass.,

and born in 1759. The latter was the son of Samuel Sage, who was the son of Nathaniel Sage, the latter born in Connecticut, in 1707, and a son of John Sage. The last-named gentleman was the son of David Sage, a native of Wales, who crossed the Atlantic about 1652, thirty years after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. He settled in Middletown, Conn., where he spent the remainder of his days, and the stone marking his grave is still standing in Riverside Cemetery, on the banks of the Connecticut River.

This David Sage was married in February, 1664, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John Kirby. His great-great-grandson, Elias, the grandfather of our subject, left New England probably when a young man, and settled in New York State during the pioneer days of Lewis County. His occupation as an agriculturist was interrupted by the War of 1812, during which he shouldered his musket and hastened to the defense of his country. After the British had been again driven from American soil he resumed farming in Lewis County, and there spent the remainder of his days.

Harvey Sage, the father of our subject, served by the side of his honored sire in the War of 1812 when quite a youth, and for his services was given a land warrant, which Elias purchased after his removal to Nebraska. He was reared a farmer like his forefathers, and upon reaching manhood purchased land in the vicinity of Denmark, Lewis Co., N. Y., upon which he operated until 1844. That year, leaving the Empire State, he emigrated to the vicinity of Fulton, Whiteside Co., Ill., making the journey overland with teams. He purchased a farm four miles northeast of the town of Fulton, when the small village of Chicago, 170 miles distant, was the nearest market for grain. The round trip occupied about ten days, and the present flourishing city of the West contained only a few thousand souls. In 1856 Harvey Sage sold out his farm property and retired from active labor, taking up his abode at a snug home in Pekin, Ill., where he resided with his children until his death, which occurred Jan. 7, 1882.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Elizabeth Hager, and was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., where she spent her childhood and youth. She passed away at the home of her husband at the farm near Fulton, Ill., about 1848. The parental family consisted of five children, who are recorded as follows: Warren was born June 14, 1814, and came to Plattsmouth, Neb., from Illinois about 1865, where he engaged in farming, and died about 1872; Bernard was born April 5, 1816, and died at Ypsilanti, Mich., about 1884; Henry was born March 22, 1818, and resides in Auburn, this State; Sarah Maria became the wife of Orvilla Cutler, and died at Carthage, N. Y., some years ago.

Our subject was the youngest son of his parents, and was reared to man's estate in his native county. He acquired his education in the common schools, and began teaching when nineteen years old, following this profession during the winter season, while in summer he was occupied on the farm. In May, 1843, he made his way to Whiteside County, Ill., and purchased a quarter-section of land near the town of Fulton. There had been brought to a very good state of cultivation about 100 acres of this land, and upon it were log buildings which he was enabled to utilize for a few years until he could substitute better. He still continued teaching and farming alternately, and continued a resident of that county until the fall of 1858. Then, selling out, he removed to Pekin and changed his occupation to that of milling.

Subsequently, desiring to see the country west of the Mississippi, Mr. Sage made his way to Nebraska Territory via the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, thence by steamer to St. Mary's, and landed in Plattsmouth twenty-one days after starting from St. Louis. Plattsmouth was then a hamlet of perhaps 100 souls, with two stores. The settlements in the Territory were confined principally to the neighborhood of the river, the land a few miles back being still owned by the Government and occupied by Indians. Deer were plentiful, and a few miles west, in the southwestern part of the Territory, buffaloes were frequently seen roaming over the country.

Mr. Sage first rented a tract of land near the present city limits, upon which he operated one year, and in 1860 started out with a company to cross the plains, and twenty-eight days later, on the 1st of May, they arrived upon the present site of Den-

ver, Col., there being then little indication of the present important and flourishing city. Mr. Sage, in company with others, went into the mountains and prospected for a time, but not finding gold, returned to Plattsmouth in September following, and has since been a resident of this city.

Our subject, while having his residence within the city, improved a tract of school land three miles out, and was principally occupied at this for four years. The outbreak of the Rebellion then furnished unlooked-for employment, as in October, 1862, he enlisted in Company H. 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and repaired to the frontier in quest of Indians, and served fourteen months and twenty days in the West and Northwest. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he received his honorable discharge and returned home.

After resuming the peaceful pursuits of a civilian our subject put up a house on his farm, but otherwise turned his attention in a different direction, and became agent for the Haines Harvester, in the interest of which he traveled over a large part of Nebraska and Western Iowa. He was thus employed until the fall of 1883, but in the meantime, in March, 1870, purchased his present home, which comprises a tract of land twenty-nine acres in extent, and which is mostly devoted to the raising of small fruits, which find a ready market at Omaha. His land joins the corporation and is consequently quite valuable.

While a resident of New York Mr. Sage was married, Oct. 14, 1841, to Miss Eliza A. Wright, who was born in Vermont, and died at Fulton, Ill., Sept. 8, 1853. Of this union there were born three children, who are still living: Eugene H. is a resident of Maywood, Frontier County, this State; Harvey W. is occupied at the tinning business in Plattsmouth, and Amelia, the wife of E. T. Duke, lives at Omaha. Mr. Sage contracted a second marriage, April 21, 1855, with Mrs. Carrie Potter. She is the daughter of William Chambers. This lady was born in Troy, N. Y., May 9, 1828. Her father was a native of the city of Troy, and the paternal grandfather, Leonard Chambers, was a native of Ireland, whence he emigrated to America early in life, settling in Troy, N. Y., where he spent his last days.

William Chambers was reared in his native State, New York, and married Miss Elizabeth Sage, who was born in Connecticut, and traced her forefathers direct to David Sage, who was prominent in the early history of New England. Both parents died in New York State. The present wife of our subject was first married in Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1851, to Samuel E. Potter. The latter was born in Steuben County, and was the son of John S. and Lydia M. Potter. He died in Champion, that county, March 25, 1853. Of this marriage there was born one child, a daughter, Nellie, who became the wife of J. S. Burnett, and they are now residents of Maywood, Frontier County, this State. In politics Mr. Sage is a good Republican.

HON. FRANCIS M. RICHEY, formerly a prominent resident of Union County, Iowa, is now one of the leading citizens of the city of Plattsmouth, where he is extensively engaged in the lumber business, and he is also at the head of public affairs as Mayor of this municipality. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, ten miles west of Columbus, the State capital, May 11, 1841 On his father's side of the house he is derived from an honorable Irish ancestry, his grandfather, John Richey, having been born in Eastern Pennsylvania. His parents came to America in Colonial times, and fought with the Colonists in their struggle for independence during the Revolutionary War. He subsequently settled in Erie County, Pa., but he afterward moved from there to Muskingum County, Ohio, where he spent his last years.

His son, Welsh Richey, the father of our subject, was born in Erie County, Pa., and was there reared. He removed from his native State to Ohio, and first lived in Muskingum County, and later made his home in Franklin County. He erected a woolen-mill and operated a carding-machine, but that venture proved a finanial failure, and he lost all his property. He then returned to Muskingum County with his family, and resided there until 1854. He was an ambitious man, and hoping to improve his fortunes, in that year he started westward to locate in Iowa, the removal being made overland with teams. He became a prominent pioneer of Union

County, where he pre-empted a tract of Government land in April, 1855, lying three miles from the present site of Afton, the greater part of the land in that part of the country being owned by the United States, and for sale at the price of $1.25 an acre. The first house was built in Afton the spring that he bought his land, there not being many white settlers in that vicinity, but there were 2,000 Indians making their home there. Deer and other wild game roamed at will over the wild, uncultivated prairies. There being no railways west of the Mississippi at that time, all the stock, hogs and cattle had to be driven to Burlington for shipment. Mr. Richey commenced to improve his farm, first erecting a log cabin to shelter his family. In 1857 death crossed the threshold of that humble abode, and the father and husband was no more. The mother of our subject was his fourth wife, and to them were born three children. Her maiden name was Sarah McClurg, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. She survived her husband many years, dying in Afton in 1880.

The subject of this sketch was thirteen years old when he accompanied his parents to Iowa, and he remembers well the incidents of the journey and of pioneer life after settlement. He had attended the public schools in his native place in Ohio, and after the removal to Iowa he became a pupil in the primitive pioneer schools of that period. After his father's death he assisted his elder brother in the improvement of the old homestead, and continued to reside with his mother until he was twenty-one. He then started out in the world to see what he could make of life on his own account. He secured a situation with the Western Stage Company to drive a stage from Afton to Chariton, a distance of sixty miles. He continued thus engaged for a year, and then commenced teaming from Eddyville (then the western terminus of the railway) to Afton. In the spring of 1863 he came to the Territory of Nebraska, and starting from Plattsmouth with a load of freight, drove across the plains to Denver and returned to his starting point, making the round trip in seventy days. He then went back to Afton and resumed his business of freighting. He was widely and favorably known throughout that part of the State where he had made his home since boyhood, his frank and genial manners making him popular with all classes of men, and his keenness, promptitude, and decision of character, securing their respect, so that when he was proposed for the responsible office of Sheriff of Union County, in 1868, he received the hearty support of his fellow-citizens, and was elected; and so well were his constituents satisfied with his able and vigorous managment of the duties devolving upon him that he was three times re-elected, serving four terms. In 1879 he settled on a farm in Dodge Township, Union County, and engaged in agricultural pursuits for a few years. In 1880 he was again called from his seclusion to enter public life, his fellow-citizens having elected him to represent Union County in the State Legislature. His course as a member of that honorable body marked him as a wise and sensible legislator, who had the best interests of his country at heart. Among the more important committees on which he served we may mention the Railway Committee and that of Compensation for Public Officers. In 1882 Mr. Richey settled up his affairs in Iowa preparatory to taking up his residence in this State. Ever since then he has been engaged in the lumber business in the city of Plattsmouth, and has built up an extensive and flourishing trade. His large business interests have brought him in contact with many people, and he is well known throughout the county, and none know him but to respect and esteem him, alike for his social and manly qualities.

Mr. Richey was married, in 1865, to Miss Paulina Dickinson, a native of Will County, Ill. Seven children were born to them—May, Lou, Frank, Charles, Fannie, Emma and Bertha. In September, 1885, the pleasant household of our subject sustained a sad loss in the death of the beloved wife and mother, a lady of rare merit, whose admirable traits of character had gained her many warm friends in this city.

Mr. Richey has always been a stanch Republican in his political sentiments, having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. During his residence here he has been a conspicuous figure in the public life of the city, his fellow-citizens gladly availing themselves of his sagacity, knowledge of affairs and wide experience, to assist them in the

government of the municipality. Twice he has been elected to the important office of Mayor, first in 1885 and again in 1888, so that he is the present incumbent of the mayoralty. All agree that under his able administration the city has never been better governed, was never more prosperous, or never had more encouraging prospects for future development. Our subject is prominently identified with the I. O. O. F., having joined the order in Afton, in 1873.

GARRY TREAT, well known throughout Cass County as one of its early settlers, is a representative farmer and prominent citizen of Centre Precinct, living just outside the city limits of Weeping Water, where he settled in June, 1860. He is well informed on all matters pertaining to the township, and from him we learn the source of its poetic name. The legend runs as follows: A beautiful Indian maiden was captured, heart and body, by the brave chief of a hostile tribe. The Pawnees, to which tribe she belonged, hurried in pursuit, and a battle took place on the banks of the stream, in which all the braves of that tribe were killed. The tears shed by the maids and widows, thus bereft of lovers and husbands, caused the stream to break forth, which was named Nehrawka, meaning in our language Weeping Water.

Garry Treat, Sr., father of our subject, was born June 19, 1799, in Orange, Conn., where he was reared and educated. He was married in Tallmadge, Summit Co., Ohio, to Mary T. Woodruff. She was also a native of Connecticut, where her birth occurred in 1805. The farming country of the undeveloped West seemed to offer especial advantages to the father of our subject, and he accordingly changed his location to Tallmadge, Ohio, where he was married as above stated, and where he died in April, 1847, while yet in the prime of life. His widow and her family of little ones continued to live on the farm several years.

In the spring of 1860 Garry Treat, Jr., the subject of our sketch, following in the footsteps of his father, pushed on farther West to look for a new and better location. With a horse and carriage, and a little dog for company, he left the Ohio homestead, and after traveling one month came to Weeping Water, then a small hamlet of less than half a dozen log houses. The whole population consisted of the families of Messrs. Reed, Wolcott, Taylor, and two other men who have since gone to their long rest. Mr. Treat took up 240 acres of unimproved land on section 35, township 11, range 11, on which were a small log house and a well of water. He at once commenced the improvement of his land.

After securing his land Mr. Treat went to Tabor, Iowa, where he enlisted in defense of the Union in August, 1863, becoming a member of Company B, 29th Iowa Infantry. He served in the Western Department, and took an active part in several engagements. At the battle of Spoonville, Kan., he was wounded in the leg, which soon swelled to twice its original size, and being overlooked by the surgeons of the Union Army, he was captured by the rebels, and held several days on the field near Jenkins' Ferry. He was then taken to a rebel prison in Princeton, Ark., and for a month was in the rebel hospital there; thence with 100 other prisoners he was removed to Camden, and confined in a common prison, a building that had formerly been used as an auction prison for slaves. There he remained five months, barely subsisting on the maggotty pork, stale meat, and crusts of moldy bread doled out to him. From there he was taken to Tyler, Tex., and was kept in a small stockade for four months with 3,000 other prisoners. Mr. Treat was paroled after an imprisonment aggregating ten months of suffering, Feb. 15, 1864, and ten days later was delivered at the mouth of the Red River to Union officials. The moment that his eyes beheld the stars and stripes on that occasion will ever be remembered as the happiest one of his life. Our subject next went to New Orleans as a paroled prisoner, and three or four weeks later, his time having nearly expired, he was given a furlough and sent up the river to St. Louis, whence he proceeded to Clinton, Iowa, where he received an honorable discharge June 5, 1865.

Before returning to his home Mr. Treat visited Tabor, Iowa, to fulfill a previous engagement, that of marriage with Miss Catherine Hanley, a successful teacher in some of the public schools in the

neighborhood. She is a native of Hector, N. Y., and came to Iowa with her brother. Her parents, Aaron H. and Caroline (Smith) Hanley, lived and died in the Empire State, holding an honorable position among the farmers of their community. Our subject brought his bride to his homestead in Centre Precinct, which is just outside of the city limits, in precinct 3, and commenced the development of his farm in earnest. He has made all the improvements himself, turning the first furrow, setting out trees, planting an orchard, shrubbery, and many small fruits. In 1870 Mr. Treat built a substantial stone house which is a model of neatness and taste, and will be a monument of his industry and prosperity for years to come. In all of his labors he has had the cordial assistance of Mrs. Treat, who has been a devoted wife and faithful mother. To them have been born two children—Charles H. and Anna May. The former is a machinist in Syracuse, N. Y., and the latter is attending the academy at Weeping Water. Our subject has always taken an active interest in the advancement of the city, and helped forward all commendable enterprises for its benefit, having proved himself so true a benefactor that he is often spoken of as one of the real city fathers. He has steadily avoided all public office, though he has served acceptably to all as Supervisor of the precinct. In politics he is a Republican, and supports the principles of that party. Mr. Treat is an esteemed member of the Congregational Church, while Mrs. Treat communes at the Baptist Church, of which she became a member in early life.

JACOB RUSTERHOLZ, an honored citizen of Cass County, is connected with its stock-raising and farming interests as one of the most intelligent and progressive agriculturists of Stove Creek Precinct, and his farm on section 20 is one of the most highly improved and best managed estates in this locality.

Our subject was born Aug. 15, 1836, on the shores of Lake Zurich, Switzerland, which was also the birthplace of his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Gunthardt) Rusterholz. His father was a mason and also a small farmer, and was a lifelong resident of his native place, dying there in 1881, at the age of seventy-two. His wife died in 1849, at the age of thirty-nine years. They had five children, of whom our subject, the second child in order of birth, was the only one who ever came to the United States.

Our subject was reared amid the beautiful scenes of his birthplace, and received a liberal education in the schools of that vicinity, gaining a good knowledge of both the French and German languages. After leaving school he went to work in a cloth mill to learn how to manufacture cloth, and in 1861, after he had become thoroughly conversant with every detail of cloth-making, he opened a manufacturing establishment of his own in his native land. He married, in 1862, Miss Saline Ryffel, a native of Switzerland, and established a pleasant home. For a few years everything went well, he was prosperous in his business and happy in his domestic relations, and had prospects of a brilliant future before him. Suddenly all was changed by the shadow of death falling over his peaceful home in 1865, when his beloved wife was taken from him. She left a son Jacob, who is still living in Switzerland, where he is engaged as a butcher. After that sad affliction his native land became distasteful to him, and on account of failing health he sold his business, wound up his affairs, and started to travel to seek distraction. He sailed from Antwerp in the steamer "Queen," and fourteen days later landed in New York. He journeyed extensively over the country, and finally coming to Nebraska in 1868, decided to invest his capital in the rich farming lands of this State and turn his attention to agricultural pursuits, hoping thus far from the scenes of his early days to soften the memories connected with them, and in this salubrious climate re-establish his health. He spent the first year in Nebraska City, and in the spring of 1869 he took up his present homestead, then comprising but eighty acres, and cast in his lot with the few settlers who had preceded him in Stove Creek Precinct, and thus became a pioneer of the place. He has proved to be both a practical and skillful farmer, and has met with unqualified success, having brought his land to a good state of cultivation, and provided it

with a neat and substantital set of buildings, and the appliances for carrying on agriculture successfully, so that it is as a whole one of the best equipped and most valuable farms in the precinct. He has fenced it and planted groves, and an orchard of 100 trees, and it is well supplied with running water from Stove Creek. He has added forty acres of land, adjacent to his homestead, to his original purchase, and also has that improved. He does general farming, and has some fine stock of good grades, including fifteen horses of good blood.

Our subject was married a second time in 1876, in Stove Creek Precinct, to Miss Sophia Seiker, a native of Germany. By her death in 1883 he was a second time bereaved of a good wife.

Mr. Rusterholz is a man of fine mental capacity, and is well informed on all topics of general interest. His straightforward, manly character and unblemished reputation have won for him a high place in the regard of his fellow-citizens. In religion he adheres to the German Reformed Church; in politics he is an earnest Republican.

AARON JENKINS, stock dealer, is one of the foremost citizens of Manley Village, Centre Township, where he owns some valuable property. He is erecting a commodious residence here for his own use. He is the proprietor of the only hotel here, which he has put in charge of another man, and devotes his time mainly to dealing in stock, in which he is quite extensively engaged.

The subject of this sketch was born in Ohio, Feb. 6, 1844, coming of good New England stock. His father, Calvin Jenkins, was born in Massachusetts about 1810, and there made his home the first few years of his life. He then accompanied his parents to Ohio, who at that early date must have been pioneers of that State. He remained an inmate of the parental household until he attained manhood. He married Martha Barnes, and to them were born five children, of whom all lived to maturity, two afterward dying in the army—Charles and Chauncey. Those living are: Aaron, Edmund and Albert, now in Ohio. Mr. Jenkins has been a farmer all his life, and is now enjoying the fruit of his labors on his well-ordered farm in Ohio. His estimable wife, mother of our subject, died in 1853, and he married again. His first wife was a native of Connecticut, and with her parents went to the Western Reserve in Ohio, where she married.

Our subject received an excellent education, and after leaving school engaged in various occupations, and finally began to deal in stock. Leaving his early home in Ohio he went to McHenry County, Ill., and was there three years prior to coming to Nebraska. Before leaving his birthplace he had, when a youth of eighteen, enlisted, Aug. 12, 1862, in Company K, 105th Ohio Infantry, and went forth to fight for the stars and stripes, serving in the Army of the Cumberland. He took part in many active engagements, and at the battle of Perryville he was wounded in the left thigh, and was laid up for six months in a hospital at Louisville, Ky. Returning to his regiment he was with it all through the march to the sea, and continued under Sherman until his honorable discharge at Washington, in June, 1865, he having won a good record for bravery on the battle-field. In 1870 our subject left Illinois and came to Nebraska to try farming on this rich soil. He first settled in Clay County, taking up a homestead on the wild prairie, and immediately set about its improvement, putting out a grove and orchard, and also building a house. He lived there twelve years, busily engaged in cultivating the land, and then sold his property at a good profit, and came to this place to take up his residence. This village had just been laid out, and Mr. H. W. Gleason kept the only store in town, and he and Mr. Williams, who kept a lumber-yard, were the only business men. Mr. Jenkins soon erected a hotel, of which he is still the owner. It is a good-sized, conveniently arranged house, two stories in height, 26x28 feet in dimensions, and a one-story L, 24x26 feet, making it a good, roomy hotel, the first in the village, and the only one now. Mr. Jenkins managed his hotel himself for some time, until his duties as "mine host" conflicted with his increasing business as a stock dealer, and he now hires another man to look after the house.

Our subject was married, Dec. 24, 1875, to Miss Alice Coon, and to them have been born two chil-

dren, Walter T. and Charles F., both of whom are receiving the benefit of good educations. His wife was born in Illinois, Aug. 8, 1858, and when a child came to Nebraska with her parents, Peter and Phœbe (Bennett) Coon, of whom see sketch on another page.

Mr. Jenkins having been reared in Trumbull and Ashtabula Counties, the Western Reserve of Ohio, settled mostly by New England people, inherited those sturdy traits of character for which his ancestry are noted, and his success in life was therefore assured almost from the start, as they marked him as a man of practical ability, common sense, and good habits. His fellow-citizens have shown their confidence in his judgment and integrity by frequently soliciting him to hold office, and electing him to responsible positions, but he would never qualify. However, he does his duty at the polls, where he supports the Republican party.

THOMAS RANKIN. The Rankin family is favorably known throughout Rock Bluff Precinct, and represents a good farm property on section 16. It originated in Ireland, Thomas Rankin, Sr., the paternal grandfather of our subject, having been born in County Derry, where he was reared to manhood and married. Later, in company with his brothers, William and Samuel, and their families, he came to the United States. Thomas and Samuel located in Washington County, Pa., and William in Fayette County. They engaged in agricultural pursuits and spent the remainder of their lives in the counties where they first settled.

James Rankin, the father of our subject, was born in County Derry, Ireland, and at about the age of twelve came to America with his parents, and married in Washington County, Pa. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War from the beginning to the close, entering the ranks when a youth of eighteen years. In 1788, as he was crossing the Alleghany Mountains, en route to Philadelphia after a load of salt, he stopped at a hotel on the mountains to stay over night, and there met Samuel Stephens and his family, who were en route for Western Pennsylvania for the purpose of locating on a farm there. This chance acquaintanceship ripened into a mutual friendship, which was further cemented by the fact that Mr. Stephens became the neighbor of the grandfather Rankin, and James Rankin in 1790 married Miss Martha, the eldest daughter of Mr. Stephens.

The parents of our subject after their marriage located on a tract of wild land in the woods, where the father carried on agriculture, and where there were born to them a family of nine children, Thomas of our sketch being the sixth child. He first opened his eyes to the light July 11, 1804, and lived upon the homestead until a man of thirty-five years. In the meantime the father died, about 1812, at the age of fifty years, after suffering greatly from impaired health brought on by the hardships which he endured in the army. The mother survived her husband a long period, dying about 1863, at the advanced age of ninety-three.

Thomas Rankin was married, in Washington County, Oct. 27, 1840, to Miss Catherine, daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Hopkins) Wright. Enoch Wright, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Rankin, served in the army during the Indian War in Pennsylvania, about 1814. He married Miss Rachel James, and Joseph Wright, the father of Mrs. Rankin, was their only child. Joseph was subsequently educated at Jefferson College, and became a Methodist preacher. His death took place at his home in Washington County, Pa., about 1852.

Mr. Rankin, our subject, left the Keystone State in the year 1871, and then determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Mississippi. Disposing of his property interests at the old home, he came to this county and purchased the land which he now owns and occupies; it comprises in this township 400 acres, and he also later became owner of 160 acres in Pottawatomie County, Iowa, and a ranch near Broken Bow, in Blaine County, this State. His homestead embraces 400 acres of valuable land under a high state of cultivation, and is situated on sections 21 and 15. He has comfortable buildings, a goodly assortment of live stock, and the farm machinery necessary for the carrying on of agriculture after modern methods.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rankin there have been born

twelve children, all of whom lived to mature years. They were named respectively: Lucinda E. is the wife of Jesse Merrill; they live in Buchanan County, Iowa. Rachel C., wife of Rev. James Imbrie, of the United Presbyterian Church; they reside in Armstrong County, Pa. Martha B., wife of R. R. Yerson, of Broken Bow, Neb.; Mary L., wife of W. F. Rankin; they reside on the ranch in Blaine County, Neb. D. Millie, wife of Robert Montgomery; they reside in Butler County, Pa. James S., who died Nov. 13, 1878; Joseph A., single; Thomas S., who died in 1876; Sarah A., single; Enoch W., single; Anna F., single, and Charity J., who died in 1880. The eldest son, James S., during the late Civil War enlisted in Company G, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry, and served three years, during which time his health was greatly injured on account of privation and hardships. On his return from the army he was graduated from Westminster College, and after leaving the army devoted the remainder of his life to preaching the Gospel as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died at his brother's in Rock Bluff Precinct, Nov. 13, 1878. He was married, in September, 1867, to Miss Nancy J. Jones, of Washington County, Pa., and they became the parents of three children —Lilly, Jessie and Joseph. The mother of these died in August, 1873, five years before the decease of her husband. Since his death Lilly and Jessie have made their home with their grandparents, our subject and his wife. Little Joseph died soon after the death of his mother. James Rankin participated in many of the important battles of the war, and was captured by the rebels at Gettysburg. He was incarcerated in Belle Isle Prison a period of three months, during which time he lost fifty pounds of flesh. The history of that rebel bastile is too well known to need repetition here.

Our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church, attending services at Murray. In the church Mr. Rankin has been a Ruling Elder a period of nearly forty years. He cast his first Presidential vote for Jackson, and afterward became a Whig, then a Republican, and voted for Lincoln and Grant, for many years supporting the principles of that party. He has always had a warm interest in the temperance movement, which led him to identifiy himself with the Prohibitionists about 1872, with whom he now votes and labors. During the agitation of the slavery question he was a strong Abolitionist.

EBERGER. The family history of this substantial and well-to-do resident of Rock Bluff Precinct is substantially as follows: He was born in 1815, and is the son of John Berger, whose parents, Jacob and Catherine Berger, were natives of Germany, where they were reared and married. They emigrated to the United States at an early date, about 1770 it is believed, and located in Pennsylvania, where their son John was born about 1775.

The grandparents left the Keystone State a few years later, settling in Pittsylvania County, Va., where, engaged in agricultural pursuits, they spent the remainder of their days. John Berger was married in the Old Dominion to Miss Margaret, daughter of Jacob Hedrick, the latter of whom was also a native of Germany, and whose daughter Margaret was born on the ocean during the voyage of her parents to America. John Berger lived in Virginia until 1830, then removed with his family to Henry County, Ind., settling in the midst of a heavy timber tract, from which he proceeded to build up a farm. The first dwelling was a hewn log house, in the building of which our subject took an active part. They dressed the logs with their broadaxes, rived boards for the shingles, and split the lath out of the timber, all by hand of course, as there was nothing else, not even a plane or turning lathe. The dwelling, 18x36 feet in area, was one and one-half stories in height, and when completed made a very pretentious residence for those days.

Under this primitive roof-tree the parents of our subject spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1855 and the mother the year following, at the ages of ninety-one and seventy-eight respectively. There had been born to them a family of eleven children, ten of whom lived to mature years, and all natives of Virginia. Enos was married, in Indiana, to Miss Elizabeth Wallace, May 18, 1839. This lady was the daughter of Joshua and

Sophia (Scott) Wallace, then residents of Fayette County. The young people began housekeeping in Wayne County, where our subject had contracted for the building of a part of the White River Canal, and they lived there until the contract was annulled by the State.

In the year 1843 Mr. Berger crossed the Mississippi with his little family, and made his way to Andrew County, Mo., where they lived on a farm until 1848, Mr. Berger in the meantime occupying himself mostly at stone cutting and masonry. He got out the stone work of the court-house at Savannah, and performed other important work in the construction of some of the best buildings of that region. Upon leaving Missouri the family took up their residence in Warren County, Iowa, whence they removed in the fall of 1849 to the present site of Winterset, in Madison County. The following summer Mr. Berger put up the first house in that embryo town. That same summer this was selected as the county seat. Mr. Berger was appointed Postmaster about that time, serving two years, and was then elected Treasurer and Recorder of the county, which joint offices he held until leaving the Hawkeye State in 1856.

In January, 1857, Mr. Berger erected a sawmill in the vicinity of the present town of Rock Bluff, and made preparations to remove his family to this county, in which they took up their residence in July following. Mr. B. and his eldest son, James W., worked in the mill, and put up their house at a time when the greater part of Rock Bluff Precinct was an uncultivated prairie. The first dwelling of the family was a small plank house, into which they removed about 1865. In 1868 they completed the commodious brick residence which the family now occupy, and which is noticeable among the other fine buildings of that region. In due time there were added a frame barn, fences and orchard, forest trees and the smaller fruits, and all the other things which conduce to make country life pleasant and desirable. The Berger residence at the time of its completion was considered the best farm house in the county.

To our subject and his estimable wife there were born seven children, namely: Josephine A., Mary E., James W., George T., M. Francenia, John P. and Luella M. Miss Josephine, the eldest daughter of our subject, is the wife of A. S. Alley, an attorney of Wilber, this State; Mary, Mrs. G. L. Seybolt, is a resident of Jan Jose, Cal.; her husband was special postal agent and detective several years ago, until the incoming of the Democratic administration, when he was removed. He now operates a fruit farm. M. Francenia married A. R. Johnson, President of the Cable Railway Company of Omaha, and who also has a large fruit farm in California; James, who is still living at the home farm, was married, Nov. 26, 1874, to Miss Susan C., daughter of John and Jemima (Thornhill) Johnson, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. The family is favorably and widely known along the eastern line of this county, having been no unimportant factor in its growth and development.

Mr. Berger and his son James were formerly members of Rock Bluff Lodge No. 6, I. O. O. F., which lodge surrendered its charter later and disbanded. George belongs to the Masonic fraternity at Wilber. The father and sons are solid Republicans, politically. Mr. Berger voted for William Henry Harrison in 1836 and 1840, and for his grandson in 1888.

ZURAY S. VOSBURGH. The subject of this sketch was born near the city of Scranton, Pa., over forty-six years ago, on the 5th of May, 1842. He came to Nebraska in 1878, and is the proprietor of one of the best farms of Center Precinct, comprising 160 acres of land on section 9. Soon after coming here he took up a tract of uncultivated prairie, and by years of unflagging toil and the outlay of hundreds of dollars has built up a homestead which is now one of the noticeable features in the landscape of this region. He has a grove of forest trees which comprises the finest windbreak in this county, and which, it is said, cannot be beaten even in the State of Illinois, famous for these institutions. His hedge was planted by surveyed lines, and the farm is all enclosed by this system of fencing. The residence is a neat and substantial structure, and with its adjacent buildings, and the abundance of fruit and shade trees,

fulfills the modern idea of the complete home. The land is remarkably fertile.

In addition to the ordinary barns and stables, there is an exceptionally fine corn-crib 24x32 feet, with a foundation of solid masonry. Every acre of the farm can be utilized, there being no waste land. The past year (1888) Mr. Vosburgh harvested 4,200 bushels of corn from less than eighty acres, while his wheat and oat crops were in proportion. The ten years' labor of our subject on this farm in its results should be amply satisfactory, and is the best indication of the ability, energy and good judgment which have been exercised in connection therewith.

Our subject spent his boyhood and youth in the Keystone State, remaining at home on the farm until eighteen years of age. He then conceived the idea that he would like to enter the legal profession, and accordingly repaired to Wilkesbarre, and entered upon the study of law under the instruction of Charles Denison. Not long afterward, however, he abandoned this, and became a traveling salesman for the firm of Spaulding & Place, of Gloversville, N. Y. Subsequently we find him at Scranton City, Pa., as clerk of the Wyoming House, where he continued a period of eight years, never being absent from his post a day. After the outbreak of the Rebellion, Mr. Vosburgh entered the Commissary Department with the sharpshooters of the 203d Pennsylvania Regiment, and was in the army a period of eighteen months, being mustered out at the close of the war.

Our subject now returning home for a few days, visited briefly with his friends, then once more became the employe of the Wyoming House, remaining there until the spring of 1868. He then resolved to seek the West, and started for Chicago, Ill., arriving there on the 15th of April. Thence he went into Lee County, to which his father had in the meantime removed, and lived with him there on a farm one year. He was married in LaSalle County, Ill., Feb. 22, 1871, to Miss Emma Briggs, who was born in Luzerne County, Pa., May 10, 1850. This lady became the mother of two children, Clyde and Frank, who make their home with their father. Clyde is attending the High School at Plattsmouth. Mrs. Emma Vosburgh departed this life at the home of the family Feb. 5, 1879, after an illness of ten days, aged twenty-eight years, eight months and five days. Our subject, June 20, 1881, contracted a second matrimonial alliance, with Mrs. Mary A. (Short) Elster. This lady was born Aug. 17, 1842, in England, and is the daughter of Edward and Mary (Booth) Short, who were born in England, and lived there until their daughter Mary was twelve years old. They then emigrated to America, settling in Ann Arbor, Mich., where the father followed his trade of tailor, and where Miss Mary completed her education. She made her home with her parents until her marriage, but in the meantime, while on a visit to an aunt in Whiteside County, Ill., formed the acquaintance of Mr. F. Elster, with whom she came to Nebraska in the winter of 1870, the year after their marriage, which occurred Jan. 5, 1869. Of their union there were born two children—Nellie May and William B. The daughter became the wife of Dr. O. Waters, of Gretna, this State. The son makes his home with our subject, and is attending Weeping Water Academy.

Mrs. Elster during her widowhood made her home in Plattsmouth, where she was married the second time, June 20, 1881. Her father, Edward Short, and his estimable wife, are still living in Ann Arbor, Mich. The parental household included four children, who are now in Nebraska.

Charles Vosburgh, the father of our subject, was born near the Hudson River, N. Y., whence he removed with his father to Pennsylvania when a boy. Grandfather Vosburgh took up land in the midst of a heavy timber tract which he cleared, and where he built up a comfortable homestead. Later he sold out, and purchased another farm. He retired from this later, although still retaining ownership of it, and is now the proprietor of a hotel at Abington, Pa. He married in early manhood Miss Millicent Van Luvener, and they became the parents of thirteen children, all of whom are living, and located mostly in Pennsylvania.

The wife and mother departed this life June 29, 1886, in Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather, Cornelius Vosburgh, was also a native of the Empire State, and married a Miss Pulver. He also removed to Pennsylvania, where he lived a number of years, and from which he removed when an old

Faithfully Yours
Paul Ill Chapman

man to Earlville, Ill., where his death took place when he was seventy-eight years old. Grandmother Vosburgh later made her home with our subject in Illinois, and died at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

Mr. Vosburgh stands well among the men of his community, where his well-known qualities as a thorough and skillful farmer are thoroughly recognized, and where his sterling worth of character is fully appreciated. He has been too busy to give any time to office-seeking, although he is a reader and keeps himself posted upon current events. He gives his uniform support to the Republican party, and in religious matters to the Congregational Church. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity.

JUDGE SAMUEL M. CHAPMAN. This gentleman occupies a prominent position among the citizens of Cass County, and was born in Blairsville, Indiana Co., Pa., Oct. 28, 1839. His father, Joseph Chapman, was born in Derry Township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., in the year 1799, and was brought up to agricultural pursuits. There being few schools of any kind, and none after the order of the present common schools, he was self-educated, and was so diligent as to be enabled to master even the higher branches of mathematics, including trigonometry and geometry. He was in fact a prodigy in the science of mathematics. His migration to Indiana County was made in the year 1836, when he established a tannery at Blairsville, continuing the same until 1843, when he sold the business, and went to the then Territory of Iowa, making his home about six miles west of Burlington in Des Moines County, and gave his attention to agriculture. He purchased a large tract of land at Kossuth, Des Moines County, and engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred in September, 1861. He was in politics an enthusiastic Whig, and stumped the State of Pennsylvania in the interests of Gen. Harrison in the year 1840, and subsequently became a Republican at the birth of that party. The maiden name of the mother of Judge Chapman was Eliza Pollock. Her father, Thomas Pollock, a descendant of one of the good old Colonial families, was born in Ligonier Valley, Westmoreland Co., Pa., on the 25th of November, 1782, and his father, James Pollock, was born in Coleraine, the North of Ireland, in the year 1728. James Pollock came to America with several brothers in 1750, and settled in Columbia County, Pa. Going to Westmoreland County about thirteen years later he was there married to Mary Heron, of that place. He was the first Justice of the Peace in that section of the country, and took his commission with him when he went to Ligonier Valley. He died there in the year 1812, sincerely mourned by the community where he was well known.

The grandfather of our subject was reared to farming pursuits, and from the time he was able to manage it had been proprietor of a farm. His first wife, the grandmother of our subject, was Rachel Hendricks, a sister of Gen. William Hendricks, of Indiana, and daughter of Abraham Hendricks. She died in Westmoreland County in the year 1807. Later he was married to Susan, daughter of the Rev. Joseph W. Henderson, of Indiana County. He was a loyal citizen, and active in the interests of the people. He was one of the Commissioners of Westmoreland County, and served for several terms as Representative in the State Legislature. For quite a number of years he was Associate Justice of the Common Pleas Court, and in every instance showed himself worthy of the confidence of the people. He was a man of deep religious convictions and consistent life, and held membership in the Presbyterian Church, in which he served in an official capacity for a number of years.

To Joseph and Eliza Chapman were born eight children—Thomas P., James P., John W., Jane, Samuel M., Joseph M., Mary H. and Washington H. The eldest son, Thomas P., resided in Saunders County, Neb., where he died in the year 1875, at which time he was a member of the State Legislature; James P. died in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1862; Washington H. died in infancy; John W. died in Council Bluffs in June, 1886; Jane is the wife of the Rev. A. H. Barclay, and resides in Colorado; Samuel M. and Joseph M. are twins; the latter is engaged in banking and general mercantile business at Weston, Saunders Co., Neb. Mary H.

is the wife of Daniel Matson, and resides at Kossuth, Iowa.

The subject of this sketch was about three years of age when he was first ushered into pioneer life in Iowa Territory, and from his early days was accustomed to very few if any of the conveniences that are by many looked upon as the indispensables of life. His early education was obtained in the log school-house, that even as it is mentioned again takes form in the mind, standing out clearly with its rough-hewn benches, rude desk, unplastered walls and puncheon floor. As soon as he was sufficiently prepared to do so he entered the Yellow Springs College at Kossuth, Iowa, and was still pursuing his studies when the late war broke out. He enlisted at the very first call for troops, and became a member of Company E of the 1st Iowa Infantry. The regiment was organized at Keokuk, and was there prepared for the front.

The 1st Iowa Volunteers were sent first to Hannibal, Mo., and opened the railroad from that place to Macon, Mo.; from there they went on a forced march to Booneville, where they joined Gen. Lyon, who was Commander of the Department of Missouri, and on the 5th of July, 1861, they started for Springfield, in the same State. Not long after they arrived a portion of the regiment, including Company E, went down to the White River, where they met the enemy, and engaged them at Forsyth. The conflict was continued a few days later at Dug Springs; from there they returned to Springfield. Shortly after this they fought the battle of Wilson's Creek, where the brave and gallant Lyon fell.

After the above-mentioned battle the regiment retreated to Rolla and thence to St. Louis, where, his time having expired, our subject was honorably discharged. He re-enlisted on the 14th of August of the same year, a few days after receiving his discharge. This time he was attached to Company K, of the 14th Iowa Infantry, and participated in all the battles in which that regiment was engaged during its service. It will be remembered as one of the most dashing and intrepid bodies of men in the service, always ready for service, and knowing no fear and daunted by no danger. The most important battles, perhaps, in which the regiment engaged were those of Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson, Shiloh, and both battles of Corinth. They also served under Gen. Banks' command in the Meridian raid and Red River expedition, and in the latter were under fire fifty-two days. In this connection they fought at the battles at Ft. De Russey and Pleasant Hill, which were followed by the engagements at Yellow Bayou and Chicot Lake. From the latter place the regiment went to Memphis, where it was under Gen. A. J. Smith, and participated in the battles of Forsyth and Tupelo, Miss. Shortly afterward they went to Missouri to look after Price, who was committing serious depredations in that State. Then followed the conflict at Iron Mountain, after which they went, via Rolla, Jefferson City and Sedalia, to St. Louis, and from that city to Davenport, Iowa, where he received an honorable discharge Dec. 8, 1864.

On the 1st of January following our subject landed in Plattsmouth, Neb., and at once began reading law with the Hon. T. M. Marquett, and was admitted to the bar in open court, Judge Elmer S. Dundy presiding, in 1876, almost immediately after which a partnership was formed with the Hon. Samuel Maxwell, now one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Nebraska, their partnership continuing until Mr. Maxwell was elected to the above-mentioned office in 1873. Our subject continued in practice until in November, 1886, when he was elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Judge Mitchell, one of the District Judges of the Second District, and was re-elected in 1887 for the full term.

The marriage of Judge Chapman with Miss S. E. Putnam, of Ludlow, Vt., was celebrated in October, 1869. They became the parents of four children, viz: Harriet Elizabeth; Emeline, who died in infancy; Thomas P. and Sarah. On the 11th of February, 1880, Mr. Chapman was left a widower. In June, 1883, a second marriage was contracted, the name of the lady being Agnes D. Samson, who is the daughter of David and Margaret Samson (see sketch elsewhere in this volume). Of this union two children were born—Samuel Maxwell and Helen Hope.

Judge Chapman has always taken considerable interest in public affairs, and cast his first Presidential ballot in favor of Abraham Lincoln, from which

time he has been a stanch Republican. He was elected to the State Senate in 1875, and re-elected with a largely increased majority in 1877. He has frequently been called upon to serve on various committees of importance. He was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee through both terms of office. His service was most acceptable to his constituents, who recognized his constant interest in their welfare. Among the fraternities, as elsewhere, the stable character, high principle, clear intellect and untiring energy of Judge Chapman are recognized and acknowledged. He is a member of the Plattsmouth Lodge No. 7, of the I. O. O. F.; Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, of the A. F. & A. M.; Nebraska Chapter No. 3, R. A. M., and Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5, of Knights Templars.

The portrait of this able jurist and well-known citizen of Cass County adorns a page of this volume—a fitting tribute to the worth of the man, as well as an indication of his deserved prominence in the community.

ROBERT TROOP is a member of the firm of Egenberger & Troop, who conduct one of the best appointed and best managed groceries in Plattsmouth, and although they have been established but little more than a year they already command a good paying trade, which extends even beyond the city limits.

Mr. Troop was born in Ireland, Feb. 23, 1843, and his father, likewise named Robert, was also a native of that country, and was of Scotch ancestry. He received a good education in his younger days, and then learned the trade of a machinist, serving an apprenticeship of five years. He did not continue to follow that trade, however, after his term of service expired, accepting instead the stewardship of one of the large estates in his native island. In the year 1844 he emigrated to America with his family, and located at Davenport, Iowa, which was then but a village. Iowa was then a Territory, the settlements being confined to the region adjacent to the Mississippi River, and the greater part of the land was owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 an acre. Mr. Troop continued to reside in Davenport from 1844 until his death, Feb. 3, 1873, and during that time witnessed its growth from an insignificant town to a large and important city of 20,000 inhabitants. He was for some time engaged as an accountant in a bank, and he subsequently became a salesman in a lumber-yard. He was a man whose integrity and many good traits of character commanded the respect of those with whom he was associated, and his kindly disposition won their regard. The maiden name of his good wife was Jane Agnew, and she was also a native of Ireland. They had quite a family of children, eight of whom grew to maturity: Eliza married Murt Connor, and lives in Coal Valley, Ill.; William, James, John, Samuel and James are all deceased; Thomas lives in Cass County, Neb.; and Mary lives in Plattsmouth.

Our subject was but a year old when his parents came to the United States, so he can recollect no other home than this, his adopted country, and when the great Civil War broke out, and our flag was threatened with dishonor and these United States with disunion, he patriotically sprang to their defense, and fought with the zeal and bravery of a native-born citizen. Amid the pioneer influences of his early home his character was molded in strength and vigor. He received a very good rudimentary education in the early, primitive schools of Davenport, which has since been supplemented by observation, experience and reading. At the youthful age of twelve years he began to depend upon his own resources for a living, and found employment as a cabin boy and assistant cook on a Mississippi River boat. He followed boating on the river in different capacities until August, 1862. In that month he enlisted in Company E, 20th Iowa Infantry, and went to the front to assist in fighting the battles of his adopted country. Among the more important battles in which he took an active part were those of Prairie Grove and the siege and capture of Vicksburg. He was taken prisoner at Morganzie Bend, La., in November, 1863, and was confined in the rebel prison at Tyler, Tex., until September, 1864. He was then exchanged and joined his regiment, and fought with it at Ft. Blakely, and also at the fort at the mouth of Mobile Bay. After that he and his comrades

were stationed at Mobile until their discharge, in July, 1865. Our subject returned to Davenport at the close of his military career, and there engaged as mate of a steamer owned by Smith & Howlett. He continued in their employ sixteen months, and then turned his footsteps toward Nebraska. Here he found employment in the construction department of the Union Pacific Railway the ensuing two years. He then returned to Davenport to take charge of the street car stables. At the end of two years he left that place to take a similar one in Milwaukee. He had charge of the street car barns there until the spring of 1876, when he again took up his residence in Nebraska. He bought a farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, Cass County, and managed it with good results until the fall of 1887. He then formed a partnership with J. V. Egenberger to engage in the grocery business. They have been much prospered in this venture, their credit stands high in financial circles, and they bid fair to place themselves among the foremost representatives of the mercantile interests of Cass County.

Mr. Troop and Miss Lou Moore were united in marriage Dec. 18, 1870. She is a native of Missouri, and a daughter of George Moore. Mr. Troop bears a high reputation for honest dealings, and the cheerfulness, cordiality and urbanity that distinguish his manners gain the good-will and liking of all who come in contact with him. He is prominently identified with the G. A. R., as a member of McConihie Post No. 45, and he also belongs to Cass Camp No. 32, U. W. To the many friends whom they have gathered around them he and his wife often extend the generous hospitality of a home made attractive by its coziness, and the true courtesy of the host and hostess. Politically, he is a Republican.

CORNELIUS VOSBURGH is a successful, well-to-do farmer, who occupies a place of prominence among the agriculturists of Centre Precinct, where he has a highly productive farm on section 9, admirably adapted to the cultivation of grain, in which he is extensively engaged.

Our subject was born in Lackawanna Township, Luzerne Co., Pa., Oct. 30, 1834. His father, Charles Vosburgh, was a native of New York, born near the Hudson River, in the town of Hudson, Nov. 10, 1809. In early manhood he removed to Luzerne County, Pa., and was there united in marriage to Miss Milicent Van Luvener, and with her he lived in happy wedlock for the unusual length of fifty-two years. Of their union thirteen children were born, all of whom are still living. The mother of our subject passed away on the 29th of January, 1886, thus closing a life well rounded in years, well spent, and full of all things that go to make a good woman. The father of our subject is now passing his declining years in Lackawanna, where he is well known and honored, and is there tranquilly awaiting life's great end. His father, Cornelius Vosburgh, was born on the 19th of March, 1786, and spent the early part of his life at Hudson. From New York he went to Pennsylvania, and from there removed to Illinois, where his death occurred March 24, 1864, at the age of seventy-eight years and five days. He was a farmer and blacksmith, and followed those pursuits nearly all his life. His wife was born Sept. 23, 1786, and died Nov. 29, 1877, her life being prolonged to the advanced age of ninety-one years, two months and six days. The following children were born to her and her husband: Seymour V., Phœbe, Charles (father of our subject), Eliza, Samuel, William, Samuel, Fidelia, Clarissa, Pamelia and James.

Cornelius Vosburgh remained with his father until he had attained manhood, then started forth to see something of the world, turning his footsteps westward, and in 1855 we find him located in Rock Creek Township. But after trying farming there a year, he retraced his steps toward his Eastern home, going as far as DeKalb County, Ill., where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until the year of the Chicago fire, 1871, when he again came westward, and in Floyd County, Iowa, followed his calling for awhile. But California held strong attractions for him, and he was soon on the way to the Pacific Coast. He spent a few years in the Golden State and in Washington Territory prospecting, but not liking that region for a farming country, in 1876 we again find him in DeKalb County, Ill., where he resided until October, 1881,

when he came to make his home in this State, settling on land that he had previously purchased, whereon he still abides. From the wild prairie, by incessant and well-directed labor, he has built up a comfortable home, and has a farm under good tillage, has set out a good grove of trees, an orchard of apple trees of four acres, and all kinds of small fruits; he has also planted pear trees, but has had no success with them. He is continually making improvements, and his place already compares favorably with other farms owned by men who have been here much longer.

Cornelius Vosburgh and Cornelia C. Howlet were united in marriage May 23, 1859, and their wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of four children, three of whom are still living—Alfred H., George W. and Gertrude J. George married Miss Barbara Angel, and they have one child. Lewis Edward; Gertrude married Charles B. Andrews, son of D. D. Andrews, of whom see sketch on another page of this work. Mrs. Vosburgh was born in Lee County, Ill., Jan. 29, 1842, and the first eight years of her life were passed in her native place. She then went to Syracuse, N. Y., and staid with an uncle until she was sixteen years of age, and in 1855 returned to Illinois. She is a daughter of H. G. and Amanda M. (Canfield) Howlet, natives of Syracuse, N. Y., where they lived until after their marriage and the birth of three children, when they moved to Niles, Mich., and thence to where Chicago now stands in the year 1835, and were thus numbered among its early pioneers. There were then only three houses there, and a butcher shop. Mr. Howlet owned the land on which the old Board of Trade building afterward stood. He subsequently sold his property there, and took up his residence in Dixon, Ill., and later removed to a place three miles northwest of Paw Paw Village. He was one of the Deputy Sheriffs who helped to break up the "Dick Allen Prairie Banditti," he arresting Allen himself. He was in other ways prominent in public affairs, was Justice of the Peace, and held various other offices. He died Jan. 7, 1888, his wife having preceded him many years, dying in the year 1852. They were the parents of nine children, five of whom lived to maturity. Parley Howlet, the grandfather of Mrs. Vosburgh, was a native of Vermont. He moved from there to New York, and died on his large farm near Syracuse. The maiden name of his wife was Phebe Dodge.

Mr. Vosburgh is thoroughly respected for those characteristics that mark the true man and the honorable citizen. He has avoided public office, excepting to act as Roadmaster, preferring the quiet of his cheerful fireside to the cares of public life. Yet in every other way he is ready to do aught that will promote the welfare of the township. He has ever stood by the Republican party since its formation, and has not lost an opportunity to cast his vote in its favor since he attained his majority.

HIMENUS ADAMS, son of the well-known George W. Adams, of Avoca, has charge of his father's farm in this precinct, and is evidently, in point of industry, enterprise and intelligence, a "chip of the old block." Of the Adams family of this county a sketch will be found elsewhere in this work, having for its subject the father, George W. The Adams farm is devoted mainly to the raising of fine stock, a specialty being thoroughbred horses and Short-horn cattle. The farm is beautifully located on section 3, and comprises 520 broad acres with substantial and convenient buildings, the whole fulfilling the popular idea of the model country estate. Of this our subject has had the charge for the last five years, and in the management of its various interests is evidently proving himself a success.

Mr. Adams was born at the farm which he now occupies, Sept. 15, 1862, and was reared amid the quiet pursuits of country life, acquiring a practical education in the district school and remaining at home until his marriage. This interesting event in his life occurred Dec. 5, 1883, at the home of the bride, Miss Louise Gruber, in Liberty Precinct. Mrs. Adams was born in that precinct, March 19, 1863, and is the daughter of the well-known Peter Gruber, one of the most prominent farmers in the southeastern portion of this county. Mr. G. is a native of Germany, born and reared in one of the Rhine Provinces, where also he was married to Miss

Jacobina Opp, a native of the same locality. After the birth of three children they emigrated to the United States, settling first in the city of St. Louis, Mo. A few years later they came to this county, and Mr. Gruber secured land in Liberty Precinct during its early settlement. True to the instincts of his substantial German ancestry, he labored diligently, and is now the owner of a fine property, including a large and valuable farm of over 600 acres, which, with its buildings, live stock and machinery, forms one of the attractive points of interest along the southern line of the county.

Mrs. Adams was reared under the parental roof-tree, where she lived until her marriage, and is a lady in every way fitted for her position in life as the wife of a prominent and enterprising citizen. The young people have started out with the fairest prospects, and enjoy the good wishes of hosts of friends.

JOHN V. EGENBERGER. This gentleman is the senior member of the well-known firm of Egenberger & Troop, grocers, of Plattsmouth. He was born in the village of Waldhausen, which lies about five miles from Buchen, the capital of Grossherzogthum Baden, Germany, on the 24th of October, 1854. His family had been residents of that village for several generations, and seldom had any member of the family gone far from it to live. He is the son of John V. and Halena Egenberger. His father was a farmer, and reared his son to agricultural pursuits. He died in the year 1869, when about forty-five years of age.

The mother of our subject previous to her marriage bore the name of Helen Guthmann and is the sister of F. R. Guthmann (see sketch of that gentleman elsewhere in this volume). She came to America in September, 1872, and now resides in Plattsmouth. She is the mother of ten children, six of whom are living. These are: Mary, the wife of Henry Weckbeck; Veronica, the wife of William Weber; Louisa, who is married to Hammond Spies; Fred and Ludwig, single, all of whom are residents of Plattsmouth.

The subject of our sketch attended the schools of his native village until the spring of 1872, when, with his parents and relatives, he came to this country, and with them made his home in Plattsmouth. He commenced life in the New World by working on a farm in Cass County, and after the first year spent twelve months in Lancaster County, where he was engaged as a clerk in the store of his uncle, J. V. Weckbeck. There he remained for nine years, after which he was in a hardware store for two years, and then engaged in mercantile pursuits in his own interest. In 1887 he formed a partnership with Robert Troop, and began his present business, which has succeeded far beyond their expetations.

On the 16th of September, 1876, our subject was united in wedlock with Miss Mary Halschuh. She was born in Plattsmouth to John and Mary E. Halschuh, in June, 1859. Her parents were natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, in the village of Erbuch, and came to this country in the year 1853. There have come to Mr. and Mrs. Egenberger five little ones, to whom they gave the names here appended: Eddie, Albert, Freddie, Annie and Mena.

The subject of our sketch is a thoroughly capable business man and a much respected citizen, understanding and appreciating the principles of government and the institutions of liberty of the country. He is a member of the Board of Trade, and holds a leading position among the business men of Plattsmouth. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and meets with Trio Lodge No. 81, and is also identified with the Liederkrantz.

THEODORE JOHN, a well-to-do general farmer and stock-raiser of Stove Creek Precinct, has a farm which in all its appointments ranks among the best in this locality, and is one of which the owner may well be proud. Eighty acres of his land, forming the original homestead, with its substantial house, barns and other buildings, are located on the northeast quarter of section 20, and the remaining 160 acres of his land are on the opposite side of the street on section 21, the farm comprising in all 240 acres of improved land. It has good fences of hedge and wire, beautiful

groves planted by his own hands, three acres of orchard, containing 200 trees, and well supplied with water, Stove Creek running through it, and it is admirably adapted for a stock farm, to which purpose he devotes it largely, raising well-graded cattle, hogs and horses, having eight of the latter. Our subject is a veteran of the late Civil War, wherein he fought with valor for the country of his adoption, and has as fine a military record as any soldier, his experiences as an officer in the German Army, in the Fatherland, doubtless proving beneficial to him on Southern battle-fields.

Mr. John was born in Prussia, Aug. 16, 1831, to Benhart and Johanna (Huss) John, also natives of Germany. His father was a farmer of some means, and owned a farm of 240 acres in his native country, of which he was a lifelong resident, his death occurring there in 1842. His widow departed this life in 1860. To that estimable couple were born five children, as follows: Theodore, Oswald, Herman (deceased), Ollo and Augusta.

Their son Theodore, of whom we write, passed his boyhood in the place of his nativity, spending most of the time, as soon as old enough, in school, until he was fourteen years old. After his education was completed he went into a brewery, and there worked until he was eighteen, when he entered the German Army, serving in the cavalry as orderly under the King. He entered as a private, and served in that capacity three years, and was then promoted to be Sergeant, and was a commissioned officer the remainder of the twelve years that he was in the army. His life there finally proved too irksome, and longing for greater freedom, he retired from the service, and went back to his old employment in the brewery. In 1860 he set out for the United States, sailing from Hamburg in the steamer "Bavaria," and after a rapid passage of eight days landed at New York. He went from there to Albany, where he found work in a brewery. In 1861 he went to LaCrosse, and was for a time engaged in the same work. The same summer he went to Clinton County, Ill., and was employed on a farm there until the fall of 1861. At that time he enlisted in the 3d Missouri Cavalry, and after staying in camp three months under Gov. Stewart, was mustered out. In January he re-enlisted, and became a member of the 12th Illinois Cavalry, Company B, and was mustered in at Chicago, and in the spring of 1862 his regiment was sent to Virginia to join the Army of the Potomac. It took an active part in several skirmishes, and in the following battles: Culpeper, Shaftsbury (three days), battles of Gettysburg, Pamunkey, etc. In Richmond the Union soldiers burned the stores of the rebel army, and otherwise created great havoc inside the fortifications, the regiment in which our subject was engaged taking an active part in that siege. It was then ordered back to West Point, and thence to Chicago to recruit, it being but twenty-five strong after the hard fighting through which it had passed. Three months later it was ordered from that city to New Orleans, and after being transported to that city, was sent on the raid up the Red River. After that our subject and his fellow-soldiers were sent back to Memphis, and in the spring of 1865 he was honorably discharged in Springfield, Ill., after having served his adopted country three years and six months, in the front ranks of his regiment all the time, but was never wounded, and his vigorous constitution repelled all sickness.

After the close of the war Mr. John went to Clinton County, Iowa, and worked on a farm for six months, and then his system for the first time began to give way to the effects of his hardships on Southern battle-fields, and he was ill until the next spring (1866), when he sought the healthful climate of Nebraska to restore his physique to its wonted vigor, coming by steamer to Nebraska City. He there entered into business as a freighter, teaming goods or supplies with six yokes of bulls to Fts. Laramie and Smith, making four trips in the next two years. In the fall of 1867 he went back to Nebraska City, and in the spring of 1868 came to Cass County, having decided to try farming, and took up his present homestead of eighty acres on section 20. This part of the county was comparatively unsettled at that time, there being but two or three settlers ahead of him, and he had to start from the very beginning and evolve his farm from the wild, uncultivated prairie. We have seen how he has prospered since then, and has added to his original purchase in spite of the discourage-

ments offered by grasshopper raids, in which that insect made way with his entire crops one or two seasons, and the destructive powers of high winds and drouths.

Mr. John was married in St. Louis, in March, 1868, to Miss Rosa Fullemer, a native of Germany, and she has made his home pleasant and attractive to her family, and also to their many friends. The household circle is completed by the three children who have been born of their marriage—Minnie, Annie and Willie.

Our subject is possessed of sagacity, forethought and energy, so combined with those useful qualities of prudence, thrift and steadiness of purpose, that he cannot fail to accomplish what he attempts, and thus his success was assured from the start. He and his wife are among the leading members of the Catholic Church of Elmwood, and were active assistants in building it. In his political opinions Mr. John is strongly Republican.

JOHN JOHNSON, of English ancestry, and who is numbered among the well-to-do residents of Rock Bluff Precinct, is the subject of an interesting history. His parents, William and Jane (Talifairo) Johnson, were natives respectively of England and Virginia. The paternal grandfather, John Johnson, Sr., also of English birth and ancestry, spent his entire life upon the soil of his native country. His son William emigrated to the United States when a young man and settled in the Old Dominion, where he was married to Miss Talifairo.

The maternal grandfather of our subject met his death while serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary War under the immediate command of Gen. George Washington. It was while he was at home on a furlough that he was killed at a mill near his home by the Tories. William Johnson after his marriage, leaving the Old Dominion, migrated to Alabama, when his son John was a mere child, he having been born in Buckingham County, Va., Dec. 15, 1813. They located among the pioneers of Montgomery County, Ala., during its early settlement, where our subject lived until about 1840; then turning his steps westward, he crossed the Mississippi, and located in Montgomery County, Mo., where he engaged in farming, and was married six years later, Jan. 27, 1846, to Miss Jemima C. Thornhill. This lady was the daughter of Thomas L. and Lucy (Strange) Thornhill. Her paternal grandfather, William Strange, married Miss Sarah Lee, and both were natives of Virginia. The father of Mrs. Johnson was own cousin to Jefferson Davis, and her mother also was own cousin to the first wife (the daughter of ex-President Taylor) of the President of the Confederacy. To John and Jemima Johnson there was born a family of eighteen children, fifteen sons and three daughters. Of these five are living, namely: William T., Thomas R., Austin; Catherine S., now Mrs. J. M. Berger, a resident of Rock Bluff Township, and Andrew J.

Mr. Johnson left Missouri in January, 1865, coming to Nebraska Territory, and locating in Rock Bluff Precinct on the land, from which he made a good farm, and where he now lives. He is the proprietor of 400 broad acres, comprising the homestead, on sections 1 and 2, and has also 160 acres on section 16 and fifty acres of timber south of the city, besides ten acres of timber on the Island below Plattsmouth. The home farm is well improved, with good buildings, and the land is in a high state of cultivation, as is also the land on section 16.

Mr. Johnson, politically, has been a lifelong Democrat. During the war, and while a resident of Missouri, his horses, wagon, and a yoke of cattle were stolen by thieves, who sold the property. There was then an organized band of these marauders, who made it their business to drive away stock and carry off everything which they could secure, including meat, groceries, and everything that could be turned into money or that they could make use of in any way. One night after Mr. Johnson had slaughtered thirty hogs, the thieves came and stole all the backbones with the exception of five, and upon those they put poison. This was discovered by the fact that they left the cellar door open, and the cats who got in and ate of the meat died of the poison which was intended to kill the family. Mr. Johnson soon after left the country with his family, also leaving undisturbed the pois-

Yours Very Truly
O. H. Ballou

oned meat in the cellar. Having been a resident of Alabama, he remained neutral, and subsequently he was compelled to leave Missouri for safety.

Andrew J. Johnson, the son of our subject, remains at home with his parents, their solace and support, and like his father before him, has developed into a capable and intelligent man, one who, on account of his sterling worth of character, occupies a good position in his community, is carrying on the farm in the able and judicious manner in which it was educted and has been built up, comprising one of the most valuable estates in the county.

OTIS H. BALLOU, a distinguished citizen of Plattsmouth, and one of the most brilliant and successful lawyers of the Nebraska bar, is a man of rare discernment and culture, and since taking up his residence in this city has exerted a beneficial influence in promoting its prosperity and development. He is closely identified with the business interests of Cass County, and is manager of the Plattsmouth street railway, which he was instrumental in organizing.

Mr. Ballou was born in Greenfield, Saratoga Co., N. Y., Oct. 25, 1842. His father, Moses Ballou, was born on the same farm, of sturdy New England parentage. Otis Ballou, grandfather of our subject, was born at Smithfield, R. I., and there grew to manhood and married at the youthful age of nineteen years. After marriage he started with his young wife with an ox-team for the wilds of New York, and became a pioneer of Greenfield, Saratoga County. He bought a tract of timber land, erected thereon a substantial frame house, and at once set about clearing a farm. Schenectady, twenty-five miles distant, was the nearest market for some years, the way to it lying over a rough road, through the woods much of the distance. He and his wife spent the remainder of their married lives there, dying on the homestead which they had there erected.

The father of our subject was reared and married in that pioneer home, and he became a prominent paper manufacturer, owning and managing two mills in the town of Jamesville, N. Y. He subsequently disposed of his property in that town, and moving to Union Village, Washington County, built a paper-mill, which he operated with signal success until 1865. In that year he sold out his business, and in 1870 left his native State to take up his residence in Omaha. He lived there one year, and then came to Valley Station, and buying a tract of land of the Platte Valley Company, engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death, Feb. 16, 1882. The maiden name of his wife was Fanny Peacock, and she was also a native of Greenfield. Her father, Henry Peacock, was likewise born in that town, of which his parents were early pioneers. There were but two children in the family of the parents of our subject, himself and his brother Everett G., a real-estate dealer in Omaha.

Otis Ballou received his early education in the district schools, and subsequently took a good course of study in the academy at Jonesville, N. Y. After leaving school he taught one term in Saratoga County. When he was twenty-one years of age he began his career as a man of business by opening a wholesale paper store in Philadelphia. In that venture he was entirely successful during the three years that he carried it on. On account of impaired health he was obliged to dispose of his business, and received a $2,000 bonus for it. He then turned his attention to the more healthful employment of raising fruit, going to Burlington, N. J., where he bought a fruit farm, which he operated until 1871, when he came to Omaha. During his residence in New Jersey he had studied law with the firm of Earl & White, and after removing to Omaha he continued to prosecute his studies. He was admitted to the bar in 1873, and the following year opened an office in Omaha, and in the years that followed built up a good practice. In 1881 he became interested in the lumber business, but was not successful in that undertaking, losing the capital that he had invested during the year that he carried it on. After that he and his brother formed a partnership to conduct the real-estate business. The time and place for their embarkation in that business proved very propitious, as it was in season to take advantage of the great "boom" that soon struck that city and caused a rapid rise in the value of property, and stimulated business to an unprecedented extent. The brothers made money very

fast by their shrewd investments, and were soon counted among the wealthy citizens of Omaha. In 1884 Mr. Ballou resumed the practice of law in connection with his other business, and continued practicing and selling real estate until 1887, when he came to Plattsmouth. Here he bought 1,200 acres of land, a part of which was included in the corporation of the city, and the remainder joining it. Subsequently he laid out two additions to the city from a part of the investment, which already have been considerably improved. He at once commenced the erection of his present home, which was completed in the summer of 1888. This is the finest residence in Cass County and probably the finest country seat in the State. It is of a strikingly beautiful style of architecture, and the rare taste displayed in its ornamentation and furnishings, together with its surroundings, makes it a lovely dwelling-place.

Mr. Ballou was married, March 25, 1868, to Miss Isabel Glasgow, a native of Philadelphia. Her parents, William and Mary Glasgow, both natives of Pennsylvania, were of Scotch ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Ballou have two children living, Robert and Isabel. William, their first-born, died at the age of two and one-half years. Fanny and Arthur were twins; the former died at the age of four years, and the latter died in infancy.

Mr. Ballou has always been a stanch Republican, and a leader and counselor in the party. He has been a delegate to State and County Conventions many times, and in 1887 was one of the candidates of his party for the position of District Judge for the Third Judicial District of Nebraska. There was, however, a non-partisan ticket put into the field by the Democratic party, and an exciting contest followed, which resulted in the defeat of the entire Republican ticket. The contest brought forth the following tribute to our subject from Judge Cobb of the Supreme Bench, which we copy verbatim, as it expresses so well his character and ability, and is an echo of the estimate in which he is held by those familiar with him: Omaha *Republican*, Nov. 5, 1887—Query: "Judge Cobb, what is your opinion of the qualifications of Mr. Ballou for the position of District Judge?" Judge Cobb: "My personal opinion is this: Mr. Ballou stands very nearly at the top of the profession in this State, and I think if he were elected to the position of District Judge in Omaha, he would by his conduct and knowledge of the law meet the approbation of the bar as well as the citizens at large. I have heard him in many cases before the Supreme Court, and he invariably handled them with a very high degree of judgment, and evinced in the plainest manner close research and careful study in their preparation. His work was never faulty nor neglected, and always compared favorably with the best efforts of the attorneys of the State. Mr. Ballou is an active Republican; he has been actively identified with the party's interest, and is as enthusiastic in the success of those principles he so earnestly espouses. I think that the material for Judges can be selected from no more trustworthy source than from the Republican party. I have been a party man all my life, and sincerely believe in it. The fact that a man has been an active Republican during his life is no good or valid reason why he cannot do justice upon the bench to his most implacable enemy. To characterize Mr. Ballou as unqualified is unjust and unfair; he is perfectly capable and would make a good and fair Judge."

It gives us pleasure to print on another page the portrait of Mr. Ballou, than whom no other citizen of Cass County more deserves the honor.

ABRAM M. ROCKWELL, one of the prominent farmers of Centre Precinct, owning a fine farm of 160 acres on section 26, township 11, range 11 north, of the city of Weeping Water, is also one of Nebraska's pioneers. He was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., Nov. 5, 1849, coming of good stock and a family that had long been residents of the State. Jonah Rockwell, his grandfather, was a native and lifelong resident of New York.

Seth B. Rockwell, the father of our subject, was also born in Saratoga County, Feb. 14, 1808, being the date of his birth in that beautiful locality. He married Miss Elizabeth Tabor, and to them came five children, all of whom grew to maturity, and four of them are living in this precint. Mr. Rock-

well continued to reside in his native State until 1854, when he moved with his family to Illinois. In the fall of the year of 1868 he came still further West, and passed the remainder of his days in the home of our subject, dying here in 1883. His wife had preceded him in death two or three years before. They were people of sober, blameless lives, who were justly held in respect and esteem.

Our subject was a child of five years when his parents took him to their new home in Illinois, and he grew to a stalwart manhood, his parents carefully training him in habits of industry, and instilling into his mind principles of honesty and virtue. He completed his education in that State, and in 1868 came with his parents to Dodge County, and took up land, but continued to make his home with his father and mother until his marriage, and then they lived with him. They staid in Dodge County nine years, and in 1877 came to the place where our subject now lives. This they bought when it was wild prairie land, and have put on it every improvement of which it can boast, and they are many and valuable. Our subject has a good orchard, comprising three acres of choice fruit trees, besides small fruits. A good house was erected and substantial out-buildings the first year of possession. The farm is well stocked, and is cultivated to a high degree, rendering it very productive, and our subject raises a large quantity of grain.

Our subject has a pleasant home, his wife being a good housewife, who knows well how to make everything comfortable and cozy. Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell were united in marriage Sept. 11, 1881, and three children, Walter Calvin, William O., and Abram M., deceased, have blessed their wedded life. Mrs. Rockwell was formerly Miss Mary Maple, of Centre Precinct, where she had lived for some years prior to her marriage. She was born Feb. 22, 1862, in Iowa, and is a daughter of William and Martha A. (Jenkins) Maple. They were natives of Ohio, who became pioneers of Iowa, and subsequently of Nebraska. Mrs. Rockwell lived with her parents until her marriage, and they are now living in Elmwood Precinct, where her father is engaged in farming.

Mr. Rockwell is worthy of respect and esteem, inasmuch as his conduct in life is guided by principles of right and true piety, and by all his townspeople he is spoken of as a man of ability and integrity of purpose. His busy life gives him no time to mingle in public life or to attend to politics, but on election days he is always found at the polls, supporting the ticket of the good old Democratic party by voice and vote. He is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and does what he can to extend its influence.

EDWARD WILLIAMS, one of the prominent and leading farmers of Tipton Precinct, settled on his present homestead in 1869, where he arrived after a tedious and wearisome journey overland with teams, and settled down to the improvement of his eighty acres of raw land. He built a sod house in which they lived nine months. In the spring of 1870 he built a small frame house, hauling the lumber from Plattsmouth; he broke some prairie land and raised a few potatoes the first year, one of which weighed a pound. He set out trees from time to time until he now has a grove of eight or ten acres and a small orchard. He began raising strawberries for market, but has now quit, it not proving sufficiently remunerative. The entire farm is divided into 15-acre lots by cross fences of wire; the entire tract is well watered by a branch of Camp Creek, and is in all respects a well-located and admirably conducted homestead.

In 1884 the present beautiful residence was built, 14x26 feet, two stories high, with a wing 14x16 feet, with porch and cellar, and is surrounded by a neat picket fence, new barn, and other convenient out-buildings. His attention is devoted to gardening, general farming, Short-horn, graded Jersey and Angus cattle, and thoroughbred Poland-China hogs. The cattle and hogs show the care that has been given them by their owner, and most certainly do him full credit.

Mr. Williams was born near New Diggings, LaFayette Co., Wis., Oct. 12, 1845, and was one of a family of six children: Melvina, Mary and William are older, and Lucy and Emma are younger than our subject. The sister Melvina and brother William are dead. The father died when our subject

was a child. After his death our subject went to live with Mr. W. Thompson, where he remained several years. When he began to work out by the month all his wages went to help support his mother and her family. He continued working until eighteen years of age, when, Dec. 29, 1863, he enlisted in the 46th Illinois Infantry, Company D, and was mustered into service at Camp Butler, under Capt. Miller, Col. Jones Regimental Commander. He participated in the skirmish at Benton, Miss., May 13, 1864, and the engagement at Jackson, Miss., July 6 and 7; in the skirmish at Spanish Fort, Ala., March 28, 1865; in the charge on and capture of Ft. Blakeslee, April 9; at Mobile, April 12, and many other minor engagements and skirmishes. He was mustered out and honorably discharged from the service at Baton Rouge, La., June 20, 1866, when he returned North and rented various farms until 1869, when we find him located at his present homestead in Tipton Precinct.

The subject of this sketch and Miss Caroline E. Krieger were married at Cadiz, Green Co., Wis., Jan. 3, 1869. This lady is the daughter of Albert and Mary Magdalene (Humell) Krieger. Jesse Williams, the father of our subject, was a miner, and was engaged in mining at Galena, Ill., where he continued working up to a year or two before his death, when he removed to McConnell's Grove, near Freeport, on the Pecatonica River, where his decease occurred when he was forty years of age.

Our subject's mother was married the second time, to Mr. David D. Young. Mr. Young served in the 46th Illinois Infantry during the late Civil War, from which he was honorably discharged at the expiration of his three years' term of service, this being the same regiment of which our subject was a member. The mother died in 1871, aged fifty-seven years. The father of the wife of our subject came to America when he was seventeen years old, settling in Pennsylvania. He was a blacksmith, and continued his trade in Philadelphia after his marriage. He was a fine musician, highly educated in the art, and was unusually expert in handling the violin, and was a member of one of the leading bands of Germany. In 1859 he removed with his family to Milwaukee, Wis., where he farmed for two years. In 1861 he removed to Stephenson County, Ill., where he bought and improved fifty acres of land. He lived on this farm for seven years, when he removed to Nebraska, where he bought a tract of land, which he held only three months when he sold it, and went back to McConnell's Grove, Ill., where he rented land and lived until 1880, when he died, aged fifty-seven years.

The lady's mother is living with one of her daughters in Freeport, Ill., and is now seventy-two years old. She has been married three times; four children were born to her as the result of the first marriage, they being Arnold, Ellis, Sarah and Mary. Arnold and Ellis were in the late Civil War; Arnold died of the typhoid fever at Winchester, Va.; Ellis was wounded but recovered, and is now living in Pennsylvania. Two children, twins, were born as the result of the second marriage, Moses and Aaron Heise. They were both in the army. Moses died four weeks after he enlisted, from the black measles; Aaron served to the close of the war, and was honorably discharged. The wife of our subject, Caroline, was born in Clearfield County, Pa., Dec. 19, 1855. When she was four years old the family removed to Wisconsin, and from there to Illinois when she was six years old, where they lived until she was married to our subject. She was the eldest of three children of her mother's third and last marriage, her sister Sophia J. and brother Joseph being younger.

During the period in which our subject was in the army he lost his health by exposure and the viscissitudes of war, and returned home with his constitution broken and health shattered, so much so that at this time he finds himself the large portion of the time unable to look after the operations of the farm. At such times the work is not neglected, for in the person of his estimable wife he finds a good manager and a veritable helpmate. When he is unable to work she takes the burden from his shoulders, and if need be will go out into the field and help assist in stacking the grain, breaking ground, and participating in any other necessary labor to make their farm a success, and it is only due to her to say that the competency and comfort which they now enjoy are largely due to her ability and willing-

ness to assume the management of the place when needed. During her leisure hours she has acquired great skill in making wax flowers and other waxwork, and she has lovely specimens in her parlor, which is the most costly furnished room in the precinct, many of the articles contained there being the direct result of her exquisite taste and skill.

Two children have been born to this couple, William J. and James A.; both died with the dread disease diphtheria. Both husband and wife are conscientious members of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Williams is a straight Republican in politics.

A TYSON. The subject of this personal narrative was an early settler of Stove Creek Precinct, and has contributed his full quota toward its development and progress. He is a native of Canada, born in Ontario, April 27, 1821. His father, John Tyson, was born in Germany, near Hamburg, where he grew to man's estate. He learned the cooper's trade there, and was also a sailor, having charge of a private vessel for several years. He subsequently emigrated to America and settled in Canada, where he married Malinda Waldron, a native of Chittenden County, Vt. He afterward moved to Prescott, on the St. Lawrence River, but after sojourning there a few years he moved across the river into New York State. Six years later he moved to Genesee County, where he worked at coopering until 1842. Mr. Tyson then moved with his family to Hancock County, Ill., where he engaged at his trade. Another removal found him in St. Louis, where he remained but a short time before returning to Illinois, when he settled in DeKalb County, and continued his former occupation. Besides working at his trade Mr. Tyson was a local preacher in the Universalist denomination for some years, and preached occasionally until his death, which occurred in DeKalb County in 1862, at the venerable age of ninety years. His wife survived him, dying in 1873, at eighty-six years of age. They had a family of six children, as follows: William H., a soldier of the Mexican War, who, after being discharged from the army, returned as far as St. Louis, and there fell a victim of cholera; Abiathar; Sarah, deceased; Harriet, of Columbus, Neb.; Silas and Louisa, deceased. Abiathar Waldron, the maternal grandfather of our subject, at the time of the Revolution, being too young to enlist, went into the army as a servant, but was mustered into the ranks. After the war he went to Vermont, and in 1798 married a daughter of Mr. Evarts, and settled on a farm in Williston. He subsequently sold his land there and moved to Quebec, Canada, becoming one of the pioneer farmers of that section of the country. When the Canadian Rebellion broke out in 1838, he sold his Canadian possessions, and moved to St. Lawrence County, N. Y. In 1840 he bought a farm there, on which he lived until his death in April, 1841. Mrs. Waldron survived her husband, dying in 1846.

Abiathar Tyson, of this sketch, can remember moving with his parents from Canada to the States, first locating in St. Lawrence County, and then in Erie County, N. Y.; when twenty-one years of age he moved to Illinois and followed the cooper's trade, and also worked at carpentering somewhat. He afterward removed to DeKalb County, Ill., in 1848, but the cholera breaking out soon after, he took a trip back to New York, and remained there a year. Our subject then returned to DeKalb County, Ill., and worked at coopering there until his marriage, June 22, 1857, to Miss Ellen W. Boughen, daughter of James and Maria (Worf) Boughen. Her maternal grandfather, William Worf, was a farmer in England, and her paternal grandfather, James Boughen, was a huckster in the same country. James Boughen, Jr., the father of Mrs. Tyson, was born in England, and there spent his entire life. When young he worked out as a gentleman's servant, but after marriage engaged in milling until his accidental death by scalding in 1849, while at work in a brewery. His widow afterward emigrated to the United States, and located first in New York State, then moved to Illinois, but is at the present time living in Clay County, Kan., at the advanced age of seventy-one. She is the mother of four children, namely: Ellen, Charles (deceased), and Ambrose and John, of Clay County, Kan. Ambrose enlisted in an Illinois regiment in 1864, and served until the close of the war. Ellen, the

wife of our subject, was born in Walton, Norfolk County, England, Dec. 23, 1838, and came to America with her mother when fifteen years old. She sailed from Liverpool on the sailing-vessel "Van Gerard," and after a voyage of seven weeks disembarked in New York City. She remained with her mother until her marriage with our subject, in Belvidere, Boone Co., Ill.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Tyson remained in Illinois until the fall of 1865, when they came with two teams to Nebraska, crossing the Mississippi River at Ft. Madison, Iowa, and the Missouri River at Nebraska City. Five weeks after leaving home they reached Nemaha County, thence came to Cass County, and took up a homestead claim of 160 acres in Stove Creek Precinct, section 10, township 10, range 10. It was raw prairie land, and our subject broke it with oxen. He raised a small crop the first year, and hauled the lumber to build his house, having to ford a stream with it. He continued improving his land, set out trees and orchards, but the grasshopper raid came soon after, and for four successive years Mr. Tyson lost his crops. He had a hard struggle then, having to subsist one year on buckwheat and had to mortgage his farm to live. A few years of good harvests after that enabled him to retrieve his losses, and soon placed him in an independent position. He has since then built a fine house, a large barn, and other buildings on his farm, and bought forty acres of land in Elmwood, on which he has erected a commodious dwelling, where he now lives and carries on farming on a small scale, having given up the management of his homestead farm to one of his sons.

To our subject and his wife the following family has been born: Lester R. is a mail agent from Council Bluffs to Ogden; William Henry, deceased; Horace manages the homestead farm; Louis A. is a farmer in Stove Creek Precinct; Florilla is the wife of J. Breedon, a farmer of Dundee County, Neb., and they have one child; Arvilla, at home; Moroni is at school at Council Bluffs; Delbert is at home; Hattie, deceased; Ellen M., at home; Edith and an infant both deceased.

Mr. Tyson, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has served as Constable four years and on the School Board several terms. Religiously, he and his estimable wife worship with the Latter-Day Saints, who hold their meetings in the district school-house. They are both kind, hospitable people, who, by their genial, pleasant ways have endeared themselves to their entire neighborhood. Mr. Tyson has amassed a comfortable property, but is still expecting more, a dowry settlement of an estate that was given to some of his ancestors by Col. Dondow in 1666. They emigrated from England to New York, and were granted a tract of land on the Harlem River by the common syndicate that controlled it, and the heirs are now trying to prove their claims.

WILLIAM WESTLAKE. By a happy dispensation of Providence men are led into a thousand channels, some delighting in the pursuit of agriculture, others inclining to a professional life, while others are born with mechanical genius, and so on we might enumerate a long category. All these worked out properly are important in completing the sum of human acquirements and happiness. The subject of this sketch, a success in his line, is not only a skillful farmer, but a stock-raiser of no little importance in Southern Nebraska. In carrying on his operations he utilizes a fine tract of land in Avoca Precinct, pleasantly located on sections 18 and 19, and 400 acres in extent.

As an especial lover of the equine race Mr. Westlake has in his stables and fields some of the finest specimens of horseflesh to be found in Cass County. At the head is "Bonnie Boy," an animal registered No. 2,965, sired in France in 1882, and imported by Mr. Perry, of River View, Ill. He was purchased by Mr. Westlake in February, 1883, and weighs about 2,000 pounds. In color he is that of almost indescribable brown, which is universally admired. The next two animals most valuable in the estimation of their owner were purchased by him of William L. Elwood, of DeKalb County, Ill., in 1887. They are named respectively "Soubise" and "Houri," the former No. 5,795 (5280), and the latter No. 5,878 (8224). Soubise was foaled in France in 1884. He is a dark gray stallion of

magnificent proportions, and was imported a few months prior to his purchase by Mr. Westlake. He weighs 1,900 pounds, and is of proportionate value. "Houri" is a fine black horse, foaled also in France, in 1885, imported the year following, and purchased by our subject in 1887. He weighs 1,800 pounds, and is much admired.

Mr. Westlake has obtained a fine reputation as a breeder throughout Nebraska and the States adjoining. He has exhibited at both the State and local fairs, and frequently carries off the blue ribbons. His experience in this business is quite extended, he having given to it much attention since coming to the young State of Nebraska in the June of 1867. He at that time settled in Avoca Precinct, of which he has since been a resident, and is the owner of one of the finest farms within its limits. His land is all improved and embellished with a handsome and substantial set of frame buildings. The village of Avoca is two miles distant, and forms his post-office and the nearest station of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, four miles from Weeping Water.

The Westlake farm, when purchased by its present proprietor, was a tract of raw prairie, of which he first secured only eighty acres. He is now a land-owner to the extent of 400 acres, which comprises an exceedingly valuable property, and upon which he has expended years of labor and thousands of dollars. Adjacent to the buildings is a spring of never-failing water, which can only be appreciated at its full value by those who have suffered the inconvenience of drouth in a somewhat capricious climate. In addition to the breeding of horses Mr. Westlake has also a herd of fine cattle and swine.

A native of Devonshire, England, Mr. Westlake was born Oct. 30, 1836, and came with his parents to America when a little lad ten years of age. They settled in Canada, where he was reared to man's estate with a limited education. He was married in the Dominion, Nov. 11, 1858, to Miss Ann Graham, who was born in Simcoe County, Canada, about 1838. Her parents were natives of Ireland. Her father died when she was a little child one year old, and the mother died Jan. 1, 1881. Like her husband her school days were brief in duration, and she early became acquainted with the cares and responsibilities of life. These experiences, however, usually result in a self-reliant and independent disposition, and are in many cases of more value than college learning.

To Mr. and Mrs. Westlake there were born six children, of whom the record is as follows: The eldest son, William H., married Miss Mary E. McKay, and they are living on a farm in Avoca Precinct; John and Samuel are at home with their parents; Hannah is the wife of George Hebner, and they are also residents of Avoca Precinct; George and Frederick continue under the home roof. Mr. W., politically, is independent, aiming to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office, and carefully refrains from taking upon himself the cares and responsibilities incident to a phblic position. The stock-raising interests of Cass County, and in fact Southern Nebraska, have found in him one of their most useful and efficient factors.

JOSHUA W. BULLIS occupies a prominent position in the farming community of Weeping Water Precinct, where he is quite extensively engaged in raising grain and stock. His farm, embracing the northwest quarter and forty acres of the southwest quarter of section 9, contains 200 acres of as fertile and productive land as is to be found under the sunny skies of Nebraska.

Our subject was born in Canada, Nov. 20, 1853, received his education in the excellent schools of his native town, and lived there until he was twenty years of age. His father, Joshua Bullis, is likewise a Canadian by birth, and he is still living there at an advanced age, he having been born in 1809. He has always lived on the same farm, although he has now practically retired from work, having won a comfortable competence by hard labor in earlier life, so that he can now pass his declining years in ease. He has been a prominent man in his day, having served in public capacities, and he is still an influential member of the Methodist Episcopal Church with his family. He married Mary Andrews, of Leeds, England, who crossed the waters to Canada when a young lady, with her mother. She

died in 1860, when our subject was seven years old. Her father, Capt. William Andrews, was a soldier and officer in the English service most of his life. At the age mentioned Joshua Bullis left his father's home, and crossing the border to the "States," made his way to Wisconsin, where he began life as a clerk in a store in Menasha. Seven years later he came to Nebraska, in June, 1879. He first located in Elmwood Precinct, and was there engaged in farming for several years. At one time he owned an improved farm on section 10, which he afterward disposed of, and bought another on section 13, which was also well improved. He subsequently disposed of that also, at an advance on the original cost, and coming to Weeping Water, was actively engaged in the mercantile business for two years. He was very successful in that venture, but thought that a stirring, out-of-door life would agree with his health better, and would also suit his tastes. Therefore he bought his present farm in 1885. In the three short years that have elapsed since that time, by his energetic and well-directed toil he has brought about a great change, converting the tract of wild prairie land into a well-cultivated farm, replete with all the improvements of a model farm. He has it all neatly fenced and under good tillage, and has erected a substantial dwelling and other necessary buildings. In this, the third year of his occupancy, he has raised 4,000 bushels of corn, 700 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of barley, 200 bushels of wheat, besides potatoes and other vegetables, and he has put up ten tons of hay and a like amount of millet. He raises fine stock, and has twenty head of cattle on his place all of the time.

Mr. Bullis and Miss Mary I. Chapman, of Menasha, Wis., united their fortunes Oct. 9, 1878, and together they have built up one of the coziest homes in all Weeping Water Precinct. Mrs. Bullis was born in Sheboygan, Wis., a daughter of John Chapman, a woolen manufacturer of Menasha. He died in January, 1885. His widow, a woman of great business tact and ability, is still living, and manages the mill at Watertown, Wis.

Our subject is a man of more than ordinary ability, and although still young, has, by his own exertions, gained a competency. His fellow-citizens have confidence in him, and would gladly entrust some responsible office to his care, but he is too busy with his own private affairs to mingle in public life, and has refused to be nominated to any position. He is a Republican in his political views, and his party has no more stanch supporter in this precinct.

EMIL SCHRIDER. The neat homestead occupying 160 acres on sections 4 and 5, Avoca Precinct, is owned and operated by the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch, and who is still in the enjoyment of single blessedness. With the exception of this he has performed his duties creditably as a member of the community, and it is supposed that in the thorough and skillful cultivation of his land he has found himself too busy to take upon himself the further responsibilities of a family.

In the Duchy of Sleswick-Holstein, which has furnished so many of the best citizens of America, was located the boyhood home of our subject, and where his birth took place July 16, 1846. He was there reared and educated, and for a period of eleven months during his early manhood belonged to the standing army of Denmark. He lived in his native country until twenty-four years of age, then, not satisfied with his surroundings or his prospects, started for America, taking passage on the ship "Sembrio," and landing ten days later in the city of New York. His destination was the Far West, and he accordingly proceeded straight toward the Mississippi, landing in this county, and settling at once in Avoca Precinct. He purchased 160 acres of land on sections 4 and 5, which constitutes his home farm, while he has 160 acres on section 8, in Weeping Water Precinct. He has always made it a rule to live within his income, and avoid placing an incumbrance upon his property. His land is mostly under a state of cultivation, and each year is adding something to its value. Upon becoming a naturalized citizen he identified himself with the Republican party, and is a man of prominence in his precinct, holding many of the local offices, and generally respected in his community.

The parents of our subject were Claus and Anna (Johanson) Schrider; the father lives in his native

Yours Truly

Jno. Black M.D.

Germany, and the mother died in 1887. They were honest and industrious people, and the father was employed as a mechanic mostly in connection with an iron manufactory. The parental household included six children, five of whom are living, three in this country, and two in Germany.

JOHN BLACK, M. D., is among the foremost men of enterprise and ability who have been instrumental in raising Plattsmouth from a small town to its present condition as a wealthy and important metropolis, with great commercial interests, and the center of a rich agricultural region. His influence has indeed extended far beyond the limits of this municipality, as he, with other men of high standing, has given the financial interests of Cass County a great impetus, he having been instrumental in the establishment of no less than three banks within its borders.

The Doctor was born in Northumberland County, England, Nov. 14, 1821, and is a son of William and Cicely (Lilley) Black, both natives of that county. The father of our subject was reared and married in the home of his birth, and having been reared to the life of a farmer, followed that pursuit there for some years. In 1838 he came to America, accompanied by his wife and seven children. They landed in New York after an exceedingly long voyage of sixty-seven days, and Ohio being their destination, they proceeded on their journey by the modes of travel common in those days, almost before the era of railways, and at length found themselves in the wilds of Knox County, in the Buckeye State. They lived there until 1852, when Mr. Black and his family, once again taking up the westward route, traveling with teams, taking a part of their household goods, cooking and camping by the wayside wherever night overtook them, at length arrived in DeKalb County, Mo. Several families were with them, and the six weeks consumed in traveling passed away very pleasantly. Mr. Black bought a tract of wild land one-half mile from the village of Maysville, and there improved an excellent farm, which he made his home until his death, in January, 1862. His wife survived him some years, dying at the home of her son in Maysville, in 1873. They were the parents of seven children, all born in England, as follows: Isabelle, John, Robert, Elizabeth, Alexander, William and Margaret, and all of whom came to the United States.

Our subject was reared in his native county until he was sixteen. He attended the parish school and assisted on his father's farm, and at the age mentioned accompanied his parents to this country, and has since known no other home. He was ambitious to improve his education, and commenced attendance at the district schools of Knox County, Ohio. He advanced rapidly in his studies, and subsequently pursued a good course at Fredericktown Academy, in the same county. He entered upon the study of medicine in that town at the age of twenty-two years, and afterward became a student at Cleveland, attending lectures at the Cleveland Medical College, from which he was graduated with honor in the spring of 1847, being finely prepared for his profession. He opened an office in Claridon, Ohio, and in the few years that he remained there secured an excellent practice. During his residence there he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Wiley, June 29, 1848, being the date of their wedding. She was born in Knox County, Ohio, Dec. 13, 1825. Hugh Wiley, her father, was born in Pennsylvania, and his father, John Wiley, who was a farmer, spent his last years in Franklin County, that State. Mrs. Black's father was reared and married in Pennsylvania, and Elizabeth Morrow, who was born and reared in Chambersburg, Pa., and was a daughter of Wilson Morrow, became his wife. They moved to Ohio about 1824, the removal across the mountains being made with teams. They located in Knox County, and were pioneers there. He bought a tract of timber land, on which was a log cabin, in which the family found shelter for a few months, and then Mr. Wiley replaced it by a more commodious hewed log house, the same in which Mrs. Black was born. The surrounding country was in a very wild condition, deer, bears and wolves being plentiful for some years after the family first settled there. The nearest markets for grain were the lake ports, seventy miles distant. Mrs. Black's mother, having no stove, did her cooking by the fireplace for some years. She was an

expert both in spinning and weaving wool and flax, and her skillful hands supplied her husband and children with clothing. Mrs. Black's father cleared a farm, on which he resided until shortly before his death, when he sold it, and purchasing another place near by, made his home on it until his death, in 1855.

In 1854 Dr. Black moved to Missouri with his family, going via rail to Rock Island, Ill., then the western terminus of the railway, thence down the Mississippi to Burlington, where they took the stage to Mt. Pleasant, the end of the stage route; there the Doctor hired a hack to take them to Centreville, and from there they proceeded to the end of their journey in a two-horse wagon. Our subject established himself in Maysville, Mo., and practiced medicine there until 1863. In that year he came to Nebraska and opened an office in Plattsmouth, where he was actively engaged in his profession for some years. He soon became identified with the financial interests of the city and county, and was active in obtaining the establishment of the Bank of Cass County, of which institution he was President until he sold out his share of stock. He then assisted in founding the Citizens' Bank, and was its President for three years. To his influence, also, does the Commercial Bank at Weeping Water owe its existence. One of the enterprises of our subject was the erection of a fine large block in this city, known as the Union Block. He has abandoned the practice of his profession, having won a good reputation for skill and learning, and is now living in retirement in the enjoyment of an ample income, for he has acquired an extensive property by judicious investment. He and his family occupy a prominent position in the society of this community, and are held in highest estimation by a large circle of friends, who often share with them the hospitalities of a refined and cultured home. Dr. and Mrs. Black have six children, namely: Erasmus W., Junius N.; Josephine A., wife of P. E. Rufner, of Plattsmouth; Oella D., wife of E. A. Kirkpatrick, of Cass County; Robert W. and Martha Celestia, who lives at home with her parents. Mrs. Black, a lady who is admired and esteemed for her many amiable qualities, is a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and quietly lends her influence to promote its good works. Politically, Dr. Black has always been identified with the Democratic party.

We present herewith the portrait of this well-known, wide-awake and enterprising citizen of Plattsmouth, one who has done much to raise the city from its former condition as a small village, and to whom she owes in no small degree her present prosperity.

HARRY C. RITCHIE has been identified with the commercial interests of Plattsmouth since 1884, buying a home here and establishing himself in his present business as a member of the firm of J. W. Jennings & Co. He has since formed a partnership with L. E. Skinner, and they make abstract business a specialty, although they do an extensive real-estate, loan and insurance business besides.

Mr. Ritchie was born in Madison, Jefferson Co., Ind., Oct. 30, 1849. His father, John Ritchie, was a native of the same county, while his grandfather, Silas Ritchie, is supposed to have been a native of Virginia. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject was born in the North of Ireland, and coming to America, landed in Virginia, and there made his home the rest of his days, being actively engaged as a farmer. The grandfather of our subject was reared and married in his Virginian home, and moved from there about 1820 to Indiana, becoming an early settler of that State. He bought a tract of timber land, a part of which is now included in the town of Madison, and was a resident there until his death.

The father of our subject was reared to manhood in his native State, and was there married to Melvina Kyle. Three children were born of their marriage—Harry C., Genevieve and Lucy M. Mr. Ritchie engaged in the mercantile business with his father for a time, and later engaged in the manufacture of brick, and also superintended a large pork packing house in Indiana. He is still a resident of his native State, but has retired from business, having accumulated considerable property.

Harry Ritchie was reared and educated in Madison, and at the age of eighteen entered the mercan-

tile world as a clerk in a dry-goods store, remaining in the same establishment three years. He desired, however, to try life beyond the Mississippi, and went to St. Joseph, Mo., where he secured a lucrative position as clerk in a wholesale dry-goods house. He remained with that firm until 1875, when he went to Hamburg, Iowa, to establish himself in business as proprietor of a general store. He managed his interests there very well for some years, but in 1879 he closed out his business and returned to St. Joseph, where he again entered the employ of a wholesale house, and, as a drummer, traveled over Kansas and Nebraska. He won golden opinions from his employers, as he made large and profitable sales, his geniality, frankness, and ready conversational powers, making him popular with all with whom he had dealings. In 1884 he came to Plattsmouth and bought a home, wishing to settle down quietly in a pleasant locality with his family. As before mentioned, he became a member of the firm of J. W. Jennings & Co. He became associated with his present partner in 1886, and they are conducting a good business.

Mr. Ritchie was married, July 17, 1879, to Miss Josephine M. Fegan. She was born in Fairfield, Iowa, a daughter of James and Mary Fegan, natives of Pennsylvania. Two children, Jennie M. and Mary L., complete the household circle.

Although Mr. Ritchie has been a resident of this city but a few years, he shows the interest of an old settler in its development, and encourages the various schemes for its improvement. He and his estimable wife have attained social prominence in this community, where they are cordially liked by all who have had the pleasure of meeting them. Mr. Ritchie is an ardent Republican in his political views.

CAPT. J. M. CREMER, an old veteran of the Union Army during the Civil War, has for years been recognized as one of the most prominent and public-spirited citizens of Tipton Precinct. He was shot six times while in the service of his country, the first and second grazing his scalp, the third entering his neck, and the fourth, a ball, struck him in the left breast, and went clear through his body nine inches; the fifth struck his left forearm, mutilating it, and breaking the bone so that it was useless. The sixth shot struck him in the left breast bone, and three-fourth inches below the fourth wound, and lodged within his ribs, where it at present lies, although it keeps changing about, and at times gives the Captain much pain.

Capt. Cremer is the offspring of a substantial old family, and the son of David Cremer, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., in 1798. The latter married Miss Elizabeth Stull, also a native of Somerset County, and born the same year as her husband. The paternal grandfather, Adam Cremer, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., and served through the Revolutionary War as a non-commissioned officer. Afterward he established a blacksmith-shop in connection with a farm in his native county, and was quite prominent in public affairs, officiating as Justice of the Peace, and occupying other local offices. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-six years. The great-grandfather, Adam Cremer, Sr., was a native of Germany, and upon emigrating to America settled in Virginia, where he carried on farming. Upon the outbreak of the Revolutionary War he shouldered his musket and rushed to the defense of the Colonists. He spent his last years in Virginia.

On the mother's side John Stull, the grandfather of our subject, also a native of Pennsylvania, took part in the War of 1812. He had in the meantime, in 1800, emigrated to Ohio, and in the Buckeye State spent the closing years of his life. He was a son of one of the earliest settlers of Pennsylvania, who was of German descent. He married a lady of Swedish ancestry, who was the daughter of a Capt. Allbright, and she lived to be one hundred and thirteen years old.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and in his young manhood was a member of the Pennsylvania Home Guards. He was there married, and in 1833 emigrated to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where he purchased from the Government a tract of timber land. He cleared two farms in the Buckeye State, but in 1852, pushing farther westward, purchased eighty acres in Kankakee County, Ill., and from the wilderness built up a good homestead, where he spent the remainder of

his life, passing away in 1866. He was a Whig, politically, a man of decided views, and a good citizen. The mother survived her husband until 1874, and died at the old home in Illinois. Both were active members of the Church of the United Brethren a period of forty years or more, in which the father was a chief pillar, and officiated as Class Steward.

To the parents of our subject there were born twelve children, namely: Margaret, Hannah, Sarah and Johanna, all deceased; J. M., our subject; Isesa, Jesse, Silas and Rachel (deceased); David, Joseph and Elizabeth, residents respectively of Nebraska and Indiana. Jesse during the Civil War enlisted as a Union soldier, in 1861, in the 64th Illinois Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and was with Sherman at the siege of Atlanta. On the 22d of July, 1864, he was shot dead while in the performance of his duty.

Capt. Cremer was born in Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset Co., Pa., April 27, 1825, and grew up on a farm. When a little lad eight years of age, his parents removed to Ohio, and he remained with them until a youth of seventeen. He then began an apprenticeship at the tanner's trade at Canal Dover, Ohio, remaining there two years, when on account of failing health he returned to the farm. He worked with his father two years thereafter, and then began learning the carpenter's trade. A year later he returned to his old home in Pennsylvania to visit friends and settle up his grandfather's estate. Upon going back to Ohio he employed himself as a carpenter, and was married in Canal Dover, Oct. 12, 1848, to Miss Martha, daughter of John and Hannah (Riggle) Gamble.

The parents of Mrs. Cremer were natives of Ohio. The paternal grandfather, William Gamble, was born in Ireland, and settled in Ohio upon emigrating to the United States, where he spent his last days. Grandfather Riggle was a native of Virginia, of German descent, a blacksmith by trade, and lived to be very old. John Gamble, in 1851, removed to Illinois, settling near Pontiac in Livingston County, where his death took place at the age of forty years, in 1852. The mother also died that year, at the age of forty-three. Their children comprised seven sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, died when quite small; Martha J., Mrs. Cremer, was the second child; Adam and William W., are deceased; Harvey and John are residents of Wisconsin; Asbury died in 1852. The others are Robert, of Champaign, Ill.; Cook, of Wyoming Territory; Louisa is living in Wisconsin, and Ellen S., who died when three years old; Adam, Harvey, John, Robert and Cook all served as soldiers in the Union Army. Adam died at LaGrange, Tenn., in 1863.

Mrs. Cremer was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Jan. 10, 1829, and remained a resident of her native State until the fall of 1851. The family then journeyed overland with teams to what was then Will, but is now Kankakee County, Ill., and settled near the present town of Momence, when there were only two houses between them and Chicago. Father Gamble purchased 240 acres of prairie land, but for two years thereafter occupied himself mostly at his trade of carpenter. Subsequently he paid his whole attention to farming. In 1860 he moved to Coles County, Mo., and was one of the earliest settlers of that region. He purchased 320 acres of land, but there being too many rebels about, went back to Illinois, and this time located near Fairfield, in Wayne County, where he purchased a farm of 120 acres.

The year following, 1861, our subject entered the service of the Government, and assisted in recruiting the 18th, 40th and 63d Illinois Regiments. This effected, he raised a company for the 87th Illinois Infantry, and himself became a member of Company D, in that regiment, enlisting as a private in August, 1862, at Shawneetown. He thereafter participated in many of the important battles of the war, being at Uniontown and Caseyville, Ky., Island No. 10, Ft. Pillow, Hernando, Tenn., Coldwater, Young's Point, Milliken's Bend, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Jackson, Miss., and Champion Hills. At Champion Hills 1,600 men of his division were killed outright. Later they met the enemy at Black River, and the Captain participated in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. He was with the corps which made the famous charge on the 22d of May, 1863. July 4 was another memorable day, and later our subject with his regiment was transferred to the Department of the Gulf, after which he was

promoted to the rank of Captain of Company I. Soon afterward he went to New Orleans to recruit, remaining there until September 9, when they were transferred to the command of Gen. Banks. Subsequently occurred the battles of Franklin, New Iberia, Vermilion, and other hand-to-hand engagements with the Confederates.

In February, 1864, the company of Capt. Cremer was made a part of the Red River expedition, and fought in a number of battles. Among these was that at Wilson's Hill, where our subject was under fire four hours, and where he received his most serious wounds above spoken of. He was left on the field three days and three nights, supposed to have been mortally wounded. Upon being discovered he was loaded into an ambulance, hauled forty miles to the Red River, then taken on a boat 640 miles to New Orleans, and placed in the St. James' Hospital. The sufferings which he thereafter endured can better be imagined than described, in fact he was in a condition which it would hardly be proper to mention here. Nothing but his splendid constitution enabled him to survive. When wounded he weighed 214 pounds, and fourteen days later had been reduced to 151 pounds.

Capt. Cremer remained in the hospital until June 10, 1864, and then received a passport to return home. He was given transportation across the Gulf to New York, was provided with an artificial arm, and arrived at his home in Wayne County, Ill., July 14, 1864. In August following Gov. Yates forwarded to him his honorable discharge. During his absence the wife of Capt. Cremer, in addition to her natural anxiety concerning her husband, had had her own conflicts with the rebels of Southern Illinois, who came very near making away with everything they could destroy, so that the Captain and his wife were in effect quite destitute, with the exception of twenty acres of land. In December of that year they removed to Kankakee County, on a farm, and with the help of his boys the Captain soon recovered his losses, remaining there until 1870.

During the above-mentioned year Capt. Cremer operated as a contractor with the Plymouth, Kankakee & Pacific Railroad Company, and for two years thereafter was fortunate in making considerable money. He finally rented a large ranch in Lake County, Ind., and embarked in the cattle business, which he continued until 1878, operating largely with full-blooded Hereford stock. In the fall of 1878 he ventured west of the Mississippi into Cass County, this State, and purchased 400 acres of land, intending to establish a Hereford stock farm, but afterward changed his mind and went to general farming.

The journey to Nebraska was made overland with teams, the Captain bringing with him sixteen head of horses, and taking up his abode on a tract of raw prairie purchased from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. As soon as possible he put up a house with lumber shipped from Chicago, and set out some trees. In 1882 he began planting the grove which is now the object of admiration by the traveler through this section of the county. Later he established an orchard of 450 apple trees and 300 peach trees, and in all set out probably 45,000 trees, his grove alone covering an area of ten acres.

In 1882 the Captain sold off a quarter-section of his land, and to the balance has given his close attention, effecting first-class improvements, putting up a neat and substantial residence with a barn and out-buildings, corn-cribs, hog houses, etc. His fences are largely of hedge, and the land has been brought to a good state of cultivation. The household circle was completed by the birth of ten children, namely: Elizabeth E., Isasa L., John W., Sarah M., Clarissa A., Franklin W., Ulysses S. Grant; Lilly M., who died in 1888, when twenty-two years old; Emma H. and Lettie J. The eldest daughter is the wife of Claus Ohm, and they live on a farm in Stove Creek Precinct; I. L. is married and farming in Tipton Precinct; John W. is engaged in the agricultural implement trade in Kankakee, Ill.; Sarah M., Mrs. Wallace Hess, is the wife of a well-to-do farmer of Kankakee, Ill.; Clarissa, Mrs. Joseph D. Skiles, lives on a farm in Butler County, this State; Franklin W. continues on the home farm; he was united to Miss Mary J. McCarter, Dec. 25, 1887. She died Oct. 21, 1888, leaving one child, named Thomas J., who is living with his grandparents McCarter, of Frontier County, Neb. U. S. Grant is married and

farming in Tipton Precinct; Lilly M. became the wife of R. D. Shay, and died in Tipton Precinct, Oct. 26, 1888, leaving one child, Cora L., who makes her home with her grandparents. The other children of our subject remain under the parental roof.

It is hardly necessary to say that Capt. Cremer is a Republican, "dyed in the wool." Few men have attained to more prominence in county affairs than he. He served twenty-two terms as a jury-man, has been sent times without number as a delegate to the various conventions of his party, officiated as Sheriff two years, and Justice of the Peace two terms, and has otherwise been connected with the important interests of Cass County. Socially, he belongs to Kenesaw Post No. 123, in which he is Senior Commander. Both he and his estimable wife have been active members of the United Brethren Church a period of forty-five years, in which the Captain has made himself useful as elsewhere, officiating not only as Class-Leader, Steward and Secretary, but also as a minister in the pulpit. He is at present the local preacher of this church in Stove Creek Circuit. He realizes the importance of religious instruction to the young, and has given no little time to Sunday-school work, officiated as Superintendent, and otherwise furthered the cause as he has had opportunity. It will thus be seen that he has built up a good record as a useful and self-sacrificing citizen, and he is amply worthy of representation in a work designed to commemorate the life of the pioneers of Cass County.

HENRY RAUSCH. There are few sections in Cass County, as elsewhere, in which we do not find the persevering and thrifty German farmer. The subject of this sketch is one of the most worthy representatives of this class of citizens who have been closely identified with the development of the Great West. He owns a good farm of 160 acres, comprising the northeast quarter of section 8 in Tipton Precinct, and in addition to general agriculture makes a specialty of the raising of swine, producing each year of these animals of unusual fine quality. His operations are carried on in a thorough and skillful manner, and his promptness in meeting his obligations has placed him in a good position in his community.

Before proceeding further in noting the career of Mr. Rausch we will revert to those from whom he drew his origin. His father, Conrad Rausch, was born in Eisenach, Saxony, in the town of Farnroda. In early manhood he was married, the lady being a native of his own Province, and settled down to his trade of blacksmith in the village of Farnroda, near the well-known village of Eisenach. He also carried on farming in connection with blacksmithing, and there spent the remainder of his days, dying in February, 1866, at the age of sixty-eight years. He had served for a time in the German Army against the great Napoleon. The mother also died in her native land, about 1864. Their children, four in number, were named respectively: Henry, our subject; Ansophine, Lizzie and Christine, the three latter all deceased.

The subject of this sketch, like his parents before him, is a native of Saxony, born under the little roof-tree in Farnroda, June 24, 1820. He was placed in school at the tender age of five years and continued his studies until a lad of fourteen. He then began an apprenticeship at the stonemason's trade, serving three years, then worked as a journeyman until 1843. He had in the meantime traveled all over, not only the German Empire but many of the other outlying countries of Europe. He finally decided to seek his fortunes in the Westtern Hemisphere, and on the 20th of December, 1843, embarked from Bremerhaven on the sailing-vessel "Emma," and after a voyage of sixty days landed in New York City on the 14th of February. He at once went to work for a farmer for his board, where he worked three months. He then went into the city of New York, where he worked at his trade until August, and then went to Waterbury, Conn., where he sojourned until October. We next find him in Virginia on the James River Canal at stone cutting, where he staid one year. We next find him in Campbell County, Va., in company with John Robinson, burning lime, where he staid eighteen months.

While a resident of the Old Dominion Mr. Rausch met his fate in Appomattox County, in the

person of Mrs. Mary J. (Lee) Wilson, to whom he was married in November, 1850. This lady is a second cousin of Gen. Robert E. Lee, and was born in November, 1819, in Appomattox County, where she was reared to womanhood. The young people settled down together on a farm, where Mr. Rausch in connection with his trade also prosecuted agriculture in a small way, and was thus occupied until after the outbreak of the Rebellion. In March, 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate service, 44th Virginia Infantry, under the command of Gen. Lee, but not long afterward was transferred to the artillery and assisted in the defense of Richmond. Another six months found him a member of the engineer corps, laying out roads and building bridges. After the surrender at Appomattox Court House Mr. Rausch received his honorable discharge, and returned to his farm, resuming the labors of a civilian in the Old Dominion until the fall of 1865. He then changed his residence to Culpeper County, in Old Virginia, where he and his family lived three years, and Mr. R. occupied himself mostly at his trade.

Mr. Rausch had for some time previous to this had his eye on the country west of the Mississippi, and in February, 1868, perfected his arrangements for the removal hither. Making his way to the southwestern corner of this county he homesteaded eighty acres of land in Tipton Precinct, of which he still retains possession. It was then an unbroken prairie, upon which no improvement had been attempted. After putting up a shelter for his family, they in the meantime living in their wagon, he commenced breaking the sod with the oxen which had conveyed them hither. After the first season's crops were put in he began making such improvements as he could with the material at hand, having to haul his lumber from Nebraska City. He also began setting out trees, both fruit and forest, and has now a fine grove and a small apple orchard.

The land of Mr. Rausch is amply watered by Camp Creek, and the whole has now been brought to a good state of cultivation. He afterward added eighty acres to his first purchase, and in 1871 constructed a dam across Rock Creek for the purpose of a mill dam. He has a neat and substantial residence, with a barn 24x64 feet in area, hay-scales, and all the other farm machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of his calling. His swine are of the full-blooded Poland-China and Jersey; he also has graded cattle, with about eleven or twelve head of handsome and powerful Percheron horses.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rausch there were born six children, three of whom, the two eldest and the youngest, Herman, Emma and Kendall R., are deceased, the first-named dying in infancy. Conrad is at home with his father; Cornelia is the wife of Mr. J. W. Butts, a plumber by trade; Norah completed her studies in the High School at Lynchburg, and is prosecuting her trade of milliner in Lynchburg, Va. Mrs. Mary J. Rausch died at the homestead in Tipton Precinct, in March, 1883. Mr. Rausch, politically, is a solid Democrat, and in religious matters belongs to the Lutheran Protestant Church. Socially, he is a member of the E. A. U., at Lincoln.

HENRY BEHRNS. The intelligent traveler is always gratified in noticing the evidences of thrift and enterprise in a new country, and involuntarily regards with admiration the labors of a man who has by his industry and perseverance placed himself in a good position financially, and who as a natural result is looked upon by his neighbors as a leader in the community. These thoughts involuntarily occur in noting the career of the subject of this sketch. He represents a fine property in Avoca Precinct, a property including 395 acres of valuable land, which, with the high culture to which it has been subjected, and the fine farm buildings with which it is embellished, forms one of the most desirable estates along the southern limits of Cass County. The Behrns farm is pleasantly located on section 22, and stock-raising forms the leading enterprise now engrossing the attention of the proprietor.

This farm has for its owner a more than ordinary value and interest, having been land purchased by his father as early as 1862, five years before the transformation of Nebraska from a Territory into a State. Six years later Henry assumed its management, and has considerably increased its acreage.

He possesses all the thrift and prudence of his substantial German ancestry, a nationality which has figured largely in the development of the Great West. He has been willing to labor and to wait for results, and a looker-on cannot see any reason why he should not be satisfied with his possessions or his surroundings.

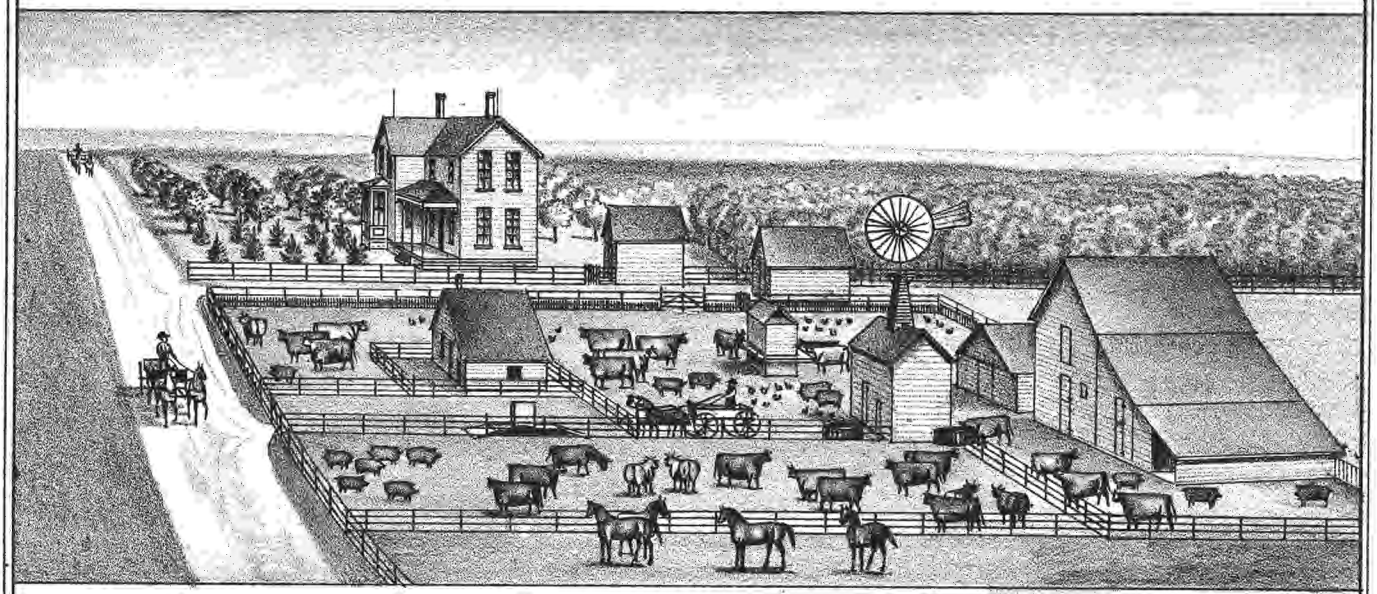
Our subject, who is a native of the Empire of Germany, was born Oct. 10, 1845, and is the eldest son and child of James and Sophia (Gotjohn) Behrns, who were born and reared not far from their own home. Their household includes two sons and two daughters, and the father on his native soil followed the occupation of a brickmaker. Being a man ambitious for the welfare of his family, he determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. In the year 1862 the parents and all the children came to America, and from New York City proceeded directly westward beyond the Mississippi, taking up their home at once in Avoca Precinct, this county. The father secured by pre-emption eighty-five acres on section 22, and proceeded to build up a homestead, laboring early and late a number of years, and until his sons were enabled to relieve him of further care. He and his estimable wife still continue at the homestead, now retired from active labor, the father seventy-two years old and the mother seventy-seven. They were trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere.

Mr. Behrns received his early education in the excellent schools of his native land, and was about seventeen years of age when emigrating to the United States with his father's family. He attained his majority in Avoca Precinct, but found his bride over the line eastward, being married in Liberty Precinct, Oct. 29, 1868, to Miss Mary Sturm. This lady, also a native of Germany, was born in the Province of Alsace, June 8, 1850, and came to the United States with her father, Andrew Sturm, in her girlhood. The mother had died in her native Germany when her daughter Mary was but a child. Mr. Sturm secured a tract of good land in Liberty Precinct, this county, and surrounded himself with all the comforts of life, building up a good farm, where he spent his last days and where his death took place in April, 1874, when he was seventy-four years old. He also was in religion a Lutheran.

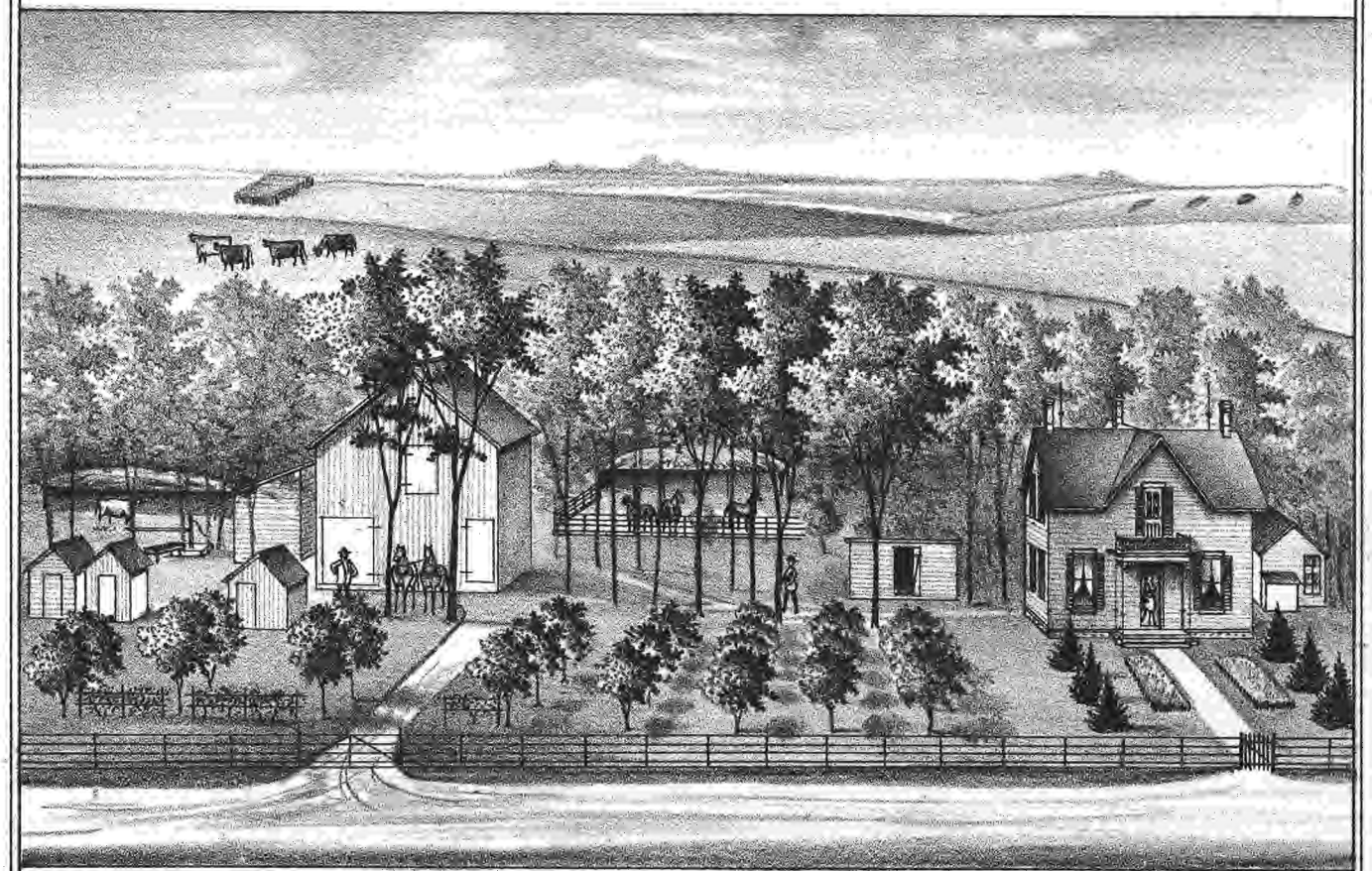
Mrs. Behrns was the youngest of the five children born to her parents, and remained with her father until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, namely: Henry J., Mary, Minnie, Joseph and Sophia. They are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Behrns, like their ancestors, are Lutherans in religion, while our subject, politically, gives his support to the Republican party.

JOHN MAGNEY, one of the earliest pioneers of this State, resides on a well-improved farm of 160 acres on section 36, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, Jan. 25, 1835, where he lived until he was eleven years of age, then removed with the family to Scioto County, same State. His education was received in the subscription and later in the public schools of his native county, attending the latter in the primitive log school-house, of which so much has been said and written, which, although often rough on the exterior and plainly furnished inside, has produced many of the brightest scholars the world has ever known. To the rudimentary knowledge thus obtained he has added the education acquired by years of experience and observation, and now, by a careful perusal of the prints of the day, he is a well-informed man.

The attention of the gentleman has been given especially to farming all his life, but in his early years of pioneership he would work as carpenter and joiner when occasion offered, which enabled him to inaugurate the present system of improvement exhibited on his home farm. He was married in Ohio to Mary E. Searl, on the 8th of January, 1857. This lady is a native of Ohio and was born in Scioto County, July 22, 1837. She is a daughter of Wyatt and Mercy (White) Searl. Her paternal ancestors are supposed to have been of Swedish origin; her grandfather White was reputed to have been a soldier in the War of 1812. Her parents had the following-named family: Jane, now the wife



RESIDENCE OF FRANK DOBNEY, SEC. 25. TIPTON PRECINCT, CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN MAGNEY, SEC. 36. MT. PLEASANT PRECT. CASS CO.

of Frederick Dow, of Otoe County, Neb.; Mary E., the wife of our subject; Celia, the wife of Joseph Kronk, and resides in Scioto County, Ohio; Josie, the wife of William Curtis, resides in Wayne County, Mich.; Matthias resides in Gosper County, Neb.; Caroline, the wife of Henry Pepper, resides in Lincoln County, Kan.; Madora, the wife of Charles Flick, resides in Omaha; Albert resides in Gosper County, Neb.; the deceased members of the family were Mildred, Fernando, Oscar and Royal.

In the autumn of 1865 our subject with his wife and three children left Ohio for Cass County, Neb., traveling the entire distance with a team and covered wagon, camping out where night overtook them. They were en route for seven weeks. For fifteen months after their arrival in the State they lived at Eight Mile Grove, Cass County. In the spring of 1867 he settled on his present farm, and has devoted his entire time and energy from that time to the present to the improvement of his home, and the success that has attended his efforts has been almost phenomenal.

Our subject is the son of John and Catherine (Glarden) Magney. They were both natives of France, and emigrated to America and settled in Hamilton County, Ohio, at an early date. Of all the children born to them, the following only survive: Jane, now the wife of Charles Mougly, resides in Scioto County; John Eli resides in the same county; Matilda, now the wife of Louis Jaques, resides in Dearborn County, Ind.; Peter is in Ohio. The deceased members of the family are Ezra, Phylissa and Charles. To Mr. and Mrs. Magney a family of six children has been born, named as follows: The son George is in Omaha, engaged in the practice of law; Wesley; Pernet M.; Elizabeth, the wife of Creed Harris, who resides in Cass County; and Reno A. A son, Cortes, is dead.

The subject of our sketch is a truly self-made man. Coming to the West at an early day, having but slender resources and nothing to depend on but his own efforts and exertions, he has succeeded in accumulating a splendid property, represented by the 160 acres of highly cultivated land, with his handsome residence and its elegant surroundings. In his wife he has found a most earnest counselor and thorough helpmate. She has borne her share of the privations and toils always experienced by the wife of a pioneer with much bravery and fortitude. In addition to her household cares she has devoted much time to the rearing and education of her children, until she now can refer to them with feelings of the greatest pride, and they certainly do her justice. Herself and husband are members of the United Brethren Church, and both take a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the religious, educational and social advancement of their friends and neighbors. In politics Mr. Magney is a Democrat, has served on the School Board of the district in which he lives several times, and in all things is a friend of progress.

A view of the Magney homestead is presented on an accompanying page.

FRANK DOBNEY. The farming and stock-raising interests of Tipton Precinct find a most energetic and successful representative in the person of the subject of this sketch, who states that he "came to Nebraska with nothing but an old plug team." He is now the Supervisor of Tipton, and is numbered among the leading farmers of Southern Nebraska. He is the owner of 320 acres of finely improved land, with a handsome new residence, substantial barns and out-buildings, shown elsewhere, a goodly assortment of live stock, and all the other appurtenances which the progressive agriculturist naturally gathers around him. He makes a specialty of stock feeding, having about 150 head of cattle each year, besides horses and swine.

In connection with his farm buildings Mr. Dobney has a new Perkins-Geared mill, with a 16-foot wheel, six-horse power, feed grinder, besides water tanks in all his yards, which not only supply this indispensable article to the farm animals wherever needed, but by this means water is also conveyed to the house by a force pump. Not far from the buildings is a fine apple orchard of 600 trees, and there is upon the farm the regulation grove and windbrake, covering probably six acres of ground. The farm machinery is of the latest improved pat-

tern, and the cattle are given their rations by means of a patent feeder. The farm is mostly enclosed with hedge and wire fencing. As a stock-raiser Mr. Dobney is especially a success, this industry appearing to be one to which he is naturally adapted. He ships annually about seven carloads of graded cattle directly to the market at Omaha, and 200 head of hogs. His horses are mostly of the Norman breed, of which he usually keeps from seventeen to twenty head, making a display of equines scarcely equaled, and certainly not excelled, along the southern line of the county. Mr. Dobney is conceded to be the heaviest stock-breeder in this region.

Next in importance to the subject of a biographical record is the source from which he drew his origin. The Dobney family is of English descent, and the parents of our subject, Richard and Elizabeth (Bell) Dobney, were natives of Staffordshire, whence they emigrated to America in 1854. The paternal grandfather, William Dobney, spent his entire life in his native England, prosecuting agriculture, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-three years. On the mother's side Grandfather Bell, also a well-to-do English farmer, died at the age of over eighty years.

The father of our subject, like most of his ancestors, was reared to farming pursuits, which he followed before emigrating to America. Soon after landing he made his way to Northeastern Ohio, settling on a tract of land near the city of Cleveland, where he lived one year. Then, pushing further westward, he rented a farm in Adams County, Ill., near Quincy, where he sojourned for a period of eight years. Thence, in the spring of 1863, he crossed the Mississippi, and purchased land in the vicinity of Tabor, Mills Co., Iowa. There he improved a farm of 120 acres, and labored successfully as a tiller of the soil, adding to his real estate until he is now the owner of 280 acres, all improved, provided with good buildings, and forming a comfortable modern homestead. The dwelling is noticeable as being more than ordinarily fine for a farm house, and was erected at a cost of $5,000. He also is largely interested in the buying and feeding of cattle, having all the necessary conveniences. The elder Dobney also owns 320 acres near Superior, Nuckolls Co., Neb. He is now sixty-one years old, and his estimable partner is sixty-four. They are active members of the Congregational Church, and people highly respected in their community. The father during the progress of the late Civil War proffered his services as a soldier of the Union Army, but on account of a defective leg was pronounced ineligible.

To the parents of our subject there were born five children, namely: Frank, our subject; Mary E. and Sarah, residents of Iowa; John, who died when young, and George, who is living with his parents. Frank was born in Lincolnshire, England, July 19, 1849, and was a lad five years of age when he accompanied his parents to America. They embarked on a sailing-vessel at Liverpool, and after a voyage of six weeks and three days landed in New York City. Thence they proceeded at once to Ohio, where they lived one year, and then to Adams County, Ill., where the father purchased a tract of land, and pursued his occupation of farming.

Our subject, in common with his brothers and sisters, studied his first lessons in the district schools, and was fourteen years old when the family, leaving the Prairie State, migrated to Mills County, Iowa. He assisted his father in the various employments around the homestead until twenty-two years of age. In 1870 he started out for himself for the young State of Nebraska, making the journey overland with a team. Crossing the Missouri at Plattsmouth, he made his way southwestward to the vicinity of Weeping Water, and in that precinct purchased eighty acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, contracting to pay therefor $11 per acre. He was without capital, and ran in debt for the whole of it.

Mr. Dobney began the improvement of his purchase by breaking a portion of the prairie land, but remained here only a short time that year. The first year of his residence he harvested good crops, but the two years following the grasshoppers ate him out. He, however, held on to his little farm, although he naturally fell behind in his payments. He was given a continuance, and in due time found himself upon his feet. For six years his crops were remarkably bounteous, and in due time he

discovered that the stock business would probably be fully as profitable, if not easier, than the tilling of the soil. He commenced the feeding of cattle with excellent results, and in 1877 added to his real estate by the purchase of another eighty acres. He brought his quarter-section of land to a good state of cultivation, provided it with neat and substantial buildings, the regulation grove and orchard, and the smaller fruits in their season. He sold this property in the fall of 1882 at $40 per acre, which all must admit was at a very reasonable profit. Later he invested a part of his capital in his present homestead in Tipton Precinct, making the purchase on the 25th of December of the above year. This then was but a raw prairie, and he repeated the experiment of constructing a farm. He has now all but forty acres under cultivation, has put up a residence and made other improvements. A few years will serve to make this one of the most complete homesteads in this part of the county.

The wife of our subject, in her girlhood Miss Ellen Stocpforth, was born in England, Feb. 8, 1851, and they were married in Plattsmouth, Neb., Oct. 15, 1875. Mrs. Dobney was reared to womanhood in her native land, and came to America with her parents in 1874. The latter, William and Eliza Stocpforth, are now residents of Cass County, Neb. The six children born of this marriage were named respectively: Alice, George, Richard, Frederick, Frank and Charles. They are all at home with their parents, and form a very interesting and intelligent group, the eldest being thirteen years of age, and the youngest two.

Mr. Dobney grew up, as it were, under the wing of the Republican party, of whose principles he is an earnest supporter. He has been quite prominent in the political affairs of Cass County, being sent as a delegate for a number of years to the County and State Conventions, and was a delegate to the Congressional Convention in the fall of 1888. He has represented his precinct in the County Board of Supervisors for the past eight years, a record which does him much credit. He has been nearly since the time of his first residence here a member of the School Board of his district, and is also at present holding the office of Constable. Socially, he belongs to Lodge No. 160, I. O. O. F., at Elmwood, and is also a Knight of Pythias. It will thus be seen that he is eminently worthy of mention in a work of this kind, and his whole career has been one to which his children may revert with pride in years to come.

WILLIAM JAMES. The history of this gentleman, who was one of the first settlers of Stove Creek Precinct, is a forcible illustration of what may be accomplished by perseverance and resolution, under the most adverse circumstances and financial discouragements. His farm of eighty acres of land lies on section 26, township 10, range 10, and his homestead, with its fine yard of ornamental trees and shrubbery, forms an attractive feature of the landscape. He was born at Highbridge, Somerset County, England, March 1, 1837. His grandfather, Joseph James, spent his early life in England, but later emigrated to Canada, and built a brewery in Toronto, where he succeeded well financially, remaining there until his death.

John James, father of our subject, was born and still lives in Highbridge, England, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. He learned the cooper's trade, and at one time owned a small piece of property there, which he disposed of before it had increased in value by the rise of the price of real estate in that town. He married Miss Anna Tidball, who died in 1839, when only twenty-two years of age, leaving three children, namely: William, Henry and Frederic, of whom the latter two are deceased.

William, of our sketch, was early deprived of a mother's care, and when only eight years of age went into service for a gentleman farmer, for whom he worked eight years. He had no schooling excepting such as he received by attending Sunday-school twice every Sunday. He subsequently worked for another farmer a year, then decided to seek his fortune in America. Accordingly, in 1855, he sailed from Bristol on the ship "Osprey," disembarking in New York City after a voyage of five weeks. He then proceeded to Marcellus, Onondaga

Co., N. Y., where he lived two years, working at various occupations, and attended school a part of the time. In 1857 Mr. James moved still farther West, and located near Henry, in Marshall County, Ill., where he worked on a farm for several years. In 1863, having accumulated sufficient property to warrant him in taking a life companion, our subject was married, and, purchasing a farm of eighty acres, commenced to work for himself and bride. He toiled hard, and had the cheerful assistance of his good wife in all his labors, but for three successive seasons his crops were a failure. Determining to try his luck in a better farming country, Mr. James moved with his family, in 1870, to this State. He came overland with three teams and a wagon, performing the journey in three weeks. He crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City, thence came to Stove Creek Precinct, where he had previously bought his present homestead. Scarcely any improvements had been made, and not a tree was to be found on the place. With willing hands and courageous heart he set to work to establish a home, first putting up a small house, the lumber for which he had to bring from an island in the Platte River. Again was our subject unfortunate in his business labors, and for three continuous years his crops were gathered by the grashoppers, and he had to mortgage his place to tide him through the hard times, it taking him six or seven years to regain his losses. Since that time, however, fortune has smiled upon him, and prosperity greeted him at every turn. In 1880 he built a new barn, and four years later erected his present dwelling, a commodious and convenient house, neatly and tastily arranged and furnished. He has now a large grove of forest trees, a fine orchard, and has his front yard ornamented with cedar trees, taken from Government land on an island in the Platte River, which are kept neatly trimmed. Besides general farming and stock-raising, Mr. James pays special attention to horse-raising, having eight head of fine grade, one of which is one and one-half Clyde and three-fourths Norman breed.

The maiden name of Mrs. James, to whom Mr. J. was married in Marshall County, Ill., May 29, 1864, was Sarah J. Smith. She was born in Durham, England, and came to America with her parents when a young child. To her and her husband have been born seven children, namely: John F., William H. (deceased), Frederic W., Etta May and Eddie L. (twins), Charles L. and Sydney R., all of whom are at home. Mr. James is a man having the universal respect and esteem of his fellow-townsmen. He is well informed on all general subjects, and takes much interest in township affairs, and has served for several years as a member of the School Board. He is a Democrat in his political views, and an earnest worker for that party. He has served as a member of the petit jury. Mr. James is a charter member of the Baptist Church, of Wabash, Cass County, and assisted in building it.

HENRY UMLAND, one of the most prosperous German farmers of Tipton Precinct, has by his industry and perseverance built up from a modest beginning a fine property, and is now in the enjoyment of the good things of life. Of German birth and ancestry, he first opened his eyes to the light in Prussia, Oct. 1, 1827, and was left an orphan when a little lad eight years of age. He made his home with his stepmother five years thereafter, then started out in life on his own account. He had only three years' schooling. He began learning the carpenter's trade at the age of thirteen, at which he worked until twenty years of age. About this time he entered the Prussian Army with others to guard against the invasion of the French in the Duchies of Holstein, Baden, etc. When his services were no longer needed in this direction he returned to civil life and resumed work at his trade.

Young Umland, however, was ambitious of being and accomplishing something further than it seemed possible he could do on his native soil. He kept his eyes open to what was going on around him in the world, and from reading and hearsay had gained something of what an enterprising young man might accomplish in the United States. Accordingly in the spring of 1851 he took passage on a sailing-vessel, and after a tedious voyage of ninety days landed in New York City.

From the metropolis our subject proceeded di-

rectly westward, first to Chicago, Ill., thence to Milwaukee, Wis.; finding nothing desirable in the latter place he returned to the Garden City and entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. That same fall he migrated southwestward to St. Louis, Mo., where he employed himself in farming and carpentering, and finally purchased land across the river in St. Clair County, Ill. Upon this he farmed a few years, then sold out and turned his attention for a time once more to his trade, operating as a contractor until his removal to this State.

Our subject was married, in St. Clair County, Ill., Sept. 20, 1855, to Miss Anna, daughter of Rudolph and Margaret (Huber) Herder. The parents of Mrs. Umland were natives of Switzerland, and the father a farmer by occupation. They emigrated to America in 1854, settling in St. Clair County, Ill., where the father died in 1856 at the age of fifty-nine years. The mother only survived her husband seven years, her death taking place also in St. Clair County, when she was sixty-two years old. The four children of the parental family were named respectively: Jacob and Rudolph, who died young; Abraham, a resident of Lancaster County, Neb., and Anna, the wife of our subject.

Mrs. Umland was born in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, Aug. 25, 1833, near the foot of the Alps. She lived there until a young lady of twenty-one years old, her childhood days being passed amid the most beautiful scenery in the world. In setting sail for America she embarked with her parents at Havre, France, on the sailing-vessel "Hortensia," which five weeks later landed them in the city of New Orleans. Thence they made their way to St. Clair County, Ill.

The parents of our subject were natives of Prussia, and the father a gardener by occupation. He was an honest, hard-working man, and spent his entire life in his native country, dying in 1835 at the age of sixty-two years. The mother had passed away eight years before, in 1827. The family included three children: Hannah, who died when small; Ernestina, a resident of Wisconsin, and Henry, of our sketch.

To Mr. and Mrs. Umland there have been born three sons and three daughters, namely: Eliza, Jacob, Rudolph, William, Annie and Sophia. The five younger children are living at home with their parents, and are being carefully trained and educated. Eliza is the wife of Allen Crabtree, a well-to-do farmer of Tipton Precinct, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Our subject and his wife are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, and Mr. Umland is a very strong Republican.

The Umland estate includes in all 500 acres of land, mostly on section 19. Mr. Umland had originally twenty more, which he sold some time since. The home farm embraces eighty acres on section 30, and to it there has been given very careful cultivation, so that it is in a highly productive condition. The buildings are neat and substantial, and include a very attractive residence, which with its surroundings fulfills the modern idea of a country home. A stream of living water runs through the farm, and there are groves, orchards, and trees of the smaller fruits. Mr. Umland makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping usually fourteen head of horses besides the teams operating on the farm, and has full-blooded Durham and graded cattle.

JOHN W. McDERMED. The subject of this sketch, one of the younger citizens of Avoca Precinct, presents an example of enterprise and industry which it would be well for many others to follow. He is the son of an excellent family, and has succeeded to the homestead which was land taken up from the Government and improved by his father. This property consists of 160 acres, which was secured by the elder McDermed when in a state of comparative wildness. It is pleasantly located on section 20, and remains the home of the mother and part of the family, whose interests are carefully looked after by the subject of this sketch. Alfred McDermed departed this life Sept. 2, 1885, at the age of fifty-seven years.

Our subject was born in Peoria County, Ill., Oct. 9, 1857. He was a lad of nine years when his father came with the family to Nebraska in the fall of 1866. They located first in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county, where the father began operat-

ing on rented land, and by patient industry and close economy saved sufficient money so that he was enabled to make a purchase in 1870. His life thereafter was that of a peaceable and law-abiding citizen, a man careful and conscientious in his dealings with his neighbors, indulgent and liberal with his family, and in all respects a praiseworthy citizen.

Alfred McDermed was born in Maysville, Ky., of a respectable family of Scotch ancestry, and leaving the blue grass regions settled in Illinois when a single man. He employed himself in the Prairie State as a farm laborer, and in due time was married in Peoria County to Miss Elizabeth McFarland. The mother of our subject was a native of Ireland, and was born May 1, 1830. She lived in the "land of the shamrock" until a young girl of fourteen years, when she came to America with her sister. Her father came with his family to the United States later, and they lived for a time in the city of Philadelphia, Pa. Later the parents removed to Illinois, after which Elizabeth joined them, where she grew to womanhood and lived with them until her marriage.

To Mr. and Mrs. McDermed there were born eight children. The eldest daughter, Maggie, is the wife of J. W. Sperry, a well-to-do citizen of Avoca Precinct, and whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume; Orlester married Miss Ida Davis, of this county, and is engaged at labor in Weeping Water; John W., of our sketch, was the third child and is still unmarried; Hester died when about twenty-two years old; Mattie is the wife of Joseph Malcolm, a miller by trade, and they live in Ashland, Saunders County; George is a skillful barber, and is operating successfully at Union, this County; Mary L. died in September, 1886, aged twenty years; Frank remains at home. Mrs. McDermed is a very estimable lady, and was ever the faithful and efficient helpmate of her husband in his best labors and ambitions. She is held in the most tender respect by all her children, and universally spoken well of by her neighbors.

John W. McDermed has been familiar with farming pursuits from his boyhood up, and is managing the homestead successfully and with excellent results. Like his father before him, politically, he is a stanch Democrat, as are all the sons. The parents formerly belonged to the Methodist Church, but there being no society of that denomination in this part of the county they identified themselves with the Baptists. The family occupy a good position socially in their community, and the homestead is numbered among the other well-regulated estates of Cass County.

JULIUS SACKS is operating successfully on a good farm located on the northeast corner of section 18 in Tipton Precinct. He may most properly be ranked among the early pioneers, having been one of the first to take up a homestead in this region. Although of German birth and parentage, and having only six months' schooling in America, he speaks the English language fluently, and is at once recognized as a man more than ordinarily intelligent. He is held in high esteem by the people of his neighborhood, and gives his aid and influence to those enterprises calculated for the educational and moral advancement of the community.

Our subject is the son of Carl G. and Christiana Sacks, who like him were born in the Prussian Province of Saxony, and spent their entire lives in the Fatherland. Carl Sacks was a finely educated man and a teacher by profession. He followed this from the age of twenty years until he was fifty, then purchased 100 acres of land, and thereafter occupied himself in agriuultural pursuits until his death, which took place in September, 1882, after he had arrived at the advanced age of eighty-one years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land twenty-seven years, her death taking place in 1855. Both were members of the Lutheran Church.

To the parents of our subject there were born ten children, eight of whom lived to mature years. They were named respectively: Emily, Pauline; Ida, who died when twenty-two years old; Gustave, who died at the age of thirty; Antonia, Albert, Carl, Francis, Emma and Julius.

It will thus be seen that our subject was the youngest of the parental family. His brother Albert entered the army upon reaching manhood,

during the war between France and Germany, serving until the close of the struggle. Julius was placed in school at the early age of five years and gave his attention quite closely to his studies until a youth of fourteen. He remained a member of the parental household until twenty years of age, then, having learned much from reading and hearsay of the opportunities for the enterprising young man in America, he determined to come hither. Accordingly, bidding adieu to his old friends and associations, he embarked at Hamburg on the steamer "Germania," and after being tossed about the Atlantic two weeks, landed in New York City. His destination, however, was the Western country, and he soon placed himself this side of the Mississippi, working on a farm in Stevens Creek Precinct, Lancaster County, this State.

After a sojourn there of one year, during which he had attended a district school six months, Mr. Sacks pre-empted his present homestead in order to hold it, not being of the required age to settle on it. He commenced finally its improvement by putting up a sod house with a board roof, the latter material being hauled from Nebraska City. He then set about breaking the prairie, and after getting in his first crops began planting trees, both of fruit and forest, and has now two acres in a good orchard and that indispensable institution,—a wind-break.

The crops of 1874 were destroyed by grasshoppers; those of 1875 by hail; and in 1876 the farmers of Southern Nebraska suffered from drouth. Since that time crops have been uniformly good and Mr. Sacks has had little reason to complain. In the spring of 1871 he purchased forty acres adjoining, which, like the balance, is now improved, laid off with substantial fencing, and yields bountifully the rich crops of this region. The land is watered by the south branch of Camp Creek. Our subject in addition to general farming makes a specialty of fine stock, Clydesdale and Norman horses, Durham cattle and Poland swine.

Mr. Sacks was married in the city of Lincoln, July 22, 1874, to Miss Caroline Drees. This lady was born in April, 1856, in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, and came to America with her parents in 1868. Of this union there have been born five children, namely: Albert, who died when sixteen months old; Julius, Jr., deceased; Stevens, Julius, Jr., (2d) and Walter. The eldest of these is ten years old and the youngest six.

Mr. Sacks has become thoroughly identified with American institutions, and in meeting him and conversing with him there is little to indicate that he is otherwise than a native-born American. He keeps himself well posted in regard to current events, and is entirely in sympathy with the Republican party, with which he became identified on coming to this country. A self-made man in every respect, his has been a career marked with industry, perseverance, and all the qualities which go to make up a complete manhood and a worthy citizenship.

WILLIAM EIKENBARY, who is one of the sturdy pioneers of 1856, landed here May 15, and cast his lot with the early settlers of Cass County when it was taking its first onward steps toward the important position it now occupies as one of the leading and most influential counties of the State. He is a native of Indiana, born in Union County, Feb. 26, 1833. He is of German descent, his paternal grandfather, William Eikenbary, a German, having married a lady of the same nationality as himself. After residing in Germany several years, they emigrated to America, and settled in Virginia, thence went to Indiana, and there spent the remainder of their lives. They had a large family of children, consisting of fourteen sons and one daughter.

Samuel Eikenbary, father of our subject, was one of the younger sons, and was born during the residence of his parents in Virginia. He was reared on his father's farm in Indiana, and after attaining his majority was married in Union County to Martha Crawford. She was of Scotch ancestry, and was born in Indiana. Her parents were early settlers of Union County, where they carried on farming, and both died, respected and honored, at a ripe old age. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Eikenbary settled on a farm in Union County at the time of their marriage, and continued to live there until after the birth of five of their children. In 1837

they removed to Des Moines County, Iowa, and established themselves on a farm eleven miles west of Burlington, and there the remaining four of their children were born. In the fall of 1856 they pushed on still farther west, and coming to Nebraska located two miles south of Plattsmouth, where the father of our subject pre-empted a homestead and lived until his death, in 1869, at the age of threescore and six years. His wife survived him, dying in 1871, at the age of sixty-five years. Religiously, they were associated with the Dunkards until their removal to Nebraska, when they became communicants of the Christian Church, and died in that faith. They were worthy people, held in high respect by the community for their many good qualities. In politics he was a firm Republican, and had the courage of his opinions.

The subject of this personal narrative was only four years old when he went with his parents to Iowa, therefore his earliest recollections are of his home in that State. He received an excellent education, attending school in the town in which his father settled, and later at Mt. Pleasant, in the same State. He was still a single man when he came with his parents to Nebraska in 1856, and the ensuing year he took up a claim of 160 acres on section 1, Liberty Precinct. When he had proved up on his homestead, he and his brother Henry went to farming near the city, remaining thus engaged until 1871, when our subject sold out his interest there to his brother, and took possession of his homestead. At the same time he bought 160 acres on section 2, and a tract of eighty acres in Liberty Precinct; his farm thus aggregates 400 acres. Scarcely any improvements had been made on any of his property, but by judicious labor, skill in management, and perseverance, he has now one of the best farms in point of improvement in Liberty Precinct. Mr. Eikenbary has erected a commodious house on section 2, which is a model of comfort and convenience, and with the fine barn and out-buildings, adds materially to the attractiveness of the place and to its value from a financial point of view. Our subject pays special attention to stock breeding and raising, having horses and cattle of a superior grade. At the head of his herd of fine Durham cattle, which he has raised for seventeen years, is a fine specimen of that breed, the registered bull "Ashland." His horses are thoroughbred English draft horses, coming from the best imported stock of that breed, to the raising of which he has paid especial attention for the last four years.

The marriage of Mr. Eikenbary to Miss Mary E. McCord was celebrated in Rock Bluff Precinct in 1861. She was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1840, and came with her parents to Nebraska in the spring of 1857. They, Donaldson and Anna (Pascall) McCord, on coming to this State settled in Rock Bluff Precinct, where they improved a farm, moving thence to Nodaway County, Mo., where they both died in the sunset of life. Their daughter Mary was reared in Keokuk County, Iowa, and remained with her parents until the time of her marriage with our subject. She was a woman of energy, intelligence and ability, and proved herself a most companionable, devoted wife and tender mother, and her death, in 1876, was mourned by the whole community, by whom she was esteemed and loved. She was the mother of five children, namely: Albert R., who is attending the Commercial College at Lincoln; Cora M., the wife of T. W. Swan, a farmer of Liberty Precinct; Maggie and Mollie (twins), and Francis J. are at home. They are a bright, active, capable family of children, with promises of a bright future before them.

Mr. Eikenbary was a second time married, Aug. 29, 1883, the maiden name of his wife being Fannie P. Davis. She was born in Liberty Precinct, Jan. 25, 1863, and was reared and educated there, and for some time previous to her marriage taught school with much success. Her parents, William and Sarah J. (Simmons) Davis, came from Missouri to this county and located on a farm in Liberty Precinct, which they have improved and still occupy. In politics Mr. E. is a steadfast adherent of the principles formulated by the Republican party, and has served his district several years as School Officer. He has been very successful in his life work, and is one of the most prosperous and influential citizens of Cass County, where he is highly esteemed for his unswerving integrity, force of character, and excellent business

capacity. Both he and his wife are eminently hospitable, and not only entertain their friends most delightfully, but extend such a cordial welcome to the stranger who comes within their gates that it is ever appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

WILLIAM O. TODD is the editor and proprietor of the Union *Ledger*, which he established in Union Village, Nov. 3, 1888. This paper starts out as a five-column folio sheet, which will soon be enlarged to meet the demands of the reading public. Although it has so recently entered upon life, it has obtained a vigorous hold upon it, and has already secured a fair and profitable circulation. As a well-edited paper it will undoubtedly advance the interests of Cass County, and more especially of this village, and it has a promising future before it.

Mr. Todd was born Sept. 11, 1863, in Des Moines County, Iowa. His father, Alvin Todd, was a native of Ohio. He was in early life a mechanic, and later became a farmer. In 1837 he accompanied his parents from his native State to Iowa, and they located near where the city of Burlington now is, it being at that time an insignificant hamlet. He grew up and was educated in Des Moines County, and was there married to Phœbe Penny, a native of Pennsylvania. In her childhood she had accompanied her parents from the place of her birth to their new home in Des Moines County, Iowa, and there she was reared to womanhood. After marriage Alvin Todd gave his attention to farming for several years, and later established a cooper shop at Fairfield, Iowa. From there he moved to a place in Des Moines County, and afterward lived in Monmouth, Ill., for two years. He then returned with his family to Des Moines County, and made his home there until 1880, when he and his family removed to Mills County, Iowa, where he followed farming until he and his wife came to Cass County in 1882, and he has since been an honored resident of this county, owning and managing a fine farm near Ashland. He and his wife are Baptist in religion, and he is a Prohibitionist in politics. Since their residence here they have won respect and esteem from all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance for their unblemished characters and strictly upright conduct.

Their son William, of whom we write, was the fourth in order of birth of the eight children born to them. He was well educated in the schools of Iowa, chiefly in Des Moines County, but is very properly considered a self-made young man, as he has thus early in life made his own way to the honorable position that he occupies as a member of one of the most useful of the professions. He is also in part self-educated, as he has picked up a great deal of valuable information by careful study whenever opportunity offered since leaving school, at a time when most young men consider their education completed. He came with his parents to this State in 1882, and for three years was clerk in a drug-store in Ashland, and later in a hardware store. He subsequently learned the trade of printing in the same town, and became thoroughly conversant with the art in all its details. He first ventured into journalism as the editor of the Ashland *Herald*, which paper he established himself, and ran successfully for one year. He has also worked on the *State Journal* and other papers, so that he does not solicit the patronage of the public as an inexperienced editor. He is a bright, quick-witted young man, whose ambition and enterprise will undoubtedly win his success.

Mr. Todd was married in Ashland, Jan. 6, 1887, to Miss Kate Borland. She was born near Iowa City, Iowa, in 1870, March 5, and is a daughter of William and Mary (Mugett) Borland. Her father is deceased, his death having occurred in Essex, Page Co., Iowa, in 1879, when he was in the very prime of life, being scarcely forty years of age. He was a native of Vermont, and when a young man went to Iowa, and in the town of Comanche, Clinton County, was married. During the remainder of his life he was engaged in farming. After his death his wife married again, and lives with her second husband, Dwight Davis, at Chatsworth, Ill. Mrs. Todd was reared in Iowa, and being a bright, apt scholar, received a good education, and was well fitted for the profession of teacher, which she adopted on leaving, and taught a private school successfully at home. Her and her husband's home

is one of true refinement, and it has been blessed by the birth of a little daughter, Laura Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Todd are Baptists in their religious views, and politically, he is an ardent Prohibitionist, although he conducts his paper as a strictly independent organ, and impartially opens his columns to all parties.

JON. S. M. KIRKPATRICK, late a member of the State Legislature, and one of the most prominent men of Cass County, has for years been intimately connected with the most important interests of Southern Nebraska. He came within its precincts when it was but a Territory, making a claim on the 18th of June, 1855, the first land pre-empted on section 18, in Liberty Precinct, and was the very first settler in the valley of the Weeping Water at this point. He came here when around him was an unbroken waste, before the county could boast of but one log house and a cabin, of sufficient importance to be designated as a village, and when the flourishing city of Plattsmouth was the site of a few little huts, put up by adventurous but impecunious people, who were struggling to delve from the soil enough to keep soul and body together. Indians still roamed over the country, and wild animals also. The outlook was anything but promising, but the subject of this sketch was a man of more than ordinary determination. He had come to stay, and was not to be driven from his purpose by any ordinary circumstances. He clung steadfastly to his resolution to continue and "grow up with the country," at a time when white settlers were frequently making a stampede from the depredations of the Indians, although to tell the truth Mr. Kirkpatrick says that there was a great deal more smoke than fire during those times, and many of the people were unnecessarily alarmed.

Our subject secured his land before the Government survey had been completed. It included one of the finest mill sites along the Weeping Water, which he utilized as soon as possible, erecting a sawmill, from which he began dressing lumber in September, the same year of his arrival. It is hardly necessary to state that the equipments of that mill were somewhat inferior to those of the present time. The year following, however, Mr. K. introduced some new improvements, including a set of burrs, with which he intended to grind wheat, but afterward transferred the property to other parties, before beginning operations as a flour miller. This was the first mill building erected on the Weeping Water, in fact the first mill of any kind built in the county. For some years it accommodated the people for miles around.

At the time of the settlement of Mr. Kirkpatrick there were only about 180 voters in the county. He was readily recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, and was soon selected to represent the county in the Territorial Legislature at Omaha, being a member of the Senate, and re-elected three times by the Republicans of his district. He was in the Constitutional Conventions of 1871 and 1875, in the latter of which were adopted the existing laws of Nebraska. Prior to this he had represented the people of Cass County in the Territorial Legislature, and afterward was Speaker of the House. Since 1874 he has withdrawn from politics, although often being solicited to return to the field. During his public life it was conceded, even by his enemies, that in his day he was one of the most able parliamentarians of the State.

The public duties of Mr. Kirkpatrick brought him into contact with many eminent men, while his own habit of observation resulted in yielding him a large fund of useful information. He is intimately acquainted, not only with the history of Nebraska, but the general development of the Great West, which has been a subject uppermost in his mind for a long period. A close student and an extensive reader, and a man of decided views, he is one also whose opinions are generally respected, and who has borne no unimportant part in the building up of Cass County, and introducing those measures best calculated for its advancement. The village of Nehawka was platted on his land, and to it he has extended his fostering care. It is evidently destined in the near future to be a business point of no small importance.

The farm of Mr. Kirkpatrick embraces about 300 acres of finely improved land, and upon it are the

buildings naturally suggested by the means and requirements of its proprietor—a substantial dwelling with pleasant surroundings, an abundance of fruit and shade trees, which, together with the live stock and farm machinery, fulfill the modern idea of the well-regulated rural estate.

A native of Adams County, Ohio, Mr. Kirkpatrick was born Aug. 31, 1815, and is the scion of an excellent family, being the son of Absalom Kirkpatrick, who was the son of Andrew, the son of William. The latter was the first representative of the family in the United States, crossing from Londonderry, in the North of Ireland, probably during the Colonial days, and settling in Maryland. They were of Scotch ancestry, and like the forefathers of hundreds of other people in this country, were driven from their native land during the religious wars of three centuries ago. William Kirkpatrick must have made his home in Maryland the remainder of his life. His son Andrew enlisted in the Revolutionary War, and participated in the battle of Brandywine, at which he had a brother killed, and also in other important engagements. He married a lady of Welsh descent, Miss Elizabeth Bowen, who was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. They subsequently moved to Virginia, and later to Ohio, locating a few miles east of the present city of Cincinnati, where they spent the remainder of their lives, dying when quite aged.

Absalom Kirkpatrick, the father of our subject, was one of the seven sons of Andrew and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, which completed their family, they having no daughters. The sons all lived to man's estate, were married and became the fathers of families. Absalom, with four other brothers, was subjected to the general call for soldiers in the War of 1812, in which, however, they were not called upon to engage in any active battles, probably being held in the Reserve Corps. Absalom must have attained his majority in the Old Dominion, as he was not married until the removal to Ohio. He was there wedded to Miss Elizabeth Van Pelt, who was born in St. John's, Nova Scotia, where her father had settled about the time of the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Prior to this he had lived on Staten Island. Upon removing from Nova Scotia to the States they settled first on the Nolachucky, a branch of the Tennessee River, in Tennessee, whence they removed to Ohio, where the father, Tunis Van Pelt, died soon afterward.

Absalom Kirkpatrick and his wife began their wedded life together on a farm in Ohio, where they lived until after the birth of all their children. They then changed their residence to Montgomery County, Ind., where they spent the remainder of their days, not far from the town of Crawfordsville. The father died in 1855, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a man of strong character and fine intelligence, and was prominent in public affairs. The mother after the death of her husband made her home with her son A. F., at the old homestead, and passed away in 1863, at the advanced age of eighty years. She was in all respects the suitable companion of her husband, being a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, high minded, with cultivated tastes, and was a beautiful singer.

The subject of this sketch was the fourth child and second son of his parents, whose family included five sons and three daughters. Of this large family only two sons are surviving, S. M. and his brother C. Q., of Lafayette, Ind. Our subject lived in Ohio until a lad of fourteen years, where he began the rudiments of a practical education. He removed with his parents to Indiana, and from his youth up has been a lover of books, and by this means added to his store of knowledge when he could no longer attend school. He has always entertained an especial interest in matters of history, and there are few men of the present day possessing a more complete store of general information.

The marriage of Hon. S. M. Kirkpatrick and Miss Elizabeth C. McMillin was celebrated at the home of the bride in Crawfordsville, Ind., Oct. 11, 1836. Mrs. K. was born in 1816, in Campbell County, Tenn., and brought up in Tazewell County, Va., and accompanied her mother to Indiana when fifteen years old, in the fall of 1830. Later she spent one and one-half years in Louisa County, Iowa, where Mr. K. was engaged in merchandising, and where Mrs. Kirkpatrick died, together with their only child, in September, 1839.

Mr. Kirkpatrick contracted a second marriage, in Thornton, Ind., April 1, 1841, with Miss Elizabeth Craig. This lady was born in Adams County,

Ohio, May 6, 1823, and is the daughter of Robert Craig, a native of County Down, Ireland. Robert Craig, the father of Mrs. K., was of Scotch ancestry, and her mother, Sarah Kerr, the daughter of Paul Kerr and Jane Weir, who were married on the Atlantic Ocean while coming to America. Many of their descendants became prominent people, and are now scattered in various parts of the Union. One cousin has for forty years been a resident of Canton, China, belonging to the American Foreign Mission.

Mr. Craig emigrated to the United States when a child, and was reared by an uncle in Pennsylvania. There also he was married, later moved to Ohio, and thence to Indiana. He died in Boone County, that State, when a very old man, aged ninety-three years. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was well reared and educated, and is a very intelligent lady, possessing all the womanly virtues. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, two of whom are deceased: Sarah V., who died when three years old, and Julia F., who died in infancy. The survivors are recorded as follows: Edwin A. married Miss Oella D. Black, daughter of Dr. John Black, of Plattsmouth, and is engaged in the grain trade at Nehawka; John M. married Miss Cornelia F. Goodrich, and is carrying on farming extensively in Wheeler County, this State, where he owns a large amount of land; Elizzie H. is the wife of Orlando Tefft, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Lee C. is residing at the home of his parents; William W. married Miss Maggie Gaffney, and is farming in Wheeler County; Robert C., Mary S. and Kate L. are at home with their parents. Mary is a student of Lincoln University.

VALENTINE HAY, a well-to-do farmer and stock-raiser, operating 160 acres of land on section 1 of Stove Creek Precinct, is one of the prosperous and reliable citizens of the community, and a successful agriculturist. He was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, July 28, 1814. His parents, Andrew and Mary (Barrer) Hay, were born in Germany, and spent their entire lives there. His father was a blacksmith and farmer, and lost his life by accident while working at his former occupation, in the year 1836, when fifty-three years of age. His mother survived until 1870, dying at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. Both were members of the Catholic Church, and lived consistent Christian lives. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Anthon, and Peter, dead; Valentine; Mary, dead; Catherine; Andrew, dead; Barbara, George, Theresa, Mary and John. Valentine Hay, an uncle of our subject, was Colonel in Napoleon Bonapart's army for seven years.

The subject of our sketch was educated in his native country, and at the age of twelve years was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith's trade. Eight years later he began as journeyman blacksmith, traveling the first year in Germany, and the three ensuing years in France and Switzerland. In 1840 he emigrated to the United States, sailing from Havre de Grace on the ship "Louis Phillippe," and after a voyage of twenty-one days landed at New York City. Engaging in blacksmithing there, he continued until 1847, when he started a smithy of his own in Sodus, Wayne County, that State, where he remained until 1855. Mr. Hay then bought a farm of sixty acres and worked on it two years. In 1857 he bought seventy acres of land situated nine miles from Milwaukee, Wis., and there staid two years, engaged in farming and blacksmithing. Moving from there to Pekin, Ill., our subject built a shop and worked at his trade two years, then bought a farm in Tazewell County, the same State, where he remained until 1872. Desiring to try farming in a country peculiarly adapted to it, our subject came to Nebraska with a team (his wife coming by rail), crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, then kept on to Weeping Water, where he rented land for two years. He had previously bought 160 acres of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, in Stove Creek Precinct, and in 1874 he moved onto it. It was in its primitive condition, but with the help of his sons, he has eliminated a fine productive farm from the raw prairie, set out six acres of forest trees, fenced the land, and built a good house, barn and other out-buildings, hauling the lumber from Nebraska City. He carries on general

farming and stock-raising, having a herd of fine Polled-Angus cattle, hogs of the Poland-China breed, and several head of magnificent Norman horses.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Saloma Foulstick took place in Lyons, N. Y., June 22, 1846. Mrs. Hay was born in Alsace, Germany, Nov. 9, 1826, and came to America with her parents when three years of age. Her death occurred at the homestead in Stove Creek Precinct, Aug. 24, 1888. To her and her husband were born ten children, namely: W. H., Mary, D. E., George A., C. V., P. E., J. T., Lucy, E. B. and L. A. The eldest son of our subject, William H. Hay, was born in Wayne County, N. Y., Jan. 31, 1847, and was ten years old when his parents moved to Wisconsin. He attended school in New York and afterward in Wisconsin. He then went with his parents to Illinois, where he managed the farm while his father worked at blacksmithing. After the war broke out William enlisted regularly ever year, but each time was rejected on account of his small stature. When finally accepted he enlisted in the 11th Illinois Cavalry, but was transferred to the 5th Illinois Cavalry, was mustered into service at Peoria, and sent to Camp Butler under A. J. Smith, and was then ordered to Memphis. It being near the close of the war he was out skirmishing most of the time. He took part in a raid into Arkansas, and was then on detached duty until honorably discharged in July, 1865. He has since then remained with his father and been his mainstay, he having set out the groves and orchard, and lent great assistance in all the improvements that have been made. The personal property on the place he owns in partnership with him. He is a broom manufacturer by trade, has a machine, and turns out his own brooms. He is highly esteemed for his ability, industry and genuine worth, and is a prominent and influential citizen, and is now serving his fourth year as School Treasurer. He is a member of the G. A. R., and Past Senior Vice Commander of LaFayette Post No. 61, at Weeping Water. In politics he is a strong Republican, and has been delegate to State and County Conventions. He was never married.

Mr. George A. Hay, a merchandise clerk of Wabash, Neb., married Miss Eliza Cowel; they have five children, namely: Adele, Nellie, Hurbert, Leo and an infant. C. V. Hay, who clerks for E. Day, in Weeping Water, married Miss Maud Church; they have one child, an infant. P. E. Hay, a farmer in Weeping Water Precinct, married Mary Philpott; they have two children, Frank and Joe. Lucy Hay married Ernest Zimmerman, a druggist of Morton, Ill.; they have three children—Ernest, Dora and an infant. J. T. Hay is a grocer in Broken Bow, Neb.; E. B. Hay is a farmer in Weeping Water Precinct. The others are at home.

Our subject is an industrious man who satisfactorily performs the duties falling on him as a law-abiding citizen. In political views he coincides with the principles promulgated by the Republican party, and firmly upholds them by voice and vote. He has served as Road Supervisor, and takes a general interest in precinct affairs. He is a devout member of the German Evangelical Church, where his wife was also a communicant, and generously assists in supporting it.

JACOB VALLERY, SR., is a prominent and influential citizen of Cass County, and it is with great pleasure that we present a review of his life to the patrons of this work. He is extensively engaged in stock-raising, and in other agricultural pursuits in Plattsmouth Township, where he has a large and valuable farm of 1,000 acres.

Mr. Vallery was born in Bavaria, Germany, in a place known as Rhine Falls, Aug. 8, 1813. He was well educated in the German and English branches under the compulsory educational laws of his native land. After leaving school he was apprenticed to a tailor, and engaged in that trade in his native country until he came to the United States in 1833 for the laudable purpose to make more of his life than he could have done in the Fatherland. He located in Pike County, Ohio, and in 1840 was there married to Mary Vallery. She has indeed been to him a true helpmate, and of their happy wedded life eight children have been born, seven of whom survive, and the following is recorded of

them: John R. died Nov. 17, 1888; he was a resident of this county. Christina is the widow of Peter Rummell; Mary is the widow of Charles Guthman; Charlotte, who was the wife of Philip Tritch, died in March, 1875; Louisa is the widow of Lewis Baher, her husband dying June 28, 1882; she has since married, Dec. 8, 1888, Solomon Pitcher; her husband is County Clerk at Sharon, Neb. Jacob W., Peter F. and Conrad are the remaining children. Conrad, Dec. 15, 1888, married Louisa Nieman, of Plattsmouth.

After marriage Mr. Vallery continued to reside in Pike County for several years, and for a long time was engaged in the mercantile business in Piketon and Waverly. He was prominent in public life, his well-known ability, integrity and honorable character gaining him the full confidence of the people. He was elected Sheriff of Pike County, and served until 1844. He was re-elected to that responsible position in 1846, and held the office until 1850. In 1852 he was again elected to the same position, and served for two years. He was appointed Deputy United States Marshal in the Southern District of Ohio under President Buchanan's administration, and was incumbent of that office for four years. In the meantime he was County Assessor for several terms, and also held minor offices. In 1856 he came to Cass County, Neb., and bought some land, and then returned to his home in Ohio. He also bought some land here in 1857. Notwithstanding the wildness of the surrounding country and the thoroughly uncivilized aspect of its environments, Mr. Vallery shrewdly foresaw its ultimate destiny as a great and wealthy State, and determined to cast in his lot with its early pioneers. With that end in view he came here with his family in 1865, to locate permanently, and settled on his present farm, which was then an unbroken prairie. In the years that have followed he has contributed his full share in developing the great agricultural resources of Cass County, and has added much to its material prosperity. He built a house for the shelter of his family that season and began to break the sod. He has replaced that humble dwelling in which he and his family passed the first few years of their life here by a most substantial structure in the shape of a fine large brick house, and he has also built a good barn and other needed farm buildings. He has 1,000 acres in the home farm, all of which is neatly fenced and under excellent tillage, excepting about 300 acres which he devotes to pasturage, as he pays much attention to raising fine stock of good grades, horses, hogs and Short-horn cattle, taking particular care to have only such as he considers the best. He has a good orchard of about 300 trees and also a fine vineyard.

Since taking up his residence in this part of the country Mr. Vallery has taken a conspicuous part in the management of public affairs. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Nebraska, and has held several responsible county offices. His official career, both in this State and in Ohio, has been marked by the faithful and wise discharge of the duties and responsibilities resting upon him, with the sole view of furthering the interests of his adopted country. In politics he has been a lifelong Democrat, and has been influential in party councils. He has served as a delegate to National Conventions for perhaps forty consecutive years. He was present at the one which nominated McClellan for the Presidency, and he helped to nominate Grover Cleveland, and also to elect him. Mr. Vallery and his amiable wife are devoted members of the German Lutheran Church, in which faith they were reared.

JACOB VALLERY, JR., of Plattsmouth Precinct, represents a valuable homestead of 320 acres, pleasantly located on section 21, of which he took possession in the spring of 1880. He has been a prominent man in this county, to which he came several years before Nebraska was admitted into the Union as a State, and as early as 1856 served three terms as County Commissioner. He has also served six terms as Assessor of Plattsmouth Precinct, and has frequently held other positions of trust and responsibility. His family history is substantially as follows:

Our subject is the son of Peter and Charlotte (Acker) Vallery, and the paternal grandparents

were Valentine and Elizabeth (Kroehler) Vallery. These were all natives of the little Kingdom of Bavaria, where the grandparents spent their entire lives. They traced their ancestry to Italy.

The subject of this sketch was born June 12, 1824, in the Kingdom of Bavaria, and came to the United States with his parents in the year 1833, with the three other surviving children of the family. They settled in Pike County, Ohio, where the father engaged in farming on new land, and where he lived a period of twenty-two years, his death taking place in April, 1855. The mother remained a resident of the Buckeye State nearly ten years after the death of her husband, then in February, 1865, joined her son in Nebraska, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jacob Vallery, in Plattsmouth Precinct, Dec. 19, 1882, aged ninety years.

Two of the children born to Peter Vallery and his wife, namely: Peter (1st) and Elizabeth, died in their native Germany. Those coming to America were: Conrad, Mary, Jacob and Peter (2d). Jacob, like his brothers and sisters, was reared in Pike County, Ohio, where he lived until the fall of 1855, then turning his face toward the farther West, he crossed the Mississippi and located in Glenwood, Iowa, where he engaged in general merchandising. In the fall of that same year, going to St. Louis, he purchased a stock of goods, which he shipped to Glenwood, then returning to Pike County, Ohio, secured unto himself a wife and helpmate, being married, Oct. 9, 1885, to Miss Magdalena Feucht.

Mrs. Vallery is the daughter of Frederick and Julia A. (Sohn) Feucht, who, like their daughter, were also natives of Germany, born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, and where they spent their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs. Vallery after their marriage proceeded at once to Iowa, but a few weeks later our subject removed his stock of goods to Plattsmouth, and carried on business until the summer of 1856. He then sold his store and purchased a flouring-mill, which he operated for a few years. Then resuming merchandising, he thus occupied himself until the year 1877. His career has been steadily onward and that of a self-made man, as he had no capital to begin with except his persevering disposition and natural energy of character. His large farm with its improvements indicates in an admirable manner the success with which he has labored.

To Mr. and Mrs. Vallery there were born twelve children, the record of whom is as follows: Charlotte E. became the wife of F. E. White, of Plattsmouth; and Anna J. married Prof. W. W. Drummond; they all live in Plattsmouth. Louisa M. died when about thirteen and a half years old; George W. lives in Wyoming Territory; Ida M., Mrs. D. T. Higginson, is residing in Elmhurst, Ill.; John F. lives in Denver, Col.; Katie, Amelia, Charles A., Maggie, Louis and Tillie are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Vallery are members in good standing of the German Presbyterian Church, and our subject, socially, is identified with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge at Plattsmouth. Politically, he gives his support to the Democratic party.

SILAS E. CLEMMONS is a son of one of the early pioneers of Cass County, who came to Nebraska Territory in the fall of 1854, and located on a tract of wild land three miles west of the present city of Rock Bluff. This was prior to the treaty with the Indians, which gave to white men the right to locate claims of 160 acres of land. His father, who secured his first land from a warrant as a soldier of the Mexican War, took possession of his property and hired a man to settle on another half-section adjoining. He thus secured by pre-emption 320 acres as soon as it came into market, and as soon as possible began in earnest the struggle with the primitive soil. Our subject was then a lad nine years of age, having been born April 18, 1845, in Ohio. He remembers distinctly the first humble dwelling occupied by the family in Nebraska, and which was a cabin of round logs with clapboard roof and a puncheon floor, and a chimney built outside of sticks and clay.

This cabin was occupied by the pioneers perhaps a year, when a more pretentious dwelling was constructed of hewn logs and divided into two rooms, making quite a stylish residence for those

days. Amid these surroundings Silas E. Clemmons was reared to manhood, and there the parents spent the remainder of their days, each dying when about seventy-seven years of age. During the first years of their settlement in Nebraska there were few white people within the Territory, but Indians were plentiful, and upon one occasion 500 of them camped near the house. They offered no violence however, and no annoyance except to steal and beg. Timber wolves and wildcats were abundant. Father Clemmons, as he was affectionately called by the people around, became one of the most prominent men in this community, and was greatly respected and beloved, as was also his estimable wife, who for many years was an exemplary member of the Christian Church.

To John and Rutherford (Peterson) Clemmons, the parents of our subject, there were born thirteen children, twelve of whom lived to mature years. Of these Silas E. was the twelfth in order of birth, and eight of the family are still living. The paternal grandfather, John Clemmons, Sr., died at the home of his son John, Jr., and there being no burying-ground in that vicinity, his remains were laid to rest in a quiet spot on the home farm, which has since been used and kept up as a public cemetery. John, Jr., and his estimable wife were laid by the side of Grandfather Clemmons, whom it is believed was the first white citizen of Cass County to receive sepulture within its borders.

Our subject thus spent his boyhood and youth amid the wild scenes of pioneer life on the frontier, and when reaching man's estate began to make preparations for the establishment of a home of his own. One of the most important steps to this end was his marriage with Miss Caroline Gapen, which was celebrated at the home of the bride in Rock Bluff Township, May 3, 1870. This lady is the daughter of John and Matilda (Garlo) Gapen, and was born June 12, 1843, in Virginia. The parents of Mrs. Clemmons were natives of Pennsylvania and are now dead. Their household consisted of thirteen children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Clemmons there have been born two children, one of whom died unnamed in infancy. Their only child and daughter, Cora A., was born on the 7th of March, 1872, and is now at home. Mr. Clemmons before his marriage purchased eighty acres of land on section 27, upon which he settled. He has the whole enclosed with good fencing, has erected a comfortable set of frame buildings, and has brought the land to a productive condition, a part being devoted to general farming and quite a large area to pasturage. He keeps good grades of cattle and swine and the horses necessary for the farm work. Belonging to one of the best and most substantial families of the county, he occupies a good position socially as well as on account of his sterling worth of character. Like his father before him, he is an uncompromising Democrat politically, a man decided in his views and one whose opinions are generally respected.

HENRY ROELOFSZ is recognized among the people in the southwestern part of this county as one of its most enterprising merchants, and he is one of the very first settlers of Tipton Precinct. He was the second man to take up land within its borders, and wisely retains possession of a goodly amount, being now the owner of 360 acres, the operations of which he superintends in connection with his mercantile business.

Of Holland-Dutch ancestry and parentage, our subject was born near the famous city of Amsterdam, June 18, 1844. Of his parents, Peter and Emley (Phillips) Roelofsz, a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume. The father was a man of consequence in his native town, which was the same as that in which his son Henry was born, and the owner of a castle surrounded by the traditional moat and the other relics of feudal days, many of which are still remembered by our subject.

In the fall of 1859 the Roelofsz family, parents and children, emigrated to the United States, Henry being then a lad fifteen years of age. They embarked at Liverpool on a sailing-vessel, and after a voyage of six weeks landed in New York City. Thence they proceeded directly westward to Iowa, and the father later took up land in Marion County, which in due time he transformed into a good homestead, and which was familarly known as the Crab Apple Farm.

They sojourned there a period of five years. In the summer of 1862 the family met its first great affliction in the death of the mother, and the household was broken up.

Mr. R., after the death of his mother, started out for himself, working on a farm by the month. He had only attended school about six months after coming to America. After occupying himself as we have stated for three months he purchased a yoke of oxen and employed himself in teaming four months. He then changed his occupation and began his initial experience in mercantile business by engaging as clerk in a dry-goods store in Pella, Iowa, where he was employed until the spring of 1864.

Young Roelofsz, a lad thoughtful and ambitious beyond his years, desirous of seeing something more of the Western country, started out in the spring of the year mentioned, a youth of twenty, with three others, for the Pacific Slope. Their outfit consisted of a four-horse team and the various accoutrements they would require on an overland journey. After reaching Ft. Laramie they "fell out," and our subject engaged to drive a team of oxen for other parties through to Virginia City, Mont. After much labor he finally landed safely at his destination, and subsequently employed himself in the hotels there and at various other occupations until the spring of 1867. He had in the meantime learned the baker's trade, and his western expedition had resulted quite satisfactorily financially.

In the fall of the year mentioned Mr. Roelofsz returned to Marion County, Iowa, where he spent the winter following, and in the spring of 1868, a youth of twenty-four years, started out once more overland with a team, but this time for the young State of Nebraska. Coming to Tipton Precinct, this county, he pre-empted eighty acres of land on section 14, and kept bachelor's hall one year. In the meantime he had begun to make provision for the maintenance of a wife and helpmate, and the marriage of himself and Miss Nancy E. Grove was celebrated April 24, 1869. Mrs. Roelofsz was born in Mahaska County, Iowa, in 1851, and is the daughter of James and Nancy (Price) Grove, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter born in Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Grove family is of German descent, and the father of Mrs. R. was a farmer and teamster combined, and while pursuing this latter occupation frequently drove six horses.

The Grove family subsequently changed their residence from Pennsylvania to Illinois, and located in Champaign County. Here the father engaged in farming and teaming as before, but later removed to Tazewell County, Ill., settling near the present flourishing city of Peoria. Still not satisfied with his surroundings, he pushed on westward across the Mississippi, and took up his residence among the pioneers of Mahaska County, Iowa. He was one of the first settlers of that region, and securing 160 acres of Government land, battled with the elements of a new soil in the Hawkeye State until the spring of 1869, when he started on another pilgrimage, coming this time overland with teams to this county. He has since been a resident of Tipton Precinct, where he has a good homestead of eighty acres. A man of more than ordinary activity and industry, he has effected all the improvements which we see around him to-day, and with his aged partner, is passing his declining years in ease and comfort. Father Grove is seventy-two years of age, and his estimable wife has just rounded up her threescore years and ten. Both are members of the German Baptist Church. Their children were named respectively: Dicie H., John H., Ollie C., Maria, James E., Susan and Nancy E. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Roelofsz began their wedded life at the homestead which they now occupy, in a style corresponding to their means and surroundings, which were widely different from those of to-day. Mr. R. has made good improvements, setting out forest and fruit trees, having in groves and his orchard about six acres. The present residence was completed in the spring of 1878. The barns and out-buildings compare favorably with those of the intelligent men around him. In 1882 he added 200 acres to his first purchase, this latter lying on section 11, and also in a good state of cultivation. Later he purchased eighty acres on section 24. This also is improved and is operated by a renter.

Our subject, in the spring of 1880, established a store of general merchandise at Sun Light in connection with the post-office. He put up the build-

ing and still owns the property; he carried there a stock of about $1,000. In the spring of 1887 he moved his goods to the young and enterprising little town of Eagle, where he also owns his building and lot, besides his residence and three other lots. He also has a lumber office and lot on Main street. He has increased his stock considerably, and enjoys a good patronage from the people of this section.

Among the prominent men of the Republican party of this locality Mr. Roelofsz occupies no unimportant position. He is frequently chosen as a delegate to the various conventions, and is an earnest worker for the principles in which he believes. Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Congregational Church. Mr. R. is no sectarian, but believes in the general establishment of churches, and assists others besides his own. He is usually connected with the School Board of his district, and was Postmaster at Sun Light for a period of seven years.

The household circle of Mr. and Mrs. Roelofsz was completed by the birth of six children, who were named respectively: Minnie M., James P., Cora, Nettie B., Amanda and Ettie. The eldest daughter, a bright and interesting young lady, officiates as clerk in her father's store. The others make their home with their parents, the younger ones attending school. Mr. R. received very little schooling in his youthful days, but has been a reader and an observer, and has thus secured a useful fund of information. There are few men with whom it is more pleasurable or profitable to converse.

JOSEPH W. COX. Emerson justly says that "all history is only the biography of men." The troubles, trials and labors of one individual are but a specimen of the efforts of many who have to fight the battle of life and go down to their graves unchronicled. In listening to the life story of this honored resident of Avoca Precinct, the truth of this statement appears most forcible, as teaching the discouraged hope under the most untoward circumstances, and how perseverance under the greatest difficulties eventually conquers.

Mr. Cox came to the Territory of Nebraska as early as 1867, and began life as a farmer on rented land, which he operated a few years, and was then eaten out by grasshoppers. He then again worked as a renter until he could secure land of his own, first selecting 160 acres, upon which he operated a term of years, and began to gain a substantial footing. Later he added eighty acres to his possessions, and has one of the finest farms along the southern line of the county, 240 acres in extent, and located on sections 5 and 6. During his operations of nineteen years upon this farm he has labored early and late for its improvement and cultivation, with results which should be amply satisfactory. He has planted fruit and shade trees, put up substantial buildings, and has a fine apple orchard and a goodly assortment of live stock. His ideas of progress have led him to secure the latest improved farm machinery, and his land under careful and judicious management is the source of a handsome income.

A native of the Buckeye State, our subject was born in Bristol Township, Trumbull County, Sept. 14, 1838. There he spent his boyhood and youth, becoming familiar with farm pursuits and acquiring a practical education in the common schools. He lived there until coming to Nebraska. He is the son of Japheth Cox, a native of the same county in Ohio and born in Bristol Township, where he spent his entire life on the farm of his father, John Cox. The latter settled there in 1805, three years after Ohio had been admitted into the Union as a State.

John Cox, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of York County, Pa., and of English and German ancestry, who were first represented in this country during the Colonial times, when John Cox, Sr., crossed the Atlantic and settled in North Carolina, removing thence to York County, Pa., at an early period in its history. He located in York County, and it will be seen that the name has been familiar in that section of Pennsylvania for several generations.

Grandfather John Cox was reared to manhood in his native county, where he began life as a far-

mer, and in early manhood, laying aside for a brief time the implements of agriculture, shouldered the musket and did good service as a soldier in the War of 1812. Prior to the close of this conflict he returned to his farm and his family. He married Miss Catherine Bower, of York County, who was also born and reared there, and was of German ancestry. They took up their residence in Bristol Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, in 1805, and constructed a homestead from the unbroken wilderness, John Cox felling the timber around his cabin home, and his good wife assisting him after the manner of the pioneer women of those times. They remained in Trumbull County, Ohio, until they were gathered to their fathers. Grandfather Cox in 1857, at the advanced age of eighty-five years, came to his death by being burned, his clothes taking fire one night when he had arisen from his bed to procure medicine for a slight ailment. Although so old he was still hale and hearty, the result of a temperate life and correct habits. His aged partner survived him two years, dying at the age of eighty-seven. She was a very bright and intelligent old lady, beloved and admired by all who knew her.

Japheth Cox, the father of our subject, was one of the younger members of a family of ten children, all of whom lived to mature years, were married and reared families of their own. Japheth attained to man's estate with well-developed muscles and a healthy mind, and continued at the old homestead, caring for his parents until his death, which occurred in February, 1855. Although the child of a long-lived pair, he was cut down in his prime, being only forty-one years old. He was a skillful farmer and a capable business man, popular among his neighbors, and in all respects a worthy citizen.

Mrs. Angeline (Webster) Cox, the mother of our subject, was born in March, 1815, in New York, and came from old New England stock, being the daughter of Joseph Webster, who married a Miss Ackley, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier of considerable consequence on account of his sturdy patriotism and fidelity to duty. The Ackleys were of English descent. Joseph Webster and his wife spent their last days in Trumbull County, Ohio. They were natives of Connecticut, whence they emigrated to Chautauqua County, N. Y., at an early day, and from the Empire State changed their residence to Ohio.

Mrs. Cox at the death of her husband was left with four children, whom she kept together until they had nearly reached years of maturity. She was then married to E. D. Hickley, who died twenty years later, in 1886, at their home in Ohio, and was seventy-six years old. Mrs. Hickley is still living, making her home with one of her younger sons, Emery F., in Trumbull County, Ohio, and is now seventy-four years old.

The subject of this sketch was the eldest of the four children born to his parents, all sons, and was about sixteen years old at the time of his father's death. It naturally fell to his portion to become the support and assistance of his widowed mother, and for some years he discharged these duties in a manner reflecting great credit upon himself. At the age of twenty-four years, desirous of establishing domestic ties of his own, he was united in marriage with Miss Ellen L. Gleason, at the home of the bride, in Ashtabula County, Ohio, April 16, 1862.

Mrs. Cox was born in Berkshire, Mass., Nov. 16, 1838, and is, like her husband, the offspring of substantial New England ancestry, who made their way to the young State of Ohio when a large proportion of its territory was a wilderness. Her parents, John and Alvira (Hunter) Gleason, were natives respectively of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Gleasons came originally from Scotland, whence the family was driven to the North of Ireland in the general hegira of that period consequent upon religious persecution. They were a people unusually intelligent and enterprising as citizens, reliable, honest and industrious, and wherever they settled formed the bone and sinew of their community.

John Gleason, the father of Mrs. Cox, was a carpenter by trade, and leaving his native State when a young man, he went to Massachusetts, where he found his bride. In 1854 they migrated from the Bay State to Ohio, locating in Ashtabula County, where his death took place in 1879, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. The wife and mother survived her husband until 1882,

being then seventy-four years old. Both were for many years members in good standing of the Congregational Church. The father of John Gleason did good service as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

The wife of our subject was carefully reared by her excellent parents, and was quite young when they made the removal from her native State to Ohio. She is the mother now of three children, all sons—Hardwood J., Richard R. and Frank A. The eldest is a young man of good education, and has followed the profession of a teacher considerably. Mr. Cox has never entertained any desire for official honors, although he keeps himself well posted upon the various questions of the day, and uniformly gives his support to the Republican party. He has served as Assessor in his precinct, and is a man liberal and public-spirited, always to be found on the side of those enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his community. The family comprises a portion of the best element of Cass County, and the homestead is one of the most attractive features in its landscape. In addition to its fertile soil there is a fine rock quarry, the stone from which is utilized not only by the proprietor, but by the people around to excellent advantage.

WILLIAM E. LATTA is familiarly known thoroughout Rock Bluff Precinct and vicinity as one of its pioneers, and was engaged in general merchandising at Mutray until recently. He had the monopoly of trade, being the sole merchant of the village, is a man remarkably upright in his transactions, and as a natural result enjoyed the esteem and confidence of the community. He sold his store to Mr. John Edmonds, and gave possession Feb. 1, 1889.

The Latta family is of Scotch ancestry, and formed one of the colony of those who were driven from their native soil to the North of Ireland on account of religious persecution. William Latta, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in the latter country, and when a mere boy emigrated with his parents to the United States, they locating in Crawford County, Pa. He was there reared to man's estate, married a lady of that region, Miss Jane McConnaha, and reared a fine family of sons and daughters. Among their sons was Robert, the father of our subject, who was born in Crawford County, Pa., about 1821. Robert Latta was reared to manhood in Crawford County, and after his marriage settled in the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1853, where occurred the birth of our subject, William E., July 22, 1854.

The parents of our subject sojourned in the Queen City until about 1858, then started for the West, and crossing the Mississippi went down into the southwestern corner of Iowa, and settled in Page County. From there they removed to Mills County in the same State, and thence in 1861 to the Territory of Nebraska, locating not long afterward on 160 acres of new land on section 27 in Rock Bluff Precinct. There the mother, Mrs. Lettitia Latta, died Feb. 17, 1870. In the year 1871, Robert Latta rented his farm, and afterward proceeded to Chicago and engaged at his trade of carpenter, which he had learned during his early manhood. He only lived a short time afterward, dying in April of that same year. The parental household included seven children, six of whom are living. Calista married Sidney Miner, and they are residing on their farm in Rock Bluff Precinct, George A. is a resident of Webster County, Neb.; William E., of our sketch, was the third child; Lizzie died when a little child two years of age; James resides in Lincoln, Neb.; Samuel and Elbert are residents of Cass County. In the year 1875 our subject purchased the interests of the heirs in the home farm, and resided upon it until the spring of 1888. Then, leaving it in the hands of a tenant he invested a part of his capital in a stock of merchandise, and established himself in business at Murray. He had a good trade among the people surrounding him, and being courteous and accommodating, was popular among his fellow-citizens. The business was first established in 1884 by his brother Samuel, and his uncle, Samuel G. Latta, of whom he purchased stock and property.

The marriage of William E. Latta and Miss Sarah Current was celebrated at the home of the bride in Liberty Precinct, Cass Co., Neb., Oct. 1, 1873. Mrs. Latta is the daughter of James A. and

Caroline (Colburn) Current, who are natives of Virginia and Indiana respectively, and are now living in Elmwood, this county. Of this union there have been born three children—Letta O., James Oscar and Robert Bruce. The latter died Feb. 18, 1885, when twenty-two months old. Mr. Latta, politically, is an earnest Republican, and his estimable wife is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CONRAD H. VALLERY was one of the first white children born in Cass County, his birth having taken place in Plattsmouth Precinct, April 26, 1858, his parents having been early settlers of this part of Nebraska. He was reared amid the pioneer scenes of the early years of the settlement of the State, and in due time took his place among those who were developing and sustaining its wonderful agricultural resources. He is now the proud possessor of one of the best tilled and most productive farms to be found in his native town.

The parents of Conrad Vallery, Theobalt and Wilhelmina (Mutz) Vallery, were born in Germany, and coming to the United States when young located in Pike County, Ohio. They remained residents of that county until 1855, and in that year sought a new home in the wilds of the Territory of Nebraska, and thus became pioneers of Cass County. They continued living here until death, the father dying Oct. 29, 1864, in the prime of life, being but forty-two years of age, and the mother following him a few years later, her death occurring Oct. 22, 1877, at the age of fifty-eight. Mr. Vallery was identified with the agricultural interests of Cass County during his few years' residence here, and but for his untimely death would probably have placed himself among the leading farmers of his neighborhood, by whom he was greatly respected for his many good qualities. The following is the record of the eight children born to himself and wife: Mary married Harry Wright, and is living in the Black Hills; Jacob R. is living in this county; Catherine, who married Hiram Adams, died April 16, 1875, aged twenty-five years and eleven months, leaving one child; Henry lives in Saunders County, Neb.; Christina married George Sigler, and lives in Custer County, Neb.; Peter is in the Black Hills; our subject and Theobalt.

The subject of this sketch was married, Oct. 29, 1877, to Miss Frances Sprague, daughter of Howard and Catherine (Spicer) Sprague. This marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, all of whom are living, namely: Myrtle B., Alfa M., Jessie H., Albert W. and Blanche. Mrs. Vallery's parents were natives of New York and Pennsylvania respectively. The father is now living in Montana. The mother died when Mrs. Vallery was a little girl, and she then went to live with her elder sister, Martha Barr, in Montana. Her sister's family soon after returned to Cass County, where they still live, and where Mrs. V. was married. The mother died in Iowa where Mrs. Vallery was born.

Mr. Vallery has a farm of 120 acres of exceedingly fertile land, which, by his own skill and labor, he has improved into a valuable piece of property. Our subject having been born during the first decade of the settlement of Nebraska, its pioneer days had not passed away during the years of his boyhood, and he has a distinct remembrance of the times and scenes of those days, and converses very interestingly upon them. He has a vivid recollection of the Indians, who were then numerous in this part of the country, coming out in war paint and frightening the white settlers from their homes to flee to the town of Plattsmouth for protection. He remembers well when deer, antelopes and other wild animals roamed over the wild, sparsely settled country. He says that in those primitive days, when the necessaries of life were hard to obtain and the luxuries were unattainable, the people living so far from the great centers of civilization cheerfully wore the coarsest and plainest clothing. The men and boys wore coarse cotton jeans, and the boys would go barefooted excepting in the winter season, when they wore shoes of the coarsest material. The incongruities of bare feet and paper collars were often observed as features of the Sunday costumes of the youngsters in pioneer days. The girls of that period wore on Sundays dresses made of coarse brown drilling. Our subject has witnessed the evo-

lution of society in this part of the country from its primitive condition to its present high status, and he is contributing to the material welfare of Cass County. His honorable course thus far in life has won for him the respect and friendship of his neighbors. Politically, he affiliates with the Democrats, being an earnest supporter of that party.

JOHN E. ANDRUS. The subject of this sketch, and one of the substantial citizens of Tipton Precinct, was born near Canton, Bradford Co., Pa., Nov. 20, 1847. His mother died when he was five years old, and he then went to live with his sister, Hulda L. Willhelm, on the farm until he was nine years old. Leaving her he went to live with a gentleman by the name of Aaron Barns, and remained with him until he was twelve years old, and then went to Bradford, in Pennsylvania, and made his home with an uncle until he was seventeen years old. Then he began life for himself by working for others. He began by chopping wood for his board and going to school. The next spring, in April, he began working for Dwight Freeman, where he remained for three years. In the spring of 1859 he went to Marengo, Iowa Co., Iowa, where he worked on a farm, but at the expiration of three years he determined to try his luck in this State and secure a home of his own. He started by rail to Plattsmouth in the fall of 1870. He went on to Tipton Precinct, where he remained over winter with his sister. In the spring he purchased a claim of eighty acres of land, his present place of residence, for which he paid $600. There were no improvements on this claim, but he set to work at once with a will to make his claim second to none in value in the county; a glance over his well-improved acres will attest his success in this undertaking. He has three acres of grove and an orchard of 200 fine trees. He has the advantage of running water on his place, a branch of the Nemaha River. He has paid his whole attention to his farm, improving it in every possible direction, so that it is now in a very high state of cultivation, and is a continual compliment to the energy and skill of its owner. In 1874 he rented his place and went back to Iowa, where he worked during the year 1875, then came back, and in November, 1884, purchased 160 acres in Red Willow County, which he has sold. He improved his farm in 1887 by putting up a nice new house, barns and other necessary buildings.

There is a new grove of ash timber which has sprung up spontaneously on the place of our subject. He takes great pride in his fine herd of graded Short-horn cattle and Poland-China hogs, which is certainly testified by their appearance, which shows the care lavished upon them, and he has also seven head of graded horses.

Our subject was married in Pilot Township, Iowa County, Jan. 28, 1873, to Miss Exona Harbour, who was born in Ohio. They are blessed with three children: Charles, who is deceased; Norah D., nine years old, and Arthur W., four months old. In the largeness of their hearts they have taken a child from the Home of the Friendless, at Lincoln, and named him Charles Andrus; he is five years old. Our subject was a member of the School Board for five years, has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school at Union and Eagle for nine years. He takes a lively interest in politics and is an active Republican. He is a gentleman who believes in farming a little land and farming it well. He owns only eighty acres at present, provided with all the modern improved implements for properly cultivating and caring for the various crops to the best advantage. He is a man who deserves and has the respect and confidence of all his neighbors, and strict and unswerving integrity marks all his transactions. A view of his neat and well-kept home appears on another page.

JACOB J. BAHR. Few men along the southern line of Cass County are more widely or favorably known than the subject of this sketch. During his nine years' residence in Tipton Precinct he has been closely identified with its growth and prosperity. He represents real estate to the amount of 320 acres of improved land. It is acknowledged by every intelligent individual that a good wife exercises a vast influence in the

building up of a home and its general appearance. Mrs. Bahr in this respect has been the most efficient helpmate of her husband, and being a lady of fine tastes, and believing with St. Paul that "cleanliness is next to godliness," there are few more pleasant places as a resort for both friends and neighbors than the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bahr, while the stranger is treated with the courtesy inseparable from good breeding.

Our subject was born in what was then the Province of Lorraine, France, near the city of Salzburg, April 30, 1830, and in that beautiful stretch of country of which his parents, Jacob and Sophia (Young) Bahr, were also natives. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Bahr, Sr., a native of the same Province, was of German ancestry, and a farmer by occupation. He was a man highly respected in his community, active and industrious, of the strictest integrity, and lived to the advanced age of ninety years. Grandfather Nicholas Young, also a native of Lorraine, was a well-to-do farmer, and emigrated to America in 1831, locating on a tract of land not far from that of the Bahr family, in Jefferson County, N. Y. He there spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1849, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His estimable wife, Mrs. Caroline (Martsloff) Young, a native of Salzburg, died in 1860, aged ninety-three years.

The father of our subject carried on farming in a modest way until 1831, and when his son Jacob J. was an infant of a few months, resolved to seek his fortunes in the United States. Gathering together his family and personal effects he embarked on the long voyage, and arrived safely upon American soil, locating not long afterward upon a farm in the vicinity of Lora, Jefferson Co., N. Y. He was successful in his labors as a tiller of the soil, and moved from there to Fayette County, Iowa, but only lived six months after going to Iowa, where he died in 1849, at the advanced age of seventy-three years. He had been a man of large and ripe experience, and during his sojourn in his native country served as a soldier in the French Army under Napoleon Bonaparte, being present at the surrender of his army at the close of his last disastrous campaign. His superior officers would gladly have promoted him, but on account of the responsibilities in connection therewith he declined the proffered honor. He was under fire in many a hard-fought battle and upon one occasion was saved from being killed by the ball passing through his knapsack. He was thrown down by the concussion, but escaped uninjured. It was not long after the close of the war that Jacob Bahr, the father of our subject, decided to cross the Atlantic. In the meantime he had engaged quite extensively in the distillation of oils from various herbs, having his own apparatus. The family after coming to the United States sojourned in Jefferson County, N. Y., and the father carried on farming and stock-raising, building up a good homestead from a tract of indifferently cultivated land, and instituting many good improvements. In the course of years his children all left home to start out for themselves, and the father was finally persuaded to join his son, our subject, in Iowa, selling out his property interests in the Empire State. He died in Iowa in the fall of 1849, after he had reached his fourscore years and two. The mother had died in 1842 at the age of forty-four years.

The six children of the parental family of our subject were named respectively: Caroline, who died when about forty-four years old; Sophia, Catherine, Jacob J., our subject; Julia and Frederick. The latter, during the late Civil War, enlisted in the 92d New York Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, was captured by the rebels, and finally sent home on parole. He is now living in Minnesota. The other surviving children are located in various States.

Jacob J. Bahr, our subject, was reared to man's estate in Jefferson County, N. Y., pursuing his first studies in the district school, and later attending the seminary at Grosvenor. He completed his studies when about eighteen years old, and then began learning the carpenter trade, serving his apprenticeship and later operating as a journeyman. At the age of twenty-two he started out for himself by purchasing a tract of land in New York State, the improvement of which he carried on in connection with his trade, and remained a resident of the Empire State until the spring of 1865.

Mr. Bahr now decided to see what lay beyond

the Mississippi, and migrated to Fayette County, Iowa. For two years afterward he worked at his trade in Fayette, but in the meantime secured 380 acres of raw land in that county. He moved upon this and began farming and stock-raising, laboring there for a period of fifteen years and effecting good improvements. He was, however, not quite satisfied with his condition in the Hawkeye State, and in the spring of 1880 disposed of his interest there and came to this county, locating on section 17, which was then a wild and uncultivated tract. The first few years of his residence here he experienced the hardships and difficulties common to pioneer life, but happily possessed unbounded perseverance, and being blessed with good health, has come out of it all with flying colors. It is difficult to believe that the beautiful farm, with its appurtenances, is the work of nine years.

Mr. Bahr completed his present residence in 1880, and has set out three acres of forest trees and 300 apple trees, besides erecting the barn and other outbuildings necessary for the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. The land is supplied with running water—a branch of Camp Creek. The farm is devoted largely to the raising of fine stock, including cattle, horses and swine. Three teams are required to operate it, and besides these Mr. Bahr has ten fine horses. His sons labor on the farm while he works considerably as a carpenter and builder. His mechanical skill has been of good service in the construction of his homestead, saving him hundreds of dollars, while at the same time he has placed around him the various little conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness and comfort of a home.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Lucy A. Timmerman was celebrated June 9, 1859, at the home of the bride in Lora, N. Y. This lady is the daughter of Lawrence and Polly (Conley) Timmerman, and comes of a family thoroughly Americanized, her paternal grandfather, Henry Timmerman, having served in the Revolutionary War. He died in New York State about 1834. Grandfather Solomon Conley was a native of Canada, whence he removed early in life to New York State, settling in Jefferson County, where he spent the remainder of his days. Grandmother Margaret (Sheldon) Timmerman was a native of Herkimer County, N. Y., and died in 1831. The maternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Howe) Conley, was of English descent, and a native of Brockville, Province of Ontario, Canada. She was left an orphan at an early age, and was reared by Shakers. She also spent her last days in Jefferson County, N. Y.

The father of Mrs. Bahr was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., in 1791, and when a youth of nineteen years enlisted in the American Army, serving all through the War of 1812. He had lived in Jefferson County from a lad of seven years, at which time his parents changed their residence to that county. They were among the earliest settlers there, locating in the forest when there were no signs of a white man, but lying around were various Indian relics, arrow heads and other implements of savage warfare. The father cleared a farm from the wilderness, and after bringing the land to a state of cultivation made a specialty of stock-raising. He passed away in October, 1883, at a ripe old age.

The mother of Mrs. Bahr was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in 1801; she died in May, 1875, some years prior to the decease of her husband. They were good people in the strictest sense of the word, and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The seven children of the household were named respectively: Mary A.; Abigail, who died when about fifty-nine years old; Caroline, Jane and Frederick; Lucy A. and Melissa M.

Mrs. Lucy A. Bahr was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., July 30, 1833, and received a good education, completing her studies in the High School at Evans' Mills. She remained a member of her father's household until her marriage. Of this union there have been born seven children: Eva M. is the wife of Mory Alexander, a well-to-do farmer of Lincoln County, this State; they have two children —Frankie and Freddie. William A. is farming in Tipton Precinct, this county; Polly S. married Mr. William Schcorp, a grain buyer of Eagle; Ada M., Mrs. J. D. Freeman, lives with her husband on a farm in Banner County, Neb.; they have one child, Orval V. Fred J., Orson K. and Thomas J. are at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. B. are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending serv-

ices at Eagle, and contributing liberally and cheerfully to the upbuilding of the Master's cause. Mr. Bahr was originally a Whig, and later affiliated with the Republicans, identified himself for a long time with the Greenbackers, but finally wheeled back into the ranks of the old Republican party, which he thinks is about the only place of political safety. He has been quite prominent in local affairs, officiated as Justice of the Peace, Postmaster and Supervisor, and is usually connected with the School Board of his district. Socially, he belongs to the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the lodge at Greenwood. A man upright and correct in his business methods, hospitable and kind in his intercourse with his neighbors, he is held in high esteem, and amply worthy of representation in a work designed to commemorate the early settlers and prominent citizens of Cass County.

JAMES G. ROMINE. The main points in the history of this highly respected resident of South Bend Precinct, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, are substantially as follows: The second son of John and Maria (Romine) Romine, he was born in Rappahannock County, Va., April 30, 1825, and was one of a family of ten children, six sons and four daughters, of whom three brothers, one elder and two younger than our subject, are deceased. The others are residents mostly of Virginia.

Mr. Romine remained with his father on the farm until twenty-five years of age, then entered the employ of one Crittendon as an overseer of slaves, and with whom he remained two years, at a salary of $150 per annum. At the expiration of this time he returned to his father, with whom he remained until the spring of 1852. He now decided upon a change of location, and securing transportation for his trunk he started, in company with others, on foot, over the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains to Wheeling, before the days of railroads, and at that point embarked on the steamboat "Reindeer," bound down the Ohio River to Cairo, thence up the Mississippi and Missouri to St. Joseph, Mo., where they arrived in the latter part of May.

From that point Mr. Romine proceeded to Savannah, about seventeen miles from St. Joseph, and engaged to work with a farmer by the name of Kleiser, an old Virginian, with whom he sojourned one month for the consideration of $12. Mr. R. then formed a partnership with one G. D. Connelly, whose acquaintance he had formed on the way up the river from St. Louis, and who was engaged in the leather business. Purchasing a tannery in Andrew County, Mo., they started in business, also selling boots and shoes, and continued together about eighteen months at that point. Then selling out they proceeded to the vicinity of Sciola, Montgomery Co., Iowa, where they engaged in farming and stock-raising, and also carried on a grocery and provision store about two years, and until the fall of 1856.

Our subject and his partner now sold out again, and still in company came to this county and engaged in farming and stock-raising near the then unimportant town of Rock Bluff. In the latter part of November, 1856, they crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth with the last of their cattle, meeting with great difficulty both in getting themselves and their animals over the river, and landing about one mile below the regular landing place, the river being full of mush ice and exceedingly difficult to cross. Messrs. Romine and Connelly had already purchased of one Abraham Towner a claim of 320 acres of land for $2,000, and which lay just south of Rock Bluff. This they afterward secured by pre-empting each a quarter-section, and paying the Government therefor $1.25 per acre. The winter which followed was exceedingly severe, with deep snows, and in consequence the greater portion of their stock perished. In 1859 the partnership was dissolved, and each engaged in business for himself.

In the spring of 1861 Mr. Romine began freighting from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, making his headquarters at Nebraska City, and was thus engaged until the fall of 1865. In the meantime he had resumed partnership with his old friend Mr. Connelly, which now continued until they were "cleaned out" by the Indians in the vicinity of Julesburg, with a loss of about $27,000, which claim will probably be paid by the Govern-

ment during the present year (1889). The savages made their raid about Jan. 7, 1865, running off a portion of the stock, and in the meantime Mr. Romine and his men engaged in quite a skirmish with them. The night before the overland stage had arrived, and reported that they had been attacked by Indians about two miles east. There was a train of about fifty wagons owned by Keith & Cook, whose men were all well armed, and on the arrival of the coach all hands prepared for an attack at early dawn. Mr. Romine immediately sent two men to the post at Ft. Sedgwick, informing the commanding officer of the alarming reports, and received the following reply: "We have heard enough of these d—d Indian scares, and don't believe anything of it." By the time the messengers returned day was dawning. Four men volunteered their services, and taking some of the best horses went to the point where the coach was attacked, where they found several hundred Indians, who killed two of the brave volunteers outright, and mortally wounded the third, who died soon after returning to the post. By daylight Romine and company discovered Indians all around them, and started off another messsenger to Ft. Sedgwick, two miles west.

The commanding officer at this post called out the troops, and attacking the Indians, followed them some three miles, the latter making a grand display just out of range of shots until they decoyed the troops into the bluffs, then turning on them, forced them to retreat, with a loss of twenty-three soldiers and citizens, the principal fight occurring very near the ranch. The wagonmaster of the train spoken of went into the fight, leaving orders that the teams be got in readiness to move at once. A portion of them being ready when the stampede occurred, the men took the ready teams and struck for the fort, leaving a portion of their train to the mercy of the Indians. Mr. Romine and four men remained at the ranch. The Indians took possession of the stage station and a large amount of provisions. The commanding officer at the post rallied his men and opened fire with two mountain howitzers, and succeeded in driving the savages off for that day.

The Indians troubled the ranchmen more or less for several days, but the latter finally succeeded in getting to the fort, where they remained about one month, then returned to Nebraska City. The Indians drove off all the stock of Romine & Co. on the south side of the river, about 150 head, and near the last of February set fire to the ranch. That morning a squad of soldiers volunteered to go out as scouts, and about fifteen of Mr. Romine's men, with himself, repaired to the ranch after some hay. They had placed sentinels around, and hearing a brisk firing up the road west, Mr. R. being posted as a picket, while the men were loading the hay, espied a band of Indians coming from the southwest, with the evident intention to cut off the retreat to the post. Both horses, men and footmen now made preparations for flight with their horses and ponies, leaving the oxen with the wagons partially loaded. By means of a flanking party from the post, they managed to save the men on foot from death or capture. The Indians then took possession of the ranch, taking away with them whatever they desired, driving off the stock and setting fire to what was left.

In the retreat there was one Lieutenant and six men who were cut off from the rest, and sought the ranch for protection, where the seven men there, by careful work and watching, managed to save their scalps, Mr. Romine among the rest. After the Indians had taken the provisions from the stage station they tried to burn the ranch, hay, and other material by firing the grass. In the spring of 1865 Messrs. Romine and Connelly, with some of their men and effects, returned to Nebraska City, and recruiting a few teams, resumed freighting until in 1867, when the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad destroyed the business. Mr. Romine then began buying grain and shipping it from Nebraska City, and was thus occupied until 1871. Mr. Romine then established himself at Plattsmouth, still continuing in the grain trade, and following the line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad until it was completed to Ashland. He was the first man shipping a load from that point, this being a carload of corn. In the fall of 1870 he erected a warehouse on the line of this road at Ashland, in partnership with S. P. Decker, and which was the first grain warehouse put up in the town. They

operated together until 1874, when Mr. R. disposed of his interests in the business to his partner, who is still operating at Ashland, and has become very wealthy.

Our subject now commenced feeding cattle, but in the winter of 1874–75 resumed business as a grain dealer, also adding swine, in company with Mr. Mable, of Ashland, with whom he remained one year. In the fall of 1876 he moved to the farm which he now occupies, one mile and a half south of the town of South Bend. He put up his residence and some of the other buildings soon afterward. There being a fine spring upon the place, Mr. Romine conceived the idea of starting a fish pond, built a dam, and secured a quantity of brook trout shipped from Wisconsin. He was successful in this enterprise from the start, and in the year 1879, finding in Sarpy County a splendid location for this business, purchased a tract of 160 acres of land about three miles from his other farm, and on the north side of the Platte River.

In partnership with Ransom Decker, Mr. Romine established ponds on a portion of this land, which they jointly owned, stocking these also with brook trout, and in the meantime also established a drug business at South Bend. Three years later they sold their fish interest to the State of Nebraska, together with fifty-two acres of land containing the ponds. This enterprise, now known as the Nebraska State Fishery, is considered one of the best in the United States. The ponds are now supplied with German carp by the Government. The first of these Mr. Romine brought from St. Louis about 1881, together with spawn of the California salmon to the amount of about 1,000,000, which were hatched and distributed in streams and lakes throughout the State. The salmon, however, proved of little or no value. The carp and trout seem to have been a success.

In 1882 Mr. Romine visited Washington City as Superintendent of the State Fishery, and secured about 5,000 young German carp, which were planted in the State ponds. Soon afterward, returning to his farm, he turned his attention largely to stock-raising, and for three or four years was highly successful. The hog cholera then made its appearance, during which he suffered a loss of about $1,500. He then returned to his farm in this county, and resumed the culture of the German carp in the home ponds, which he enlarged to cover about six acres, and now has probably about 5,000, which vary in size from spring hatchings to eight-pound fish, the oldest being three years, and all doing well.

After giving the particulars of his life to the biographer, Mr. Romine says to the rising generation: "Now, having lived a bachelor life, and enduring all the hardships of such a miserable existence for more than forty years, and being now sixty-three years old, and seeing my folly perhaps too late, I advise all young men to seek the companionship of some worthy member of the gentler sex, and strive to live according to the design of the Creator, and not wholly for self." Mr. Romine is at present living alone on his farm in South Bend Precinct, where he is often visited by his old friends, and expresses himself as always willing to form new ones. He is genial and companionable, and a man possessing a large fund of general information, the result of an ample experience and of keeping his eyes open to what has been going on around him in the world.

WILLIAM MURPHY, deceased, formerly a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, was a gentleman held in the highest respect by all who knew him. He was born on Staten Island, N. Y., in 1849, and was the son of John and Johanna (Demsey) Murphy, who were natives of Ireland. The latter, when William was a small boy, emigrated to the vicinity of Madison, Wis., where the father engaged in farming, and where his death took place when his son, the subject of this sketch, was in the sixteenth year of his age. The mother died in 1886.

Mr. Murphy received a fair education, and being a youth of more than ordinary intelligence and forethought, he made good books his companions, and thus became well informed upon matters of general interest. He was reared to farming pursuits, and until a man nearly thirty years of age continued a resident of the Hawkeye State. At this period of his life he was married at Storm Lake, Iowa, July 13, 1879, to Miss Ellen Nagle. Mrs. Murphy was

a native of the State of Maine, and born April 24, 1856. Her parents, Richard and Maggie (Golden) Nagle, were natives of Ireland, and are still living, being residents of Storm Lake, Iowa.

Richard Nagle emigrated to America when a lad of about fourteen years, settling first in the Pine Tree State, where he made his own living by the honest labor of his hands, and being dependent upon his own resources attained to a vigorous and healthful manhood. The parents were married in Maine, and lived there until after the birth of one child. In due time the household circle included five sons and four daughters. The survivors, of whom Mrs. Murphy is the eldest, are located as follows: James, David and Maggie are residents of Rock Valley, Iowa; Richard, Mary, Patrick and Garrett live at Storm Lake.

Mrs. Murphy was an infant of eight months when her parents emigrated to the wilds of Madison County, Wis., and she was there reared to womanhood, received a common-school education, and was trained by a careful mother to all useful housewifely duties. Of her union with our subject there were born two daughters: Maggie J., April 25, 1880, and Mary E., March 26, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy located in Mt. Pleasant Precinct soon after their marriage, where Mr. Murphy engaged in farming. His sudden death from heart disease occurred at Weeping Water, Aug. 9, 1882. Although not a long-time resident of this county he had made many friends, being recognized as a man of worth, intelligence and of the strictest integrity. In the home circle he was kind and indulgent. He was a devout member of the Catholic Church, and, politically, voted the straight Democratic ticket.

The Murphy homestead is finely situated on section 2, and comprises 160 acres of land, with buildings comfortable and convenient, and which compare favorably with those of the other intelligent people of this section. Mrs. Murphy, since the death of her husband, has managed the farm with good judgment and ability, and is spoken of highly by her neighbors. She also is a member in good standing of the Catholic Church.

The mother of Mr. Murphy was the second wife of his father, her first husband having been William Ford, by whom she had two children: Margaret, the wife of Martin Omalia, residing near Madison, Wis., and one deceased. Of her marriage with John Murphy there were born six children: Hannah, the wife of Patrick Downey, of Wisconsin; John, who died when forty-five years old; Cornelius, a resident of Seward County, this State; Mary, Mrs. Hart, living near Madison, Wis.; Elizabeth, Mrs. Whalen, of Seward County, and William, deceased.

FRANCIS A. CREMER. Cass County has within its limits numerous enterprising young men who have come in "to lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes," and prominent among them is the subject of our sketch, who is a farmer, leasing and operating a tract of 160 acres of well-selected land in South Bend Precinct. He is the only child of John and Sarah Cremer, and was born in Kankakee County, Ill., at Grant Park. He was a boy of ten years of age when his father died. At the age of eighteen his mother died.

After the death of his father our subject and his mother moved to the house of his uncle, Joseph Cremer, where he lived until his uncle, with the entire family, including our subject, moved to Nebraska in 1876, settling in Cass County. Mr. Cremer and Miss Sarah Lee were married in 1882. This lady is the daughter of John W. and Emma J. (White) Lee; both parents were born in Maryland. Grandfather Frederick Lee was also a native of Maryland. Grandfather Dudley was a private in the Revolutionary War. The parents of Mrs. Cremer moved to Washington County, Iowa, in 1852. She is the second eldest in a family of eleven children. The other members of the family are named as follows: Martha A., Guavara, LeRoy, William, Victor, Charles, Kingsley, Webb, Harry and Etta. Her parents moved to Maryland in 1860, and still reside there.

The parents of our subject were exceedingly fond of their only child, and the father up to the time of his death, which occurred in Illinois when he was sixty years old, had anticipated a brilliant future for his boy; but death intervening, a change was necessary, and he was not able to obtain the position in life which doubtless would have been

his had his father lived. Mr. and Mrs. Cremer are the parents of two children—Etta E. and an infant, John Wesley, now deceased. His neighbors have called upon him to serve them in an official capacity, having elected him Constable, in which position he has served for one term. He is an active member of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is a Prelate. Both himself and wife are members of the Calahan Methodist Episcopal Church, in which society they take an important and leading part in all works of charity and benevolence.

The politics of our subject are Republican to the heart's core. He takes a lively interest in his party, and attracts considerable attention as a local politician. He is ambitious and aspiring, shrewd and intelligent, and it would be a matter of surprise if, at some time in the not far distant future, he does not reach a highly honorable position in the councils of his party. His wife is one of the fair daughters of Maryland, that home of beauty, and a lady of intelligence. She is kind, hospitable and entertaining, and endeavors to make the stranger in their home feel at ease, extending to them a hearty welcome.

WILLIAM M. ROWLAND, a practical farmer of Avoca Precinct, is pleasantly located on section 30, where he owns a finely improved tract of land, nearly a quarter-section in length, and situated about one mile north of the village. Although not a long time resident of this section of country, coming here in the spring of 1886, he has fully identified himself with the interests of his community, and is numbered among its enterprising and public-spirited, liberal citizens. He has effected considerable improvement in his property since taking possession, and his homestead is numbered among those noticeable for the air of comfort and plenty which surrounds them.

Prior to his arrival in Nebraska Mr. Rowland had been a resident of Page County, Iowa, for a period of sixteen years, and in the meantime had improved two farms in Fremont Township. He was uniformly successful in his labors in the Hawkeye State, but Nebraska seemed to him the more desirable country. A native of Guernsey County, Ohio, he was born Dec. 14, 1838, and is the son of a very respectable family, his father being John Rowland, who married Miss Mary Blazer, a native of Ohio. They continued residents of the Buckeye State until after the birth of most of their family, then migrated to Washington County, Iowa, where the subject of this sketch spent his boyhood days. There also he acquired a practical education and attained his majority. The parents died in Iowa in middle life.

Our subject was the eldest son and second child of his parents, and is the only survivor of five children. He grew up a practical mechanic, having learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked considerably until the outbreak of the Rebellion. He was among the first to enter the Union Army, enlisting in the fall of 1861 in Company K, 13th Iowa Infantry, under command of Capt. Woodford and Col. Crocker. They were assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, and Mr. Rowland endured the vicissitudes and hardships of life in the army a period of three years. He participated with his comrades at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, was at the siege and capture of Vicksburg, and through all the Atlanta campaign. He was wounded the same time that McPherson fell, but only slightly, and was one among the nine remaining men of his company who reported after the battle, the others being either captured or killed.

At the expiration of his term of enlistment Mr. Rowland received his honorable discharge at Chattanooga, Tenn., and not long afterward returned to his old haunts in Iowa. He took up the business of farming, and was married, July 31, 1866, to Miss Sarah Shearer. This lady was born March 29, 1835, in Ohio, and emigrated to Iowa with her parents, Valentine and Mary (Kellenberger) Shearer, about 1845. They located in Jefferson County, but a few years later left the Hawkeye State, and coming to Nebraska, located on land in Weeping Water Precinct. The father built up a good farm, and lived to the ripe old age of eighty years, dying at the homestead in 1866. The mother is still living, making her home with her son, Valentine Shearer, Jr., and is now ninety-three years old.

Mrs. Rowland received her education in the common schools and lived at home with her parents

until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there were born five children, one of whom, an infant, died unnamed. The survivors are George S., John O., Mary M. and Calvin. The eldest of these is twenty-one years old and the youngest eleven. They are all at home with their parents, and form an interesting and intelligent family. Mr. Rowland since becoming a voter has been a supporter of Republican principles. He was the Assessor of his township while a resident of Iowa, and is a man of sound practical sense and good principles, who is held in esteem by his neighbors, and whose opinions are generally respected.

WILLIAM B. SHRYOCK. In every town there are a few active and energetic men who have been instrumental in placing it upon its feet and attracting to it an industrious and intelligent class of people. One of the most prominent and influential of these is the subject of this sketch, a dealer in drugs and medicines, and the successor of Dr. J. A. Hassemeier, who established the business in 1878 and withdrew from it in 1882. Mr. Shryock carries a full stock of all the merchandise included in this branch of trade, besides books, stationery and jewelry, and enjoys a generous patronage from the intelligent people of this region. His upright business methods and generally reliable qualities as a man and a citizen have commended him to the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

A native of Winchester, Va., our subject was born Sept. 7, 1851, and is the eldest of five living children, the offspring of Thomas and Rachel (Meyers) Shryock, the latter also a native of the Old Dominion. The parents were married in their native State in 1850, and came to the West in 1864. The father is now officiating as Postmaster of Louisville. The maternal grandparents were Stephen and Joanna G. Meyers. After marriage the parents of our subject lived in the city of Baltimore, Md., a number of years, where the father was engaged as a cabinet-maker and also dealt in furniture.

The paternal grandparents of our subject were Frederick S. and Anna E. (Sheppard) Shryock, and Thomas was their third son. He remained a resident of his native State until reaching manhood, in the meantime learning his trade of cabinet-maker. To him and his excellent wife there were born eight children, five of whom are living, namely: William B., the subject of this sketch; Louisa A., Mrs. E. D. Siever; Edith F., Mary L. and Susan. The last three are at home with their parents. Three died in infancy. The family came to the West in 1864, settling at Plattsmouth, where they lived a period of twenty years, then changed their residence to Louisville in 1885, where the father, in October of that year, entered upon his duties as Postmaster, being the successor of Mrs. Alma C. Glover, and a supporter of Mr. Cleveland's administration.

William B. Shryock spent his boyhood years mostly in the city of Baltimore, but completed his education in the schools of Plattsmouth, this county. He commenced his apprenticeship at the printer's trade in the office of the Plattsmouth *Herald*, which was then under the management of H. D. Hathaway, with whom he remained a period of seven years. Subsequently he traveled considerably over the Western country through most of the States and Territories. After returning to Plattsmouth he became quite prominent in local affairs, and in 1880 was appointed Deputy County Treasurer, a position which he held until 1882. He had before this served two years, from 1876 to 1878, as Deputy County Treasurer. He then took a business trip to Leadville, Col., and in the spring of that year was married to Mrs. C. V. Irwin, an amiable and accomplished lady, by whom he became the father of two interesting children, a son and daughter — Albert W. and Lillian J. They occupy a snug home in the southern part of the town, and enjoy the friendship of the best people.

Mr. Shryock, politically, is a stanch Democrat, and has served as City Treasurer since his residence in Louisville. He was a member of the School Board four years and of the City Council five years. He is Secretary of the Cass County Central Committee, and a member of the State Democratic Central Committee. He is a man highly respected in business circles, being President of the Nebraska State Pharmaceutical Association, and otherwise

identified with the prominent druggists of this section of country. Socially, he belongs to Plattsmouth Lodge, I. O. O. F., and in Masonry is a member of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, also Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5, K. T.

JOHN McCONNAHA, M. D., is one of those men endowed by nature with refined and cultivated tastes, and having an ardent love for the quiet of country life. Consequently we find him, although a practicing physician, in the possession of a good farm lying on section 20, in Rock Bluff Precinct, of which he has been a resident for many years. He comes of excellent ancestry, the main points of his family history being as follows:

Robert McConnaha, the father of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, and the son of Robert McConnaha, Sr., who was born among the Scottish Highlands. The name in the early days was spelled McConaughey. The paternal great-grandfather, whose name cannot be recalled by our subject, served with his five brothers under King William in the war between the Protestants and Catholics of Scotland and England, and probably spent his last years in Scotland. His son, Robert, Sr., emigrated to the United States soon after the independence of the Colonists had been established, and located on a farm in Crawford County, Pa., which is still owned by his son, Robert, Jr. There the latter and his son John, our subject, were born. Grandfather McConnaha married Miss Margaret Story, and they became the parents of eight children, seven of whom lived to mature years and were married. But three of these now survive. Robert, the father of our subject, chose for his life companion Miss Margaret Lackey, a native of his own county, and the daughter of Robert and Mary (Kelley) Lackey.

To the parents of our subject there were born three children—John, Mary and Margaret. Mary became the wife of R. E. Countryman, a resident of Rock Bluff Precinct, this county; Margaret was married to G. C. Edson, of this township, and she died in 1873, leaving three children; John, of our sketch was reared in his native county, and after leaving the district school attended college in New Wilmington. After being graduated with honors he taught one term of school near Georgetown, Pa., and thus earned money enough to bring him to Nebraska. Of this he became a resident in November, 1859, while it was still a Territory, landing this side of the Missouri River with a capital of ten cents.

Our subject possessed all the courage of his substantial Scotch ancestry, and was not dismayed by the circumstances surrounding him as long as he possessed his health and strength. He at once secured employment with Mr. Joseph P. Moore, at $13 per month, and was occupied at farming until the spring following. He then joined a wagon train being fitted out to cross the plains with provisions for the various posts of the frontier, and in this wild sort of life spent the time until December, 1861. In the spring of 1862 he returned to his native State to settle up the business of his uncle, William Story, and, this accomplished, came back to this county. On the 25th of September, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Latta, and journeyed to Pennsylvania on a wedding tour, remaining in the Keystone State until the year 1866. The Doctor and his wife then returned to this county for permanent settlement.

The household circle of Dr. and Mrs. McConnaha was completed by the birth of ten children, namely: Elmer; Jennie and Jessie (twins), who died when twenty-two months old; Ernest, Mabel, Robert; Evert, who died at the age of ten years; Lulu, Mary and Earl. The parents of Mrs. McConnaha, John and Mary (McConnaha) Latta, were also natives of Crawford County, Pa., and the parents of seven children. The Doctor during his excursions across the plains deteriorated somewhat in his medical knowledge, and consequently afterward took a course of lectures in Oakland, Cal. After these were completed he entered upon the regular practice of his profession in this township. He enjoys a fine patronage throughout Rock Bluff Precinct and the country adjoining, and has been remarkably successful. He has also frequently been called into Iowa for consultation in important cases. He has not only made money, but hosts of friends. He

purchased his present farm of 160 acres in 1869. It is pleasantly located on section 20, and bears all the evidences of thrift and judicious management.

Mrs. McConnaha and two of her children are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, while the Doctor is partial to the Presbyterian doctrines in which he was reared. Politically, he is a sound Republican, maintaining the principles handed down to him from his sturdy Scotch ancestry.

EDMUND E. WILLIAMS. The agricultural and business interests of Cass County are worthily represented by the subject of this biography, who was one of the earliest settlers of Southern Nebraska, and who is now the owner of a beautiful and valuable farm property lying on section 6 of Weeping Water Precinct. Coming to Nebraska in the April of 1860, seven years before it had been transformed from a Territory into a State, Mr. Williams has been a privileged witness of its remarkable growth and development, and has contributed no small share in bringing it to the position of one of the most important commonwealths west of the Mississippi. A view of his place is shown on another page of this work.

Mr. Williams first made his stopping place on Nebraska soil near the site of the present city of Lincoln, which was then unmarked by a single building, and settled on a tract of land in the basin of Salt Creek. His principal mail station and trading-post was Wallingford, a ranch located upon the present site of Ashland, and his neighbors were few and far between. His first shelter was a dugout, and after staying here a few months he proceeded to Denver, Col., spending there the following year at the time of the gold excitement, and engaged mostly in freighting. In the spring of 1861, returning to Nebraska, he began freighting with teams from Nebraska City to Denver and other points, a business which he followed successfully for a period of six years, employing three months in making the round trip. He thus made four trips a year, two with oxen and two with mules.

The plains at that period were little more than a barren desert, for which our subject would not have paid ten cents per acre for all he could see. After a time there was visible a ranch here and there, but it was not until about 1864 that the country began to settle up. With Edmund E. there came his two brothers, Charles and George Williams, but the two latter were so disgusted with the outlook that they soon sought their old haunts in Iowa. Edmund E., however, resolved not to be beaten, persevered in his reolution to carry out what was meant in the advice of Horace Greeley, "Go West, young man, go West," and having come here determined to stay. Although the first few years formed a period of many hardships and much toil, in looking upon his surroundings to-day it would seem that he must have reason to feel satisfied with the result.

In the April of 1869 Mr. Williams homesteaded eighty acres of wild land on section 6, in Weeping Water Precinct, which is included in his present homestead, and after his freighting business had been abandoned he entered industriously upon its cultivation. Beginning from first principles he broke the sod and put in his first crops before fencing. Soon afterward he began the planting of trees, both forest and fruit, and one by one erected the buildings necessary for his convenience and comfort. The residence is a substantial two-story frame structure, which was completed in 1879. The year following he put up the first large barn, which was then the best structure of its kind within a radius of ten miles, and is still capable of many years' service. He has always kept good live stock, and gradually gathered the machinery necessary for the thorough cultivation of the soil. A fine windmill pumps water from a a living spring, which is conveyed wherever needed, and all about the premises are the numberless little contrivances which have so much to do with the comfort and enjoyment of the modern farmer and his family.

Mr. Williams avers that he has been "too busy to dabble in politics," although he has kept himself fully informed as to the course of National events, and uniformly casts his vote with the "grand old Republican party." He has, however, consented to serve as an officer of the School Board, being Treasurer in his school district a period of nine years, and holding other unsalaried positions

of trust. With his estimable wife and his son he is a member in good standing of the Free-Will Baptist Church, in which he has officiated as Deacon a number of years.

The subject of this sketch was born in Hancock County, Ohio, Aug. 5. 1839, and when a lad of thirteen years his parents removed to Jackson County, Iowa. There the father died three years later, in 1855. Edmund E. being the second eldest son assumed charge of the homestead until his younger brothers were old enough to take his place. In the meantime his mother was married a second time, and lived in Iowa until 1860. She is now in California.

Mr. Williams after abandoning his freighting enterprise was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary (Davidson) West, Jan. 18, 1865, in Iowa. Mrs. Williams was born in Washington County, Ohio, Nov. 11, 1837, and is the daughter of Lucius and Catharine West, the former born in New York and the latter in Ohio. Leaving the Buckeye State about 1852 they emigrated to Iowa, settling in Jackson County, where the father carried on farming a few seasons, then going to California remained on the Pacific Slope until his death about 1880. The mother died in Ohio, in 1850. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams there have been born eight children, six of whom are living, namely: Thomas A., Willard, Nellie, Wesley, Emma and Eddie. The deceased children were two little sons, Charley and Ray, who each died about the age of one and one-half years. The survivors are all at home with their parents, and are being given first-class educational advantages. The eldest, Thomas A., has already been graduated from the Lincoln State University as B. S. Mr. Williams was enabled to acquire only a limited education, and is determined that his children shall not be called upon to undergo the disadvantages with which he has battled on a like account.

Thomas Williams, the father of our subject, was born in Virginia, in 1810, and there lived until reaching manhood. He then emigrated to Ohio, and settled among the earliest pioneers of Hancock County. Taking up a tract of timber land he constructed a home in the wilderness. He sold his first purchase a few years later and performed as before upon another piece of wild land, then, finally selling out, left the Buckeye State altogether, and moved to Iowa with his family. Settling there in Jackson County he battled again with the elements of a new soil, and died at this latter homestead about 1850.

The mother of our subject, Mrs. Margaret (Shurley) Williams, was born, reared, and married to Mr. Williams in Ohio. Her union with the father of our subject resulted in the birth of eight children, all of whom lived to mature years, and seven are still living. The deceased son, Charley, died at Pittsburg Landing, just after the battle at that place.

At the time of the Indian outbreak of 1863 Mr. Williams, in pursuance of his freighting business, was encamped about sixty miles southeast of Denver with a herd of nearly 600 head of work cattle for Majors & Russell, of Nebraska City, having with him three men. The outbreak occurred only three miles from them, and two of the men at another camp were killed. Mr. Williams with his men succeeded in "rounding up" his cattle, and started on the forced march toward Denver, reaching there by 2 o'clock next morning. At sunrise the next morning he was back with sixty cavalry men and four guns. They started on the trail of the savages, ran a portion of them across the Platte River, and discovered their encampment opposite Rising Sun Ranch. Crossing in the darkness seven miles below they came up to within three-fourths of a mile of them, and lying in Sand Gulch until dawn, commenced work, cleaning them out and recovering eighty head of horses and mules, together with all except eighty head of their cattle which the redskins had taken. In this skirmish seven men were killed, five soldiers and two herders, and a number of others wounded. Mr. Williams during his freighting experience often met with the Indians, frequently engaging in skirmishes with them. "Old Bob Williams'" ranch, about 400 miles west of Nebraska City, was the scene of one of his liveliest encounters. The Indians had made a raid on a train of nine emigrant wagons, killing all of the people with the exception of one man, this being done only two hours before our subject and his men overtook them. Mr. Williams and his men

formed a corral of the wagons, putting their cattle therein, and thus made a breastwork, from which they fired at the Indians, and after a long and hard-fought battle and killing many, finally drove them away. His adventures during his travels on the frontier would make a good sized volume, highly interesting to peruse.

DR. ANSON L. ROOT. Prominent among the medical fraternity and business men of Cass County stands the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He has been a resident of, and practitioner in Weeping Water since 1873, and in that time has built up an extensive practice, and won hosts of friends among all classes of people. He is a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, born Feb. 5, 1831. His father, Dr. Anson Root, was the son of a physician, with whom he read medicine, afterward attending lectures, and then practicing in Ohio and Indiana the forty years before his death. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Sally Brooks, who was the daughter of an officer in the Continental Army during the Revolution. To her and her husband were born thirteen children, six of whom grew to maturity. One of them gave his life to his country, having died while in service during the late Rebellion. The subject of our sketch went South to nurse and care for him, but found on his arrival that he had died nine days previously.

Dr. Root, of whom we write, remained at home until twenty-one years of age, receiving a good education in his native town, and studying medicine with his father, thus having superior advantages over most boys in those days. The death of his father occurred when our subject was seventeen years of age, and he afterward read medicine with Dr. Bradley, of Johnstown, Ohio, for a period of two years, taking also a course of lectures at Cincinnati, and in 1851 commenced the practice of medicine. He first located in Ohio, then established himself in Indiana, but desiring still newer country for practice, went to Galien, Berrien Co., Mich., thence to Newaygo, in the same State, where he remained several years, having settled there before the war, and staying there until coming to Nebraska. He had an extensive practice there, and now has many applications for pension certificates from that State. Associated with him in his profession while in Newaygo was his nephew, Dr. H. D. Root, now of Lincoln, Neb., and the amount of business done by them may be inferred from the fact that besides the cash practice in the office they averaged a book practice of $4,200 a year, this showing the large territory over which they must have ridden.

In March, 1873, Dr. Root came to Nebraska, and settled at Eight Mile Grove, where he was soon appointed Postmaster by Postmaster-General James, and held that office until forced to resign on account of sickness. His official duties, in connection with his professional ones, were too great for his physical strength, his medical practice having grown rapidly. He had the majority of cases of sickness in the settled country southwest of his place, but was obliged for a time to give up all work. At the end of eight years the Doctor came to Weeping Water, and lived on a farm four miles west of the city limits for a year. He then bought out the two drug-stores at South Bend, and consolidating them, took in as partner C. L. Bates, who the following year disposed of his interest to the son-in-law of our subject, Edward Parish. They moved the store to Weeping Water, and it is now doing a successful business under the firm name of Root & Parish. Besides this store, Dr. Root is the owner of another store and lot on I street, Weeping Water, and of two building lots and two residences, and also of land in Julesburg, Col. The drug building and two residences in the city are owned jointly by Dr. Root and his son-in-law, Edward Parish. The Doctor has been very successful in all his undertakings, and has ample wealth for his remaining years, which we sincerely hope may be many, and is gradually giving up his practice to younger and stronger hands, attending only to a few of his old patrons who hesitate to place themselves under the care of a strange doctor. His reputation as a skillful physician is well known throughout the State, and is recognized by his professional brethren everywhere, and he is a valued

member of the State Medical Association. During his busy career he has seen many of the hard sides of a practitioner's life, but he can look back upon his past with genuine satisfaction, feeling that he has well earned the right to a few years of freedom from care and hard labor.

The maiden name of Dr. Root's wife was Elizabeth Robe, and she is a native of Ohio. She became acquainted with the Doctor when quite a young lady, in Indiana, while nursing him through a fit of sickness, and they became mutually attached. The friendship thus formed ripened into love, and a most happy marriage was the result. To them were born five children, four of whom are still living: Byron A., Russell D., Ella, Dora P. and Ida. Byron has charge of a farm comprising 1,200 acres of land in Cheyenne County (recently changed to Deuel County), Neb., and also owns 320 acres there; he married Miss Eliza Alton, of Michigan, who died in Nebraska, in February, 1887, leaving one child, Benjamin. Russell is a successful physician in Big Springs, Deuel Co., Neb.; he married Miss Ella Cone, and to them have been born five children—Allie, Loren, Albert, Madge and Ida F. Ella, formerly a teacher of much note, married Rev. Charles Cary; she died at Eight Mile Grove, leaving a daughter, a bright, interesting child, now twelve years old, and who is living with a sister of Dr. Root, Mrs. Peck, of Weeping Water Precinct. Dora is the wife of George Shirley, of Deuel County; they are the parents of one child, Ralph. Ida is the wife of Edward Parish, the partner of our subject.

HON. JAMES W. THOMAS, M. D. This gentleman, who is widely known throughout Cass County, bears the distinction of being the oldest practicing physician and surgeon of Weeping Water, being the first to locate here of those now remaining. He took up his abode within its precincts in December, 1867, within a year after Nebraska had been admitted into the Union as a State. It is hardly necessary to state that during his long residence, which has been marked by an honorable and upright course, he has drawn around him hosts of friends and is numbered among the most prominent and reliable men of the county.

Belmont County, Ohio, was the early tramping ground of our subject, and where his birth took place Aug. 6, 1842. Five years later his parents removed to Monroe County, where they lived until the outbreak of the Rebellion, and in the meantime young Thomas completed his education in the High School at Woodsfield, the county seat. He enlisted as a Union soldier when a youth of nineteen years, in Company I, 77th Ohio Infantry, on the 25th of November, 1861, entering the ranks as a private. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, and was under the command of both Gens. Grant and Sherman, participating in many of the important battles of the war. Young Thomas during the fierce conflict at Shiloh was shot twice, one ball nearly paralyzing his left arm, and this he still carries in his shoulder. The other wound was in the right hip. He also received two saber cuts, one on his head and one in the left hip, the former leaving a scar four inches long. He was confined in the Fourth Street Hospital, St. Louis, where by careful nursing he managed to recover enough to return home with his father, who came after him.

Gov. Todd, of Ohio, about that time issued an order for all paroled and convalescent soldiers to report at Camp Chase, and our subject accordingly repaired thither, reaching camp on the 6th of August. On the 16th of September following he received an honorable discharge, and returned home. Although quite feeble he taught school that winter and every winter succeeding, until entering upon the practice of his profession, with the exception of the time when he attended medical lectures. He began reading medicine under the instruction of Dr. William Martin, one of the most promising physicians and surgeons of Harriettsville, Ohio. He remained with him three years, in the meantime employing his winters in teaching and taking lectures at Miami College, Cincinnati. On coming to Nebraska he entered upon the practice of his profession at Weeping Water, which then bore little indication of its present importance, the town property being not even laid out, although the ground had been platted by E. L. Reed. The year following a few more buildings were added to the six or seven

originally occupying the present town site, and Dr. Thomas enjoyed a monopoly of the business, being the only physician here for a period of seven or eight years. The profession then received an additional representative in the person of Dr. Gibbon, and later came Dr. Butler.

During this time our subject rode long distances, and when needing counsel he was obliged to seek it at Plattsmouth or Nebraska City. He has always paid especial attention to surgery, in which he is particularly skillful. He enjoys the reputation of a faithful and conscientious practitioner, and although practically retired from active service is frequently called upon by his old patrons, who dislike to trust their cases to strangers' hands. He has a finely equipped office on I street, and a good residence on Eldora avenue. Since withdrawing from his regular practice Dr. Thomas has become considerably interested in the loaning of money, operating largely as an agent for an Eastern capitalist.

The people of this county were not slow in recognizing the more than ordinary abilities of Dr. Thomas, and he has always been prominent in the councils of his fellow-citizens in regard to the matters affecting the general welfare of the community. In 1884 he was elected by the Republicans of the Seventh District to represent them in the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly, and in the pursuance of the duties of this office was connected with many of the important committees, including that of Ways and Means, Schools, and other subjects requiring unremitting attention. In his school district he has been a Director for a number of years, has also officiated as Treasurer, and was a member of the Village Board eight years. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R. During the campaign of 1880 he was Chairman of the Republican County Committee, later, in 1888, operated efficiently at various points as a stump speaker.

For the last twenty years the question of removing the county seat to Weeping Water has been agitated, and Dr. Thomas has always favored the scheme, believing that for the capital of the county this is the proper place in point of location, surroundings, and the character of the people. He is one of those men who seldom relinquish an idea, and who has in his whole career illustrated the results of perseverance. Whether this trait of character applied in this channel will result as favorably as it has in connection with his private interests remains to be seen.

Miss Rachel McVea, a native of Washington County, Ohio, became the wife of our subject Nov. 9, 1864. This lady was born July 6, 1844, and was the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Martin) McVea, who were natives of Ohio, and the father a farmer by occupation. The latter moved to Kansas about 1871, where he died. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, her death taking place about 1856, in Ohio. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are living.

Four children completed the household circle of our subject and his estimable wife, all of whom are living. The wife and mother departed the life at her home in Weeping Water, March 21, 1884. She was an affectionate wife, loving mother and kind neighbor, and in her death the community lost one of its most valued members. The children are named respectively: Marion U., William M., Leola and Winnifred. The three youngest are at home with their father, where they are subjected to careful training, and are being given an education in keeping with their means and station in life. The eldest son married Miss Edna Upton, a resident of Dana, Kan., and is the father of one child, a son James.

The father of our subject was Abram Thomas, a native of Pennsylvania, and born Nov. 9, 1814. When but a boy he removed with his father's family to Ohio, they settling among the pioneers of Guernsey County. Upon reaching man's estate he was married to Miss Phœbe Linder, and they became the parents of eight children, seven sons and one daughter, who are all living and all making their homes in the West. Abram Thomas cleared a farm in the wilderness of Monroe County, Ohio, upon which he lived until 1866, then turning his face westward to Nebraska Territory, crossed the Mississippi, and coming into this county, settled on what was known as Livingston Ranch, a few miles west of Plattsmouth. This property he purchased, but only lived there a short time after the death of the wife and mother, which occurred in the fall of

1867. Subsequently he removed to Hillsdale, Iowa, where he is now engaged in mercantile business, although having attained to the advanced age of seventy-four years. He is the owner of a good property embracing three farms, and has therefore sufficient of this world's goods for his declining years. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Thomas, cleared quite an extent of land in the Buckeye State during the pioneer days, and there spent his last years.

SYLVESTER TORRENCE. Over seventy-nine years ago the subject of this sketch began life, March 2, 1810, six miles from the town of Penn Yan, in Yates County, N. Y. Forty years later he started out to explore the West, and in the fall of 1857 found himself the other side of the Mississippi, and on the soil of Nebraska Territory. Later he took up his residence in this county, and is now living retired from active labor at a pleasant home in Weeping Water. He has a good farm on section 27 in the same precinct, and has been the owner of other land which he has given to one of his sons.

Mr. Torrence spent the first forty years of his life in his native State, engaged mostly in agricultural pursuits. He received careful home training, and a practical education in the district schools. Upon leaving the county which gave him birth he migrated to Lake County, Ill., settled upon a tract of new land, and farmed in that locality about three years. Thence he removed to Marquette County, in the northern part of Wisconsin, which had but recently been transformed from a Territory into a State, and while Indians were still plentiful in that region.

Mr. Torrence took up new land in Marquette County, upon which he operated five years, and then sold out to good advantage. He now determined to find out what lay on the other side of the Father of Waters, and starting out on the 26th of April, 1857, arrived in Nebraska City, Otoe County, later. It being a hard matter to find employment, he returned to Iowa, and was occupied the following summer as a farm laborer. In the fall of 1857 we find him again in Nebraska City, but he soon traced his steps eastward again as far as South Bend, Iowa, where he took up a tract of new land, improved another farm, and put up good buildings. He was not destined to be contented, however, until he had given Nebraska another trial, so coming to this county once more, in the spring of 1871, he purchased a tract of wild land on section 27, in Centre Precinct. Upon this there was not even a bush to be seen, and not a furrow had been turned toward its cultivation. He sheltered himself for a time with his son, and as soon as possible gathered together the necessary implements, and began again the construction of a homestead. He was content to remain and labor a series of years. He in the meantime effected a vast change in the condition of the property, putting out a large grove of forest trees, a good apple orchard and the smaller fruits, besides erecting the buildings necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. As far as anything can be created from nothing by mortal man, Mr. Torrence brought into existence a valuable farm from it. In the fall of 1888, feeling that he had performed his duty among the active labors of life, he moved into Weeping Water, and is now living in the ease and comfort which he has so justly earned by years of early industry.

Our subject was married in his native State, Jan. 12, 1836, to Miss Jane Smith, and they have now lived together for a period of fifty-three years. Four of the six children born to them are still living. One son, George, a promising young man, enlisted as a soldier in the Union Army during the late war, received a fatal wound at the battle of Resaca, and died there in 1863. Another child died when nineteen years old. Their eldest daughter, Eugenia, became the wife of Charles Thorngate, of New York, who departed this life at his home in Nebraska about 1884; they were the parents of four children—Ida, Ella, Jennie and Ethel. They are all living with their mother in Weeping Water. Barnum S. married Miss Harriet Smith, and they have five children, namely: Louise, James, Roy, Laura and Berenice; they are residents of this county. Susan, Mrs. Rexford, is the mother of four children—Herbert (now deceased), Willis, Ada and Charles; she lives in Centre Pre-

cinct. Oscar married Miss Marcia Speer, is a resident of Centre Precinct, and the father of five children—William, George, Eugenia, Walter and Bessie.

Mrs. Jane (Smith) Torrence was born in New Jersey, Feb. 20, 1810, being consequently ten days older than her husband. When she was a little girl of seven years her parents removed to Ontario County, N. Y., where she was reared to womanhood and married to our subject. Her father, John Smith, was also a native of New Jersey, and married Miss Catherine Benson, of the same State. He was a boy during the progress of the Revolutionary War, and remembers many of the incidents in connection therewith, which transpired during that period of his life, especially the first anniversary of July 4. He spent his last years in New York, dying about 1845. He had been occupied most of his life as a farmer. The parental household included nine children.

William Torrence, the father of our subject, was born in Massachusetts in 1773, and when approaching manhood migrated to Ontario County, N. Y. He occupied himself in agricultural pursuits, and was married to Miss Salome Danes. They settled in Ontario County, N. Y., where they spent the remainder of their days, and became the parents of nine children, all of whom lived to mature years. William Torrence was drafted into the army during the War of 1812, and repaired with his regiment to the front, but whether he engaged in any active fighting the records do not indicate. He only lived a few years thereafter, his death taking place in 1818, when he was comparatively a young man. The wife and mother survived her husband a period of fifty-six years, remaining a widow, and died at her home in New York, in February, 1874. Mr. Torrence cast his first Presidential vote for a Whig candidate, being first a member of the old Whig party, but upon its disbandment identified himself with the Republicans, the principles of which party he has uniformly supported. He has been a member in good standing of the Congregational Church for a period of more than forty years. Many and great have been the changes which he has witnessed in the land of his birth, and especially in the Great West. He has done his part in developing a portion of its territory, and has acquitted himself as a peaceable and law-abiding citizen, a kind and indulgent father and husband, and a hospitable neighbor. There will be quite a number to perpetuate his name, he being the grandfather of seventeen children, and the great-grandfather of four.

HORACE W. GLEASON, Postmaster of Manley Village, is looked upon as the father of the place, he having ably promoted every public enterprise undertaken for its advancement. He was the pioneer merchant of the village, as well as the first grain dealer, and still carries the best and largest assortment of goods to be found in any general and grocery store in this vicinity. He came to Nebraska in 1883, and settled in Manley, which was then a place of no importance, being merely a side track on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, with a few shanties for the workmen. He was then acting in the capacity of manager of Spear & Hurlburt's grain business, and he attended to the elevator here for four years. He soon established himself in business on his own account, and was nearly the first merchant here, only one before him, who staid only a few weeks, so that our subject was practically the pioneer merchant of Manley. He established his first store near where the elevator now is, and as the demands of his trade increased, and his need of a more commodious building was apparent, he erected his present store, with residence above it, and moved into it in 1884, it then being one of the two largest buildings in the village, the hotel being the other one, the inhabitants for the most part still being housed in rude shanties. With increased facilities for doing business, Mr. Gleason enlarged his stock, and has since built up an extensive trade. He was appointed Postmaster in January, 1884, he being the second Postmaster here, and the only one in fact to hold the office any length of time, his predecessor having been an incumbent but a short time. He and his family have a charming home, as he built and added to a pleasant cottage house, a few rods north of his store, in 1887, and the same year moved into it.

Our subject derives his ability and force of char-

acter in a great degree from a sturdy New England ancestry. His father, H. N. Gleason, was born in Hartford County, Conn., April 17, 1800, and was a resident of that State until about twenty-five years of age. Then, after first marrying Miss Sarah L. Root, he moved to Chautauqua County, N. Y., of which he became a prominent pioneer, being an early settler of the town of Sherman, when it was a little settlement in the depths of the great wilderness, with only five persons. He was one of the leading citizens of the town for forty years, and lived to see it change from dense forest to a fine farming community, well settled. He was a leader in the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife was also a valued member. A man of his high standing and character, he was not permitted by his admiring fellow-townsmen to live in retirement, but his counsel was needed in public affairs, and he nearly always held some office or offices. He improved a fine farm, and became comfortably well off, and he and his wife continued to live in Sherman until death called them hence, he dying at the age of seventy-two, and she at the age of sixty. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom died unmarried, excepting our subject.

Horace Gleason was born in Sherman, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Feb. 5, 1829, and there lived until 1857, and in the meantime was the recipient of a good education, which was completed by an excellent course of study at the Westville Academy. After leaving school he continued on the home place until his marriage with Miss Anna Whitehill, in February, 1855. She was born June 23, 1830, in Erie County, Pa., of which her father, James Whitehill, was a pioneer. She lived at home until the time of her marriage. In the winter of 1857 our subject moved with his family to Missouri, and made that his home until coming here. There the shadow of a great grief fell upon him in the loss of his devoted wife, and the children who had been born to them, with the exception of an infant son named Hubert W., who is now ten years of age, and has made his home with his aunt, Mrs. E. W. Butt, of Hiawatha, Kan. Through the trying times of their life in that State, during the Rebellion, she had assisted and encouraged him as only a true woman and a loving companion could, as she was possessed of an elevated character and a positive nature. Mrs. G. departed this life Feb. 28, 1879, the children having preceded her to the better land.

The present wife of our subject was formerly Mrs. Whitely, who was living in Pennsylvania at the time of their marriage. She is a native of Tioga County, N. Y., and a daughter of William Breese. This union has resulted in the birth of one child, a son Eugene H., a bright child of one and a half years.

Mr. Gleason enjoys the reputation of being a first-class business man, systematic in his methods, prompt and fair in his dealings, and of good financial ability and standing. His public spirit and liberality are too well known to need comment; he has ever been active in furthering the interests of the village, and no scheme for its improvement is completed without his counsel and aid. He is prominent in church, in society, and in business circles. He was formerly a member of the Presbyterian Church, and still clings to that faith, but with true religious zeal, there being no church of that denomination here, he has identified himself with the Methodist Church, helped to organize a society in this town, and with his family worships at that sanctuary. He takes an active interest in the Sunday-school, and is the present Superintendent. Mr. Gleason is a member of the Masonic fraternity. In politics he is a stalwart Republican.

DR. NOAH R. HOBBS, physician and surgeon, of Elmwood, who is one of the most prominent and widely known citizens in the western part of Cass County, came to Nebraska with his parents in 1860, when he was but eight years old, and is essentially and in all respects a true native of the State. He was born in Livingston County, Mo., Feb. 16, 1852, and lived on the farm with his parents during his youth, attending the common schools of the neighborhood, fitting himself for college and ultimately for the profession he adopted for a life calling.

After a two-years course of study at Naomi Institute at Rock Bluff, our subject went to Missouri Valley, Iowa, and began the study of medicine un-

der the tutelage of E. J. Chapman, M. D., where he remained three years. In the fall of 1873 he went to Chicago, and entered the Rush Medical College for a thorough professional training. During the summer he studied with his preceptor, Dr. Chapman, attending college in the winter, until he was graduated with full honors from Rush Medical College, in the class of '75–76, February 16. In August, 1875, he located in Elmwood, the field chosen for his professional labors. By close attention to business, strictly upright dealings and fair treatment to all, he has acquired a large and lucrative practice in three counties, Lancaster, Cass and Otoe. In the autumn of 1876 he bought 200 acres of excellently located and well-watered land adjoining sections 15 and 16, which was partly improved. He has also made further great improvements, setting out groves, planting orchards, building new houses and other improvements. He superintends the operation of the farm himself, looking after all details.

The Doctor is largely interested in real estate in Lincoln, and has laid out an addition of twenty acres to the town of Elmwood, reserving a block of lots for his own use. He is one of the five public-spirited citizens who gave the undivided half of 160 acres to the Missouri Pacific Railway to locate their railway through Elmwood. The other four men who joined him in that enterprise were C. D. Clapp, John Clements, John Hart and Cyrus Alton. They were successful in their undertaking, the route was changed, and the road completed through Elmwood in 1886, thus crowning their united efforts with deserved success, and bringing prosperity to the entire community.

Our subject is the second born in a family of eight children, John being older, and Joseph, Kate, Flora, Emma, Gilbert and William, being younger. His brother John served in the army against the Indians, and was also in the volunteer service and passed through the late Civil War, at the close of which he was honorably discharged. His father, William L., was a farmer in Indiana, and removed to Missouri with his parents, who were among the pioneers of that State, where they bought and improved land. In 1860 he moved to near Plattsmouth, Neb., where he owned a large tract of land, which he improved and leased to a number of tenants, living on a farm himself until he was elected to the office of County Treasurer, which he held for four years, during which period he made his home in Plattsmouth.

In the spring of 1876 Mr. Hobbs removed to Wyoming Territory, having sold all his property in Plattsmouth, making his home in Rapids City, where he was one of the first settlers. Here he began mining and prospecting, and has continued in that business ever since, and is now secretary for a stock and mining company in Wyoming. He is now the owner of several mines and a large ranch devoted to stock-raising near Lusk, in Wyoming Territory. He was born in Indiana and is now sixty-two years of age. His wife was Catherine Foreman, who was born in Virginia and is now sixty years of age.

Grandfather Noah R. Hobbs was born in Virginia. During his later years he lived with our subject in Elmwood, and was eighty-one years old when he died. His wife, Grandmother Hobbs, is now living with our subject in Elmwood. Grandfather Joseph Foreman was born in Virginia, and moved to Missouri in 1850, where he remained until his death.

Dr. Hobbs was married in Lincoln, Neb., to Miss Anna E. Stacey, May 28, 1878. This lady was born in New York, in Onondaga County, and she attended the Normal School at Peru. One child, Grace, has been born to them. His wife is an accomplished and lovable lady; the Doctor is proud of her and adores her. She studies his interests in all respects, and without doubt his success in life may be attributed largely to her.

Our subject is truly a representative man among his fellows; educated, refined and ambitious, he possesses all the elements necessary to make an eminently successful career; thoroughly posted in all that pertains to his chosen profession, and possessing a business ability of no common order, he ranks first among men. Professionally, he is Medical Examiner of the New York Life Insurance Company, Local Surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railway, at Elmwood, County Physician at Elmwood, also Surgeon for the A. O. U. W. He is a leading member of the I. O. O. F., of Elmwood Lodge, is high in the councils of Elmwood Lodge, Knights of Pythias, as well as those of the A. O. U. W., of Elmwood,

W. H. Schildknecht M.D.

and is also an active and influential member of the City Council. In politics he is a strong Republican, representing his district in the conventions of that party.

W. H. SCHILDKNECHT, M. D., a practicing physician of good standing in the city of Plattsmouth, Neb., was born twelve miles from Dayton, Montgomery Co., Ohio, May 28, 1836. His father, John Schildknecht, was a native of Maryland, while the paternal grandfather was born in Germany, whence he emigrated with his family to America, and locating in Maryland, resided there until his death.

The father of our subject was reared to manhood in Maryland, where he lived until about 1835, and then changed his residence to the Buckeye State, taking with him his family, and making the journey overland with teams. He purchased an improved farm, upon which he operated a period of fifteen years, selling out in 1850, and removing to Henry County, Ind. There also he purchased land and labored a number of years, making it his home until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1883. He had married, in Maryland, Miss Susan Durr, who was a native of that State, and who died in Ohio about 1858. The parental family included four children.

The subject of this sketch pursued his early studies in the district school, and commenced reading medicine at the age of eighteen, under the instruction of Dr. Brewster, a well-known physician of Dayton, Ohio, and began the practice of his profession in Henry County, Ind., where he continued until the spring of 1861. In the spring of that year he resolved to cast his lot among the people of Nebraska Territory, and, making his way hither, established himself in the city of Plattsmouth, of which he has since been a resident. He is now the oldest established physician in the place, and one of the oldest in the State. He has been uniformly successful, enjoying in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of his patrons, and accumulating a comfortable property.

Dr. Schildknecht, while a resident of Henry County, Ind., was united in marriage with Miss Mary Adams, in the spring of 1856. This lady was born in North Carolina, and was the daughter of William and Rachel Adams, natives of that State. She became the mother of three children, and departed this life at her home in Plattsmouth, Feb. 12, 1865. Their eldest daughter, Annie, is the wife of Stephen Smith, a resident of Andrew County, Mo.; Elizabeth married Frank Davis, and lives in Beaver City, this State; Etta is at home with her father.

The Doctor contracted a second matrimonial alliance in October, 1873, with Mrs. Jennie (McCormack) Fox, who was born in the State of Kentucky. To Mr. and Mrs. Fox there was born one child, a son, William Kelley Fox, who is now residing in Plattsmouth. Mrs. S. is a very estimable lady, and is a member in good standing of the Christian Church. The family occupy a snug home on the corner of Main and Seventh streets in the city, and the Doctor has his office in the same place. Socially, he is identified with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M. Politically, he is a stanch Republican.

The portrait of this old resident of Plattsmouth, and well-known physician, which we present herewith, will be viewed with pleasure, especially by the large number to whom his kind and skillful ministrations have brought restored health.

GEORGE TRAVER. Among the well-to-do and successful farmers of Cass County, who have accumulated a competency through their own efforts, economy and energy, is the gentleman of whom we write. He resides on the northeast half of section 13, Greenwood Precinct, where he has a highly improved farm of 240 acres, which he devotes to the business of general farming and dairying. He is a son of William Traver, who was born in Defiance, N. J., where he followed the occupation of a "bloomer" in one of the many iron furnaces in that State. During the War of 1812 he was a drummer boy, and recalls many of the adventures and dangers of that time, which he describes in a very graphic manner. When he was twenty-one years old he married Miss Marah Oliver,

who died at the ripe old age of ninety-one years, in Falls City, Neb. The father of our subject died in 1876, aged seventy-two years, leaving a family of three children: Caroline, Jane, and George, our subject. Caroline was born at Fullerville, Jefferson Co., N. Y., in 1821; George was born in the same place May 3, 1836. When he was three years old his maternal grandfather removed to Michigan, and took our subject with him, where he settled on a farm.

When Mr. Traver had reached the age of seventeen years he had earned sufficient money to purchase an outfit, which he did, and started for California, embarking at a port in New Jersey on board the "George Law," and sailed for Aspinwall. He arrived there in due time. Leaving the vessel he took passage on the railroad, then completed, a distance of twelve miles. The fare on this road was $1 per mile; reaching the end of the railroad, on the banks of the Chagres River, he purchased a boat, and proceeded up the river for a distance of eight miles, and landed at Cruyna Nov. 1, 1852, where he secured a pack mule, and joining a train he went on to Panama, where he staid for seventeen days, working in a hotel at $4 per day, $3 of which he paid for board.

When the steamer was ready to sail our subject had secured his passage, and the "Uncle Sam" sailed for San Francisco, where they landed on the 3d of December, 1852. He proceeded up the Sacramento River to the city of that name, on the steamer "New World." He secured employment on a farm with an old friend whom he found, for $30 per month. He remained here but a short time when he went down to Petaluma City, in Sonoma County, where he contracted to work for a farmer for three years. At the expiration of four months of this time the firm was discovered to be insolvent, when he left their service. He then engaged with the Pacific Dairy and Cheese Factory, where he worked for three years, beginning on a salary of $50 per month, which was advanced to $100, which sum he was receiving at the time he left their employment. He engaged in the same business on his own account, and followed it successfully for three years. He rented cows at $2 per month per cow, and hired two men and an Indian to assist him. He made cheese twice a day, the capacity of his factory being 100 pounds per day. He marketed his product in San Francisco at thirty cents per pound.

Mr. Traver purchased a section of land under the "Rabolie" title, which proved valueless. The "Meranda" title overshadowed that under which he bought, and he consequently lost what he had paid. He operated the factory for two years after this, when he gave it up, and went to Grand Island, and engaged in the stock business. He took the Indian, "Hell-go-Rocky," who had been with him in the dairy, and employed him as a herder. He left the cattle in charge of the Indian, and went back to Sacramento, where he entered the Monongahela House as steward, receiving a salary of $15 per week. Here he remained for five weeks, when the rainy season began, and fearing that Grand Island would be flooded, he returned there to look after his cattle interests. When he arrived there he found the water rising rapidly; he rescued his cattle, and started for the foothills and the Beckwith Valley. Upon the subsidence of the flood, Grand Island was found to be destroyed.

While in the Beckwith Valley our subject's funds became exhausted, and he secured employment in a quartz mill at Virginia City, receiving a salary of $8 per day. After he had been working here but a short time he was attacked with erysipelas. It required all the money he had saved to pay his doctor bill, and when he recovered he had $14.75 left. He walked back, and went to work in the valley with a Dr. Weber, in the dairy business, which he followed for three years. Virginia City, Nev., was the market for their product, which brought them fifty cents per pound for butter and thirty-five cents for cheese. Severing his business relations with Dr. Weber, he closed up his affairs and returned to the States, landing in Fullerville, N. Y., where he remained but a few days when he went to Kankakee, Ill., arriving there in March, 1862. Shortly after his arrival in Kankakee he returned to California the second time, and landed in the Beckwith Valley in April of the same year. There he engaged in business for three years, when he came back a second time to the States, visiting his mother in Wisconsin, from which place he went to Red Oak, Iowa.

During his stay in Red Oak our subject was married to Miss Maggie W. Lownes, May 9, 1867. She is a daughter of Isaac C. Lownes, a carpenter and builder, and a resident of Red Oak, Iowa. This lady's father was born Sept. 13, 1810, and died March 14, 1870, at the residence of his daughter, the wife of our subject, in Philadelphia, Pa. Her mother was Ann Elizabeth (Williamson) Lownes. She died March 16, 1853, leaving a family of seven children, named: Maggie W., Robert W., Isaac C., Jr., Elizabeth K., Elenor F., Thomas W. and David.

Mr. Traver settled in Montgomery County, Iowa, where he operated farms varying from eighty to 200 acres. Leaving Iowa he came to Nebraska on the 19th of April, 1880, where he settled on section 2, and engaged in farming and dairying on eighty acres, which he sold in 1885, and then purchased 160 on section 13, where he now has his home. Mr. and Mrs. Traver are the parents of a large number of children, the surviving members of whom are all at home. Their names are as follows: Lee A., Charles P., William J., Edward P. and Elizabeth E. The deceased children were named: Warren O., Ines J., Herbert and Lucie A.

This gentleman takes a great pride in his California experiences, and says, that in all his wanderings he has never found a country that can compare in natural advantages with the State of Nebraska. He has improved his farm in a very substantial manner, the various barns and other buildings are conveniently located, and are in good condition and admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were built. His residence is a new house, and is as neatly and tastefully designed as any in the precinct, and contains all available improved domestic appliances. He has a splendid orchard, which contains the best varieties of fruit adapted to the soil and climate.

Our subject believes in feeding the grain raised on the farm to the best advantage, and his idea is to feed it to stock for the general market. In pursuance of this plan he has a large number of cattle and hogs. The prosperity which has come to him in his farming life certainly justifies the correctness of his position. Both himself and wife are advanced thinkers, and are extremely liberal in their views; they are well informed on all general subjects of the day; she is a lady of good culture and refinement, and is the light of the home circle. The children are bright and intelligent in every respect. Mr. Traver has served his friends and neighbors as School Treasurer for eight years, and has been Supervisor of the town, the duties of which he discharged acceptably to his friends, and with credit to himself. He has been Assessor, was School Director for four years, and Judge of Election at different times. He is an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His politics are unswervingly Prohibitionist.

JAMES O. McCLAIN is one of the thriving, energetic farmers who have contributed so largely to the present prosperous condition of the young State of Nebraska. He has by his industry and application brought to a high state of cultivation a valuable farm located on section 30, Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He is a native of Illinois, where he was born May 14, 1854. At the early age of ten years he lost his father by death, and when fifteen years old he assumed the entire responsibility of the home farm, contributing materially to the support of his mother and the remaining children of the family.

The present splendid free public school system of that State had not then been introduced, hence the educational opportunities of our subject were very meagre and limited in extent, and he did not have the advantages possessed by the rising generation of to-day, but being naturally studious and observing, he is now one of the best informed men in the precinct, having a general practical knowledge, which can only come from experience All his life has been devoted to the business of farming, which he has made very successful.

Our subject was married to Miss Elizabeth Sykes, April 11, 1876. The lady was born in Adams County, Ill., Oct. 28, 1851. She is a daughter of James and Mary Sykes. Her father was a native of England, and emigrated to America with his parents when about two years old. He is now living in Pike County, Ill., at the advanced age of

seventy years. Her mother was a native of New Jersey, and died April 1, 1872. Her parents reared a family of eleven children, five of whom are living, named: Hannah; Elizabeth, wife of our subject; Joseph, Emma and Frank. Hannah is the wife of Wilson Cunningham, and resides in Greenwood; Joseph resides in Colorado; Emma is the wife of Mark Huffman, and resides in Adams County, Ill.; Frank also resides in that county. Mr. and Mrs. McClain are the parents of five children, one of whom is deceased. Those living are named: Clyde, born Nov. 11, 1879; Harry O., Dec. 25, 1881; Fred, April 26, 1884; Hattie, March 18, 1886; and Ralph C. was born April 11, 1878, and died Jan. 4, 1879.

Mr. McClain is a son of David H. and Mary E. McClain. Both parents were natives of Tennessee. His father's family were early settlers in Adams County, Ill., having located there about 1840. His paternal ancestors were Scotch, and his maternal grandfather was a Mr. Lane, a native of Tennessee. Our subject is the third son in his family. He came to Nebraska and settled in Cass County, in the fall of 1876, purchasing the quarter-section of land on which he now resides. At the time he acquired the land it was in an absolutely wild condition; all of the substantial improvements and conveniences now on the place have been put there by the efforts of our subject. The years in which he has been the owner of this property have been devoted to hard and persistent labor, to such an extent as to make it one of the best cultivated and most productive farms in the neighborhood. He has been prospered in his undertakings, and he has added to his original purchase at different times, until he is now the owner of 320 acres of good land.

Taking into consideration the fact that when our subject came to Nebraska he possessed but little means, having but slender resources, aside from strong hands and a willing heart, backed by a determination to win, he may be considered in all respects a truly self-made man, and has richly earned the prosperity and comfort he now enjoys. In the accumulation of this splendid property his wife has borne no unimportant part; all her efforts and life in Nebraska have been devoted to her husband's interests, and the acquirement of a home. The stranger visiting their home is most hospitably received and cared for. The house is large, roomy and nicely furnished, a fit reward for the wife and mother's devotion. The barns, sheds and other out-buildings are conveniently located, and admirably designed for the purposes for which they were intended. Our subject and his wife are both members of the Baptist Church. He has persistently refused political preferment, accepting only a place on the School Board where he felt his services would be of permanent value. In politics he is a Republican, large-hearted and public-spirited. He is an earnest supporter of any measure tending to the general good and welfare of the community in which he lives.

JAMES CHRISTENSON. Here and there, in the farming region of Nebraska, may be found neat, well-tilled and well-stocked farms, with fine groves of trees, good bearing orchards, commodious dwellings, with large barns and the necessary buildings, which have been brought to their present productive condition under the supervision of skilled agriculturists, who came here from a foreign country—men who have left their native soil, and, coming to the United States, have in a few years, by their industry, thrift, and good business principles, placed themselves among the representative farmers of this county. On such a farm is the subject of our sketch, who resides on section 24, Stove Creek Precinct.

Mr. Christenson is a native of Denmark, born in Jutland, March 3, 1854. His father, Christian Anderson, was a native of the same place, and there spent his entire life, dying in 1871, at the age of sixty years. He owned an extensive farm, and was always engaged in agricultural pursuits, accumulating a good property. He was well educated, and a prominent man, who took much interest in public affairs, serving as collector and secretary for many years. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Mary Ann Walsted, who was also born in Jutland, and died

there in 1864, at the age of forty-eight years. She was a member of the Lutheran Church. Her father, Nelse Walsted, fought with the French in the war against the English, from 1808 until 1812. To her and her husband were born nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: Andrew, who served about two years against the Germans, having enlisted in 1864; Hannah, deceased; Mona; Nelse, deceased; Christian and James.

The subject of our sketch received good educational advantages, and at the age of fourteen years was confirmed. He remained at home until sixteen years of age, assisting his father when he concluded to try life in the New World. Accordingly, in company with a brother and a sister, he left Copenhagen in the steamer "Racing," and after a voyage of eighteen days landed in New York City. He then went by rail to Council Bluffs, thence to Ashland, which was the terminus of the railroad. The following two years our subject was engaged in herding cattle. He then leased a farm near Greenwood, Neb., for three years, and succeeded well. From 1875 until the spring of 1877 Mr. Christenson worked out, and then bought the farm which he now occupies. It contains eighty acres, a part of which was improved at the time he purchased it. He has spent much time and money on the remainder, has set out forest trees and an orchard of seventy-five fruit trees, and erected a windmill and tank. In 1884 our subject built his present residence, a convenient house, well adapted to his needs, and his barns and other buildings. He raises hay and the usual cereal products of the country, feeding out most of it to the cattle and hogs, of which he has large numbers. His fine graded horses are of much value, and he takes pride in caring for them.

August 28, 1879, Mr. Christenson was united in marriage to Miss Susan Branscom, a native of Tennessee, born in Jonesboro, Greene County, Aug. 13, 1859. She received a fine education, and previous to her marriage taught school in North Carolina. Her parents, Reuben and Hannah (Coggins) Branscom, were natives of Virginia and Tennessee respectively. Her paternal grandfather, Edmund Branscom, who was born in Ireland, emigrated to America, and located on a farm in Virginia, where he remained several years, afterward removing to his present residence in Washington County, Tenn. Reuben Branscom, her father, came to Tennessee with his parents when a young man. He married and established himself on a farm there, but subsequently sold that property, and, removing to North Carolina, remained there nine years, engaged in farming and milling. In 1878 he emigrated with his family to Nebraska, and the ensuing years worked at carpentering in Syracuse. In 1866 he took up a homestead claim of 160 acres in Frontier County, where he now resides. He has bought more land since then, and is now busily at work improving the farm. He is fifty years of age, and his wife fifty-five years old. Joshua Coggins, the maternal grandfather of Mrs. Christenson, was of Irish descent, and formerly owned a plantation in Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Branscom were the parents of eight children, namely: Margaret (deceased), Susan, Sarah, Hannah, Ida, Lucius, Edmond and Alice.

Our subject and his wife have a pleasant, well-kept home, which has been brightened by the birth of three children—Mary, Maud and Andrew. Both Mr. and Mrs. Christenson are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and contribute largely toward its support. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and a strong advocate of the principles promulgated by that party.

STEPHEN W. ORTON. The Empire State parted with one of her most worthy sons when the subject of this sketch, withdrawing from her borders, turned his steps toward the newly-made State of Nebraska. He arrived in this county in July, 1867, and soon thereafter took up a tract of wild land on section 28, in Elmwood Precinct. After several years spent in farming he decided to retire from its arduous labors, and accordingly invested a portion of his capital in the drug business, changed his residence to Weeping Water, and is now one of the leading men in this branch of trade in the southern part of the county. He possesses first-class business talent, has acquitted himself uniformly as a

liberal-minded and public-spirited citizen and forms no unimportant factor among the leading interests of Cass County.

Our subject was born in Washington County, N. Y., June 2, 1844, and five years later his parents removed to Fulton County, where they spent the remainder of their lives, our subject being orphaned by their death when a lad of fifteen years. He was ambitious to obtain an education, and managed to pursue his studies in the Hudson River Institute at Claverack three years, employing himself in the meantime also as a teacher in order to augment his income, and at the expiration of this time the progress of the Civil War arrested his plans, and he was induced to enlist as a Union soldier in Company F, 13th New York Artillery. His regiment was assigned first to the 18th Army Corps, and subsequently to the 24th Corps, in the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James, and he participated in many active engagements, being at the siege of Suffolk in March and April, in 1863, and overhauling guerrillas in Southeastern Virginia. In the spring of 1864 he served under Gen. Butler in the several engagements in front of Richmond, and later joined Grant's army in time to be present at the battle of Cold Harbor. After this he went with the 18th Corps, under command of Gen. Baldy Smith, to Petersburg, and thereafter remained with the Army of the Potomac until the close of the war. In the meantime he participated in the various engagements which followed during that campaign. He was at the front in the fight at Petersburg most of the time, and was wounded later at the taking of Ft. Harrison. In consequence of this he was confined in the hospital at Portsmouth, Va., a period of six weeks, after which he rejoined his comrades. He was with the Ft. Fisher expedition, and remained in Southeastern Virginia until the final surrender. His command was then sent to Norfolk, Va., after the war, and Mr. Orton became a member of the police force, with which he remained until receiving his honorable discharge, Sept. 4, 1865.

Upon leaving the army Mr. Orton returned to his old haunts in Fulton County, N. Y., where he employed himself as a teacher and otherwise until April, 1867, and then started for the West. He stopped in Bureau County, Ill., until July of that year, then pushed on further westward, crossed the Missouri River at Omaha, July 28, and later made his way to Elmwood Precinct, this county, and selected his claim. He then entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, for which he worked a few months, then engaged on a farm in the vicinity of Bellevue until March, 1869.

Mr. Orton now located on his own land, which was a raw prairie, being sheltered for a time in a plank house. When he assumed ownership of this property there had been only three men before him to take up land in Elmwood Precinct. The only settlers here were McCaig brothers, John Gyger, Carter Aiken and his father. Our subject experienced the usual hardships and difficulties of life in a new settlement, with a far-away market and trading-post. He had come to stay, however, and persevered in this resolution, and after a few seasons began to realize the reward of his labors. After fencing his land and erecting the buildings most needed he put out fifteen acres of forest trees, with a fine apple orchard and trees of the smaller fruits, and gradually gathered around himself and family those conveniences which would insure their comfort and welfare. In due time he found himself possessor of one of the most valuable farms in the precinct, which during these years has been settled up with a class of enterprising and intelligent people. After his land had been subjected to a thorough course of culture he turned his attention largely to stock-raising, and was very successful. In looking upon his possessions to-day it must be remembered that he came to this region without means, and with no resources but his own indomitable will and his strong hands. He now represents one of the finest estates in the county.

Mr. Orton, in the fall of 1881, leaving his farm moved to Weeping Water, and engaged in the drug business with Dr. J. W. Thomas. They started out with a fine stock, and operated together five years. Mr. Orton then purchased the interest of his partner, and has since controlled the business. He has a good trade, which is steadily increasing. He was a school teacher for twenty-one years of his life, and after coming to this county followed this profession in Elmwood for a period of nine years.

He has watched over the educational interests of the county with fatherly care, and given his influence toward the enterprises calculated generally for the best good of his community.

Mr. Orton, politically, is a stanch Republican. He has served as School Director in District No. 44 for some time, and was Assessor of Elmwood Precinct for a period of four years, and has officiated in the same office in Weeping Water Precinct two years. For two years also he officiated as Chairman of the Republican Central Committee of Cass County, and has had no small influence among the councils of his party in this section.

Miss Sarah Burrows became the wife of our subject Dec. 31, 1868, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Bellevue, Neb. This lady was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, Feb. 17, 1847, and when an infant of six months was taken by her parents to Kalamazoo County, Mich. She was there reared to womanhood, and the family, in the spring of 1867, came to the new State of Nebraska, settling in the vicinity of Bellevue, where Mrs. Orton lived until her marriage. Her parents, Zachariah and Hannah M. (Woodard) Burrows, were natives respectively of Norfolk County, England, and New York. Mr. Burrows was born in 1817, and emigrated to America in 1836, settling in Canada, where he lived until 1847. He then removed to Kalamazoo, Mich., and sojourned there a period of twenty years. He spent his last days in the vicinity of Plattsmouth, Neb., passing away in November, 1871, at the age of fifty-four years. Mrs. Burrows later was married to T. W. Warrant, of Ashland, Wis., where she is now living.

Luther M. Orton, the father of our subject, was born at Luzerne, Warren Co., N. Y., March 31, 1820, and lived there until a young man of twenty years. In 1839 he was married to Miss Sarah A. Ward, and the year following they removed to Fair Haven, Vt., where they resided until 1844, and thence migrated to New York State, settling in Washington County. From there, in 1850, they changed their residence to Fulton County, where the death of the father took place Jan. 18, 1859. During his early manhood Mr. Orton had been engaged in the lumber business considerably, while he always operated more or less as a farmer. The parental family included six children, four of whom lived to mature years. The others are residents of New York and Michigan. Mr. O. and his estimable wife were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the father officiated as Class-Leader from the earliest recollection of his son Stephen W. The mother was an invalid for many years, but survived her husband some time, and passed away at her home in New York, July 21, 1865.

Samuel Orton, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was, it is supposed, a native of Wales. He spent the last years of his life in Warren County, N. Y., dying in 1853, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. He was a farmer by occupation, and the father of ten children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Orton there were born three children, one of whom, a daughter, Allie, died Feb. 26, 1886, at the age of thirteen years. The survivors are: Mary A., who was born Jan. 29, 1871, and Chauncey, July 9, 1880. These children are being given good educational advantages. When Mr. Orton came to Weeping Water it had just begun to assume the semblance of a village. He has been a useful factor in its growth and development, and is a man in whom his fellow-citizens repose entire confidence. Socially, he belongs to the G. A. R., holding the post of Quartermaster; he is also connected with the I. O. O. F. as a Past Grand, and in the A. F. & A. M. is Senior Warden. He is also a Knight of Pythias, P. C., and has represented the fraternity in the Grand Lodge.

LINWOOD E. SKINNER, of the firm of Skinner & Ritchie, is, with his partner, doing a good business in loans and abstracts of titles, making of the latter a specialty. They also are the agents for some of the best fire insurance companies. He has already a thorough business experience, although still a young man, having been born Jan. 12, 1860. His native place was Susquehanna County, Pa., his childhood home being in the town of Jackson. His father, Nelson Skinner, was also a native of the Keystone State. He was

engaged for a number of years in mercantile pursuits in Susquehanna County, but died when his son, our subject, was but a year old.

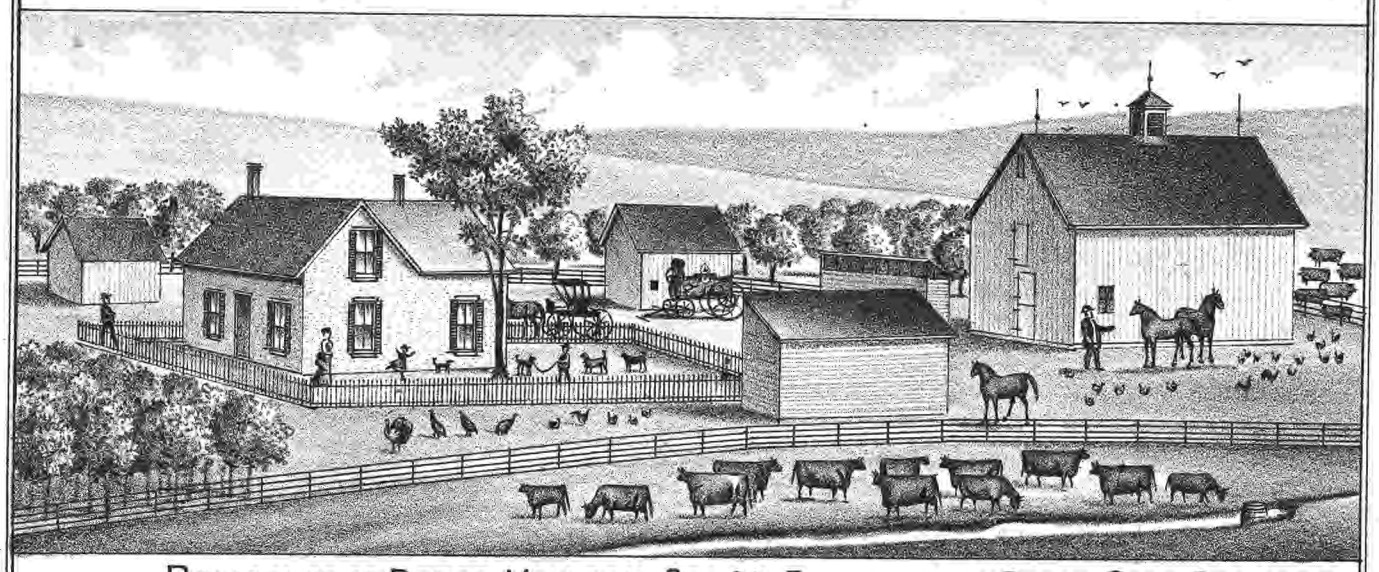
Mrs. Louisa (Bryant) Skinner, the mother of Linwood E., also a native of Susquehanna County, Pa., was born in Jackson Township, and was the daughter of David Bryant, a native of Vermont, who left New England and settled in Susquehanna County, Pa., in the early times. He purchased largely of timber land in different parts of the county, and felling the forest trees opened up a good farm, where he carried on agriculture successfully and attained to the ripe old age of eighty-four years, passing away at the homestead which he had built up, and where from his sterling worth of character he had gathered around him hosts of friends.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Skinner with her only child went to live with her parents, with whom she remained until her second marriage, with A. J. Price, of that county. They continued residents of Pennsylvania until the spring of 1880, then bidding adieu to the associations of years, crossed the Mississippi and settled in Juniata, Neb., and in 1881 moved to Plattsmouth, where they still reside. They have two children—Abbie and Roland M. Linwood E. pursued his early studies in his native county, and later spent a year in a school at Scranton, Pa. Afterward he was placed in school in Boston, Mass., and upon completing his studies was employed as clerk in a store of general merchandise in his native county and other places about four years.

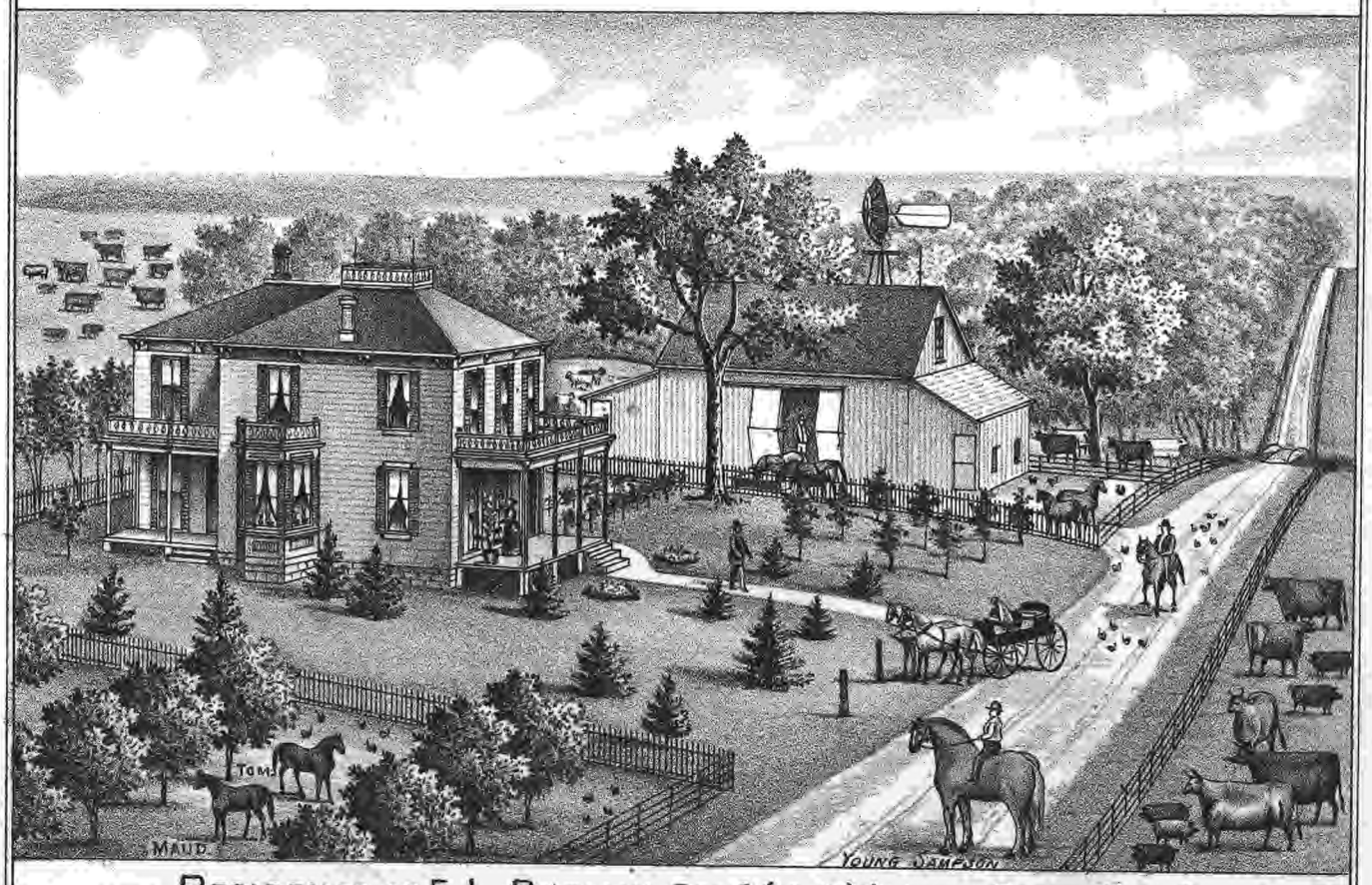
In the spring of 1878 young Skinner, leaving his native State once more, this time started to the West, and spent one year in Boone, Iowa. In March of 1879 he came to Nebraska, and establishing himself at Plattsmouth, began learning the trade of brickmaker, at which he worked three seasons. This, however, not being entirely congenial to his tastes, he in the fall of 1882 secured a position in the County Clerk's office, where he remained until the spring of 1883, and the summer following was one of a Government surveying party operating in the northwestern part of the State. This contract ended he resumed his clerkship in the court-house, operating mostly as Deputy Clerk until January, 1886. Then forming a partnership with J. W. Jennings and H. C. Ritchie, he began operating in real estate, the firm name being J. W. Jennings & Co. They continued in partnership until December, 1886, when our subject and Mr. Ritchie purchased the interest of Mr. Jennings, and the firm assumed the title of Skinner & Ritchie, as at present.

Mr. Skinner was married, in November, 1881, to Miss Susan, daughter of Christian Mockenhaupt. Mrs. Skinner was born in Plattsmouth, Neb., where she was reared and educated. Her parents were among the earliest pioneers of Nebraska, settling in Plattsmouth when it was a mere hamlet. The mother died in 1878. The father is still a resident of Plattsmouth. Of this union there have been born three children—Nelson C., Maggie May and Bernice J. Mr. Skinner, politically, is a stanch Republican.

ELI J. PITTMAN. Among the substantial and enterprising agriculturists of Cass County, of whom brief biographical notices are given in this volume, no one is more worthy of mention than the subject of this biographical sketch. He has an extensive farm, consisting of 200 acres on section 9, and 160 acres more on section 16, Liberty Precinct, which he bought in 1872, and moved onto November 28 of that year. It was then but slightly improved, but by hard labor and skillful management it has been transformed from the wild, unbroken prairie to a veritable garden spot, blossoming and yielding abundantly of the numerous cereals entrusted to its soil. On his homestead, which lies on section 9, Mr. Pittman has erected a handsome dwelling, which is one of the most commodious and conveniently arranged in the precinct, it being well heated and ventilated, and with water carried throughout the house. The barn and other farm buildings are also of modern construction and in keeping with the dwelling, water for the stock being carried by means of pipes and a windmill pump to the barn and feed lots. The house is situated on a rising knoll, and com-



RESIDENCE OF PETER VALLERY, SEC. 28. PLATTSMOUTH PRECT. CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF E. J. PITTMAN, SEC. 9. (10. 13.) LIBERTY PRECT. CASS CO.

mands an extensive view of the surrounding country, Nebraska City, seventeen miles distant, being often clearly perceptible. Hardly such another fine natural location can be found in Cass County, and Mr. Pittman has taken advantage of all the facilities for improving and beautifying his homestead. Besides general farming our subject is much interested in stock-raising, and has large herds of fine cattle and many good horses. He is a member of the Factoryville Stock Company, which was formed in 1887, with ten charter members, for the purpose of introducing the English Shire draught horses into the country, making a specialty of that breed. The head of that herd, Young Samson, was sired in England, and imported by O. O. Heffner, of Nebraska City. He is a fine specimen of that stock, being coal black in color, about five years of age, and weighs upward of 1,700 pounds.

The subject of our sketch was born in Harrison County, Ind., March 9, 1845, and is the youngest child of the second marriage of David Pittman. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary E. Young. She was a native of North Carolina, and her husband of Virginia. After their marriage they lived many years in Indiana, but subsequently moved to Nebraska, and died at the home of our subject in Liberty Precinct, the father dying June 23, 1881, aged seventy-four years, one month and seventeen days, and the mother Dec. 26, 1881, at the age of seventy-four years. He was a Democrat in his political views, and a communicant of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, while Mrs. Pittman held to the faith of the United Brethren Church.

E. J. Pittman, of our sketch, was reared in his native county, and in early life became familiarly acquainted with the duties devolving upon the son of a farmer. When the time came for him to decide upon the way in which he should earn his livelihood, he concluded to become a tiller of the soil, and therefore purchased a farm in his native State. Before settling on it he was united in marriage, in Harrison County, Ind., Oct. 30, 1866, to Miss Anna McBride. She was also a native of Harrison County, born April 12, 1849, and is the second daughter and third child born to George W. and Eliza (McCoy) McBride, who were natives respectively of Tennessee and Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. McBride began their wedded life on his farm in Harrison County, and there she died while yet in the prime of life, leaving three sons and two daughters, Mrs. Pittman being at that time five years old. Her father married for his second wife Adeline Neely, of Indiana, and they continued living in that State until the spring of 1888, when they came to Nebraska and settled on the farm in Liberty Precinct which they still occupy. Mr. McBride is an active man of fifty-six years, while his wife is twelve years younger. Both are consistent members of the United Brethren Church. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Pittman, Edward McBride, was a native of North Carolina, of Scotch descent, as is indicated by the name. He died in Indiana, past fourscore years of age. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Pittman, John McCoy, was born and reared in Pennsylvania, but after his marriage located on a farm in Indiana, where he spent his last years. Mrs. Pittman was reared on a farm, receiving a good common-school education, and instructions in domestic duties that have rendered her an invaluable help to her husband in the building up of their beautiful home. She is one of those women of whom we can truly say the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, and her children rise up and call her blessed. To our subject and his wife have been born two children—Benjamin Wallace and John W. The former, who has attained his majority, was well educated in Nebraska City College, and is now at home. John W. also attended school at Nebraska City. Mrs. Pittman is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Pittman affiliates with the Democratic party, which finds in him one of its most earnest and intelligent supporters. A view of their elegant residence and fine surroundings is shown on an accompanying page in this volume.

PETER VALLERY, whose farm on section 28, Plattsmouth Township, is considered one of the best managed estates in this vicinity, is a young man who has a good, practical knowledge of agriculture, and an intelli-

gent comprehension of the most approved methods of cultivating the land and making it yield to the uttermost. He is a son of the well-known Jacob Vallery, Sr., a sketch of whose life also appears in this biographical work.

Our subject was born in Pike County, Ohio, Oct. 16, 1857, and there the first years of his life were spent. He was eight years of age when his parents brought him to Nebraska, and he received his education in this district, the first school that he attended here being of the most primitive style of architecture, consisting of a dug-out surmounted by a frame shanty. He received a sound, practical training from his parents, that well fitted him to battle with life, and he grew to an energetic and self-reliant manhood under the pioneer influences that obtained in his youth. He had a natural aptitude for agricultural pursuits, for which his life on his father's farm had well fitted him, and he chose to become a farmer. His father set apart for him 160 acres of land from his large estate, and it has been his pleasure to improve it. It is now under an admirable state of cultivation, and yields a good income in repayment of his care. It is provided with a neat and well-appointed set of farm buildings, including a substantial and comfortable brick house, a commodious frame barn, corn cribs, etc.

Mr. Vallery was married to Miss Eva Schlander March 6, 1878. In her he finds a companion and helper who is devoted to the interests of her family. She is an earnest and consistent member of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Vallery is a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Horn) Schlander. Our subject and his wife have one of the brightest and coziest homes in this community, whose generous hospitality is well known to hosts of friends. Willie and Lottie are the names of the two children who have blessed their wedded life.

Our subject is a man of prompt and decisive action, and is well endowed with the keenness and foresight essential to complete success in any pursuit. He is exemplary in his conduct, being guided by honest and truthful principles, and he exerts his influence to promote the moral, as well as the material, interests of this precinct. As Road Overseer, which position he has held for two years, he is doing his share toward providing good highways for the convenience of the people. He strongly sympathizes with the Democratic party, and supports its men and measures whenever the occasion offers.

The comfortable home of Mr. Vallery is well illustrated in a view printed on another page.

SIMON BOLIVER JUDKINS, of Eagle, is numbered among its substantial citizens, who, after a life of active industry, is now relieved from its sterner labors, and is enjoying his declining years amid the comforts of a pleasant home, located about a quarter of a mile from Eagle. A goodly portion of his life has been spent in Dane County, Wis., where he ranked among the leading farmers of that section. His children having come to Nebraska, he disposed of his interests in the Badger State in the spring of 1884, and joined them in this county. His property here consists of four acres of ground and a fine residence handsomely furnished, and which, with its surroundings, forms one of the attractive homes of Eagle and its environs. Within it presides one of the most estimable of ladies, who is intelligent and accomplished, and like her husband, extends a hospitality both to friend and stranger which is agreeable in the extreme, and is indicative of birth and breeding.

Of New England ancestry and parentage, our subject was born in Palmyra, in Somerset County, Mo., Aug. 6, 1828, and is the son of Benjamin F. and Submit (Taylor) Judkins, who were natives of the same county as their son. The paternal grandfather, Hills Judkins, a native of New Hampshire, moved into the Maine forests when a young man, where he cleared a farm, and worked at his trade of carpenter as he had opportunity. He traced his forefathers to England, the records showing that they came over in the "Mayflower," and were thereafter among the prominent members of the Plymouth community. Later some of them fought in the War of 1812, as did also Grandfather Taylor. Both grandfathers spent their last years in the Pine Tree State.

Benjamin F. Judkins also learned the carpenter

trade, and was a resident for some years of both Oldtown and Bangor, where he was prominent in public affairs, and held the various offices. He also erected many of the public buildings, including court-houses and academies. In the spring of 1849 he resolved to seek the Far West, and after a long and tedious journey after the manner of that time, established himself in Milwaukee, Wis. He continued his business as a carpenter, putting up in the Cream City many of its first important buildings. In 1852 he purchased land in Dane County, and later became owner of valuable city property. He built the old water course on the Assembly grounds and the first Baptist Church, and continued a resident there until after the close of the Civil War. Later he took up his residence on the farm in Madison Township, where he spent his last days, passing away in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty years. The mother survived her husband about four years, dying Oct. 10, 1887, in Van Buren County, Ark., at the age of eighty-nine years. Both were members of the Baptist Church. Their six children were named respectively: Louisa, who died when young; Christian; S. Boliver, our subject; Elisha and Emily (twins), and Martha, deceased.

The early education of Mr. Judkins was exceedingly limited, he having to make himself useful around the homestead as soon as his age and strength would permit. When fifteen years old he commenced his apprenticeship at the carpenter trade, which he followed continuously a period of twelve years. In 1848, at the age of twenty, he accompanied the family from his native Maine to Milwaukee, Wis., where he soon began operating as a contractor, and resided three years. In the spring of 1851 he changed the scene of his operations to the growing town of Madison, purchasing property there, and living there until the spring of 1854. He now thought best to invest in farm property, and purchased eighty acres of land in Fitchburg Township, Dane County, upon which he moved, and began in earnest its cultivation and improvement. Not long afterward, however, he sold out, and after returning East on a visit, purchased, in the fall of 1863, a farm of 160 acres on the Waterloo Creek, in Medina Township, Dane County. This he devoted mostly to stock-raising, with excellent results. In the meantime he had been married and become the father of a family, and his boys were desirous of locating further West. His first visit to Nebraska was made overland with teams, when the boys selected their location in this county, and Mr. Judkins in due time disposed of his interests in the Badger State, joining them here in the fall of 1884. He lived upon the place which they had purchased four years, then secured his present snug property. He has already effected many improvements, putting up a good residence and barn, with other buildings, and planting an apple orchard with trees, and the smaller fruits and shrubbery.

Mr. Judkins was married in his native Maine on Thursday, Oct. 15, 1848, to Miss Martha O., daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Norton) Butler. Mr. and Mrs. Butler were both natives of Maine, the former born in Franklin County, and the latter in Kennebec County. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Judkins was also a native of Maine, and the records show that his ancestry, like that of the Judkins, crossed the Atlantic in the "Mayflower," landing with the Puritans at Plymouth Rock. Later he served in the Revolutionary War. Grandfather Zachariah Norton was also a native of Maine. Sturdy Ben Butler, of Massachusetts, and so closely connected with the history of the late war, is an offspring of one of the branches of this family. The father of Mrs. Judkins was a shoemaker by trade, which he followed all his life in his native State. Both parents spent their last years in Farmington, the father dying in 1861, at the age of sixty years, and the mother in 1865, at the same age as her husband. Both were members of the Regular Baptist Church.

To the parents of Mrs. Judkins there were born eight children, namely: The eldest, who died in infancy; Martha J., the wife of our subject; Hannah, deceased; Sophronia, a resident of Massachusetts; Abbie and William, deceased; and Irene and Edwin. The latter died after marriage. Mrs. Judkins was born in Strong, Franklin Co., Me., May 25, 1826, and received a good education, being graduated from the Phillips High School, and afterward was employed as a teacher. She left New England in 1849, joining her husband in Milwaukee, Wis., whither he had migrated to prepare their home.

She is one of the heirs of the Spoliation claim lost by Ichabod Norton during the time of the French and Indian War, and although a bill to restore the property was passed by Congress, the restoration never occurred.

To Mr. and Mrs. Judkins there have been born five children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Julia A., is the wife of Henry Clark; they are residents of Grant County, Neb., and the parents of seven children. Earl B. is occupied at farming in Eagle Precinct, this county; Benjamin F. lives on a farm in Tipton Precinct; Abbie L. is the wife of H. J. Edson, of Eagle, and they are the parents of two children—Howard J. and Mollie E.; Loantha, a dressmaker by trade, is at home with her parents. The family attend the Congregational Church. Mr. J., politically, is a sound Republican, and has been quite prominent in local politics, having been sent frequently as a delegate to the various conventions. He has held the various township offices, and while a resident of Marshall, Wis., identified himself with the I. O. O. F. He is also a member of the A. F. & A. M.

HON. ORLANDO TEFFT. The ALBUM of Cass County would in nowise be complete without a sketch of the life of this gentleman, who has been one of its most prominent and useful citizens. He was one of the earliest settlers of Avoca Precinct, and many years ago became intimately identified with its agricultural and business interests. He performed his part in the development of a portion of its land, and has uniformly lent his aid to the enterprises calculated for the best good of its people. He is now a resident of Avoca Village, which was platted by himself and his father, Amos Tefft, in February, 1882, and who are the possessors of a large amount of real estate in the precinct.

Mr. Tefft is now engaged in the loaning of money, and the various real-estate interests connected with the development and building up of the village. He owns property also in the city of Omaha, and has invested considerably in land further west, mostly in Cheyenne County, where he originally purchased twenty sections of land. About 1885 he made a large addition to the town of Potter, now one of the most thriving villages in that county, and lying on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad. The town of Avoca comprises now about 250 population, and the plant includes about 100 acres of land. The school building is one of the finest of the kind in the county, and evinces the interest of the projectors of the town in that most important item, education.

Up to sixteen years ago our subject, from 1866, operated a large farm on section 33, in Avoca Precinct, and during those years developed more than ordinary capacities as a business man and citizen, and was chosen, after having occupied minor positions of trust and responsibility, to represent the people of this county in the State Legislature, being elected on the Republican ticket in the fall of 1879. So well did he acquit himself that he was re-elected to a second term, being a member of the Senate, and interested himself largely in the Slocum Bill, a measure having for its object the regulation and sale of liquor, and which was passed in 1881. Mr. Tefft was appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee, and in fact there were few questions of local interest to his county in which he did not have a leading voice. Mr. Tefft, in the Senate as elsewhere, was an incessant worker, and exhibited the same qualities of resolution and energy which have characterized him all through life.

The subject of this sketch crossed the Missouri as early as 1857, eleven years before Nebraska became a State. Since that time he has been a resident of Avoca Precinct. He is essentially a Western man, having been born in Elgin, Ill., Dec. 26, 1843. He comes of a highly respected family, of English descent, and which was probably first represented in America during the Colonial days. His father, Amos Tefft, a native of New York State, was born and reared to manhood in Madison County, and came of Rhode Island parentage, his parents having settled in that State in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Later they removed to the Empire State. The Teffts are quite numerous throughout New England, and people generally well-to-do. Jonathan Tefft, the paternal grand-

father of our subject, married Miss Elizabeth Collins, of an old New England family, and they in due time migrated to New York State, locating on a farm in Madison County. Grandfather Tefft in middle life changed his residence from New York State to Illinois, settling near the present site of Elgin as early as 1835, at a time when that town gave little indication of its present importance, where they spent their last days, and passed away when nearly fourscore years of age. Grandmother Tefft came of Orthodox Quaker stock, and adhered closely to the religious faith in which she had been reared.

Amos Tefft, the father of our subject, was the third in order of birth of a family of seven sons and five daughters. Two of the sons became prominent and successful physicians, and most of them being men of more than ordinary intelligence, turned their attention to the professions. Amos Tefft was born in Madison County, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1815, and spent his childhood and youth at his father's farm, receiving his education in the common school. He was yet a single man when his family removed to Kane County, Ill. He was married in the Prairie State to Miss Margaret Calvert. This lady was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in the well-known city of Greenock, Scotland, and was of pure Scotch ancestry. Her father, Thomas Calvert, emigrated to the United States, and settled in the vicinity of Ithaca, N. Y., but later removed to Illinois, locating in Elgin, where he and his estimable wife spent the remainder of their days, both passing away when about seventy-seven years old.

In the spring of 1850 Amos Tefft, with a company of other men, left Elgin, Ill., and set out across the plains for the gold fields of California. They made the journey overland, and a few weeks later landed in Hangtown, where they began the search for the yellow ore with varied success, sojourning in that region about one year. The return trip was made via the Isthmus to New York City, and thence to Illinois. Although it did not result in a fortune to Mr. T., he traveled over a country which he had never seen before, and obtained much useful information in regard to the regions lying west of the Mississippi. In passing through Nebraska Territory he was greatly pleased with the face of the country, and from that time never gave up the idea of making it his home.

The father of our subject is still living, and has arrived at the advanced age of seventy-three years. He is still the bright and kindly man which he has always been during the years of a long and useful life. He identified himself entirely with the interests of his adopted State, and after filling other positions of trust was, in 1862, elected by the Republicans of Cass County to represent them in the Territorial Legislature. He has been a sound Republican since the organization of the party, and cast his vote for old Tippecanoe in the election of 1840. It is hardly necessary to say that he supported the grandson, Benjamin Harrison, with equal enthusiasm in the late election (1888). Mrs. Margaret Tefft, the wife and mother, accompanied her family to Nebraska, and with true devotedness did her full share in the building up of a home. Her death took place in Avoca Village, at the age of sixty-seven years. She was a descendant of old Presbyterian stock, and united with the Congregational Church in early life, remaining under its wing until the end. Orlando, our subject, is the only survivor of the two children of the parental family, his brother Randolph having died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native town of Elgin, Ill., and received a good practical education, completing his studies in the academy at that place. He has always been a reader, and like his father before him keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest. After a residence of a few years in Avoca Precinct, during which he assisted his parents in the building of the homestead, he was married, July 4, 1867, to Miss E. H. Kirkpatrick. This lady was born Jan. 3, 1850, in Wapello County, Iowa, and was quite young when her parents came to Nebraska. Thereafter she returned to the Hawkeye State and completed her studies in the college at Tabor. She made her home with her parents until her marriage. Her father, S. M. Kirkpatrick, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, is one of the most prominent men in this county, and a resident of Liberty Precinct.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tefft there have been born two children, one of whom, Roland, died in infancy; Clarence E. is pursuing his studies in the State University at Lincoln, being now a promising lad of seventeen years. Mr. Tefft, politically, is a stanch Republican, and both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Congregational Church. Socially, Mr. T. belongs to the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 29, of Avoca. He takes a genuine interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of Cass County, is a man of decided views, and one whose opinions are generally respected.

GEORGE W. NORTON, Mayor of Weeping Water, has been closely identified with its most important interests for a period of eight years, and is consequently well qualified to discharge the duties of his responsible position. A native of the Empire State, he was born in the vicinity of Richfield Springs, Otsego County, Nov. 29, 1831, and there spent the opening years of his life, removing thence with his parents when a lad nine years of age. They at that time took up their residence on a farm in Springville Township, Erie County, where they lived until 1844, and where George W. entered upon the rudiments of a practical education.

Young Norton began his business career as an apprentice to the cabinet-maker's trade, and continued a resident of his native State until the fall of 1852. Then desiring to see something of the Great West, he migrated to Northern Illinois, and for a period of six years was a resident of Chicago. Two years of this time he conducted a grocery at the corner of Clark and Adams streets, in a building widely dissimilar from the handsome blocks which now occupy that site and of which the post-office is a conspicuous feature. The city fathers were at that time raising the grade, and Mr. Norton finally abandoned the grocery trade and resumed his work as a cabinet-maker.

In Chicago our subject made the acquaintance of Miss Abbie Sawyer, to whom he was married Oct. 16, 1856. Providence blessed this union with a family of six children, two sons and four daughters, five of whom are living; Jennie M. is the wife of E. E. Day, of Weeping Water, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, and they have two children; Luella I. married Walter Cole, a merchant of Weeping Water; Elizabeth A., Edwin K. and Robert R., are at home with their parents. They are a bright and intelligent group, and have been given the educational advantages in keeping with their station in life.

Mr. Norton upon leaving Chicago in 1858 went to LaFayette, Ind., and was employed by the New Albany Railroad Company, to superintend the building of their roundhouse and other structures along the line of their road. This occupied most of his time until 1862. In the meantime, the Civil War being in progress, he entered the ranks of the State Militia, and finally became a member of Wilson's Cavalry at Chicago, where, with his comrades, he encamped and drilled a year, in the meantime furnishing their own horses and equipments. They desired to enter the regular service, but not being needed, disbanded and returned home.

We next find Mr. Norton a member of Company D in the 3d Wisconsin Infantry, which was assigned to the Department of the West, being first a portion of the 12th Army Corps and afterward with the 20th. Mr. Norton had the satisfaction of participating in the Atlanta campaign under Gen. Sherman, and met the enemy in the battles of Dalton, Resaca, Peachtree Creek, and the siege of Atlanta. At this latter place he was wounded, July 22, and sent to Kingston, Ga., where he was confined in the hospital until November. He then joined his regiment at Atlanta and marched to the sea. Upon entering the ranks of the regular army he was made First Sergeant. At Savannah he was promoted to Second Lietenant. On the 14th of March, 1865, near Averasboro, N. C., he was again wounded, and obliged to ride six days before he could be relieved, and when reaching Goldsboro, N. C., was in such bad shape that it was impossible to give him proper treatment. He still carries the ball in his limb.

From Goldsboro our subject, with his regiment, was taken to New York by boat, where he was confined in the hospital until the close of the war, when

he was mustered out and received his honorable discharge, after two years of hard service. In the meantime his family had been left in Marquette County, Wis., and after a brief sojourn there Mr. Norton made arrangements to settle at Atlantic, Iowa, and engage in the grain business. He put up an elevator and a mill, and was one of the first settlers in the town, being ahead of the railroad. This enterprise of Mr. Norton proved at first very remunerative. Later both mill and elevator were destroyed by fire, and he thus lost the greater part of his property. He, however, did not "desert the ship," but remained at Atlantic, and was one of the leading men in the various enterprises which resulted in the building up of a flourishing and important city. He officiated on the School Boards, and was a member continuously of the City Council and finally elected Mayor, serving two terms. He assisted in the erection of the school buildings and the establishment of the Congregational Church, being one of the seven who assisted in the organization of the society and the erection of the church edifice, at a cost of $2,500.

Mr. Norton remained a resident of the city of his fostering care and of which he was practically the founder, until 1880. His attention then became attracted to this county and especially South Bend Precinct, where he established himself in the grain business, and the following year came to Weeping Water. His fine business capacities were at once recognized, and he was welcomed to the community as a man very likely to be of value to its best interests. Upon the organization of the town as a city he was elected its first Mayor. He has always voted the Republican ticket, becoming a member of the party upon its organization, and casting his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, its first nominee, in 1856. He is treasurer of the Building Committee of the new Congregational Church, and is connected with various other enterprises having for their object the general progress of the town. He is prominent in the G. A. R., being a member of the Lafayette Post No. 61, at Weeping Water, and still maintains the patriotic principles which have actuated him since his early manhood.

Mrs. Norton was born in Portland, Me., Nov. 6, 1838, and came West with her parents in 1854, when a maiden of sixteen years, they locating in Waupon, Wis., where she was married subsequently to our subject. Her parents were Josiah B. and Elizabeth S. (Barnes) Sawyer, who were natives of Maine, and the father a farmer by occupation. They lived in Wisconsin about two years, then removed to Atlantic, Iowa. They are still living, and make their home with their daughter, Mrs. Norton.

Burroughs Norton, the father of our subject, was born in Worcester, Mass., in June, 1800, and removed with his parents when a little lad of eight years to Richfield Springs, N. Y., where soon afterward he was left an orphan by the death of both parents. He became the apprentice of a tanner and currier, a trade which he learned in all its details, and subsequently established in business for himself at Richfield Springs. He married Miss Margaret Weber, and they became the parents of sixteen children, eleven of whom lived to mature years.

About 1842 the Norton family changed their residence to Erie County, N. Y., whence they removed about 1852 to Marquette County, Wis. The death of the mother took place at Kewanee, Ill., in 1864. The father later removed to St. Joseph, Mo., and now makes his home with his youngest daughter at that place. He was a very active and industrious man during his prime and a strong Abolitionist. Being a man of fine capabilities he was at one time quite prominent in public affairs, and was sent as a delegate to the National Convention at the city of Buffalo, which nominated John Van Buren for President on the Free-Soil ticket in 1844. He is a member of the Congregational Church, and although quite well advanced in years, enjoys good health and is quite active.

JOHN M. NEELY, M. D. Too few men in the medical profession have a proper sense of the responsibilities connected therewith; too few realize the magnitude of the trusts committed to their care. When therefore there comes into a community a man of thorough intelligence as connected with his calling, one who has made a deep and patient study of his art, he obtains that recognition of his services which can only be

gained by fidelity to duty and knowledge of the important things connected therewith. These thoughts are suggested in reviewing the career of the subject of this sketch. A man of thorough education and an extensive experience as army surgeon in the late war, Dr. Neely occupies a position in the front ranks of the medical profession in Southeastern Nebraska.

Our subject in the autumn of 1884 came to Bushbury, this county, and after practicing there two years changed his residence to Wabash, soon after it had been laid out as a town. He has thus practically grown up with the village and become fully identified with the various interests pertaining to its growth and prosperity. The only son of Dr. Joseph and Lydia (Montgomery) Neely, he was born at Newburg, Warrick Co., Ind., Feb. 20, 1836, the home of his parents at that time being near the banks of the Ohio River. When an infant of six weeks old, his parents changed their location to Cynthiana, Posey County, that State, where the father thereafter practiced his profession for a period of twenty years. The family, besides our subject, included six daughters, one of whom is living, and making her home in Mississippi.

Young Neely began his education in the district school, and at an early age had decided to adopt the practice of medicine as his life calling. When a youth of sixteen years he entered the Baptist College at Franklin, Ind., of which he was a student one year, then he attended the academy at Newburg one and one-half years, completing the academic course. He entered upon the study of medicine at the age of nineteen, under the instruction of his father, who enjoyed a very extensive practice and was eminently successful. After three years of close attention to the best medical works published, he entered the Eclectic College of Medicine at Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he was graduated with honors in February, 1858.

Young Dr. Neely began the practice of his profession in his native town, but a little over two years later removed, Jan. 1, 1862, to Owensville, Ind., becoming one of the many physicians and surgeons giving their attention to the sick and wounded Union soldiers after the battle of Pittsburg Landing, receiving his commission from Gov. Morton. Dr. Neely was assigned to the 7th Illinois Cavalry, and attended upon his patients during their sojourn at the hospital in the field. In September, 1863, he received the regular commission of Assistant Surgeon of the 120th Indiana Infantry, and was soon promoted to Surgeon, Sept. 1, 1864. In January, 1865, after the battle of Nashville, he was sent to North Carolina, where he became Medical Director of the general hospital at Raleigh, and was retained in the Government service until January, 1866. During this period he gathered valuable knowledge from a varied experience, which has done him good service for more than twenty years.

In April, 1866, Dr. Neely returned to Owensville, Ind., and on the 17th day of that month was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Smith. This lady was born near Vincennes, Ind., Nov. 6, 1844, and was finely educated, following the profession of a teacher three or four years before her marriage. Dr. Neely, at Owensville, entered upon a very large and lucrative practice, receiving the bulk of the patronage in his county, where his conscientious attention to duty served to gather around him hosts of friends. With the natural desire of mankind, however, for change, he finally decided to cast his lot with the people of the farther West, and accordingly pitched his tent in the young and growing State of Nebraska. He met with a severe affliction in the death of his wife, in October, 1882, when she was but thirty-eight years old. There had been born to them six interesting children, namely: Mary, who died in infancy; Joseph, John M., Charles, William S. and Otis. Joseph is an expert telegraph operator, and makes his home in Wabash. The other children are with their father. The parents of Dr. Neely were natives of Kentucky, and are now deceased. He comes of honorable ancestry, and his paternal great-grandfather distinguished himself as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, invested with the rank of Major. His uncle, Gen. John I. Neely, was an aid-de-camp, under Gen. Harrison, in the War of 1812. Springing thus from a patriotic source and in sympathy with the Union and freedom, it is hardly necessary to say that our subject is one of the stanchest supporters of the Republican party. Socially, he be-

longs to Kenesaw Post, G. A. R., at Elmwood. He has been a close student and an extensive reader, and in the ranks of his profession has aimed to excel. The fact that his practice is constantly increasing, being a third more the past year (1888) than heretofore, gives sufficient indication of his standing among the people of this county.

FRANCIS R. GUTHMANN, a capitalist of Plattsmouth, is numbered among the wealthy and substantial citizens of Cass County. He has now practically retired from business, although he still supervises his extensive interests. He has contributed largely to the upbuilding of the city, and has a great deal of property here, including a handsome residence, the best hotel of the place, and two smaller ones, besides stores and other buildings.

Mr. Guthmann was born in the village of Waldhausen, near Buchen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, July 2, 1841. His parents, Francis and Anna Maria (Gramlich) Guthmann, were natives of the same place, as were also their parents. The paternal grandfather of our subject owned a farm there and was a lifelong resident of that place. His father, Francis Guthmann, was reared to agriculture, which he pursued in his native land until his death, Nov. 26, 1875. His wife, Anna Maria, was born in a village near her husband's birthplace, and spent her last years in the home where all of her married life was passed. She died Dec. 11, 1860. There were fourteen children born to her and her husband, and ten of them grew to maturity. Caroline married Peter Rauen; Helen married Valentine Egenberger; Charles, who served in the 3d Missouri Regiment under Gen. Sigel for four years, and afterward settled in Lancaster County, Neb., died at the home of our subject in 1882; Maria L. married Benjamin Hempel; William, who served in the German Army, died in Plattsmouth in 1884; our subject was the next in order of birth; then Maria Catherine, who married J. V. Weckbach, of whom see sketch on another page of this book; John F. M. died in his native village; Fred and Oswald are the youngest members of the family. Seven of these are living in Nebraska, and all in Cass County, with the exception of Fred, who is a resident of Seward County.

Francis R. received an excellent education in the Fatherland, attending school pretty steadily in his boyhood until he was fourteen years of age. He then assisted his father in the labors of the farm until the month of December, 1856, when he and one of his sisters set sail from London, and landed in New York Feb. 9, 1857. Another brother and sister had preceded them, and they joined them in Davenport, Iowa, where they had settled. Our subject had come to America with but little means, and he immediately set about procuring work that he might better his financial condition. The first year of his stay in this country he was employed at the saddler's trade. In 1859 he started with a party bound for Pike's Peak in search of gold. Going from Davenport with teams, they traversed the wild prairies of Iowa, and crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, then an insignificant hamlet, they pushed on across the plains through the Territory of Nebraska to near Ft. Kearney, where they were stayed in their course by meeting many weary and disappointed emigrants returning from Pike's Peak with very discouraging reports, so the party concluded to abandon their purpose. Our subject's brother decided to take up a claim in Nebraska, and selected a tract of land in Lancaster County, about ten miles east of the present site of Lincoln, which was then a wild, open prairie, owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 an acre. Indians still lingered in that part of the country, and deer, elks and wolves roamed at will over the plains. Our subject was then too young to make a claim to some land, so he returned to civilization. He spent two months in St. Louis, and then went to St. Joseph and worked in a bakery. After thoroughly mastering that trade, he engaged in pantry work in the Pacific House in that city, remaining there until 1863. He then crossed the plains to Denver, and there engaged as pastry cook in the Planters' Hotel, then the leading hotel in Denver. Ten months later he left that place, in February, 1864, and, with others, started with six wagons for that part of Idaho now included in the Territory of Montana. While traveling in the mountains the party encountered severe storms and nearly perished.

In one place they were five days making seven miles, and one night the wolves killed and devoured one of the mules. On the 15th of May the party arrived at Virginia City, and there learned that it had been reported that they had all perished in the mountains. Mr. Guthmann opened a bake shop and boarding-house in that city, but his residence in that part of the country was of short duration, as in the fall of 1864 he came to Plattsmouth to invest his money in city property, and made arrangements to erect a store building. In 1865 he returned to the mountains and established a bakery and boarding-house in Blackfoot City, Deer Lodge Co., Mont., conducting both with good financial success until 1868, when he again came to Plattsmouth. He engaged in the bakery business here, and the following year added packing pork. In 1870 he opened a billiard hall, and in 1871 a grocery store, giving his personal attention to these varied enterprises until 1874, all the while carrying on his bakery. He then sold the grocery store, but continued to manage the billiard hall until 1881. Since that time he has not been engaged in any actual business, but devotes himself to the supervision of his multiplicity of interests, from which he derives an ample income. Mr. Guthmann is a man of great enterprise; he has a clear head for business, and displays much tact and shrewdness in his various undertakings. He has done much toward building up Plattsmouth, having erected two dwelling-houses and three stores, besides other buildings. The brick house which he occupies with his family is one of the finest in the city, and was erected in 1886. Mr. Guthmann is a stockholder in the Citizens' Bank, also in the Bank of Cass County, and also in the Plattsmouth Canning Factory, of which he is President. He has taken an honorable part in public affairs, having been a member of the City Council. He has always been identified with the Democrats in his political affiliations.

Mr. Guthmann was united in marriage to Anna M. Pankratz, Jan. 10, 1878, and to them have been born four children—Nellie, Charles F. M., Henry A. J. and Minnie T. They have also an adopted daughter, Annie. Mrs. Guthmann was born in Manitowoc County, Wis., Nov. 24, 1860, and is a daughter of Joseph and Katrina (Bruner) Pankratz, natives of Bavaria. They were reared and married in that country, and resided there until 1853. In that year they crossed the water to the United States, and located in Manitowoc County, Wis., being early settlers of that part of the country. Mr. Pankratz bought a tract of timber land, and first erected a round log house to shelter his family, and then commenced to clear a farm from the wilderness. Later he erected a substantial, two-story, hewed log house, and other necessary farm buildings, and resided there until his death in 1863. His widow is still living on the old homestead. There were eight children in their family, as follows: Anton, who died at the old home in 1888; Mary, who married Joseph Lemberger, is now deceased; Katrina, who married John Steiner, and lives in Manitowoc County, Wis.; Theresa, who married Henry Fetzer, and lives in Lancaster County, Neb.; Frances, who married Fabian Heitzmann, and lives in Gage County, Neb.; Joseph, who lives in Manitowoc County; Mrs. Guthmann; Maggie, who married John Smith, and lives in Manitowoc County, Wis.

The life of Mr. Guthmann has been an active one, full of enterprise and stirring incident, and through all he preserved the cool headedness and good judgment which enabled him to acquire the fortune he is now enjoying. On an adjoining page appears an excellent portrait of this well-known resident.

AMSDEL SHELDON, a practical and well-to-do farmer of Avoca Precinct, owns a good homestead property on section 19, and has within the precinct, all told, 480 acres. The land is fertile and valuable, and in addition to this Mr. Sheldon has 279 acres in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County. The whole is well developed and supplied with good improvements. The homestead buildings are more than ordinarily tasteful and substantial, and the Sheldon family occupies no unimportant position among the intelligent people in good circumstances along the southern line of the county.

Mr. Sheldon has been a resident of Avoca only since 1884, removing to this place from Berlin Pre-

cinct, Otoe County, where he had resided a period of fifteen years. He settled in that county in the spring of 1869, and built up a good homestead from the uncultivated prairie. His arrival in Nebraska was the completion of a long journey from New England and the Green Mountain State, where he was born in Windsor County, Sept. 27, 1839. His father, Joel Sheldon, was a well-to-do Windsor County farmer, who later migrated to Michigan in 1830, where he spent a few years, then returned to his native haunts, and in 1869 came to Nebraska with his two sons, and died here in March, 1875, at the age of seventy-four years. He was born in February, 1801, and was the son of Jacob Sheldon, a native of either Vermont or New Hampshire, and who married a Miss Lovejoy. They afterward lived in both Windham and Rutland Counties, Vt., and passed their last days in the latter county. Joel Sheldon, the father of our subject, upon reaching manhood was married in Windsor County, Vt., to Miss Fidelia Pettigrew, who was born and reared there. She is yet living, and makes her home with her son, Lawson Sheldon, in Nehawka Village, this county, and is now arrived at the advanced age of eighty-three years.

The subject of this sketch is one of twins, the two youngest of six children born to his parents, and he lived with them until reaching his majority. He was a single man upon coming to Nebraska, but found a bride in Otoe County, being married Sept. 3, 1874, to Miss Celia Ellis. This lady was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., Sept. 5, 1852, and came to Nebraska with her parents in her girlhood. The latter were Lathrop and Elmeria (Ward) Ellis, who settled in Otoe County about 1866. The father is still living on a farm there, and is now past his threescore years and ten. The mother died in middle life in 1862.

Mrs. Sheldon received a very good education in the schools of her native county, pursuing her studies for a time in Oshkosh, Wis. Later she developed into a teacher, and followed this profession in Wisconsin and Nebraska City before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are three children—Carrie I., Esther C. and Lucian A. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon are favorites in the social circles of their community, and their home forms one of its most pleasant places of resort. Mrs. Sheldon is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church, attending services at Avoca. Mr. Sheldon, politically, is a solid Republican, giving his undivided support to the principles of his party. He has officiated as Assessor of Avoca Precinct, and socially, belongs to Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F.

DANIEL D. ANDRUS is extensively identified with the agricultural interests of Cass County, owning one of the largest and best managed farms in Centre Precinct. Its 600 broad and fertile acres, lying on sections 15, 16, 21 and 22, are all under good tillage, yielding abundant harvests, and the fine pastures support large herds of well-graded stock.

The subject of this biographical notice was born in Orleans County, N. Y., Nov. 13, 1835. His father, A. B. Andrus, was born in the same State in 1811, and lived there until 1852, when he went to California by steamer, and staid there until 1856. During his sojourn in that Eldorado he made good use of his time and secured a good share of gold dust. After his return to his old home he went to Iowa and lived for several years. He subsequently came to the home of our subject, and died here in 1885. His widow is still living in Iowa. Her maiden name was Olive Bradway, and to her and her husband were born five children, two of whom are living.

Daniel Andrus was reared in his native county to a stalwart and vigorous manhood, remaining an inmate of his old home until he was twenty years old. At that age he went to Jones County, Iowa, arriving there in January, 1856. He there engaged in farming and stock dealing quite extensively. While a resident of Iowa Mr. Andrus met and married Miss Louisa Ewing, and to them have come six children, five of whom are still living, namely: Charles B., Clifton M., Daniel D., Jr., Fred W. and Olive E. All are at home. They have been given excellent opportunities to secure an education, and have been trained to good and honorable lives. Mrs. Andrus was born in Pennsylvania, June 1, 1840, and lived there until about 1859, when she

accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ewing, to Jackson County, Iowa, and from there to Bowen's Prairie, Jones Co., Iowa, where she lived until her marriage.

Mr. Andrus came to Nebraska in 1864, and spent the ensuing years in Omaha and Grand Island. In 1868 he came to Cass County and bought a farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, and made his home on that for a short time. Finally, after several changes, he came here in 1875, and bought the land included in his present place, which was then mostly wild prairie. He has since added to it until he now owns one of the largest farms in the county. He has set out a fine grove, embracing about eight acres, including a good orchard. In 1876–77 he erected a substantial residence, and has made many other valuable improvements. The farm is well cultivated and is devoted to raising stock and grain.

As Mr. Andrus has been a powerful factor in developing the agricultural resources of this precinct, he is naturally a man of weight and influence in its public affairs, and he has often been called upon to hold both precinct and school offices, his fellow-citizens gladly availing themselves of his counsel and wisdom in carrying out schemes for the improvement of the township, or for the advancement of education within its limits. He is a man of far-reaching foresight, with business talents of a high order, and superior powers of judgment. He is independent in his political views, but generally casts his vote with the Republicans.

THOMAS MITCHELL, who worthily represents the industrial interests of Plattsmouth as a carpenter, was a pioneer of this city and county, and has contributed his share in developing them from the wild, sparsely settled prairie that he found on his arrival here in the days of 1857. He was born near Xenia, Greene Co., Ohio, Aug. 27, 1811. His father, James Mitchell, was a native of Pennsylvania, but it is not known where his grandfather, David Mitchell, was born, only that he was of foreign parentage. He was for several years engaged in his occupation of farmer in Pennsylvania, but in 1792 he removed from there to Kentucky, and was one of the pioneers of Fayette County in the time of Daniel Boone's residence there. The Indians were then numerous and hostile, and at one time, while Mr. Mitchell was out with a scouting party, in quest of a party of savages who had stolen some horses, the latter lay in ambush, surprised the white men, and killed some of them. Mr. Mitchell was severely wounded, but managed to escape alive. He moved with his family to Ohio in 1802, and was an early settler there. He took up a tract of timber land, from which he commenced to develop a farm, and continued to reside there until his death, June 10, 1817, in his eightieth year. Margaret Mitchell, his wife, died Feb. 4, 1825, and they now lie peacefully sleeping in Massie's Creek Cemetery, near Xenia.

The father of our subject went to Kentucky at the same time that his parents did, and also accompanied them to Ohio a few years later. He bought a tract of timber land near Xenia, and built a log house thereon for the shelter of his family, and in that humble dwelling our subject was afterward born. Mr. Mitchell cleared a farm and lived on it some years, when he had an opportunity to trade it for one nearer to his father's land, and there he made his home until his death in 1850. He had gone to Greene County as a pioneer in the early days of its settlement, and in the forty-eight years that he passed there, years fraught with labor and hardships at first, wherein he had won a comfortable competence, he witnessed great changes, and was himself one of the factors in bringing them about. In the early days there were no markets anywhere in that section, and after the completion of the canal Dayton was the nearest market for some years. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Martha Espy, and she was born in Pennsylvania. Her father, Josiah Espy, was, it is thought, a native of Pennsylvania. He moved from there at the same time the Mitchell family did to Kentucky, and there died in November, 1801. His wife, Elizabeth Epsy, died in Ohio, Nov. 19, 1809. The mother of our subject resided with her parents until her marriage, and was carefully trained in the art of spinning flax and wool. She was an excellent housewife, and in the days

when stoves were almost unknown did her cooking by the fire in the huge, old-fashioned fireplace. She died at the home of a daughter in Xenia, Ohio, in 1863, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. There were thirteen children born to her and her husband, all of whom grew up and eleven of them are married. Their names are Margaret, David, Eliza, Ann, Maria, James E., Josiah, Martha, Thomas, Sarah, Robert A., Francis P. and Samuel K.

Thomas Mitchell was reared in his native county, and there learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, following it in different parts of Ohio, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and New York. In 1839 he located in Warren County, Ohio, and resided there until 1850. From there he went to Loveland, Clermont Co., Ohio, and at the expiration of four years' residence there went to Cincinnati, where he was actively engaged at his trade until 1857. Shrewdly foreseeing that in a newly settled Territory like Nebraska his work as a carpenter would be in great demand, he resolved to locate here, and in the month of May came to Plattsmouth, with his family, by way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The land here was at that time nearly all owned by the Government and for sale at $1.25 an acre. There were but few inhabitants here, and only a short distance to the westward deer, antelopes and other wild game roamed the prairies. He immediately entered land from the Government, but he never resided on it, as he commenced to work at carpentering that summer in Plattsmouth, and has been a continuous resident here since; and thus he has witnessed the entire growth of the city, and has aided it not a little, as he was considered a very skillful and faithful workman, and his services were in constant demand as a builder. By his industry and the judicious management of his monetary affairs he has been enabled to lay up a competence, so that his declining years may be spent free from care.

Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage to Jane Clendenin, Aug. 12, 1841, and for twenty years they faithfully shared life's burdens, and were then called to part, she dying in 1861. She was a native of Warren County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Samuel and Cynthia Clendenin. She was an exemplary woman, and her death was felt far beyond the family circle by the many friends who had been attracted to her by her genial disposition. Ten children blessed her union with her husband, seven of whom grew to maturity, three dying in infancy. The names of the former are Cordelia, James, Martha, Francis L., Cynthia, George W. and Charles.

Mr. Mitchell is a straightforward man, whose word is considered as good as a bond, and in him the Presbyterian Church finds a valued member, who cheerfully aids all schemes for the moral elevation of society. He is a thorough believer in the policy of the Republican party, of which he has been a member since its formation. Before that time he was a Whig, and cast his first vote for Gen. Harrison, of Tippecanoe fame, in 1840, and after a lapse of forty-eight years voted for that illustrious President's grandson, the Gen. Harrison of the present day.

BENJAMIN F. LANG, M. D., the only homeopathic physician in Weeping Water, enjoys an extensive and lucrative business, and bears the reputation of being a conscientious practitioner and valuable as a member of the community. He was born thirty-three years ago on the rugged New England Coast in Somerset County, Me., Dec. 12, 1855, and lived there until reaching man's estate. Upon leaving the primary schools he entered the Friends' Classical School in Providence, R. I., where he was a student four years, taking the full course, and acquitting himself with great honor. Soon after leaving school he became private tutor in the family of Moses Bailey, of Winthrop, Me., and a year later entered upon the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. Byron Porter, one of the most prominent and successful physicians of Newport, Me. He remained a resident of his native State some time thereafter, and took lectures in Bowdoin Medical Institute and the Cincinnati Medical College, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1883.

Dr. Lang, when leaving New England and after completing his medical studies, began the regular practice of his profession in Bainbridge, Ross Co.,

Ohio, of which he remained a resident until coming to Nebraska in September of 1886. In his introduction of the homeopathic system of practice, he finds many adherents and a generally favorable feeling toward the simple methods of this school. His success has naturally been largely influential in building up this feeling among the people in the central and southern portions of the county, where he numbers a large list of patrons. Although his residence here has been comparatively brief, his labors have met with a most generous response. His main office is located in the new Gibson Block, on I street, and he has an elegant home, a very large two-story residence, which he has built since coming here, and which is the result of his two years' work—a showing which he may justly look upon with pride.

Dr. Lang was married in Shreve, Wayne Co., Ohio, Dec. 6, 1883, to Miss Clara Hughes, who was born at Moreland, Ohio, Dec. 6, 1855, being married on her birthday. They have had two children, but only one is living, Edith May, who was born Nov. 13, 1885. Mrs. Lang received a good education, being graduated from the High School in her native town, and thereafter followed the profession of a teacher for a period of thirteen years. Her parents were John and Susan (Caveny) Hughes, the former a native of Wayne County, Ohio. They are both living, making their home in Shreve, of which place the father is at present the Mayor. He was for many years engaged as a merchant, but is now retired from active labor. Both parents are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their son James is Judge of the Circuit Court at Mattoon, Ill., and another son is a successful practicing attorney of David City, this State.

Dr. Lang and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Weeping Water, in which the Doctor officiates as chorister of the church and Sunday-school. He is a solid Republican politically, although carefully avoiding the cares and responsibilities of official honors, preferring to give his time and attention to his profession. He is prominently connected with the Homeopathic State Medical Society of Nebraska.

Hon. Peter H. Lang, the father of our subject, was born in Palmyra, Me., March 4, 1828, and has lived there all his life, engaged mostly in farming and stock-raising and also in general merchandising. He was married to Miss Nancy E. Farnham, in 1852, and they became the parents of five children. The parents in religious matters belong to the Society of Friends. Peter Lang was elected to the Maine Legislature in 1881, serving his term acceptably, and has held various offices in his county, officiating as Sheriff, Justice of the Peace, and in other positions of trust. Samuel S. Lang, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Bath, N. H., and spent his life from the age of twenty in Maine.

RUSSELL A. ASHMUN. In the career of this gentleman we find an excellent example for young men just embarking in the field of active life, of what may be accomplished by a man beginning with modest means, but honest, prudent and industrious. He came to Nebraska in June, 1869, two years after it had been admitted into the Union as a State, and settling on section 12, Weeping Water Precinct, proceeded to construct a farm from the elements of the primitive soil. It required no small amount of energy and perseverance during the first years of his residence here to combat the various difficulties which beset him, in common with his neighbors, but he has come out of the strife with flying colors. He now has one of the best regulated farms in the precinct, the improvements of which he has brought about mostly through his own personal efforts, and which consist of a good set of buildings, a flourishing apple orchard four acres in extent, a grove of forest trees of his own planting, substantial fencing, a goodly assortment of live stock, and the farm machinery indispensable to the progressive agriculturist. The present residence was completed in the summer of 1888, and is in modern style of architecture, forming, with its surroundings, one of the attractive homes along the southern line of the county. His farming operations include the breeding of cattle, including blooded Holsteins and Short-horns, and he also has some first-class horses, both roadsters and for farm purposes. The prem-

ises form a scene delightful to the eye, and as an illustration of industry and perseverance most pleasing to contemplate.

William Ashmun, the father of our subject, lived for many years on a farm northeast of what was called Talmage Center, Talmage Township, Summit Co., Ohio, and at this homestead the subject of our sketch was born, Sept. 25, 1847. He pursued his first studies in the little school-house at the "Four Corners," and later attended the academy at the "Center," completing a practical education. He remained at the homestead until a young man twenty-two years of age, then turned his face toward the farther West, and across the Father of Waters, resolving to cast his lot among the pioneers of Nebraska. Here also he found his bride, being married, Nov. 20, 1872, to Miss Ella Weaver. Mrs. Ashmun is also a native of Ohio, and was born Feb. 5, 1853, in Tuscarawas County. She lived there until about three years old, and then removed with her adopted parents to Missouri, from there to Iowa, where she lived until the fall of 1870, when they took up their residence in Weeping Water Precinct, this county. Her adopted parents are Jacob and Emily (Weaver) Walter, natives of Ohio, and the father a harness-maker by occupation. They are residents of Denver, Colo. Of this union there have been born eight children, six of whom are living, namely: Edward, Frank, Charles, Royal, Walter and Sterling H. In the sketch of Henry Ashmun, a brother of our subject, and which will be found on another page, is noted the parental history. The Ashmun family is widely and favorably known throughout the northeastern part of Ohio as belonging to the best element of that section, being generally people well-to-do, highly intelligent, and prominent in their community.

JOHN M. FOWLER. The subject of this biography, as a son of one of the earliest pioneers of Cass County, and one who has borne worthily the mantle of his honored sire, deserves more than passing mention. He is pleasantly located on a good farm of 160 acres on section 6, one and one-half miles east of Weeping Water. This land was secured by his father as a pre-emption claim in 1858, nine years before Nebraska was admitted into the Union as a State.

Charles Fowler, the father of our subject, here began life as a pioneer, giving to his homestead his best efforts, and remaining upon it until his death, which took place April 21, 1884. He was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in 1825, and traced his ancestry to the Empire of Germany. When he was a mere boy his parents removed from New York State to Pennsylvania, settling in Mercer County, where Charles was reared to manhood and married Miss Esther A. Brakeman. This lady, the mother of our subject, was a native of Pennsylvania, and of Holland-Dutch descent.

After their marriage Charles Fowler and his young wife began life together on a farm in the Keystone State, having little besides their courageous hearts and strong hands with which to labor. After the birth of three children, the father, desirous of bettering his financial condition, resolved upon seeking the Far West. Disposing of his interests in Mercer County, Pa., he started overland with his little family to Nebraska, which became the field of his future operations through life. He was prospered in his labors as a pioneer and an agriculturist, securing a competency for his old age, and retired from active labor about six years before his death, leaving the farm and taking up his abode in Weeping Water. There the mother is still living, occupying a comfortable home in Park addition, and is now fifty-nine years old. She is a lady widely respected, and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Charles Fowler, politically, was a lifelong Democrat, a man of decided views, and one who kept himself well informed upon matters of interest to the intelligent citizen.

The subject of this sketch, the third child of the parental family, was born in Mercer County, Pa., June 14, 1856. He came with his parents to Nebraska Territory when but a lad, and was reared to manhood in this county. He became at an early age familiar with the various employments of farm life, and has been content to make of agriculture his independent vocation. He found his wife in Avoca Precinct, being married Dec. 10, 1877, to

Miss Laura J. Compton, one of its most estimable young ladies. Mrs. Fowler is a native of Tama County, Iowa, where her birth took place March 15, 1858. She came with her parents to Nebraska in the spring of 1875. The latter, Elias and Nancy A. (Jenkins) Compton, are now living on a farm in Avoca Precinct, of which they have been residents for the last thirteen years. They are natives of Ohio, and are numbered among the highly respected citizens of this county.

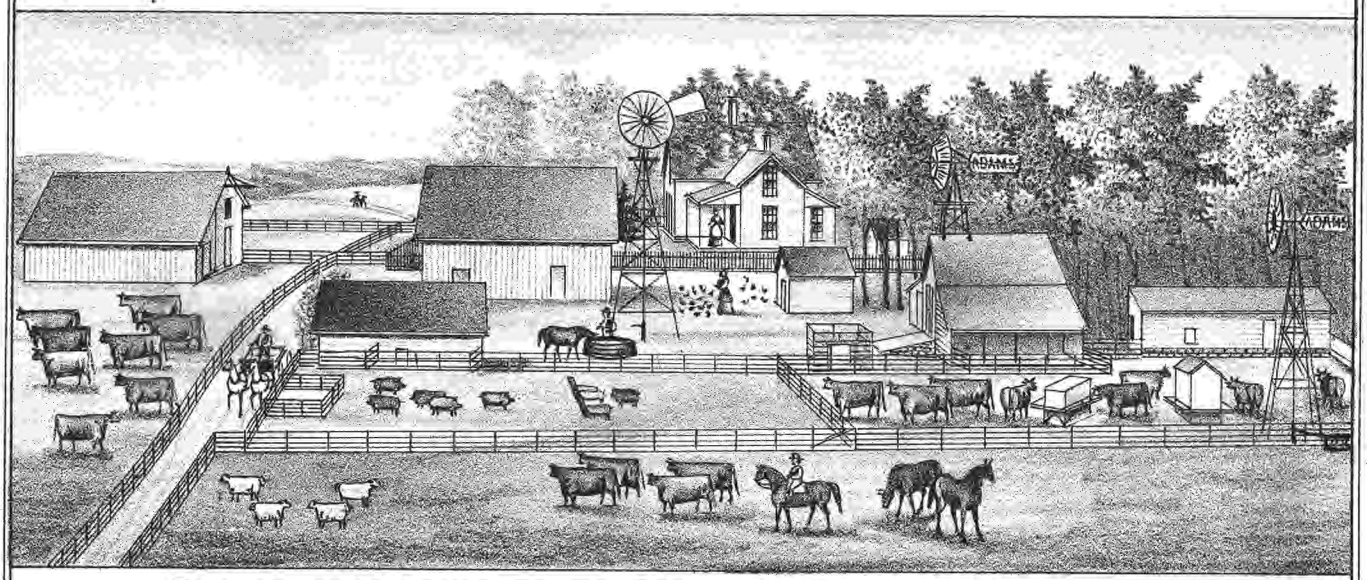
Mrs. Fowler was educated in the Hawkeye State, and received careful home training from an excellent mother. She remained under the parental roof until her marriage. The household circle of Mr. and Mrs. Fowler was completed by the birth of six children, namely: George L., Alice M., Eddie L., Mabel A., Myrtle M. and Charles. The homestead with its appurtenances suggests the idea of plenty and comfort, and is noticeable among the other well-regulated farms along the southern line of the county. Mr. Fowler uniformly votes the straight Democratic ticket, but further from this takes no part in politics, preferring to give his undivided attention to his farming interests.

JOHN B. HOLMES. The subject of this sketch has built up one of the finest estates in Rock Bluff Precinct, which comprises one of the most valuable farms within its borders, embellished with substantial buildings, including a very handsome and commodious two-story brick residence, constructed in modern style of architecture. There is probably not a more attractive home along the eastern line of the county, and its inmates are people of more than ordinary intelligence. There are four children at present under the home roof, namely: Willie A., John H., Alvin A. and Elizabeth. The eldest daughter, Christina, is the wife of C. W. Nix, and lives in Custer County, this State.

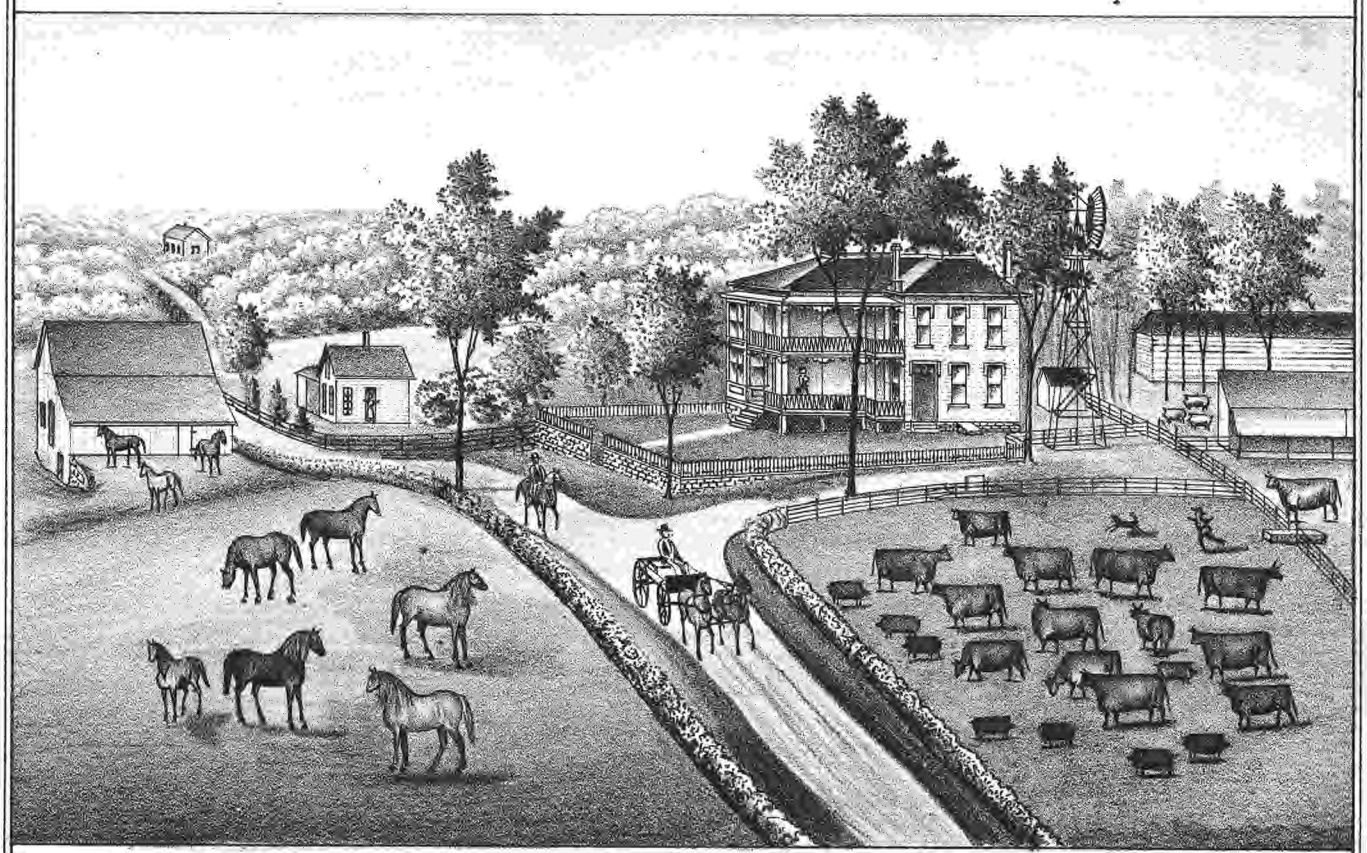
Our subject traces his ancestry to Scotland, of which his paternal grandfather, John Holmes, was a native, and was born near the city of Glasgow. When reaching man's estate he married a lady of that city, and they emigrated to the United States about 1805, locating in Delaware County, N. Y., in the midst of a timber tract, from which the hardy Scotch pioneer built up a good homestead, and there with his estimable wife spent the remainder of his days. They were the parents of five children, of whom the eldest, a daughter, Mary, remained in Scotland, and as far as known is still living. When quite young she was adopted by a wealthy aunt, a Mrs. Miller, from whom she inherited a large property. One of the sons, Robert, lived in Scotland until he became the father of grown sons, Harry and Robert, Jr., whom he subsequently accompanied to the United States. They are living in New York, but the father returned to Scotland, looking his last upon the scenes of earth in his native country, where his bones were laid to rest. The other son, Walter, the father of our subject, was a lad six years of age when he came with his parents to America. He was reared to manhood on the farm in Delaware County, N. Y., and married Miss Elizabeth Blair. He took his bride to the old homestead, where they lived until after the death of the wife and mother. Of their children, thirteen in number, John B. was the fourth in order of birth, and of that large family only five survive. Three brothers, Thomas, Archibald M. and John B., reside in this county. The two sisters still live in Delaware County, N. Y. R. Elizabeth is the wife of William Blair, and lives in Hamden; and Agnes is the wife of Samuel Terry, living in Walton.

A few years after the settlement of the Holmes family in New York State our subject began to assist his father in the various employments of the pioneer farm, and upon reaching man's estate was married, Jan. 3, 1855, to Miss Mary A., daughter of Samuel and Pauline (Holmes) Law. Mrs. Holmes was born Dec. 18, 1830, in Greene County, N. Y., and spent the years of her childhood and youth under the parental roof, acquiring her education in the district schools. Her parents were natives of New York. Her father died in 1888. Her mother is still living. Their family consisted of nine children, five of whom are yet living, three in Nebraska and two in New York State.

Mr. Holmes in the spring of 1865, leaving the Empire State, came to Nebraska Territory, and the year following purchased 160 acres of land on



RESIDENCE OF LOUIS FOLTZ, SEC. 33. MT. PLEASANT PRECT. CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF J. B. HOLMES, SEC. 18. (11.-14.) ROCK BLUFF PRECT. CASS CO.

section 18, in Rock Bluff Precinct, which he has since added to his estate, and it now comprises 540 acres, and there he has since been a resident. His father joined him in the spring of 1867, remaining with him two years, then returned to the old home in New York State, where his death took place in the year 1871, when he was sixty-three years old. For a period of fifteen years he had voted with the Republican party, of which our subject is also a most decided adherent. The family, except John B., as far back as is known, belonged to the Presbyterian Church. The Holmes family comprise a portion of the solid element of Cass County, and have contributed their full quota in building up its present enviable reputation and advancing its prosperity and welfare. On his extensive farm Mr. Holmes usually feeds from 200 to 300 head of cattle. He is also engaged in breeding high-grade Norman and Clydesdale horses, some of which are full blood, and eligible to be registered in the American herd book. His cattle run from thoroughbred Short-horns down to grades.

We invite the reader's attention to a fine view of the elegant home of Mr. Holmes on an accompanying page of this work.

LOUIS FOLTZ, a representative citizen and thorough-going farmer, resides on his highly improved farm on section 33 of Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He was born Feb. 23, 1840, in Holmes County, Ohio, where he lived, dividing his time between labor on the farm and attending public school, until he enlisted in the Union Army, May 2, 1861, in Company G, 16th Ohio Infantry, as a private soldier. The regiment of which he was a member formed a part of the corps commanded by Gen. Morrison. Their field of operation was in Virginia and West Virginia. He took an active part in many skirmishes and engagements, but the largest portion of his duty was confined to the garrison and guarding property. He was honorably discharged in September, 1861, when he returned to Holmes County, Ohio.

Mr. Foltz was married, on the 4th of December, 1862, to Miss Susan Stucker, a native of Holmes County, where she was born April 3, 1838. She is a daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth Stucker, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Her parental ancestors were of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Foltz have an interesting family of four children, namely: William J.; Mary R., now the wife of E. Munson, residing in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Andrew J., deceased, and David. After his marriage, our subject with his family resided in Holmes County until the spring of 1876, when he removed to Cass County, Neb. In the fall of the same year he settled on his present farm, which now embraces 440 acres of land, a large portion of which is under a high state of cultivation. He also owns 160 acres in Stove Creek Precinct, in all, 600 acres of valuable land.

Mr. Foltz is a son of Solomon and Rebecca Foltz. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania, who removed from their native State and settled in Holmes County, Ohio, at a very early date, nearly a half-century ago. They resided there until 1862, when they migrated to Cass County, Neb., and settled in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where the mother died in 1882. The father now resides with our subject, and is past seventy years of age, in splendid health, bidding fair to live for many years. His paternal ancestors were German; his grandfather, David Foltz, served as a soldier in the American Army during the War of 1812.

A large family of children, ten in number, were born to the parents of our subject, nine of whom are living, namely: Louis, who was the eldest; Louisa, now the wife of Mr. John Shelton, residing in Weeping Water; David resides in Cheyenne County; Frederick resides in Elmwood Precinct; Barbara E. is the wife of Samuel Bergen, and resides in Kansas; Catherine is the wife of Robert Lockston, and resides in Fillmore County, Neb.; Susan, now Mrs. Brant, resides in Nebraska; Mary is the wife of Caye Wright, and resides in Nebraska; Joseph resides in Stove Creek Precinct, this county, and Rose A. is deceased. The parents of Mrs. Foltz had a family of six children, namely: Catherine, who resides in Wayne County, Ohio; Mary A. is the wife of George McElroy, and resides in Greene County, Ind.; Christina is the wife of S. J. Cutter, and resides in Holmes County, Ohio; Susan is the

wife of our subject; George resides in Clinton County, Mo., and Ohio Stucker resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct.

Mr. Foltz is a level-headed, clear-thinking man, thoroughly well posted in all matters pertaining to successful farming, and is a self-made man in all respects. The elegant property which he has accumulated is the direct result of his own application and energy. Coming to Nebraska at an early day, with means very limited in amount, he has applied himself so closely to the business in which he is engaged that he has acquired the fine property with which he is now surrounded. He is in politics a thorough-going Democrat, and has served his friends and neighbors in various official capacities. In 1884 he was elected as one of the County Commissioners of Cass County, and was re-elected to the same office in the fall of 1887, from a district which usually gave a handsome Republican majority. He is a member of LaFayette Post No. 60, G. A. R., at Weeping Water, and takes an active interest in all that pertains to the educational, political or religious benefit of the precinct. Both himself and wife are active members of society, in which they fill a conspicuous place. They are both open hearted and generous, and their home is the abode of peace and comfort. They are both well known throughout Cass County, and they take rank among its foremost citizens.

The home of Mr. Foltz and family, one of the most comfortable in Mt. Pleasant, is shown on another page of this ALBUM.

HENRY L. MESSNER. Those who suppose that there is required in the prosecution of farming little skill and no education, are vastly mistaken, as they will find upon experience and observation. The biographer in obtaining a record of the events which have transpired during the early settlement of Cass County, finds among its successful agriculturists the most intelligent element of this region. Among these the subject of this sketch occupies no secondary position. His industry and enterprise are proverbial in the community where he has operated with results of which he has reason to be proud. His property lies on section 25, South Bend Precinct, and comprises 800 acres of land, which produce in abundance the rich crops of Nebraska. He commenced in a modest manner his operations as an agriculturist in this section of country, and battled with the difficulties experienced by the pioneer of twenty years ago, suffering from the ravages of grasshoppers two years in succession, and fighting his way through the other disadvantages common to that time. Besides the home farm, he purchased land in Louisville and Elmwood Precincts, his whole estate at one time comprising 1,280 acres. This was largely devoted to stock-raising, Mr. Messner finding this industry the most profitable, and perhaps carried on with less of labor than the tilling of the soil, although he raises grain in sufficient quantities to feed his stock.

We find in the career of Mr. Messner a man essentially the architect of his own fortune. Upon coming to Cass County, in the fall of 1869, he settled at a point on Cedar Creek, and employed himself by the day or month as he could secure work, while his winters were occupied in teaching school. He was the first pedagogue in Cedar Creek district, and a favorite alike with pupils and parents. He was born in Monroe County, Ohio, near the little village of Lebanon, Feb. 6, 1849, and was the fourth in a family of five children, two sons and three daughters, comprising the offspring of Adam and Elizabeth (Smith) Messner. The parents were both natives of the Province of Alsace, now in Germany, whence they emigrated to the United States after their marriage, settling first in Washington County, Pa., where the father carried on farming for a time, and then changed his residence to Monroe County, Ohio. In the latter he built up a good homestead, where, with his excellent wife, he still resides. They took up their residence in the Buckeye State in 1847, and are now quite aged, the father being in his seventy-second year and the mother nearing her sixty-eighth birthday.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was Philip Smith, also a native of the Fatherland, who served under Napoleon Bonaparte, and was taken a prisoner at the battle of Waterloo. He lived to attain the advanced age of one hundred and eight years.

His wife was, in her girlhood, Elizabeth Rodhon. Our subject was reared at the farm in Monroe County, Ohio, and acquired a practical education in the common schools. He was bright and ambitious beyond his years, and when a lad of fourteen started out for himself, entering the employ of the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad Company, which was then operating between Parkersburg and Cincinnati. A year later he returned to the old roof-tree, and fortified himself for life's future duties by a further attendance at school, finally developing into a teacher, which profession he followed in the Buckeye State for several terms.

Before his departure for the West Mr. Messner provided himself with a wife and helpmate, being married in 1869, to Miss Lydia Haney, a native of his own county, and the daughter of Evan Haney. He arrived upon the soil of Nebraska with two suits of clothes and $51 in money, and spent the winter following with his wife's brother, Mr. Nicholas Haney, who had settled on Cedar Creek. The following spring he homesteaded forty acres of land, upon which he made some improvements, and sold four years later for the snug sum of $750. This seemed quite a bonanza in those days, and he iuvested the proceeds in 160 acres in the same precinct, which he occupied two years, at the expiration of which time he received a visitation from the grasshoppers two years in succession. The siege being more than he could cheerfully withstand, he sold out, and purchased eighty acres in Elmwood Precinct, upon which he lived nine years, having good crops almost every year. He invested his surplus capital in additional land from time to time, and his large property is mostly included in South Bend Precinct. A part of this, however, he afterward disposed of, and has now 800 acres, all in one body. In his live-stock operations he makes a specialty of cattle and swine, having usually of the former 270 head, and ships frequently three carloads of the latter a year.

Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of the following living children: Eliza, Nancy B.; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Albert Keller, of this county; Henry, James and Charles, all at home with their parents. Two are deceased. Mr. Messner, politically, is a solid Democrat, but otherwise than serving as a member of the School Board for the last six years, has declined becoming an office-holder. He maintains that to make a success of any business a man must give to it his whole attention, and not be meddling too much with outside matters. The theory adhered to has doubtless been the secret of his success.

JOHN TURNER, an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser on section 20, Stove Creek Precinct, where he has 120 acres of well-improved, arable land, is of Virginian birth, born in Randolph County, Dec. 26, 1841. William Turner, his paternal grandfather, a native of Pennsylvania, was of German descent. He moved from his native State to Virginia, and there purchased a farm, on which he spent his last years.

James Turner, father of our subject, was born in Randolph County, Va., in 1816, and married Miss Martha Abernathy, in Hampshire County, the same State, where she was born in 1819. He was a farmer, and after his marriage returned to Randolph County, where he worked at farming during the summers, and at shoemaking in the winter seasons. In 1844 he sold his farm of 190 acres in that State, and moved to Alleghany County, Md., but nine years later returned to Virginia and bought a farm of 200 acres in Barbour County. He improved it well, and in 1865 sold out and moved to Iowa, where he bought 230 acres of land, lying near Granville, Mahaska County, where he remained until his death in October, 1882. Mrs. Turner preceded him to the better land, having died in Iowa some years before. Both were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he had been Class-Leader for several years. Of their union twelve children were born, as follows: E. S., Aaron (deceased), John, James, Mary M., Sarah E. (deceased, Lucy A., Daniel (deceased), an infant (deceased), Theodore, Laura B. and LaFayette S. John Abernathy, maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Ireland. In early life he emigrated to the United States, and settled in Hampshire County, Va., where he bought a large farm. His eyesight

failed during the last part of his life, and before his death he became entirely blind. He was a man of great stature and vigorous intellect.

The subject of our sketch was only three years old when his parents moved to Maryland, and there he received the greater part of his education, attending a pay school during the time he was there. After the removal of his parents to Barbour County, Va., he had only one term's schooling, being obliged to assist his father on the farm from that time until twenty years of age. In 1861 our subject went into the war as teamster, continuing thus engaged for some months. He then returned home and worked on the farm six months, and in 1863 started a lumber business in Maryland. The following year Mr. Turner went to Ohio, and that summer pushed on further West, and in Mahaska County, Iowa, rented a farm on which he lived six years. Then, deciding that it was time that he was establishing a home of his own, our subject went to Lancaster County, Neb., where he took up a homestead claim in Rock Creek. Three years later he sold out his improvements and claim, and in 1874 moved to Stove Creek Precinct, and bought his present farm of eighty acres. There were no trees on the place, and only thirty-six acres had been broken. He has toiled unceasingly for its improvement, and has now over forty acres in grain, the farm fenced and cross-fenced, and a good bearing orchard. He has also purchased forty acres in addition, which he has under cultivation, and he carries on general farming and stock-raising, having fine cattle, good graded horses, and twelve or fifteen head of ponies.

The marriage of Mr. Turner with Miss Ann M. Squires was solemnized in Granville, Mahaska Co., Iowa, Nov. 22, 1866. She is a daughter of Nehemiah and Olive (Fortney) Squires, natives of Preston County, Va., born in 1815 and 1820 respectively. Thomas Squires, Nehemiah's father, was a native of Virginia, of German descent. By trade he was a blacksmith. Henry Fortney, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Turner, was a native of Virginia, engaged in agricultural pursuits. The father of Mrs. Turner was a blacksmith in his native State, and carried on a good business. In 1856 he removed to Davis County, Iowa, where he put up a blacksmith-shop, and also rented the adjoining farm, continuing there until 1863, when he removed to Lineville, the same State, and engaged in blacksmithing. In 1864 he removed to Schuyler County, Mo., where he purchased a farm of 120 acres, and there he still lives, engaged in farming and blacksmithing. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a devout Christian. His worthy wife departed this life in 1861. To them had been born eight children, namely: Cornelius, Ann Matilda, Ellen, Hattie, Henry, Jerome, George, Olive. Jerome is deceased; Cornelius served in defense of his country during the late Civil War, enlisting in Company E, 3d Iowa Cavalry, and joined the army in 1861. He was mustered out at Arkansas, and honorably discharged in 1864. Mrs. Turner was born during the residence of her parents in Barbour County, Va., Jan. 17, 1843. She attended a pay school there until twelve years of age, and then a free school. She afterward moved with her parents to Iowa, remaining in her home until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been four children, namely: Oscar S., Melvin T., James L., and an infant deceased.

Mr. Turner is an industrious man, highly respected throughout the community for his many admirable traits of character. In all local affairs he takes an intelligent interest, and has served with ability as Supervisor and School Trustee. Socially, he is a member of the A. O. U. W., and in politics is a stanch Republican. Mrs. Turner is a pleasant, hospitable woman, and a sincere member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ALBERT U. MAYFIELD, of Elmwood, editor of the Elmwood *Echo*, is a native of this State, being born near Louisville, Neb., March 14, 1865. He prepared himself for future usefulness by attending the common schools where he lived, and a course in the High School at Plattsmouth, which latter he completed in 1881, shortly after which he went into the newspaper business as assistant in the office of the Louisville *Observer*. In 1885, in company with his brother, he edited the *Hawkeye* in Greenwood. This part-

nership was dissolved in 1886, when our subject settled in Elmwood and began the publication of the *Echo*, which was a six-column folio. In the fall of 1887 the paper was enlarged to a six-column quarto. The success of the paper was assured from the start, having an ever-increasing subscription list, and a handsome advertising patronage. This success is due exclusively to the energy and knowledge of the business possessed by its able editor. The prospects are very bright that in a short time the *Echo* will be one of, if not the, leading paper of the county.

The subject of our sketch is one of a family of eight children, Clarence G., Eugene O. and Winnefred being older, and Leroy J., Rosa M., George A. and Olin M., being younger. He was married, in Burlington, Iowa, to Miss Milly Volkmer, Feb. 13, 1887. His wife was born in Berlin, Germany; she is highly educated and refined, and is at heart a thorough American. They have one child, Moyne.

Mr. Mayfield is identified with the order of the Knights of Pythias, Master of Exchequer; at present Warden of the I. O. O. F.; Inside Guard of the A. O. U. W.; and a member of the Christian Church.

The father of our subject, George W. Mayfield, was born in Indiana, and is a minister in the Christian Church. In 1857 he removed from Indiana to Plattsmouth, Neb. During the war he freighted between Plattsmouth and Denver with an ox-team. He entered a homestead claim near Louisville, which he improved. He sold it and removed to Salt Creek, being one of the first settlers in that section, acquiring 160 acres of wild land, which he fully improved. During this time he served in the Christian ministry, having a charge to which he preached every Sunday, at Loader schoolhouse. In 1875 he sold his land and went into the mercantile business, opening the second store in Greenwood, where he did a successful business. He continued this four years, then removed to Plattsmouth, and formed a connection with the *Herald* in that city.

In 1882 the father of our subject removed to Louisville, where he established the *Weekly Observer* in company with his son Eugene O. At the end of two years the son went to Greenwood, and is now in Omaha, Neb., in the job printing business. The father continues editing the *Observer*, and preaching in the Christian Church at Louisville.

The mother of our subject, Emeline E. Todd, was born in Jamestown, N. Y. Grandfather Thomas J. Todd was a contractor and builder in New York, and removed to Plattsmouth in 1857, and entered a homestead on Four Mile Creek, near that town. In 1880 he retired to Plattsmouth, where he had built one of the handsomest residences on Chicago avenue. He died there in 1881.

Grandfather George W. Mayfield served in the War of 1812 against England. He was of English descent, and could trace his ancestry back to the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock.

HENRY ASHMUN, senior member of the firm of Henry Ashmun & Co., is, with his partners, conducting one of the most flourishing hardware establishments in the city of Weeping Water. They built and now occupy the fine brick structure on the corner of I and Elm streets, known as the Ashmun Block, and which is one of the most attractive features of the business portion of the city. It is constructed of fine pressed brick, the building being 22x100 feet in dimensions, with plate-glass front, and in height two stories, with basement. In the near future the whole of it will be occupied by the firm, and when completed it will be the finest hardware store along the southern line of Cass County. Mr. Ashmun occupies with his family a beautiful residence in the northeastern part of town.

Our subject first crossed the Mississippi in May of 1869, coming direct to Weeping Water Precinct, and purchasing a quarter of section 36, school land, in Centre Precinct. There had then been no attempt at improvement, the land having just come into the market that year, and was then valued at $8.50 per acre. Mr. Ashmun enclosed it with a substantial fence, set out a grove of forest trees, together with an apple orchard and the smaller fruits, besides putting up a good house and barn. In the meantime he proceeded with the cultivation

of the land, devoting it at first almost entirely to the raising of grain; later he discovered that stock-growing would prove remunerative, and accordingly turned his attention to this industry, keeping good grades of cattle, horses and swine. He constructed thus out of a wild tract of uncultivated land a fine farm, which he sold at a good price in April of 1888.

Mr. Ashmun has been interested in the hardware business for the past eight years, being first associated with the firm of Schermerhorn & Ashmun, at Weeping Water, which partnership continued one year. He then became junior member of the firm of Fitchie & Ashmun, which conducted the business at Weeping Water three years. Mr. Fitchie then withdrew, and G. A. Ashmun assumed proprietorship of his interest in the business. The firm then became Ashmun Bros., and later, upon the admission of other partners, Henry Ashmun & Co. Mr. Ashmun, although a thorough young business man, and popular in his community, has avoided politics, excepting attending to his duty as a voter upon occasions of election, when he gives his support to the Republican party. Socially, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, and in religious matters is, with his family, prominently connected with the Congregational Church. He takes a warm interest in Sunday-school work, and has held different official positions in the church.

Mr. Ashmun was born in Tallmadge, Summit Co., Ohio, Nov. 29, 1843, and lived there until a young man twenty-six years of age. He completed his education in Tallmadge Academy, and employed himself on his father's farm, and as a civil engineer, until 1869, with the exception of the time spent in the army. At Tallmadge, in 1864, he enlisted in Company H, 164th Ohio Infantry, serving out his time and receiving his honorable discharge. After leaving the army he returned to the home of his boyhood, remaining there engaged in engineering until coming to Nebraska, as we have already stated.

Our subject was married at LaGrange, Sept. 13, 1870, to Miss Ida Burton. This lady was born in Collamer, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1847. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and are now deceased. Mrs. Ashmun received a liberal education, completing her studies in Lake Erie Seminary, in Painesville, Ohio. Her father died when she was quite young, and her mother was married the second time, and removed to Lagrange County, Ind, Miss Ida accompanying them and engaging as a teacher until her marriage. Mrs. Burton died in Indiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Ashmun there have been born four children, namely: Louis, Ernest, Flora and Beth. They are all at home with their parents, and are being given first-class educational advantages.

William B. Ashmun, the father of our subject, was born in Russell Township, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., July 5, 1815, and lived there until the eighteenth year of his age. He received a good practical education, and in 1833 removed with his parents to Ohio, settling in what was then Portage, but what afterward became Summit County, seven miles from Akron. The family had been preceded to this place by one of the elder sons. William B. removed, in 1837, from the Buckeye State to Whiteside County, Ill., where he lived one year, then returned to Ohio. In 1842, April 27, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. Fenn, and they became the parents of six children, all of whom are living, and of whom Henry, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest. The others were: Julia, now Mrs. A. O. Ashley, of Weeping Water; George, who also lives here; Russell A., located on a farm south of town; Edward, a minister of the Congregational Church, of Denver, Col.; and Helen, of Weeping Water.

The father is still living, and is now retired from active business. He makes his home in Weeping Water. He has held the various township offices, serving as School Director and Justice of the Peace, and with his wife and family, belongs to the Congregational Church.

Mrs. Sarah E. (Fenn) Ashmun was born in Milford, New Haven Co., Conn., Jan. 3, 1815, and when three years old emigrated with her parents to Ohio. She is the daughter of Richard and Mabel (Platt) Fenn, and lived at home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Ashmun afterward lived with the parents of the latter, and took care of them for twenty-five years. Richard Fenn and his wife were natives of Connecticut, the former born in 1818. He emigrated to Ohio in the pioneer days, taking

up a tract of land in Summit County, and building up a homestead from the wilderness. There he spent the remainder of his life, passing away about 1867. The mother had died several years before.

Reuben Ashmun, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, May 23, 1780. He lived there until after his marriage with Miss Hulda Upson, then emigrating to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., settled on a farm there, where he lived until pushing farther westward, in 1833, to Summit County, Ohio. In the latter his death took place in 1848. He was one of the earliest settlers in that region, a prominent man in his community, a successful farmer, and for many years a Justice of the Peace. His wife died about 1841. Both were members of the Episcopal Church, in Connecticut. During his early manhood Mr. Ashmun had learned the trade of hatter.

CHRIST STOEHR. Among the reliable German citizens of Eight Mile Grove Precinct none are held in kindlier regard than the subject of this sketch. He was born in the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt, Aug. 6, 1828, and is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Stoehr, who were also of German birth and ancestry. The mother passed from earth when her son Christ was a boy of twelve or thirteen years. He lived with his father until reaching his majority, and then the two, believing there were better opportunities for them in America, decided to emigrate hither. Making their way to the city of Bremen they engaged passage on a sailing-vessel bound for New York City, and after an ocean voyage of forty-seven days arrived at their destination.

Our travelers sojourned only a very brief time in the metropolis but proceeded at once to Tazewell County, Ill., where Christ employed himself as a farm laborer, and the father also farmed. The latter spent his last years in Tazewell County. Our subject the year following his arrival in the Prairie State, having formed the acquaintance of one of the most estimable of his young country-women, Miss Elizabeth Ehrhart, was married to that lady in Tazewell County, Ill., in April, 1850. Mrs. Stoehr was born in Germany, May 6, 1831, and was the daughter of Leonard and Margaret Ehrhart, who all came to America in the same ship with young Stoehr.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoehr began their wedded life together in Tazewell County, Ill., coming to Nebraska in the spring of 1882. In due time there were born to them a family of eight children, namely: George, Oct. 28, 1854; Philip, Sept. 30, 1856; Conrad, Oct. 25, 1862; Maggie, Feb. 5, 1866 (this daughter is the wife of George P. Heil); Alice, March 19, 1870; Catherine, Feb. 3, 1872; Louisa, July 28, 1874, and Adam, June 11, 1877. Mr. Stoehr operated for a time on rented land in Illinois, then became the owner of a farm. His property in this county consisted of 160 acres, which has been finely developed and is supplied with good buildings. In his labors and successes he acknowledges that he has had in his wife a most efficient helpmate, one who has stood bravely by his side and borne with him the heat and burden of the day. To her efforts as much as his own belongs the credit of accumulating a property and establishing the reputation of the family in a good social as well as financial position. Mr. S., politically, votes the Democratic ticket, and both he and his wife belong to the German Lutheran Church. Our subject served as Commissioner in Tazewell County, Ill., for a period of nine years, being three years of this time Treasurer of the board. He was also for a number of years a member of the School Board of his district.

DAVID S. HALVERSTADT. Few members of the farming community of Cass County have been more successful in their vocations, or secured better results by the expenditure of energetic and persistent labor, than has the subject of this notice, who is one of the leading agriculturists of Weeping Water Precinct. His farm on section 14, with its carefully tilled acres, neatly hedged and fenced, its beautiful grove and orchard, its tasty and comfortable buildings, and the fine and well-kept specimens of cattle and horses roaming over the fields, is considered one of the most desirable and best managed farms in the whole precinct, and with all its various improve-

ments, indicates the presence of an intelligent mind and a skillful hand.

Mr. Halverstadt inherited from a good old German stock the traits of sobriety, honesty and industry that have made him successful in life. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, Dec. 6, 1848, to Henry and Mary (Supers) Halverstadt. His father was born in Maryland, Jan. 26, 1808, a son of David Halverstadt. The latter was a native of Germany, who, coming to this country when six years of age, was bound out until he was twenty-five years of age to pay for his passage over, and in the same manner his parents were sold for a number of years to pay for their passage, and from this humble beginning have the Halverstadts in America risen to their present prominence. The grandfather settled in Maryland, and there married. He afterward moved to Ohio with his wife and children, and in the primeval forests of Columbiana County took up a homestead, and with the aid of his boys cleared a farm. He became prosperous, and accumulated quite a large property, and when his four sons were ready to start in life for themselves, he gave them each over a hundred acres of land.

The father of our subject was a boy when his parents moved to Ohio, and he there assisted his father in the pioneer task of hewing trees and uprooting stumps, to prepare the land for cultivation. He remained on the homestead until his marriage, at twenty-eight years of age, and then took his share of his father's land. He was more than ordinarily successful in his vocation, and from time to time added more land to his homestead, and became quite wealthy. Of his happy wedded life with the mother of our subject eleven children were born, two dying in infancy. When his children were ready to go out into the world, he sold off his land and gave them each a good start, it having been his intention to give them each a home near him, but they chose to go West, so he unselfishly gave up his own wishes, and furthered theirs, by giving them money instead of the land. He continued to live on the old homestead until he passed away from the scenes of earth, in May, 1888, at the ripe old age of eighty years. He was held in reverence and honor by his townspeople for his noble and manly qualities. He was a man of unquestioned integrity, whose word was equal to his bond. He was a stanch member of the Lutheran Church, and was liberal in his contributions toward its support. His widow survives him, and is still vigorous in mind and body, and has just returned to the old home from a visit to her son.

David S. Halverstadt lived in the home of his birth until he was of age, obtaining in the meantime a substantial education, and a practical training in all kinds of farm work under his father's tuition. He came to Nebraska in 1869 and located on Elk Creek, in Johnson County, where he lived until 1870. In the spring of that year he purchased his present place, which was then but slightly improved, a few acres having been broken, and a small house erected. From that wild state our subject has brought it up to its present high condition. He has fenced the land and set out five acres of forest, and a large orchard, three acres of which are in bearing. The land is very productive, and nearly every pasture has been sowed to tame grass. Mr. Halverstadt has also built himself a house, which is a good, comfortable, convenient home. He feeds the most of his grain, as he pays especial attention to raising draft horses, high-graded Short-horn cattle, and full-blooded Poland-China hogs.

After coming to this place our subject was married, Nov. 15, 1875, to Miss Lucy Failor, and to them have come seven children, of whom the following six are living: Florence, Birdena, Clinton, Lilly, Clara and Hattie. Their daughter Clementine died Oct. 2, 1888, aged ten years. Mrs. Halverstadt was born at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1852. Her parents, Christian and Sarah (Misseldine) Failor, moved to Centreville, Ind., about 1869, and there she lived with them until her marriage. She has proved an efficient helpmate and a wise mother. Her father was a native of Ohio, and was there engaged in the milling business, but when he removed to Indiana he entered into business as a grocer, and was carrying on that trade at the time of his death in 1886, aged eighty years.

In our subject are found all the characteristics of a good citizen, such as loyalty to his country, straightforward and manly conduct in the everyday affairs of life, and kindness and helpfulness

Yours Truly

A. P. Weston

Yours Truly
Amelia B. Weston

where his neighbors are concerned. He is one of the members of the Congregational Church of Weeping Water, and is also connected with the Sunday-school held in the Cascade school-house on the opposite corner, and in his capacity as Superintendent of said Sunday-school he has been instrumental in building it up and making it a success. He is identified with the Royal Arcanum and Farmers' Alliance. He has served as School Director and as Constable, but does not care for office, preferring the quiets and comforts of home. He is in sympathy with the Republican party in his political views, but exercises his judgment in voting for men and measures.

ADDISON P. WESTON is one of the most prosperous and progressive citizens of Liberty, and for many years was closely identified with the farming and stock-raising interests of Cass County, owning an extensive farm on section 21, this precinct. By hard labor and thrift he has amassed a handsome fortune, and soon intends to leave the farm and retire from the active duties of a busy life to spend his declining years with his good wife in one of the most comfortable and well-appointed homes in the village of Nehawka.

Mr. Weston is a native of Vermont, his birthplace being the town of Plymouth, among the beautiful hills of Windsor County, where he first opened his eyes to the light of day Aug. 13, 1825. Both on his mother's and his father's side he is descended from respectable old New England families. His father, Stephen Weston, was born either in Massachusetts or New Hampshire, and went to Windsor County, Vt., most likely a single man, in 1802. He was married to Lydia Boynton, who came of hardy, long-lived stock. After marriage Mr. Weston began farming in a small way among the hills of Plymouth, Windsor County, and there his wife died when our subject was little less than six years old. The father afterward married Mrs. Burnap, who subsequently died without issue by her second marriage. The father spent his last days with his children, our subject, with the others, contributing liberally to his support and comfort after he became enfeebled by age. His life was prolonged to the unusual length of ninety-two years.

He of whom we write, after the death of his mother lived with an aunt and uncle for three years, after which he lived with an elder brother until seventeen years old. In the vigorous air of his native hills he grew to be a sturdy youth, and at seventeen years of age was allowed to go forth to earn his own living. For four years he worked for the sum of $100 and his board and clothes, and thus got his first start in life, which he later added to by working out by the day. He was ambitious to obtain an education, and attended school whenever opportunity offered. In 1852 he struck out into the world with characteristic enterprise and pluck, and with a flock of sheep, which he drove and shipped from point to point, he made his way to Racine County, Wis., finally stopping at Waterford. Those were among the first fine wool Spanish and French Merinos ever introduced into that part of Wisconsin, and his venture proved very successful. In 1864 he came to Nebraska, bringing with him 225 fine wool sheep, and embarked in the business of sheep-raising here. He carried it on until the spring of 1866, when he abandoned it to pay attention more exclusively to general stock growing and feeding, in which he was extensively engaged until his recent retirement. His farm, beautifully located on section 21, on either side of Weeping Water Creek, embraces one of the best and most valuable strips of land in Liberty Precinct. Mr. Weston bought his first land in Cass County in 1863, it being located in Avoca Precinct, and he resided on it two years, owning 240 acres, and making considerable improvements. In 1866 he purchased his homestead on section 21, Liberty Precinct, with a view of getting stone, wood and water, with which it is well supplied, and it has proved a very valuable farm for making money. It embraces 320 acres of land, most of which is under cultivation, and has been improved to a very high point by a judicious expenditure of labor and money. It has a fine bearing orchard of 1,200 fruit trees. He has erected on it a fine set of the most modern farm buildings; one barn is 66x60 feet in

dimensions, with a lean-to and an L attached, making it very commodious; and another large stock and grain barn, 24x64 feet, is also a fine structure. These buildings are well constructed, and after the most approved and conveniently arranged plans. The house that Mr. Weston formerly occupied is a pleasant frame dwelling, but the home to which he will soon retire, in Nehawka, is a fine brick edifice, two stories in height, with basement, all the modern appliances for comfort and convenience, and in its exterior is an ornament to the village.

During his residence in Racine County, Wis., Mr. Weston was married, Aug. 24, 1856, to Miss Amelia Bent, who was born in the town of Wendell, Franklin Co., Mass., March 24, 1839. She is a daughter of William L. and Lucinda (Armstrong) Bent, both of whom are deceased, the mother dying in Wendell when her daughter of whom we write was only three years old. She was a native of Massachusetts, and was a daughter of Timothy Armstrong, likewise a native of the old Bay State, and a farmer of Franklin County. William Bent survived his first wife twelve years, and was a second time wedded, Maria Woodbury becoming his wife, and she survived him. Mr. Bent was a farmer, and prosecuted his calling in Franklin County. He subsequently removed to Wisconsin, and died in Racine County. He was a son of Joel Bent, a native of Barry, Mass. Mrs. Weston was reared by her father until his death, and then her step-mother had charge of her until she attained womanhood, and she continued to live with her until her marriage, having accompanied her parents to Racine County, Wis., when a child of ten years. She is broad and liberal minded, a woman whose large heart is full of womanly love and neighborly kindness.

Mr. Weston has acquired his entire fortune since leaving his native hills, and by the exercise of habits of indefatigable industry, prudence and economy. He inherited a full share of those fine traits of character that mark the New England stock and make them valuable citizens wherever they may settle. He has not only been a hard-working man all his life until recently, but his labors have been directed by a mind of more than ordinary acuteness, and he has always displayed an intelligent enterprise, and has been quick to seize every opportunity or advantage that would conduce to his material prosperity. He is a Republican in his politics, and gives his party earnest support. He has borne an honorable part in public affairs as Assessor of the precinct, which office he has twice held.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Weston adjoining, are a valuable acquisition to this ALBUM, and will be regarded with much pleasure by their many friends.

BENJAMIN F. LAUGHLIN. Both the personal and ancestral history of the subject of this sketch, an enterprising business man of Greenwood, is worthy of more than a passing mention. A son of one of the earliest pioneers of Washington County, Iowa, he was born there Aug. 25, 1841, and grew up amid its primitive scenes, at the time when the Indians had not long been removed from the western limits of the State.

John Laughlin, the father of our subject, was born in Randolph County, N. C., and married Miss Mary Tucker, a native of the same State. Both were the offspring of prominent old families, who had emigrated to America during the Colonial days. John Laughlin after his marriage migrated across the Mississippi about 1835, and was one of the earliest settlers of Henry County, Iowa. A man of great energy and more than ordinary abilities, he by his own labors furnished an incentive to the men around him, and that part of Henry County in which he settled sensibly outgrew its neighbors. He was held by his fellow-citizens in high esteem, occupied the various local offices, and accumulated a good property. He personally assisted in removing the Indians from Henry County to their reservation in Iowa, and was foremost in inaugurating the various enterprises which gradually grow up within the precincts of a new settlement. His death took place June 10, 1865, at the old homestead, and that of the mother, December 7 of the same year. The latter was six years younger than her husband, and he was about fifty-two years old at the time of his decease. To John and Mary Laughlin there were born eleven children, namely:

William J., McKenzie G., Louisa, Charity, John M., Nancy, Benjamin F. (our subject), Ephraim D., Jesse Payne, Alvin Thomas and Mary Lizzie.

Benjamin F. Laughlin was reared to manhood in Washington County, Iowa, acquiring a practical education in the common schools. His boyhood and youth were spent after the manner of the sons of pioneer farmers, he also receiving careful home training, and being taught those habits of industry and principles of honor which have made him a worthy and reliable member of the community. At the death of his father, being among the eldest of the boys, he naturally assumed much of the responsibility of carrying on the homestead, until the outbreak of the Civil War. A year later, when only twenty-one years old, he proffered his services in behalf of the Union by enlisting in Company B, 25th Iowa Infantry, for three years or during the war, in response to the call of President Lincoln for 300,000 troops.

Company B spent some time drilling at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in which they made good progress, and were also well equipped with the necessary arms when starting for the South on the 1st of November, 1862. Their destination was Helena, Ark., to which they journeyed via Burlington, St. Louis and Memphis, by steamer. They first saw the smoke of battle at Chickasaw Bayou, and soon afterward followed the first attack of Vicksburg, the day before Christmas, 1862. Being repulsed there they took boats up the river to Arkansas Post, surrounding the rebel works and capturing the place Jan. 11, 1863, after a lengthy and hotly contested engagement. Retiring to Young's Point, they sojourned there until the middle of April, and then began the campaign which included the battles of Raymond, Canton, Miss., and Champion Hills. They drove the enemy into their works at Vicksburg, then surrounded the city, and on the 22d of May commenced an assault in which the 25th Iowa lost heavily.

Soon afterward began the actual siege of Vicksburg, which finally ended in glorious victory for the Union troops, the Confederates surrendering July 4, 1863. On the morning of the 5th they were ordered to Jackson, Miss., to follow up Joe Johnston's army, fighting at Clinton and then returning to Vicksburg. At the latter place they remained in camp until October, when they were ordered to assist the Army of the Cumberland. Later they fought at Cherokee Station, driving the rebels to Tuscumbia on the Tuscumbia River. Afterward returning to Cherokee Station, they encamped there one week, then started for Chattanooga. At that place, under command of Gen. Hooker, they soon moved upon Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Ringgold, and after dislodging the enemy from these places went into camp at Woodville, Ala. They remained there the greater portion of the winter.

The campaign of 1864 found our subject and his comrades opening up the campaign in Georgia, under the command of Gen. Sherman, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps. The principal battles which followed in this region were Big Shanty, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, the siege of Atlanta July 22 and 28, and afterward Jonesboro. Then followed the famous march to sea. Their business ended in this section of country, they returned up through the Carolinas, being at Raleigh, N. C., when news was received of the surrender of Lee. A few days later found them in Washington at the grand review, when our subject, with his comrades, was mustered out, and repairing to Davenport, Iowa, received his honorable discharge June 14, 1865.

After returning home Mr. Laughlin began to realize the fact that whether in time of peace or time of war it was not well for man to live alone. It is probable that his heart had already been captured by the young lady, Miss Susan Reeves, to whom he was married in Washington County, Iowa, Jan. 25, 1866. Mrs. Laughlin was also the daughter of a pioneer of the Hawkeye State, who settled there as early as 1836. There later Miss Susan was born, Sept. 20, 1846. The young people commenced their wedded life together on a farm in Washington County, and resided there until the spring of 1883, when they changed their residence to this county.

Mr. Laughlin is now conducting a thriving livery stable in the suburbs of Greenwood, in connection with which he also operates a farm. He is recognized as a useful and worthy citizen, having inherited in a marked degree the enterprise and industry of his honored father, which were among the notable characteristics of their substantial Ger-

man ancestry. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin is pleasant in the extreme, and has been brightened by the birth of seven children. These were named respectively: Anna L., Alvah Thomas, William F. and Ephraim (twins), Katie deceased, Charita, and E. D. deceased. The survivors are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. L. are members in good standing of the Christian Church, and our subject, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat. Socially, he belongs to the Masonic fraternity, and officiates as Junior Deacon of Unity Lodge No. 163, at Greenwood. He is also a member of the G. A. R., belonging to Mission Ridge Post No. 149, at Greenwood.

Mr. Laughlin purchased his livery business in 1888, and is gradually gathering together the equipments which will in due time make it one of the most complete establishments of the kind in this part of the county. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, is courteous and obliging, and one who naturally gathers around him many friends.

NELSON McREYNOLDS, a retired farmer, is an old settler and a representative citizen of Cass County. His large farm of 240 acres, pleasantly located on section 8 of Liberty Precinct, is finely improved and well adapted to the raising of cereals or to stock-raising, to which he has always paid much attention. He is a native of Virginia, born in Abingdon, Washington County, June 6, 1808, of Scotch-Irish parentage. His parents, John and Sarah (Scott) McReynolds, were born and reared in the same county. After establishing themselves in a home of their own in their native county, they remained there until after the birth of two of their children, and then they removed to Warren County, Tenn. Mr. McReynolds there purchased 300 acres of land, on which he farmed and carried on blacksmithing until his death, when about fifty years of age. Mrs. McReynolds survived her husband and married again, finally dying in Tennessee of cholera.

The subject of our sketch was very young when his parents moved to Tennessee, where he was educated and grew to manhood. Being nearly nineteen years of age when his father died, our subject soon after set out to seek his fortune, going first to Saline County, Mo., where he secured work by the day. He subsequently purchased a piece of land in that county, but later bought 500 acres in Carroll County, the same State, which he afterward disposed of at $5 an acre, it having been flooded by the high water of 1844. Mr. McReynolds then went to Holt County, where he farmed for some years. In 1865 he came to this State, and for a few months lived in Nebraska City, when, desiring to establish himself permanently in a home, he purchased 200 acres of land, to which he later added another 200 acres, and began the improvement of his farm. He labored judiciously and succeeded in eliminating a fine farm from the unbroken prairie, and has now as comfortable a home as one could wish for. He has given 160 acres of land to his sons, thus reducing the number of acres in his original homestead, but it is still large enough to supply all of his wants.

Mr. McReynolds has been twice married. His first wife, Anna Cregg, to whom he was united in Saline County, Mo., was born in Virginia, and moved to Missouri when quite young with her parents, making her home with them until her marriage. She remained in Carroll County until her death, which occurred while she was in the prime of life. She left four children, of whom only one, William, now living with his father, survives. One daughter, Mollie, and a son Hugh died after marriage, the former leaving one child and the latter two. The second marriage of our subject took place in Carroll County, Mo., where he married Martha Henderson; her first husband's name was Grover Brinker. Mrs. McReynolds was the daughter of George Washington and Mary (Miller) Henderson, who spent their lives in Kentucky, both dying at a ripe old age. Their daughter Martha was reared and educated in that State, and there married her first husband, who, after a few years of happy married life, died, leaving her with one child, now deceased. She subsequently went to Missouri and met our subject, whom she afterward married, as before mentioned.

The household circle of Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds has been brightened by the birth of four children, of whom one, Robert, is dead. Of the others

the following is recorded: George, a farmer of Liberty, married Miss Nanna Alford; Charles is living in the West; Mollie is the wife of John Berger, a farmer and merchant of Fleming, Butte Co., Neb. Mr. McReynolds has always lived an honorable life, and is respected everywhere for his upright dealings and fair business transactions. In politics he is an uncompromising Democrat, and never fails to vote with that party when opportunity offers.

THOMAS THOMAS, deceased. Among the pioneers of this county none have been held in greater respect than the subject of this sketch, who rested from his earthly labors Nov. 22, 1884. He was born in Monongahela, Pa., Oct. 20, 1812, and was the son of Samuel Thomas, a native of New Jersey. His paternal grandfather, also Thomas Thomas, was likewise born in New Jersey, and was the son of a native-born Welshman, who crossed the Atlantic about 1750, in company with two brothers, landing in New Jersey. One brother settled in Virginia, and the other in South Carolina. The great-grandfather of our subject remained in New Jersey, and it is supposed spent the remainder of his life there.

Grandfather Thomas enlisted in the Revolutionary Army under the direct command of Gen. Washington, at the age of fifteen years, and for a time was employed in cutting out sheets of Continental currency. Later, greatly to his delight he was mustered into a light horse company, in which he served valiantly until the close of the war. Afterward he was married to Miss Mary N. Grimes, who was of American birth but Irish descent, and after becoming the parents of two sons, Benjamin and Samuel, and one daughter, they migrated west of the Alleghany Mountains with pack horses, there being then no wagon roads. They carried with them what few goods they could load upon their horses, and the grandmother with her daughter in her arms rode one horse, the two boys rode another, and the grandfather led the way on foot with his gun on his shoulder.

Arriving in Pennsylvania Grandfather Thomas took up a tract of timber land in the valley of the Monongahela, where he improved a large area, and there spent the remainder of his life, becoming quite wealthy for those days. Of this family Samuel Thomas, the father of our subject, probably remained a resident of Pennsylvania until his marriage. His bride, Miss Elizabeth LaRue, was of American birth, but French ancestry. Her father, Abraham LaRue, was also a soldier in the Revolutionary War. In 1817 they started westward to Guernsey County, Ohio, and located upon a tract of timber land near the embryo village of Fairview. This land had been given Mr. Thomas by his father, and he remained upon it until his death in 1830, a period of thirteen years. In the year 1830 our subject purchased the interest of the other heirs in the property. Of this he retained possession until 1837, then selling out he started for Indiana, accompanied by his wife and son Samuel, making the journey overland with a one-horse wagon, and taking such goods as could be transported by this limited means of conveyance.

Mr. Thomas, selecting his location in Grant County, Ind., purchased 160 acres of timber land five miles from Macon, the county seat, which was then but a village of a few houses. It was several years before a railroad was built to the place. Mr. T. put up a log house 16x14 feet in area, the floor being of puncheon and the roof covered with rived boards. The chimney was constructed of earth and sticks on the outside, and the fireplace occupied nearly one side of the building, Mrs. Thomas had no stove for some years, doing her cooking by the fireplace. She also manufactured the clothing for the family, spinning and weaving wool and flax. She, like her husband, was very industrious and energetic, and one year spun enough yarn for 100 yards of cloth.

Mr. Thomas improved quite a tract of his land, and this it must be remembered, covered with timber, was no small task. After felling the trees he was assisted by his good wife in rolling the logs together, so they could be burned and thus got out of the way, then before the crops could be put in the stumps must be dug out of the ground and likewise piled and burned. He thus labored on this land a period of ten years, then selling out removed with his family to Wabash County, purchas-

ing there also 160 acres of timber land, and repeating the labors of clearing and bringing the soil to a state of cultivation.

On the 6th of April, 1856, Mr. Thomas, leaving Indiana started on another migratory tour, this time landing in Nebraska Territory. The entire journey, as had been his other peregrinations, was made overland with teams, but on his arrival in the vicinity of what is now Glenwood, Iowa, he halted and purchased a house and four acres of land, where he ensconced his family, and then during the summer following took up his line of march for Nebraska. Arriving in this county he purchased a claim four miles northwest of the present city of Plattsmouth, and in September of that year removed to it with his family. Their first shelter was a frame shanty 10x22 feet in area, and their nearest neighbor on the west was ten miles away, on the east settlers joined their farm. The consequence was many travelers called to stop over night, and they were never turned away. Deer were plentiful at that time, but the winter of 1856–57 was very severe, and it is supposed that many of them must have perished, as they were never seen in such numbers afterward.

Among other visitors to the home of this pioneer family were Indians, who frequently called at the house, but further than creating a natural feeling of distrust did not molest the inmates, except to beg for something to eat, or some article which attracted their fancy. At one time the Thomas family were visited by a delegation of 200 Indians. Life thus passed with the Thomas family until the settlers began to take up land around them, which greatly relieved the solitude of their existence. Our subject proceeded with the improvement of his purchase while his children grew up around him, and in 1874, retiring from active labor he left his two youngest sons in charge of the farm, and moved with his wife to Plattsmouth.

Prior to this Mr. Thomas had purchased the place where his widow now resides, on Wintersteen Hill. Thereafter he devoted his time to the beautifying of his home and gathering together the little conveniences and comforts which he loved. His death took place here Nov. 22, 1884. He and his estimable wife had lived together for a period of nearly fifty years, having been married Oct. 15, 1835. The bride was Miss Susannah Carrothers, and she was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland, Feb. 15, 1815. Her father, James Carrothers, was a native of Scotland and of pure Scotch ancestry. He emigrated to America at an early day, settling first in Guernsey County, Ohio, whence he removed later to Morrow County, where he lived many years, passing away at the advanced age of eighty-seven. He had married in early manhood Miss Ann Blakely, also a native of County Fermanagh, and the daughter of Robert and Ellen Blakely, who, it is supposed, were natives of Scotland.

The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Thomas, James Carrothers by name, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his last years in County Fermanagh, Ireland. He married Miss Margaret Beatty. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas there were born nine children, viz: Samuel L.; Ann Eliza, who died when five years old; James W., a resident of Plattsmouth Precinct, this county; Margaret Ann, who died at the age of seven years; Mary E., the wife of E. R. Todd, whose biography appears on another page; Eliza Ann, who died when five years old; Cinderella, the wife of O. M. Carter, of Omaha; Thomas J., living in Plattsmouth Precinct, residing on the old homestead, and George W., living in the city.

Prior to the war Mr. Thomas was a Democrat, after that he became a Republican. At the age of twenty-two he became a member of the Methodist Church, and Mrs. Thomas, at the age of sixteen, became a member of the same church.

NEHEMIAH LIVINGSTON. At this day and age the pioneer settlers are looked upon with more than ordinary respect and veneration, for they are passing away. Their works, however, in the language of Scripture, "do follow them," and their descendants for generations will "rise up to call them blessed." Under the present system of preserving the records of the lives of those men, it is becoming a matter held in great consideration as years advance, for the history of

men's lives is a history of the country. The American people are learning to hold in greater estimation the resources of their native land, which resources could only have been developed by those who pushed their way into the wilderness in the face of what seemed almost insurmountable obstacles, but whose perseverance enabled them to come off victors in the struggle.

The subject of this sketch, a pioneer of Cass County, came to Nebraska Territory in 1857, and filed a tract of Government land on section 6, Mt. Pleasant Precinct. This land did not come into the market until the fall following, and then, not having the means to purchase, it reverted again to Uncle Sam. Mr. Livingston, however, a short time later was enabled to buy a small tract of forty acres from George W. Mayfield, which he was successful in improving, and in adding to later by a like amount. Upon he this labored until the spring of 1874, when he wisely determined to retire, and is now taking life easy in the comfortable home of his own building.

Our subject was born in Rensselaer County, N. Y., April 22, 1809, and is the son of Nehemiah, Sr., and Elizabeth (McMillen) Livingston, the father a native of New York, and the mother of Bennington, Vt. The latter left her native State when a little girl of nine years, settling with her parents in Washington County, N. Y. Here, upon reaching womanhood, she made the acquaintance of her future husband, who was stricken down in his prime, dying before the birth of our subject. He was a skilled mechanic and millwright, an honest, hard-working man, who enjoyed the esteem and respect of all who knew him.

After the death of her husband the mother of our subject took up her residence in Washington County, N. Y., where Nehemiah, Jr., attended the common school, and assisted his mother until her second marriage. He then left home, and began in earnest the struggle of life on his own account. He worked at farming and carpentering, and continued a resident of his native State until 1856, when he migrated to Ohio, and sojourned a brief season in Sandusky County. Next we find him in Henry County, Ill., and later in Fremont County, Iowa. In the spring of 1857 he first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska, and his subsequent operations we have already indicated.

In the year 1857 Mr. Livingston met with an accident which destroyed the sight of one eye. He was prying a glass from a window sash, which, breaking, threw a piece of glass into his eye, and from which he suffered greatly for some time. Later he also met with additional misfortune by the loss of a good ox, which was killed by the Indians, which left him without a team. His neighbors were few and far between, there being for some time after his settlement in this county only two houses between his property and Plattsmouth. His first dwelling was formed by sticking poles in the ground, and then weatherboarding these, and he succeeded in making quite a comfortable habitation.

There had accompanied our subject to the Far West his faithful wife and companion, who in her girlhood was Miss Indiana Foster, and to whom he had been married, in 1832, in New York. This lady was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., and was the third daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Patterson) Foster. Mr. and Mrs. Livingston are the parents of five sons and six daughters; three of these are deceased. James A., the second son, during the late Civil War, enlisted in Company A, 4th Iowa Cavalry, was wounded and taken prisoner, and after great suffering died in the hospital at Jackson, Miss. The others were named respectively: Samuel V., Charles E., Levi H., Lewis H. L.; Eliza, deceased; Frances, the wife of Jackson Barker; Mary M., Mrs. Isaac M. Goodspeed; and Sarah E., the wife of Benon Teodorski.

Mr. Livingston has served his township in various capacities, officiating as School Director many years; he operated as Road Supervisor four years, and as Judge of Elections four years. He uniformly votes the Democratic ticket, and is a member of the Knights of Labor. Upon reaching his majority he cast his first Presidential vote for Andrew Jackson. He is now in the eightieth year of his age, hale and hearty, the result of temperance and correct habits. In religious matters he is liberal, but has sought throughout a long career to do good as he has had opportunity, never turning a hungry man from his door, and giving his influence to the

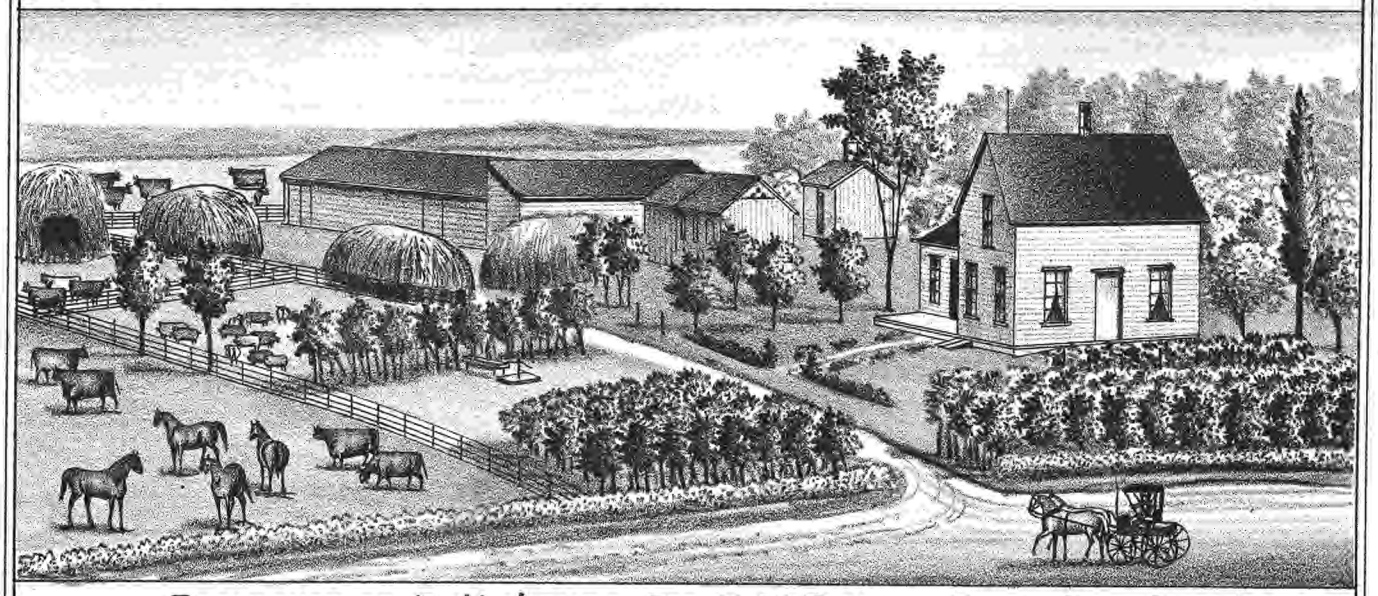
projects calculated for the moral welfare of society. In his native State, during his early manhood, he belonged to the militia, holding the rank of Second Lieutenant.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was a native of Scotland, whence he emigrated to England early in life, serving as a soldier, and being under the command of Gen. Wool in the battle of Quebec, in which he received an honorable wound.

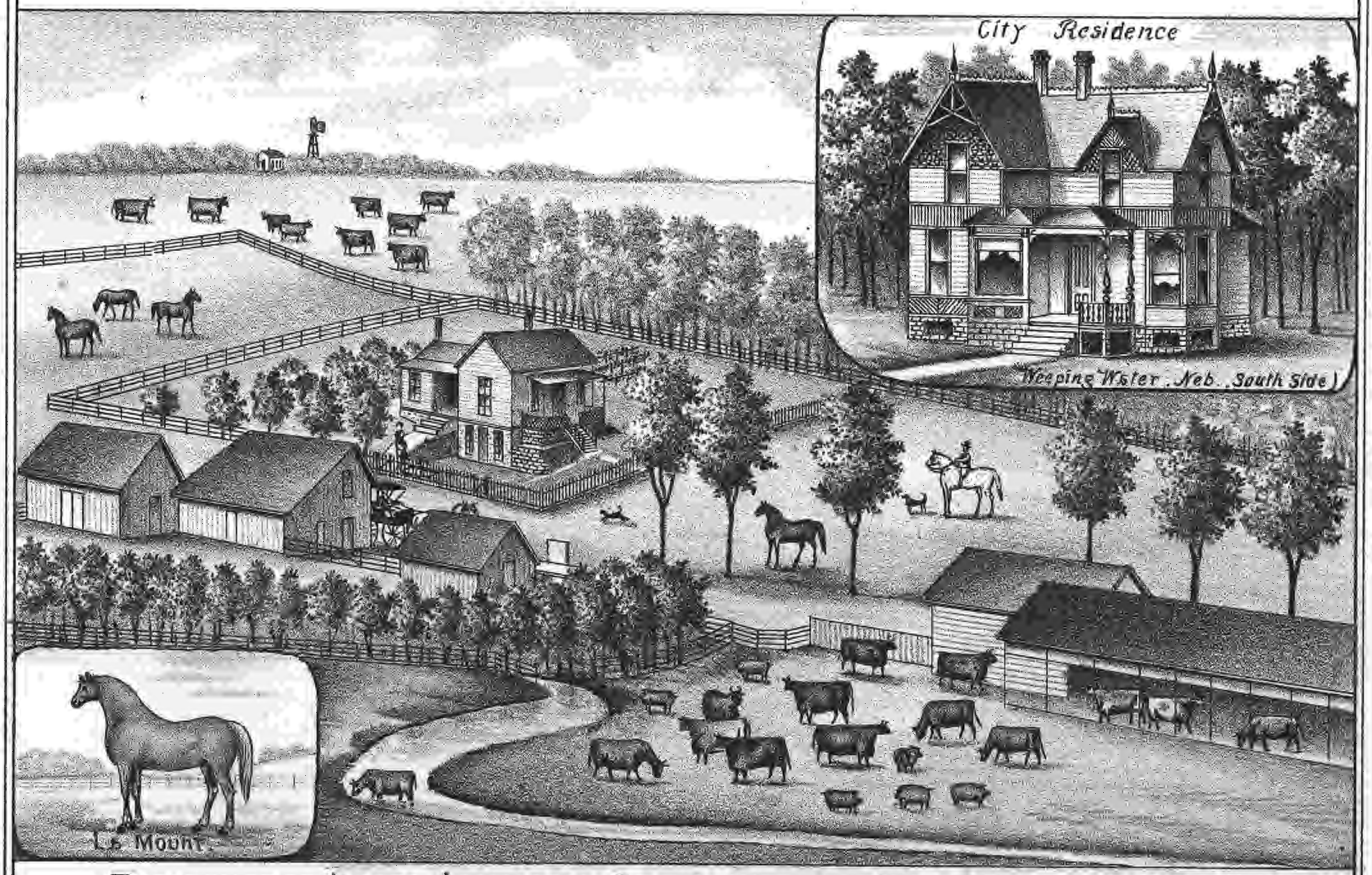
JAMES JOHNSON. The subject of this sketch was the fourth of five children born in Seilkeborg, Denmark, Feb. 10, 1853. He remained at home twenty years, attending the common schools until fourteen, then attended the High School at the city of Hammel one year, thoroughly mastering his mother tongue. He remained with his father until 1873, in which year he took an extended tour through Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland, after which he concluded to come to America, leaving Londonderry on the steamer "Atlantic," and landing in Portland, Me., after a twelve days' voyage. There he remained but a short time, leaving there for Union City, Branch Co., Mich., where he began working on a farm, and continued to remain there five years, when he came to Nebraska to buy land, going by rail to Plattsmouth, thence to Weeping Water, where he rented his present place for a period of two years, when in 1880 he bought it. There were no improvements, and only 100 acres were broken. He at once proceeded to build up a home and the necessary outbuildings, continued breaking the soil until the whole tract was under plow, and set out a grove of eight acres, an orchard of 400 trees, and a vineyard of 200 vines. The farm is well fenced with wire fence, and is watered by the Cascade Creek, which gives the farm its name as the Cascade Stock Farm. It is admirably adapted to the raising and feeding of stock, and is situated within less than one mile from the stockyards of Weeping Water. He devotes his attention to the raising of thoroughbred Herefords, of which he has now a herd of fourteen choice head, also a fine herd of thoroughbred Poland-China and Chester-White hogs, and twenty-four head of horses, including three thoroughbred Hambletonians. One is "Lamont," a famous trotter, and he has likewise a number of Normans. This branch of the business is the especial pride of the gentleman, and he is certainly justified in exercising it in the way he has. All his animals show the great care expended on them. There are herds having a larger number, but few, if any, present a finer appearance. In addition to stock-raising he buys and feeds from 100 to 125 head of cattle each year, and buys and ships stock of all kinds to Omaha, and also raises 150 to 200 head of hogs per year for the general market, which he ships to the best market available.

Our subject's father was Jens J., born in Seilkeborg, Denmark. His mother, Mattie M. Juergensen, was born in the same Province, where they were married. Grandfather Nils J. Johnson served in the army during the war against Germany in 1848, was a farmer, and died at the ripe old age of ninety-six years. The father of our subject was a farmer in his native Province, and also served in the war of 1864 against Germany. He owned 200 acres of land, and was considered quite wealthy; he died in 1880, fifty-nine years old. The mother is still living in Denmark, and is seventy-four years old. Of their children, of whom James is the fourth, Carl and Nils are in Denmark, and Elsie is in America.

Mr. Johnson superintends all the labor and management of the farm himself, and is an example of what thrift and intelligently directed labor can accomplish. He was married, March 17, 1880, to Miss Eliza Murfin, daughter of Henry and Jane (Windt) Murfin, both born in Carroll County, Ohio. Grandfather Murfin came from England and settled and farmed in Ohio, and was in easy circumstances. Grandfather Windt was a German, who came to America and settled in Ohio, where he was a shoemaker and farmer. The father and mother of Mrs. Johnson were married in Carroll County, Ohio. Her father was a farmer, and enlisted in the Ohio Infantry with his two brothers. The father went South and served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged, and returned to his home in Ohio and farmed there for several years, removing thence to Branch County, Mich.,



RESIDENCE OF R. K. LEYDA, SEC. 29. MT. PLEASANT PRECT. CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES JOHNSON, SEC. 11., WEEPING WATER PRECINCT, CASS CO.

where he bought forty acres of land, and continued farming and raising fruit until 1873, when he sold out and removed to Wabash, Neb., where he now has an elegant farm of 160 acres, well improved and thoroughly equipped with modern appliances, which make farming a source of pleasure, as well as of profit. He is a strong Republican in politics, and takes a great interest in the success of his party. He is fifty-seven years of age, and the mother the same. The lady is the eldest of five children, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, Jan. 26, 1860, emigrated to Michigan with her parents, and was there married. They have one child, Leo, born March 5, 1882. She is a very kind, companionable lady, devoting herself to the comfort and pleasure of her family and friends. Our subject is a member of the A. F. & A. M. at Weeping Water, Lodge No. 97, has been through all the Chairs, and Master for two years. He served one term on the School Board, and at present is Assessor.

During his spare hours Mr. Johnson has studied the English language, until he has mastered it so well that he would not be taken for a foreigner, judging from his language. He says that America has given him chances he would not have had in his mother country, consequently he is an American through and through. On another page is shown a view of Mr. Johnson's comfortable residence.

REUBEN K. LEYDA and his excellent wife, who in her girlhood was Miss Catherine Shoup, are numbered among the well-known people of Mt. Pleasant Precinct who have built up for themselves a good homestead, and whose course has been such as to commend them to their neighbors. Their property is pleasantly situated on section 29, and fulfills, in the air of plenty and comfort which surrounds it, the modern idea of the well-regulated rural home, where peace and plenty abound. The farm is 160 acres in extent, and since settling upon it in March of 1881 many improvements have been effected by Mr. Leyda, who has gradually gathered together the litttle comforts and conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness of a household. Mr. and Mrs. Leyda are people in the prime of life, and after years of arduous labor are now enabled to rest upon their oars, taking satisfaction in watching the growth and development of the country around them, looking after the comfort and well-being of their children, and doing good unto their neighbors as they have opportunity.

The birth of our subject took place in Clinton Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, March 6, 1834. His father, James Leyda, was a native of Washington County, Pa., and in early manhood married Miss Hulda Sanford, who was born on Long Island. The Leyda family trace their ancestry to Ireland, while from his mother our subject has inherited some of the best qualities of New England stock. James Leyda was occupied mostly in farming during his lifetime, and spent his last years in Ohio, departing this life in March, 1880. He was one of the earliest settlers of Wayne County, Ohio, locating in a log cabin in the wilderness, and in common with the pioneers around him experiencing the hardships and privations incident to the time and place. The mother is still living in Wayne County, Ohio.

Our subject was the second son and third child in a family of nine children, and was reared to man's estate in his native county, assisting in the development of the pioneer farm, and receiving a limited education in the primitive school. His parents realized the advantage of a good education, and did what they could for their children in this direction. Reuben, after leaving the district school, was given instruction by a teacher of a select school, and made such good progress that he himself developed in time into a pedagogue. He followed teaching briefly in his native county.

Mr. Leyda in leaving his native State was accompanied by the estimable lady who now bears his name, and to whom he was married March 25, 1858. Mrs. Catherine (Shoup) Leyda was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, May 2, 1836, and is the daughter of John and Nancy (Foreman) Shoup, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. The paternal ancestors originated in Germany, and the family was represented in the United States probably 150 years ago. When Catherine was a little girl of seven years her parents removed from Tuscarawas to Holmes County, dur-

ing the early settlement of the latter, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father was a farmer by occupation, and looked his last upon the scenes of earth Jan. 14, 1885. The mother survived her husband a little over two years, dying in August, 1887.

Mrs. Leyda was the eldest daughter of her parents, and was reared and married in Holmes County, Ohio. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, four of whom are living: The eldest son, James E., a young man of more than ordinary abilities, occupies himself as a teacher in the public schools of this county; John M., also making his mark in the world, is Deputy Recorder of this county; Wilbur S. is engaged in the real-estate business at Weeping Water; Otis T. remains at home with his parents. Albert died in infancy.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Leyda resided in various parts of Ohio until March of 1881, when they crossed the Mississippi, and sought a home in the farther West. Providence has kindly smiled upon their labors, and they have had little reason to regret their decision. Both were carefully trained morally and religiously, and are members in good standing of the Regular Baptist Church, in which Mr. Leyda officiates as Deacon and Trustee, attending services at Weeping Water. They have uniformly been the supporters and encouragers of those worthy enterprises having for their object the best good of the community, and tending to elevate society. The spacious and comfortable home is well illustrated by a view on another page.

CHARLES H. KING, of Weeping Water, is known far and wide as one of the earliest pioneers of Cass County, and a man closely identified with its early history. His has been a career at once busy and honorable, and in which he has been accorded by his fellow-citizens all the positions of trust and responsibility within their gift. He is at present Police Judge and Justice of the Peace, and is also carrying on a lucrative insurance business. He owns and occupies a good home at the corner of I and Commercial streets.

Mr. King first settled upon the soil of Nebraska Territory in 1859, eight years before it was admitted into the Union as a State. He took up his abode in Plattsmouth, on the eastern line of the county, when it had a population of about 250. He sojourned with the people of that region a number of years, operating as a contractor and builder, and putting up some of its earliest business houses and better class of residences. In the meantime he interested himself in its improvement generally, and gave indications of more than ordinary business ability. In the year 1860 he was elected Sheriff of Cass County by the Democratic party, and bears the honor of having been the only Democratic Sheriff elected in this county. He served two years with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents, and at the expiration of this time the Civil War directed his thoughts and interests in another channel.

On the 17th of October, 1862, Mr. King proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in Company H, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and was given the post of Commissary Sergeant, in which capacity he served until the 1st of December, 1863. This being the expiration of his term of enlistment, he was honorably discharged. His regiment had operated mostly with the Northern Indiana army in the vicinity of the Whitestone Hills in the State of Dakota.

Upon retiring from the service Mr. King returned to Plattsmouth, and resumed his business as a contractor and builder. Not long afterward he was elected a City Councilman, a post which he held for a number of years. At Plattsmouth he was one of the pillars of the Christian Church, was Deacon, and filled other positions of trust. He was especially interested in the religious training of the young and the establishment and maintenance of Sunday-schools. In the spring of 1868, deciding upon a change of occupation, he removed with his family to a farm in the vicinity of Eight Mile Grove, and which he had partially improved from a wild and uncultivated tract of land. He now vigorously entered upon the pursuit of agriculture and carrying on the improvement of his farm, setting out trees, putting up the necessary buildings, and gathering together the machinery and live stock which complete the details of a coun-

try homestead. In the meantime he was appointed the Postmaster of the town. In the winter of 1871 he left his farm and put up a dwelling near the church building and school-house, which he occupied until coming to Weeping Water. He was in effect the first Postmaster of Eight Mile Grove, and held the office for a period of more than eleven years, receiving his appointment from Postmaster-General David M. Keys. After his removal to the town he established a grocery and drug business, the first in that neighborhood. He was during his entire residence at Eight Mile Grove a member of the School Board, serving as Secretary, and also held the various other township offices. Upon the incorporation of the town he was Magistrate for a period of eight years.

When Mr. King entered upon his duties as Postmaster of Eight Mile Grove, the office was paying the munificent salary of $12 a year. When he left it in 1881 it was worth $75. His main business as magistrate was in the matrimonial line, he frequently joining several couples in a day. Upon coming to Weeping Water in the spring of 1881, having sold his interests at Eight Mile Grove, Mr. King resumed business as a builder and contractor, and also operated as mine host of the King's Hotel until 1885. In the fall of that year he was elected Justice of the Peace, and controlled the bulk of the business in this line, doing also considerable in the way of conveyancing, collecting and other legal business.

Mr. King assisted in the organization of the Baptist Church at Weeping Water, of which he has been twice elected as Deacon and still serves in this capacity. He is usually the man selected by the brethren as a delegate to the various church assemblies in the county and State. In 1860 he was elected Sheriff of Cass County, being the third man to hold this position. At that time the county had only 400 voters.

Charles H. King is a native of Montgomery County, N. Y., born March 3, 1818, and lived there until reaching his majority, completing his studies at Watertown Academy. Upon leaving school he was engaged several terms as a teacher. Upon leaving the Empire State, about 1839, he migrated to Quincy, Ill., where he lived six months, and then moved on across the Mississippi into Van Buren County, Iowa, where he followed the profession of a teacher for a number of years. His rare courage and good business capacities commended him to the people of that county as suitable material for Sheriff, which office he first held by appointment. At the close of the term he was regularly elected, and held the office by re-election for a period of eleven years. He also officiated considerably as County Collector. In the meantime he still pursued teaching during the winter season, and in summer operated likewise as a contractor and builder.

Mr. King cast his first Presidential vote in the Hawkeye State, in 1840, for Martin Van Buren. Here also his first experience as a magistrate began. He likewise found in that county one of the most estimable of young ladies, Miss Almira King (no connection), to whom he was married in Iowa, July 12, 1844. This lady became the mother of two children, and died in July, 1849, five short years after their marriage. Their elder son, Omer J., is married and living on a farm in Rock Bluff Precinct, this county; he is the father of one child. The other child, Orson D., died when quite young.

Mr. King remained in Iowa until 1859, in the meantime having contracted a second marriage, with Miss Janetta K. Root, then of Orleans County, N. Y. Mrs. King was born in Madison County, N. Y., and was the daughter of E. K. Root, a well-to-do farmer of Orleans County. Mrs. Janetta King died in Iowa, April 11, 1865. Our subject was the third time married, March 25, 1878, to Mrs. Frances J. Greenfield. The latter was born Aug. 7, 1833, in Connecticut, and is the daughter of Stodard and Sarah J. Leech, who were natives of England, and are now deceased.

Sylvester King, the father of our subject, was born in Hartford, Conn., in 1793. He lived there until reaching man's estate, and then migrated to Montgomery County, N. Y., during the pioneer days. He was there married to Miss Lydia Stewart, of Balston Springs, Saratoga County, and who was born Oct. 31, 1800. They became the parents of eight children, four of whom lived to mature years, Charles H. being the eldest.

After his marriage the father of our subject en-

gaged in mercantile business in Johnstown, N. Y. A few years later he removed to Adams, Jefferson County, and taking up a tract of new land, constructed a homestead, where he remained until about 1841. His father died about that time, and he then removed to the old homestead in Orleans County, where his death occurred about 1867. He had been a prominent man in his community, holding the offices of Township Supervisor and Justice of the Peace, and taking a lively interest in politics. He voted for Martin Van Buren, and worked for his election. He and his family were identified with the Christian Church. The mother is still living in Orleans County, N. Y., continuing on the old homestead. The paternal grandfather was Paul King, a farmer by occupation, who spent his last years in New York State.

HON. EUGENE L. REED. The subject of this sketch occupies a prominent position in the history of this county, being the oldest surviving settler of importance now living here, and of which he has been a resident since the spring of 1857. The chief events in a career of more than ordinary interest are substantially as follows: A native of Trumbull County, Ohio, Mr. Reed was born May 23, 1841, living there with his parents until a little lad five years of age. His father then decided to try the experiment of life in the Far West, and accordingly made his way with his little family across the Mississippi to Washington County, Iowa, settling in Clay Township, where Eugene L. pursued his early studies in the common schools. Afterward he remained with his father on the farm, and working in the sawmill thereon until coming to Weeping Water, this county.

Eugene L. is the son of William H. Reed, who was born in Hartland, Conn., in 1808, and in his boyhood removed to New Connecticut on the Western Reserve in Ohio. William Reed, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, was one of the earliest pioneers in that section of country. He settled in the wilderness and felled a portion of the heavy timber around him, building up a comfortable homestead, where he lived to be an old man. Later he went to Iowa, to his son William H., Jr. He had married in early manhood Miss Lucy Hyde, of Connecticut. They became the parents of six children, all of whom lived to mature years. One died at the age of twenty-two, in Mississippi. The others lived to a ripe old age. William H. Reed, Sr., and his wife, spent their last years in Iowa. The grandmother for the last twelve years of her life was an invalid, but most tenderly cared for by her husband, who gave to her his whole attention until her death, after which he came to Weeping Water. Each traced their ancestry to the Puritans who came over in the "Mayflower" in 1620, and were, like their forefathers, Congregationalists in religious belief. Politically, grandfather Reed was a Whig and Abolitionist, and one of the first members of the Free-Soil party. In Iowa their farm was a station of the "underground railroad," and Eugene L. remembers that when a little lad of eight years he assisted in the rescue of a fugitive slave, getting him to a place of safety only fifteen minutes ahead of his pursuers.

William H. Reed, Jr., the father of our subject, in early manhood married Miss Sophronia Clinton, who became the mother of one son and died. He was a second time married, to Miss Adelia Fuller, who, like the first wife, was at the time a resident of Ohio. Of this union there were born three children: Eugene L., of our sketch; Lucius F., who was his partner in business, and Ellen, the wife of P. E. Beardsley, of Lincoln, this State.

After his marriage and the birth of his sons Mr. Reed moved to Washington County, Iowa, where he took up a tract of raw land, and later built a mill on the Skunk River Bottoms. He remained in that locality a period of twelve years, and in the fall of 1856 changed his operations to Nebraska Territory, coming to the present site of Weeping Water, and obtained an interest in a mill and land which comprises the present town site of Weeping Water. Then, returning to Iowa, he settled up his interests in that section with the intention of transferring them to this county.

Mr. Reed, the owner of two sections of land and a good mill in Iowa, had unfortunately placed his name to a note for $2,700 with the usual result,

and to meet this was obliged to turn over most of his property, having left only a team and his household furniture. This necessitated a beginning again at the foot of the ladder. In company with his son Eugene he put up a small mill in what was then the Far West, the first of its kind in that locality, and the farthest mill toward the setting sun until reaching the coast. It was completed and opened up for business in the fall of 1861. Father and son operated this until their construction of what was afterward long familiarly known as Reed's Mill, in 1865, and which is still standing. After the completion of this mill our subject remained here until 1866. He then moved to Milford, having become interested in a mill site at that place. In the meantime, however, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Burt felt that he could not do otherwise than hasten to the defense of the Union, and in June, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 1st Nebraska Infantry, which was called Thayer's Regiment, and which afterward was under command of Gen. Livingston. Mr. Reed went in as a private and came out a non-commissioned officer. This regiment operated mostly with the Western Division of the army, and participated in the battles of Independence, Mo., Springfield and Ft. Donelson, and went with the campaign of Gen. Fremont throughout the Southwest. Those acquainted with the history of that time will recall the fact that Missouri was no unimportant battleground during the war, the guerrillas and bushwhackers being peculiarly destructive in their operations. At the hard-fought battle of Ft. Donelson, where Floyd sought to escape with 10,000 troops, the regiment was in Gen. Lew Wallace's division, and stood the brunt of Floyd's charge alone.

Mr. Reed about this time was seized with pneumonia and confined in the hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he received his honorable discharge, in October, 1862, and returning to this county resumed, as soon as able, his former operations in Weeping Water. He had in the spring of 1859 purchased an interest in the original town site, and later owned all the ground upon which it now stands. He has since made three additions, one being East Riverside and another Park Addition, which embraces about 140 acres. He conducted his milling business until 1868, then sold out and became one of the firm of Reed Bros., who opened one of the first general stores to be established in Weeping Water. It is now Reed Bros. & Co. Lucius F. died in January, 1880. The firm comprised Eugene L. and Lucius F.

The father of our subject sold his mill in 1872, and the year following returned to Weeping Water, where he lived retired from active business until passing away about 1885. His second wife had died in 1854. He was subsequently married, and his last wife is still living. William H. Reed was the first man to make any move toward establishing the town of Weeping Water, securing the land before it had come into market, his claim being "jumped." He lived to see a fine and flourishing city built up from the spot which, when he first looked upon it, was little more than a wilderness. He purchased the land, a quarter-section, of Elam Flower, and attended personally to laying out a large portion of the town. It naturally followed that he was thereafter chosen by the people who came in and settled to fill the various offices, which became necessary as the community enlarged.

The subject of this sketch, like his father before him, developed at an early age more than ordinary abilities, and after having served in various other positions of trust and responsibility, was elected in 1868 to the State Senate on the Republican ticket. While in the Legislature he was associated with many of the important committees, and distinguished himself as a safe adviser and temperate counselor in matters of moment. He believes in compulsory education, and has taken a warm interest in the establishment and maintenance of schools, being usually connected with the School Board of his district. Although no office-seeker, he has been active in the councils of his party, and keeps himself well informed upon current events.

Mr. Reed was the first Republican Postmaster appointed by President Lincoln. He assumed charge of the office in 1862, discharging its duties conscientiously until the incoming of the Democratic administration in the spring of 1885. He was sent from Nebraska to the National Republican Convention which nominated Blaine, although he had

been strongly in favor of renominating Arthur. He was frequently appointed a delegate to the County and State Conventions, being uniformly active and efficient in connection therewith.

Mr. Reed reserved one block of the original town site for the establishment of Weeping Water Academy, which, in addition to this gift of land, he has also endowed, and has been largely instrumental in bringing it to its present prosperous condition. It is now the favorite institution of learning in Southern Nebraska. He also holds in reserve two blocks for the campus when the new building is erected. He was the founder of the Weeping Water Bank, the first institution of the kind in the place, and was elected its first President. He is also President of the Weeping Water Lime and Stone Company, who have their headquarters south of town, and which ship a hundred cars per day of crushed rock and 250 barrels of lime, besides rubble stones of all dimensions. This latter enterprise was established in 1885, and now gives employment to 200 men. Mr. Reed has an interest in the Pressed Brick Company of Weeping Water, of which he is also a Director, and which was established in 1888. He was one of the founders of the Weeping Water Creamery, and is President of the Town Company, in fact there have been few enterprises in which he has not been interested and in which he has not been called upon to exercise his uniform good judgment in their conduct and establishment.

The marriage of Hon. Eugene L. Reed and Miss Anna Bellows, of Weeping Water, was celebrated at the home of the bride in this place, Nov. 11, 1865. This union resulted in the birth of two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom, Will E., is a student of Dartmouth College, in his junior year. Estella, Clinton and Lucile are at home with their parents, who purpose to give them also the advantages of a first-class education.

Mrs. Reed was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, in 1849, and is the daughter of Josiah Bellows, a native also of the Buckeye State, where he lived until 1857, then coming to Nebraska Territory he settled on a tract of new land west of the present site of Weeping Water, before it had assumed even the dignity of a village. He there commenced farming in true pioneer style, but was permitted to labor a brief time only, dying the year after his arrival, and leaving a widow who was the mother of three children, and who gave birth to a fourth child after the death of her husband. The eldest, a son, B. F. Bellows, is now in business in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. The others are True and J. H. Bellows. The maiden name of the mother of Mrs. Reed was Celestia Mills. She died in 1862.

Mr. Reed was the first merchant in Weeping Water to have a cash carrier placed in his store, and which for some time was regarded with a great deal of curiosity, being quite an innovation upon the old system. The store building is located at the corner of I and Randolph streets, and was erected in 1868.

FREDERICK D. LEHNHOFF, of wide reputation in connection with the brick and tile manufactories of Plattsmouth, was born near the city of Hanover, in the Province of that name in Germany, on the 11th of August, 1831. That was the home of the Lehnhoff family for many generations. He is the son of Frederick and Caroline (Ahlswede) Lehnhoff. His father, like his grandfather, Christopher Lehnhoff, followed agricultural pursuits and trained our subject in the same.

Accompanied by his wife and seven children, the father of our subject emigrated to America in the year 1847, taking passage at Bremen, and landing in the city of New York on the 3d of July. From New York they journeyed up the Hudson River and the canal to Buffalo. From there they went via the lakes to Milwaukee, then a small and comparatively unimportant place. After making all necessary provision for their comfort, he left his wife and family for a time, and with four others hired a team the better to explore the wilderness. Each took a tract of land, Mr. Lehnhoff selecting his in Jefferson County, about thirty-two miles almost due west from Milwaukee. There was about five acres of land cleared and a fair log cabin on the place, and the family took immediate possession. There was no railroad in the district, and Milwaukee was their nearest market. The region abounded in all kinds of wild game, of which he was not slow to take full

advantage. A fine farm speedily became an accomplished fact, and there the family continued to live until 1879; then removal was made to Plattsmouth, where the father spent his last days with his children, dying in the year 1882, aged eighty years.

There were nine children born to the parents of our subject. Their names are as follows: Frederick D., Henry; Dorothy, who is the wife of G. Schnasse, of Rapid City, Dak.; Caroline, who is married to A. Tartsch; Minnie, now Mrs. Charles Buskirke; Louise, the wife of G. Benty; August, William and Charles. William and Charles were born in the United States, the others in the old country.

Our subject attended school quite regularly in his native land, and was sixteen years of age when he came to America with his parents, and continued to reside with his father until 1859, when, with a number of others, his companions, he started with a four-horse team and wagon for Pike's Peak. The time occupied en route was five weeks; they crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth on the 8th of May, 1859. They very soon met large numbers returning from the mountains, by very far the large majority being without means, discouraged, and so far as that venture was concerned broken-spirited. The effect upon our subject and his companions was such as to deter them from their original purpose, and they determined to return.

The subject of our sketch and brother Henry took up a claim of 160 acres in Centre Precinct, Cass County, and at once built a small house and took possession. They traded their horses for a land warrant and entered the land from the Government at the Nebraska City office. This was truly frontier life, and provided them with an interesting and by no means unprofitable experience. Our subject continued farming there until 1864, and then sold his interest in the farm to his brother, and came to Plattsmouth.

Since his settlement in Plattsmouth our subject has been engaged in various branches of business, including general mercantile, grain, wood and coal. When the Plattsmouth Brick and Tile Manufacturing Company was started he became a large stockholder, and indeed was one of the prime movers in the enterprise. For the past three years he has been manager of the company. The company has a kiln with a capacity of 10,000 per day, and it is of the pattern known as the continuous kiln, built under the Bochnke patent, and was the second of the kind constructed in the United States.

On Oct. 27, 1861, our subject was united in marriage with Katie Reichert, a native of Bavaria, who came to America with her parents, George and Katie Reichert, when about seven years of age, to Ohio, and on the death of her parents lived with her uncle, and subsequently removed with his family to Nebraska. There have been born of this union three children, viz.: Matilda, George and Frederick. Our subject and family are held in high regard in the town, and are worthy members of society. Politically, Mr. Lehnhoff is a Democrat, and fully appreciates the liberty of franchise and Republican government, and is thoroughly imbued with the American spirit.

CHARLES PHILPOT is a prosperous and representative farmer and citizen of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and resides on his magnificent farm located on section 23. He is a native of Jo Daviess County, Ill., where he was born Feb. 10, 1847. He is a son of John and Sarah (May) Philpot. Our subject from his earliest years was accustomed to the privations and toils of pioneer life, both in his native county and his present home. His means of acquiring an education was confined to the public schools of the neighborhood, which had not then acquired the perfection they have today; but having naturally a studious mind, he continued his course of study, reading all available books and papers, and studying by observation the events of the times as they transpired about him, he now possesses a well-stored mind and an eminently practical education.

The father of our subject, John Philpot, was a native of Kent County, England, and his mother a native of Illinois. He emigrated to America when quite a young man, and after extended tours through the country, both North and South, he finally located in Jo Daviess County, Ill., where he lived for many years. He was married twice; the first wife bore

him no children, but his second and present wife has borne him eight, five of whom are living: Charles, our subject; John and James live in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Alfred is in Jo Daviess County, Ill., and Mary is the wife of E. P. Hay, and resides in Cass County, Neb. In 1872 the father removed from his home in Illinois to Carroll County, Mo., where he resided but a short time, when he came to Nebraska, and located in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where he has resided ever since. He is well along in years, and is enjoying the comforts which he has so richly earned. A cousin of the mother of our subject, named James Drousdle, took an active part in the Black Hawk War.

Our subject and Miss Cerelia L. Barrett were married Nov. 19, 1868. The lady was born in Jo Daviess County, Ill., May 30, 1852, and is a daughter of Lockhart and Nancy J. (Carter) Barrett. Her father was born in York State, and her mother is supposed to be a native of Rock Island County, Ill., but it is not positively known to be true, as the records of her family were lost. Her parents were early settlers in Jo Daviess County, and reared a family of eight children, four of whom are living: Cerelia L., the wife of our subject; William L., a resident of Cass County; Prince A. resides in South Omaha, Neb., and Benjamin F., a resident of Valparaiso, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. Philpot with two children emigrated to Cass County, Neb., in 1872, coming overland in a wagon. They had one team of horses and a few cattle. They camped out wherever night overtook them, and after a wearisome journey of five weeks, they arrived at and settled on their present farm, which was in a wild condition, but by dint of energy, perseverance and good management, by both himself and wife, they have improved it, and gathered about them so many conveniences that they now possess one of the most valuable farms in the county. These good people have become the parents of a family of eleven children; eight are living, namely: James W., Wallace M., John W., Charles E., May E., Bertie L., Lottie E. and Cynthia J. The three who are dead were named: Julia L., Albert W. and Benjamin F.

In the accumulation of the estate of which he is the owner our subject has been ably assisted by the counsels and good offices of his wife. Coming as she did to a new and wild country, she accepted the condition, and has left nothing undone to make their venture a permanent success, which they have admirably accomplished, as is evidenced by the snug and comfortably arranged home, and the well designed and located buildings, necessary to shelter the stock and care for the crops raised on their farm.

Mr. Philpot has been repeatedly solicited to accept public office from the hands of his neighbors, which he has steadily refused, only accepting some position connected with the advancement of the educational interests of the precinct, in which he takes an especial pride. He is now serving as Treasurer of the district, and has been connected with the School Board for a number of years. He is public-spirited, and is an ardent supporter of any plan having for its object the general good. Himself and wife are active members of society, and they fill a prominent position in a highly creditable manner. In politics he is strictly Republican.

WILLIAM R. LEWIS, a wide-awake farmer, living on eighty acres of choice land on section 31, Elmwood Precinct, was born in LaSalle County, Ill., Aug. 31, 1847. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1862, but was rejected on account of his age, being considered too young, as he was then but sixteen years of age. As soon as he was old enough to handle a plow he was obliged to earn his own living. As a result his facilities for obtaining an education by attending school were of the most limited extent, but being possessed of a naturally quick, observing turn of mind, he has overcome that deficiency to such an extent that he is now a well-informed man.

Mr. Lewis was married, Jan. 16, 1877, to Miss Flora B. Hite, the daughter of David Hite, whose biography will be found on another page in this volume. In 1880 they came to Nebraska. They are the parents of two children: Viola Maude was born in Illinois, and Allie E. was born on their

Yours Truly
E. W. Barnum

present homestead. They are very intelligent, fine appearing children, obedient and lovable.

The mother of our subject, Eliza Ann Lewis, and his father, William, settled in Illinois in 1838. The mother's parents were killed by the Indians in the Black Hawk War, thus leaving her an orphan. She was taken into the family and raised to womanhood by Mr. Holman. For further information relative to the parents see the biography of Albert E. Lewis, given elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Lewis has a nice, comfortable home, containing many of the comforts and conveniences of life. He has a handsome and affectionate wife and is the father of two intelligent children. His political affiliations are with the Democratic party.

HON. EVANDER W. BARNUM. Prominent among the early settlers of Cass County stands the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch, and few men are better or more favorably known throughout the county than he. Coming here with a younger brother, Thomas J., in the spring of 1857, each preempted 160 acres of land, he on section 27, and his brother on section 22, of Liberty Precinct, both quarters being now owned and occupied by our subject. It was then raw prairie land, but with untiring diligence Mr. Barnum labored with much skill and wisdom in his management, and he now has a magnificent farm, nearly all under cultivation, well watered, and to the original homestead he has added by purchase until his realty consists of 640 acres of land, well adapted for tillage or stock-raising. He has erected a comfortable house, and has a fine set of farm buildings, with all the modern conveniences for the prosecution of his chosen vocation. He takes especial pride in his superior grades of stock, and is the President and Treasurer of a live-stock association, consisting of ten members, of Factoryville. The head of their fine herd of horses is Young Samson, a black, imported English Shire horse, six years of age.

Thomas J. Barnum, who came here with our subject, remained on his claim until the fall of 1859, when he went to New Mexico, where he remained for a few years. He was afterward connected with the Kansas City and Santa Fe stage route, but subsequently disposed of his interest in that, and located in St. Louis, where he died after a residence of two years. He was a man of wide experience in the vicissitudes of frontier life, and his death in 1880, while yet in the prime of life, was the sudden ending of what promised to be a brilliant career, he having been a man of excellent business capacity and sound judgment.

Our subject was born in Middlefield, Otsego Co., N. Y., Sept. 28, 1826. He came of substantial New England stock, his grandfather, Abijah Barnum, having been a native of Connecticut. In early life he moved from there to Otsego County, N. Y., and subsequently married there. Some years afterward he moved to Seneca County, where he spent his last years, dying at a ripe old age. He was twice married, Lewis Barnum, father of our subject, having been a son by his first wife. He was born Oct. 22, 1790, in Otsego County, where he spent his entire life. He was also twice married. The maiden name of his first wife was Lucy Jones, and she was a native of New York State, born Feb. 12, 1790. She was a daughter of Thomas Jones, a farmer of Otsego County, who died there after a long and useful life. She died Oct. 26, 1830, and Mr. Barnum married a second time, taking for a wife Catherine Huff, of Seneca County, who survived him some years. Both died at an advanced age in Otsego County, Mr. Barnum's death occurring Feb. 7, 1843. Of the first marriage seven children were born, and of the second marriage five children were born.

Evander W. Barnum, of our sketch, was the fifth child and third son of the first marriage. He was reared and educated in his native county, and after arriving at man's estate was married, in Springfield, to Miss Eliza Gilchrist, who was born in Otsego County, Feb. 28, 1832. William Gilchrist, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Barnum, was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and when a young man emigrated to America, and settled in Dutchess County, N. Y. He subsequently married Miss Mary Frazer, a native of the parish of Cromdell, Inverness, Scotland, and a lineal descendant of the family of Lord Lovell, a family of whom Scotch people have been

very proud. After their marriage they lived on a farm in Dutchess County, then moved to Schoharie County, and finally settled in Springfield, Otsego County, where they died April 9, 1819, and Sept. 11, 1829, respectively. They had nine children, six sons and three daughters. The parents of Mrs. Barnum, Peter and Sylvia (Dutcher) Gilchrist, were born respectively in Duanesburg, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1788, and in Springfield, June 3, 1804. They were married in the latter place March 14, 1822, and settled on the farm, where they passed the remainder of their lives, Mr. Gilchrist dying March 2, 1838, and Mrs. Gilchrist April 26, 1884. They were intelligent, worthy people, highly respected by all who know them. Peter Gilchrist was a farmer and leading stockman of his day in that section of the State. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the following is a record: Martha, the eldest child, who married Mr. G. Shaw, died leaving a family of four children; Mary, widow of the late Philip Rice, lives in Springfield, N. Y., aged sixty-four years; Christopher, a dealer in ladies' hair goods, in Ft. Wayne, Ind., married Melissa Harwick; Jane is the wife of John Scollard, a farmer of Springfield, N. Y.; Daniel, a farmer in Springfield, N. Y., married Hannah Walradt; Eliza is the wife of our subject; Margaret is the wife of Dexter Matison, of Newark, N. J.

After their marriage our subject and his wife started immediately for their new home in Nebraska, becoming pioneers of Cass County. They set to work energetically to build a home for themselves, and in doing that have contributed largely to the growth of the precinct and county, and have added their full quota to its progress, aiding by every possible means all things calculated for its moral, social or intellectual development. To people of like calibre is Cass County indebted for its high rank among the adjacent counties of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Barnum are social and hospitable people in every sense implied by the words, held in the highest respect, and are esteemed members of the Episcopal Church, of Wyoming. In his political views Mr. Barnum is a Republican, and in 1860 and 1862 represented his county in the Territorial Legislature, and in 1873 was a member of the State Senate. He is now an incumbent of the office of Justice of the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Barnum are the parents of one child, Thomas G., who still lives on the old homestead. He married Miss Hattie, daughter of Isaac Pollard, an extensive farmer of Liberty Precinct. They have one child, Vernie. A portrait of Mr. Barnum appears on another page.

JOHN D. SIMPSON, who has often been a prominent figure in the civic life of Plattsmouth, his present place of residence, was an early pioneer of Cass County. He holds a responsible position in the office of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company in this city, as clerk in the supply department. He was born in Huntingdon, Huntingdon Co., Pa., Sept. 12, 1826. His grandfather was Matthew Simpson, a Scotchman by birth, living on an estate in the North of Ireland, which had come into the possession of the family at the time of the Conquest by William of Orange. In 1783 he was married to Catherine Moore, a native of Ireland, born in 1757. On Oct. 19, 1784, their only child was born; this was William, father of our subject. When he was in his fourth year his parents came to America, landing May 8, 1788. Directly after landing they went to Huntingdon County, Pa., where Matthew Simpson died, in July 1810, at the age of seventy-three, leaving a large fortune to his son William, who became a leading man in the community, and was subsequently connected with a large iron foundry in that county. His connection with this enterprise was a costly one, as he lost $50,000 in it directly, and in a financial panic shortly after lost another $50,000 by the failure of the "Citizens' Bank" of that place. He was yet in comfortable circumstances, however, but by becoming security for friends he lost heavily, and became quite reduced in circumstances. He had held many positions of trust and responsibility. In 1827 he was elected Sheriff of Huntingdon County, serving four years with much credit to himself and greatly to the satisfaction of the citizens of the county. In 1838 he removed to Delphi, Ind., where he also became a conspicuous figure in public life. In 1839 he was appointed Postmaster of that place, and in 1841 was elected Treasurer of the county (Carroll), serving two terms in that

office. After retiring to private life he did not engage in any private business. In 1850 he died there, at the age of sixty-five, leaving behind an unsullied name and the pleasant memory of one who in life was an eminently kind and companionable man, who was widely respected not only for his ability, but for his virtues. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane Dean, was born in Philadelphia, and died in Delphi also. Aug. 20, 1838. She was a true wife and mother, and had borne beside her husband the vicissitudes of life with uncomplaining fortitude. They were married May 1, 1810. Their children were: Catherine, born March 23, 1811; Maria, May 23, 1813; Matthew, July 1, 1816; Jane Dean, Feb. 24, 1819; Debora, April 27, 1821; Eliza Ann, Nov. 5, 1823, and John Dean, Sept. 12, 1826. Two of these are now deceased: Maria died in November, 1857, and Jane Dean in April, 1843.

On the maternal side Mr. Simpson's ancestors came from Holland, and were settled in Philadelphia, Pa. His grandmother's maiden name was Debora Johnston, who was married to John Dean, after whom our subject was named. He came from England, but about the time of the Indian depredations there moved to Huntingdon County, Pa., where he became a leader in the warfare with the savages. He died comparatively young, leaving two children, Jane and William, the former the mother of our subject. William became a soldier in the War of 1812, and died soon after its close. John Dean had one brother, named Alexander, who became administrator of his estate, and soon became its owner. Debora, widow of John Dean, removed to Delphi, Ind., where she died in 1838. Her mother, who had removed from Pennsylvania to the Western Reserve, died in Mansfield, Ohio, at the extreme age of one hundred and ten years.

The subject of this biographical notice was the youngest child of his parents, and was twelve years old when they moved to Indiana. Two years later, in 1840, he became self-supporting, being a lad of great self-reliance, and blessed with health and a vigorous mind. He went to Galena, Ill., to reside with Richard Crocker, and clerked in his store. He acted in that capacity until 1843, when he went to Belvidere, in the same State, to take advantage of the excellent school in that town to complete his education, and he had as classmate there Bishop Nealey. In the spring of 1844 our subject returned to Indiana, and was a clerk in a general store until 1856. During that time his fine business qualifications brought him into public notice, and he was made Deputy Treasurer, and subsequently Clerk of the county. While acting in the latter capacity he made a numerical index of the records of deeds for the county. In September, 1856, he decided to try life on the wild Western plains, and started by rail for Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, then the western terminus of the railway, and from there took the stage to Plattsmouth. This was quite a small place at the time, with but three stores and not many dwelling-houses. Mr. Simpson commenced clerking in a general store, the trade being mostly confined to the emigrants who had come in and taken up claims. When emigration across the plains set in the merchants did a large business. In a newly settled country the men of brains come to the front, as their assistance is needed to carry out the affairs of State, and the fellow-citizens of our subject were not long in selecting him as worthy of their suffrage, and in the fall of 1857 they elected him to the position of County Treasurer. His discharge of the onerous duties of that office was so pleasing to his constituency that they re-elected him to the same position in 1859, and he thus served two full terms with great honor.

In 1861 our subject crossed the plains to Denver, and there kept books for the Rocky Mountain News Company for one year. He then accepted a position in the Quartermaster's department, having charge of mustering the soldiers in and out of the service of the Territory of Colorado. He returned to Plattsmouth in 1864, and the following year was engaged in keeping books for a mercantile house there. In 1866 he formed a partnership with Sharp & Micelwait to carry on the lumber and grocery business. He remained a member of that company until 1869, and also acted during that time as agent for the American Express Company. In 1869 he was appointed agent for the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, which in that year had put its line through this city, the first shovel-full of dirt having been thrown up in the month of July, and in the fall of that year the railroad was in operation, Mr.

Simpson being its first agent here. He acted in that capacity six months, but continued his agency for the American Express Company until 1873. He then went to Omaha as Secretary for the Brewer & Bemis Brewing Company, staying with them until 1874. In the spring of that year he visited Cheyenne, but spent only a few months there, and in the fall of that year we again find him in Plattsmouth, he having accepted the position of express messenger for the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, holding it until 1880. From that time until 1886 the American and Wells-Fargo Express Companies claimed his services as their agent in Plattsmouth. He resigned in the latter year to become clerk in the supply department of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, the duties of which position he discharges with characteristic fidelity, looking carefully after the interests of his employers.

Mr. Simpson was married, July 6, 1853, to Catherine Klepser, a native of Salem, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Klepser, of whom see sketch on another page of this volume. She fills the perfect measure of wife, mother, friend, and her many noble qualities of mind and heart endear her to a large circle of friends. Two amiable and accomplished daughters, Lelia and Edith Luella, complete the happy household group of our subject and his wife. Mrs. Simpson has acquired an enviable reputation as a music teacher of rare merit. She first gave music lessons in Delphi, Ind., and commenced teaching in Plattsmouth in 1858, and was one of the first music teachers in the Territory of Nebraska. Her children have inherited her talent in a marked degree, and her daughter Lelia was considered a musical prodigy at twelve years of age.

Mrs. Simpson on her mother's side is a granddaughter of Tunis William Vancleve, a pioneer of Ohio, who died in South Arlington in that State, Oct. 18, 1879, in his ninetieth year. He was born in New Jersey, in 1790, and emigrated to Warren County, Ohio, in 1818, shortly afterward removing to Montgomery County, Ohio, where the rest of his life was passed. His ancestors were Holland-Dutch, and both his father and grandfather had fought in the Revolutionary War, on the patriot side. T. W. Vancleve was a soldier in the War of 1812, for which he received a pension. A brother served in the navy in the same war. One of his uncles was killed by Indians in the forest where Cincinnati now stands, and the first white child born in Dayton, Ohio, was his cousin, John Vancleve, a lifelong resident of that place.

Tunis W. Vancleve was a blacksmith by trade, working at it both in New Jersey and Ohio, and until advancing age warned him that his days of active labor were drawing to a close. During his long life he had witnessed many changes—States and Empires had risen and fallen, confederacies organized and overthrown, ocean steamships, railways, telegraphs and telephones had sprung into existence, and the face of the map of the world had been changed by recent discoveries. His first vote had been cast for President Monroe, and he subsequently voted for all the Whig candidates until the formation of the Republican party, with which he acted until his death. He was four times married, his last wife surviving him. He left four children, several grandchildren, thirty-two great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, all of whom attended a family re-union, at which he presided a short time before his death.

Mr. Simpson's wise counsel and clear, candid judgment have been used effectually in the guidance of municipal affairs, and while holding office he always made his private interests subservient to those of the public. Under his administration as Mayor of Plattsmouth, in which office he served two years, the city was well governed, and prospered accordingly. He was City Clerk from 1875 to 1883, and retired from that office with an honorable record for efficiency and fidelity.

JOHN M. LEIS, a thrifty German-American citizen, who operates a splendid farm of 160 acres in Elmwood Precinct, was born in Hoxel, Prussia, where he lived and worked with his father, who was a farmer and merchant. He educated himself by attending the splendid schools of his native town. At the age of nineteen he undertook to learn the trade of cabinet-maker,

which, proving uncongenial to his taste, he and his brother Matthew sailed for America from Bremen, March 27, 1851, landing in New York May 11, 1851. The first years of their life in the New World was passed in various employments in different places. Mr. L. spent two years at labor in a sugar refinery in New York City. He then journeyed in Pennsylvania and Maryland for two or three years, where he worked at farming and in an iron foundry until 1859, when he migrated to Canton, Fulton Co., Ill.

It was in this year, 1859, our subject met and married Miss Kate Vogt, a native of Baden, Germany, born near the Black Forest, where she lived until she was fourteen years old, when, in company with her mother and three brothers and sisters, she came to America, landing in New York in 1852, where she went immediately to work by the week. After his marriage with this lady Mr. L. worked as a stonemason, they living in Illinois for the ensuing twenty years, when in 1876 they came to Nebraska. By hard labor and strict economy they had saved the sum of $900, and with this money and their family they settled on and proceeded to improve their home farm. Their children are: Fannie Louisa, now the wife of Mr. Horn, residing in Wabash, Neb.; John Z., residing in Holt County, Neb.; Stephen, Peter and Charles are living in Holt County, near their brother John; Calvin and the twins, George and Henry, are at home with their parents.

By the thrift and industry peculiar to the people of which our subject is one, he has accumulated a handsome property. In addition to the home farm he owns 160 acres in Holt County, Neb., and in company with his three sons has an ownership of 1,100 acres of land in that county. The improvements on the home farm are not at this date extensive, but those which are made are of the most solid and substantial character, designed with the view of ultimately extending them largely; but the condition and appearance of his farm are not excelled by any in the precinct.

The father of Mr. Leis, John B. Leis, was a farmer and merchant and also hotel-keeper in the mother country; his mother was Anna Mary Proesch. Both parents are dead. They were the parents of five children: Stephen and Catherine are dead; Susannah; John M., our subject, and Mathew. Susannah is in Germany; Mathew is a tailor in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he is conducting a prosperous and lucrative business.

The scholastic education of our subject was entirely in the German language. Upon his arrival in America he applied himself assiduously to the study of the English language, until he has attained a considerable efficiency. He is a student and close observer of events, and as a means of assisting himself he has kept a complete, careful record of events as they have transpired since 1863, adopting a system of making a note daily of the occurrences of that day, and he now possesses a record which is particularly valuable, as it relates in a great measure to local occurrences.

The wife of our subject is a large, portly, good-natured lady, an excellent housekeeper, and a lady who is worthy the respect of all her neighbors. She is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, and her husband is a member of the Catholic Church. In politics the gentleman is a Republican; he has held no public office except that of Road Supervisor. As an indication of the bent of his mind it will suffice to say that he regularly receives eight newspapers and periodicals, and studies them all very carefully.

ELIAS M. COMPTON. Nebraska has drawn within her borders men from all sections of the United States, and among her citizens the "Ohio man" has acquitted himself in a manner worthy the reputation of the Buckeye State. The subject of this sketch, a native of that State, and at present a resident of Avoca Precinct, was born in Montgomery County, Sept. 23, 1830, and is consequently fast approaching his threescore years.

The Compton family is essentially a good one, and William, the father of our subject, was one of its most honored representatives, who, settling in Montgomery County, Ohio, when beginning his career as a farmer on his own account, there spent the remainder of his life, making for himself a record which his children may look upon with reasonable pride. William Compton was born Feb. 18,

1798, in South Carolina, and after becoming a resident of Ohio, was married to Miss Susanna Frost, of Miami County, that State. The mother of our subject, a most excellent and worthy lady, traces her ancestry to Wales. She was not permitted to spend a long and useful life by the side of her honored husband, she passing away in the prime of life, he living to a ripe old age. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living and making their homes mostly in the United States.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in his native county, which he left when a little past twenty years of age, going into Miami County, in the same State, where he labored as a carpenter for some years. In Miami County also he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Jenkins, who was born and reared there, and who was the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Jay) Jenkins. The Jenkins family were Quakers in religious belief, and possessed all the peculiar and praiseworthy characteristics of that peaceable sect. The parents of Mrs. Compton spent the greater part of their lives in Ohio, dying there at an advanced age. Such had been their lives among the people of their community that their names are held in kindly remembrance by a large number of friends and acquaintances.

Mrs. Compton was carefully reared, and received a common-school education, remaining under the parental roof until her marriage. As the wife of our subject she became the mother of nine children, two of whom, a little daughter Ellen, and an infant unnamed, are deceased. Of the survivors the record is as follows: Samuel married Miss Jerusha Grubbs, and is living in Weeping Water, engaged as a brick and stone mason; William is farming in Colorado; Frank and Rollin I. are at home with their parents; Lora J. is the wife of John Fowler, an esteemed citizen of Cass County, whose biography appears elsewhere in this work; Minnie R. is the wife of Frank P. Parker, a farmer of Sarpy County, this State; Ida M. is at home.

Mr. Compton, politically, is a sound Republican, and in religious matters, with his estimable wife, adheres to the doctrines of the United Brethren Church. Upon leaving his native State he was thereafter a resident of Tama County, Iowa, for a period of eighteen years, a part of the time living in Benton County. He came to Avoca Precinct in the spring of 1875, purchasing his present homestead of 160 acres on section 17. His buildings compare favorably with those of the industrious men around him, and he has made for himself the reputation of a peaceable and law-abiding citizen, one who is creditably filling his niche in a community of intelligent people.

HENRY C. CUTLER. Among the prominent and successful farmers and enterprising men within the limits of Cass County, the name of our subject holds a proud place. His handsome home is situated on the west half of section 16, in Greenwood Precinct, and consists of 320 acres, all under a high state of cultivation. He is a husbandman of no small ability, keeps his home in the best condition, and makes agriculture a science. This gentleman was born in Cass County, Neb., Aug. 16, 1864, and as a specimen of a native-born Nebraskian, he does his native State full honor. He is the son of Martin B. Cutler, who was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., Dec. 2, 1835. He came to Nebraska thirty-three years ago, when he was twenty years old, and settled on a farm in Greenwood Precinct. He purchased one-half of section 16 from the State ten years ago, when he moved onto it.

The father of our subject was married to Miss Caroline McHerron, April 12, 1858. This lady was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, in 1841. They were the parents of two children—George H. and Henry C. George H. was born June 24, 1860, in Cass County, Neb. The father died at the age of fifty-three. Henry C. Cutler was married, Nov. 14, 1888, to Miss Lillian Walker, a daughter of George Walker, residing on section 8, in Greenwood Precinct. Her father came to Nebraska in 1887, from Sidney, Fremont Co., Iowa, where Miss Lillian was born, and settled on their present homestead. The grandmother of our subject, Mrs. Axenia Cutler, was born Dec. 17, 1810, in Cayuga County, N. Y., and was the wife of L. H. Cutler, who was born in Guilford, Vt., Aug. 20, 1805, where he was en-

gaged in the mercantile business until the time of his death. She was the mother of six children, named: Martha R., Axenia; Martin B., the father of our subject; Elizabeth R., Charles J. and Frank L.

The father of our subject, Martin B. Cutler, was married to Miss Gertrude Border in 1877. She now survives him, and lives in the village of Greenwood. Our subject's father enlisted for a period of nine months for service against the Indians in the West. At the expiration of this term of service he organized a company of scouts, of which he was elected First Lieutenant. After his discharge from this service, and on his return home, he was elected to the office of Sheriff of Cass County, which he filled most acceptably for a period of four years. After this he retired to his farm, where he died March 29, 1885. Our subject and brother George H. went into the business of raising thoroughbred cattle, horses and hogs, on what is well known throughout the northwestern part of the county as the "Highland Stock Farm."

A tour of inspection of the farm of our subject and his brother, cannot fail to be of interest to the admirer of thoroughbred stock, of the different species handled by these gentlemen. The horses in comfortably designed and roomy box-stalls, the cattle sleek and contented in their quarters, and the hogs with their various fine points displayed to the best advantage, in their clean, well-lighted pens, convey an idea of comfort and animal contentment seldom witnessed. These same animals, when roaming over the pastures, present a scene calculated to inspire the brush of a Rosa Bonheur. The owners of these fine animals possess a complete knowledge of the business in which they are engaged; they bring to it science and the skill derived from their own experience, as well as availing themselves of the knowledge gained by years of patient study and practice by men who have grown old and gray in its pursuit. The result is they have a stock farm second to none in value in the West.

Our subject and his brother George received a first-class education, first in the common schools in the neighborhood, and afterward attending the High School in Plattsmouth, where they were graduated with honors, since which time they have been engaged in active business. George is in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, as locomotive engineer, having entered their service since the time of the great strike, which occurred Feb. 22, 1888.

In his domestic relations our subject is an exceptionally well-favored man. He has just brought to his home a handsome young wife, a splendidly formed, handsome, blonde lady, of medium height. She is well educated and refined, and is capable of adorning any position in life in which she may be placed. In securing this lady for a life partnership our subject has undoubtedly made the most successful venture of his life, and in the coming years, when time has tried their affection, as fire tries pure gold, he can turn his thoughts backward, and say that the 14th of November, 1888, was the most fortunate day of his life. His grandmother, who is still living, hale and hearty, is one of the representative ladies of the old school. No one can be in her presence without feeling the beneficent influence of her kindly and happy disposition. The father partook largely of the characteristics of his mother, and during his lifetime intercourse with him was a benefit to all his friends. George H. Cutler was married to Miss Annie Hansen, of Cass County, Dec. 25, 1880.

DR. URBAN H. NORRIS, physician and surgeon, and an esteemed resident of Greenwood, was born near Findlay, Ohio, and grew up on a farm on which his father had settled in 1832. His early life, in common with other farmers' sons of that time, was spent alternately working and attending the common schools in the town of Findlay, which were unusually good. His parents had a proper conception of the value of a good education, and as a consequence insisted that our subject should have every facility within their reach for acquiring complete and thoroughgoing instruction. At the age of fourteen he entered the High School in Findlay, from which he was graduated with honors. At a very early period in life he conceived the idea of becoming a physician and surgeon, and devoted all his energies to

acquiring a knowledge which would facilitate his attaining to the object of his ambition.

The mother of our subject died, and it almost broke the hearts of her children and husband; the latter was getting well along in years and thought a change to the golden South would be beneficial to his health. In pursuance of this decision, he removed with his entire family soon after the mother's death to Southwestern Kansas. After living there several months he went to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where our subject began studying for the medical profession under the censorship of Dr. Crowder. After studying with the Doctor for three years, at the age of twenty he entered the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, attending one course of lectures. He began the practice of medicine with his former preceptor, where he remained a period of two years. At the expiration of this time he removed to Ashland, Neb., and completed his studies under the direction of Dr. Mansfield, and finally, as a completion and rounding out of a full course, he attended the Medical College at Omaha, where he attained a high position in his class, and was graduated in the spring of 1882.

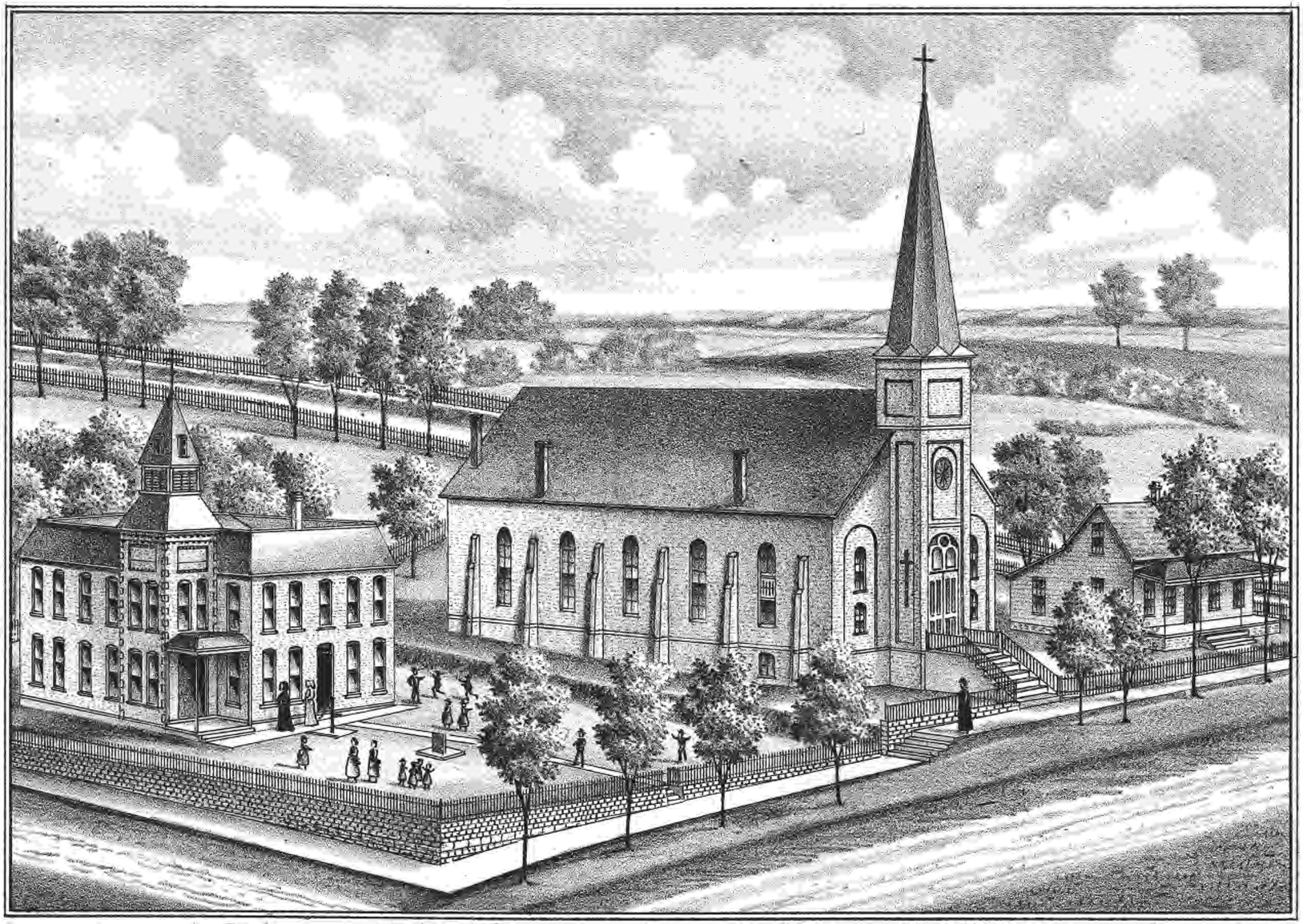
The long practical experience of our subject, capped by the thorough course of his study at Western medical colleges, insured his immediate success upon coming to Greenwood in 1880. He is as well and favorably known as any physician in Southeastern Nebraska, and his practice has been crowned with unusually successful results. He is a self-made man, having paid his own way through the various colleges, and his whole expenses while studying under his preceptors, by the fruits of his own labor. His practice engages his entire attention, and he devotes himself most assiduously to his loved profession, studying all the latest literature pertaining to his chosen walk in life, losing no opportunity of informing himself of the best methods and remedies, and in all ways keeping thoroughly abreast of the times.

The Doctor was married in Kansas to Miss Angeline Bell, in 1882. This lady was born in Knox County, Ohio, and is the daughter of Albert and Areboa Bell. Her home in Ohio was near that of our subject in his early days, and in his youth the Doctor was smitten with one of Cupid's darts, and after preparing himself for a life of usefulness, he took to his heart his first love, and now the Doctor and his lovable wife are happy and content in their new and elegant home, and they, in company with their two children, Ethel M. and Ralph W., present a picture of contentment that is seldom beheld. During the summer of 1885 the Doctor built a commodious residence, two full stories high, located on one of the most beautiful building sites in Greenwood. The whole house is most conveniently arranged, possessing all the modern improvements which can add to the comfort and well-being of his little family. His office and laboratory, complete in all the equipments for the successful practice of his profession, is in a wing of his residence. His practice is very satisfactory, and is extending daily.

Our subject's father was John Norris, born in Wayne County, Ohio; his mother was Mary Lavina Hartman, born in Richland County, in the same State. The father is now residing in Dallas, Tex., and is the proprietor of a large cattle ranch in Denton County, that State. He has attained the ripe old age of eighty-six years, and is still active and hearty. The mother died Sept. 2, 1875, aged fifty-one years. The Doctor is the youngest of three children. The other two children were Ambrose and Semilda. His brother Ambrose resides in Dallas, Tex., as does also his sister Semilda, now Mrs. Alfred Alerd, and is the mother of two children. Grandfather Norris was born in England, as was his wife. The maternal grandfather and grandmother of our subject were born in Germany. Prof. Norris, of the University of Pennsylvania, is a distant relative of the Doctor.

The neighbors of the Doctor have succeeded in inducing him to serve them as a member of the Board of Education of Greenwood, for a period of three years. He is also a member of the Nebraska State Medical Association, and is a very prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being connected with the local lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Greenwood. He is also a member of Greenwood Lodge, I. O. O. F. In politics he is a thorough-going Republican.

While the Doctor has succeeded in working his way up to the position he now holds, it is due to his great force of character and his disposition to



St. John the Baptist Church and School, Oak St. Between 5th & 6th, Plattsmouth, Neb.
Rev. T. J. Carney, Pastor

attain to the highest in the profession to which he is giving his time, life and might to attain. He is a gentleman of more than ordinary ability, and his success professionally and socially may be attributed to his strictly straightforward, upright life. He is genial, generous and public spirited, the poor among his patients being treated as efficiently and with as much courtesy as the rich. He is a citizen that Greenwood may well be proud to own.

REV. T. J. CARNEY, the Pastor in charge of St. John the Baptist's Catholic Church of Plattsmouth, is too widely and favorably known to need an introduction to the readers of this volume, nevertheless, they may appreciate the effort to present succinctly the chief points of interest in his life. He was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, Dec. 25, 1851, and was brought up principally in New York State. He came to the United States when quite young with his parents, Patrick and Bridget (McDonough) Carney. They are both living, and still residents of the State of New York. His education was received in the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels at Niagara, N. Y., from which he was graduated in the year 1880, and was ordained to the priesthood.

The first work of our subject after taking holy orders was the mission at West Point, Neb., where he remained as an assistant for about one month, after which he was transferred to Norfolk, Madison Co., Neb., to take charge of the mission there, having five churches in his care, which he continued to hold until 1884, when he went to Plattsmouth, since which time he has had full charge here, also having charge of the church near Louisville, Neb.

The Plattsmouth Mission was established in 1861, and during the war period a small brick church was erected on South Hill. This building, although quite small, was nevertheless large enough for all requirements for several years, but under the constant, vigilant care of its several pastors, the society has grown and flourished in a most gratifying manner. In 1875 the present handsome structure was erected upon a commanding site on Oak street, between Fifth and Sixth.

An important feature of the work as it has grown under the care of Father Carney is that connected with the schools. In the year 1887 a fine brick school building was put up; this stands 50x55 feet, and is two stories in height. It was opened in September, 1888, and given in charge of the Dominican Sisters, with 200 children enrolled. There are in all about eighty families connected with the church, and under the pastoral care of our subject.

Father Carney is a man of culture and education, an able and popular clergyman, enthusiastic to a degree, and very popular. He is very highly esteemed by the members of his flock and in the community at large, taking an active interest in all matters that look to the advancement of the religious, as well as general interests of the people.

As showing what has been accomplished by this zealous priest during his comparatively short residence in Plattsmouth, we give in this connection an excellent view of the church and the fine brick school-house, erected through his efforts, and also the parsonage.

JACOB TRITSCH. There was added to the population of Nebraska Territory, in 1866, the subject of this sketch, with his brother, his stepfather, his mother, and besides other members of the family, one Frederick Guenther, the whole making quite a company with their outfit of two wagons and seven horses. It was the month of January, and they were eighteen days on the journey from Pekin, Ill. They had been delayed two days by a snowstorm. They generally were fortunate enough to be in the vicinity of a town when night overtook them, but otherwise when not able to put up at a hotel, were given shelter overnight in a primitive dwelling of some settler who had preceded them to this region. They brought with them their household goods, a stock of provisions, and a limited number of farming implements.

The Tritsch family took up their residence on a tract of land in Plattsmouth Precinct, and our subject, who was then a youth of seventeen years, amid

pioneer scenes was reared to sturdy manhood, and there were developed in him those qualities which have resulted in making him one of the most industrious and reliable men of his county. His industry and economy have also served to gather about him a snug property, together with all the comforts of life. He is now the owner of a good farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, embracing 240 acres of land on section 24. This he built up from the uncultivated soil, fenced the fields, planted groves and fruit trees, erected the necessary buildings, and is now quite largely engaged in stock-raising.

The early home of our subject was in Germany, and his birth took place June 17, 1849. His father, Philip Tritsch, died in his native Germany, and the mother two years later emigrated with her little family of two sons and a daughter to America. Jacob was then a lad nine years of age. He still remembers many of the incidents of preparation and the two weeks' voyage across the Atlantic, at the expiration of which they arrived safely in New York City. Thence they proceeded at once to Tazewell County, Ill., settling on land in the vicinity of Pekin, where the mother labored industriously to keep her children together; in due time she married again, and became the wife of Philip Horn, of that county.

Mr. Tritsch had attended school considerably in his native Germany, but after coming to America his education was mostly confined to a few weeks during the winter season. He attained his majority in Plattsmouth Precinct, then, having a desire to revisit the scenes of his younger years in Illinois, returned to Tazewell County, and remained there one season. Upon coming back to Nebraska, he concluded to locate in this county, and of this has accordingly been a resident since 1872. At the age of twenty-three years he was married, in Illinois, Jan. 18, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Urich) Volk, of Tazewell County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Volk were natives of Germany, whence they emigrated to America early in life, settling in Illinois, where they still live.

Mrs. Tritsch was born Feb. 2, 1852, and remained under the parental roof until her marriage, receiving a fair education in the common schools. The young people began life together on a tract of rented land in Plattsmouth Precinct, whence they removed to their present home about 1875. This had undergone but little improvement at the time of their taking possession, and the fact that the substantial buildings with their appurtenances have been the result of the labors and industry of our subject, is sufficient proof that he has spent few idle hours since coming here. When we reflect that he was dependent upon his own resources from the start, too much credit cannot be given him for the good judgment which has marked his operations, he having been wise in his investments, and in his farming operations seeming to have the faculty of utilizing every acre, so that none have been allowed to run to waste.

Upon becoming a naturalized citizen and a voter Mr. Tritsch allied himself with the Democratic party, to which he has since given his undivided support. He has been no unimportant factor among the counsels of his fellow-citizens, and has served with credit in various positions of trust and responsibility. He is now closing his fifth term as Assessor of Eight Mile Grove Precinct. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church. They have three children, all sons: Michael, Jacob and Philip, the eldest sixteen years of age and the youngest eleven.

RICHARD LEWIS is an old settler and prosperous farmer, owning and operating over 480 acres of land in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. His residence is located on section 32. He was born in Pennsylvania, Dec. 24, 1818. When he was five years old his parents migrated with their family to Monongalia County, W. Va., which was at that time a comparatively new country, and as a consequence the family encountered all the troubles and privations incident to the life of the pioneer. His opportunities for securing an education were limited to the subscription schools of the time, and having a natural inclination to study, he improved his opportunities to the fullest extent, and, since he has attained to years of manhood, he has lost no opportunity of adding to his store of knowledge,

Our subject is the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth

Lewis; both parents were born in Maryland. His paternal ancestors were English, and those on the mother's side were of German descent. His parents had a large number of children, of whom only four survive, named as follows: Richard; Abraham, who resides in West Virginia; John, who lives in Tipton Precinct, Cass County, and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Cline, who resides in Ohio. Our subject was married, April 7, 1846, to Margaret Wells, a native of West Virginia. She is the daughter of Richard and Nancy Wells. By this union there has been a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, six of whom are living, namely: Simon, Sanford C., Gilly, Adeline, Gertrude and George. Those deceased are Rebecca and John. Simon resides in Lincoln; Sanford C. resides in Hayes County, this State; Gilly is now the wife of Benjamin Ward, and resides in Colorado; Adeline is the wife of M. L. Thomas, the editor of the *Dundy County Pioneer*, at Benkleman, Neb.; Gertrude is the wife of George Laverty, and resides in McCook, Neb.; George also resides in McCook.

After the marriage of our subject he settled in Virginia, where he farmed for many years. In 1868 he migrated to Cass County with his family, taking a steamer at Wheeling, coming down the Ohio to its confluence with the Mississippi, thence up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers as far as Plattsmouth. The first year he was in Nebraska he rented land. He then purchased eighty acres in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, settled on it, and began its improvement, in regular pioneer style. The land had twenty-seven acres plowed, which was all the improvement he had to begin on. By energy, perseverance and good management, he has brought it up to a good state of cultivation. He now owns 480 acres of good land, which he has procured by purchase from time to time, and which is second to none in value in the county.

The improvements which our subject has made on his farm are very substantial in their character, and are in accordance with a well-defined plan. The barns and various other buildings are well located and conveniently arranged for the purposes for which they were intended. His dwelling-house is finely located, and contains all the conveniences obtainable. It is roomy and nicely furnished. He has planted a good orchard, which is a source of handsome profit, and presents a fine appearance.

The wife of our subject during her life was an able coadjutor to her husband in all his efforts and plans, and studied his interests carefully, and much of his success is due to her wise counsels and valuable assistance, which she cheerfully rendered to the day of her death, which occurred Sept. 7, 1873. She left behind her a wealth of love and affection, and a large circle of loving friends and acquaintances. The place she filled in the home circle can never be fully supplied. Her memory will ever be a green spot in the lives of her husband and children. She was identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and endeavored to live what she thought to be the earnest, consistent life of a Christian.

When Mr. Lewis settled in Nebraska he was without means or any influential friends. He could look to no one for assistance, and depended entirely on his own energy and perseverance for success. How well he has accomplished his purpose is manifested by the present condition in which he finds himself. He is kind-hearted and generous to a fault. He is public-spirited, thinking that the greatest good for the greatest number should be the prevailing sentiment among the people. He is always found heartly supporting any measure that may be proposed which will have that result, oftentimes to his serious inconvenience. In politics he is a Democrat, but has filled no public office except a position on the School Board, where he felt that his services would be of permanent value.

HENRY D. BARR is a valued citizen of Weeping Water (a resident of the First Ward), where he is engaged in business as a fire insurance and real-estate agent, and as collector and conveyancer, and holds the offices of Justice of the Peace and Notary Public.

Mr. Barr was born in Greene County, Ohio, July 15, 1849. His father, John W. Barr, was born in Virginia or Pennsylvania, and went to Ohio when a young man, and as a pioneer of Allen County,

hewed out a farm for himself in the wilderness. He always lived in that part of the country after his removal to it until death called him hence, in 1875. He was an upright, conscientious man, and a consistent member of the Baptist Church, as was also his good wife, whose maiden name was Phœbe Snodgrass. She was the mother of eight children, all of whom lived to maturity, namely: John C., Joseph M., James V. B., Robert H., Henry D., Elizabeth, Minerva J. and Sally A. The four oldest boys served in the army, and two of them never came back alive. Robert H. was killed while gallantly fighting at Atlanta, Ga.; Joseph was wounded at Harper's Ferry, Va., and was transferred to the invalid corps at Columbus, Ohio, in Camp Chase, and there died from the effects of his wound April 5, 1864. Sally married C. C. Hadsell, of Waterloo, Ind., and they are now living there; Minerva is in Waterloo, Ind.; John C. is in Ottawa, Ohio; James lives at Creston, Iowa, where he is engaged in the mercantile business; Elizabeth died in Allen County, Ohio. The mother of this family was born in Virginia in 1812, and accompanied her father, Daniel S. Snodgrass, to Ohio when young, and there lived until her marriage. She died in Weeping Water, Jan. 28, 1883.

The subject of this sketch was but a babe when his parents moved to Allen County, and he was there reared amid pioneer influences. In 1861 he left the parental home and entered the printing-office of the *Auglaize County Democrat*, serving an apprenticeship of one year; from there he went to Lima, Ohio, and again entered a printing office, that of the *Gazette*, and was employed there a year and a half. In 1863 he was called home to stay with his parents, his older brothers having joined the army. He assisted in the management of the old homestead until 1865, when, the war being over, two of his brothers came back and relieved him from further duty. Thus gaining a thorough, practical knowledge of the art preservative, he next went into the office of the *Allen County Democrat*. Eighteen months later he was elected Assessor of his home ward, being then but twenty-five or twenty-six years of age. He discharged the onerous duties of that responsible office in a manner to call forth the warm praise of his fellow-citizens. He subsequently engaged in teaching, a vocation to which he was well adapted both by temperament and education. At one time he was appointed delinquent tax collector for the city of Lima, which office he filled satisfactorily. After his term of office expired he came West, abandoning the profession of teacher, he having taught nine terms. He also read law one year with Judge McBride. When he first came to Cass County he stopped in Centre Precinct for a few months, and then spent the following winter in Iowa. He came back in the fall of 1880, and engaged on various papers, and was local writer and editor of the *Republican*, of Weeping Water, for a year, and he was also on the staff of the *Cass County Eagle* for two or three years. He subsequently went to Talmage and purchased the *Tribune*, of which paper he was editor and publisher until the spring of 1885. He then returned to this place, and was engaged on the *Republican* for a year. He was thus engaged when he received the appointment of Justice of the Peace, and resigned his connection with the paper to accept it, having been appointed to fill an unexpired term. In the fall of 1887, so satisfactory was his administration of the affairs of his office, he was elected for a full term, and qualified Jan. 1, 1888.

Mr. Barr is a candid, sincere man, of unblemished character, whose intelligent, well-informed mind amply fits him for any station to which he may be called. He is influential in local politics and a standard bearer of the Republican party of Cass County. Socially, Mr. Barr belongs to the I. O. O. F., Prairie Lodge No. 25, also the Daughters of Rebecca, Woodland Lodge, at Weeping Water.

ADAM HILD, of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, presents a picture of the typical well-to-do German farmer and stock-raiser, with his comfortable home and fat cattle and horses, and all the other substantial surroundings brought about by his thrift and industry. His property comprises 240 acres on section 35, and eighty acres on section 36, with good buildings, fruit and shade trees, the necessary farm machinery, and the various comforts and conveniences which he has gradu-

ally added to the estate from year to year. A man peaceable and law-abiding, he is one who attends strictly to his own concerns, and one in whom his neighbors have entire confidence.

Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, was the native place of our subject, where his birth occurred July 6, 1844. When a little lad six years of age his parents, George and Margaret (Schaffer) Hild, who were also of pure German birth and ancestry, decided to emigrate with their little family to the United States. Taking passage on a sailing-vessel at Havre, they landed safely in New York City after a long ocean voyage of sixty-seven days. Thence they repaired to the vicinity of Rochester, where they lived about one year, and at the expiration of that time set their faces westward, resolving to cast their lot among the pioneer settlers of Tazewell County, Ill. The father rented a tract of land in that county, where he lived and labored until his death, which occurred in March, 1881, when he was about eighty-three years of age. The mother survived her husband six years, her death taking place Jan. 27, 1887, in Tazewell County, Ill.

To the parents of our subject there were born six children: George and Philip remain residents of Tazewell County, Ill.; Elizabeth died when thirty-five years old; Adam, our subject, was the fourth of the family; Michael lives in Tazewell County, and Charlotte is dead. Adam, like his brothers and sisters, received but a limited education, and at an early age was trained to habits of industry and economy. He was fond of reading, and thus employed his leisure hours, keeping himself well informed upon topics of general interest. Nothing delighted him better than to watch the growing crops, and no occupation pleased him better than that of the husbandman. His ambition was to have a farm of his own, and to this end he labored from early manhood. While a resident of Tazewell County, Ill., he was married, Feb. 25, 1869, to Miss Elizabeth C. Reeg, a native of his own country, born also in Hesse-Darmstadt, Feb. 2, 1850. The parents of Mrs. Hild were Jacob John and Mary M. (Kllinger) Reeg, who were natives of Germany, and died in that country. Mrs. Hild was only fourteen days crossing the Atlantic, which at that time was considered quite rapid transit. She was the third child of her parents, whose family consisted of five children, namely: Maggie Elizabeth, now deceased; Anna M, the wife of Leonard Trautman, of Germany; Mrs. Hild; Sophia, deceased; and Elizabeth, the wife of Michael Schwarzfisher, of this county.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born nine children, namely: Michael, at home; Elizabeth and Adam, deceased; Ferdinand J., George M., Philip A., Frederick L., Anna C. and Emma L. After his marriage Mr. Hild continued farming in Tazewell County, Ill., until the spring of 1883, when he decided to seek the farther West. He is the owner of 320 acres of land, which comprises one of the finest farms in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He has been the architect of his own fortune, and was fortunate in the selection of a wife and helpmate, Mrs. Hild having proved herself fully as industrious and energetic as he. Politically, our subject votes the Democratic ticket.

JACOB KUNZMANN, now the owner of 400 broad acres of land in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, landed in Plattsmouth, this county, in July, 1867, with a capital of ten cents in his pocket. From that modest beginning and by years of plodding industry, with the exercise of the most careful economy, he has accumulated a snug fortune, and presents an admirable illustration of the results of energy and perseverance. He is numbered among the leading stock-raisers in this part of the county, and has his homestead on section 8, a place which, with all its appurtenances, invariably attracts the admiring attention of the passing traveler. It has taken years of labor and thousands of dollars to bring the property to its present condition, but the owner and projector of this fine estate must certainly feel that his labors have been richly rewarded.

The enterprising German citizen is found all over the United States where thrift and prosperity abound, and to him is this great commonwealth largely indebted for the development of her best resources. The subject of this sketch has been in nowise behind his countrymen, and has con-

tributed his full quota to their labors and their fame. A native of the Grand Duchy of Baden, he was born on the 22d of August, 1833, and is the son of Christian and Eve Kunzmann, who spent their lives in Germany; their family consisted of five children. Jacob spent his boyhood and youth like the others, a portion of the time in school, receiving a practical education in his native tongue. Later he served an apprenticeship at the trade of shoemaker, at which he worked for a period of seven years. After that he was variously occupied until coming to the United States.

Mr. Kunzmann remained a single man until twenty-eight years of age, and was then married, Sept. 1, 1861, to Miss Madalena Gebhart, a native of his own Province, and who was born Feb. 2, 1837. Mrs. Kunzmann was orphaned by the death of both parents when a young child, and was reared by her maternal aunt. Our subject and his wife continued to live in the Fatherland until the spring of 1867, then decided to emigrate to America. Securing passage on an ocean steamer at Bremen, they landed in New York City after a voyage of thirteen days, and making their way directly across the Mississippi, came to this county, within whose limits they have since lived.

Mr. Kunzmann was a resident of Plattsmouth the first four years after coming to America, and employed himself at whatever he could find to do. By the most rigid economy and self-denial on the part of both himself and his estimable wife, they were in the fall of 1877 enabled to settle upon their present farm. This was but little removed from its primitive condition, and our subject worked early and late to develop his land and bring the estate to its present condition. He has been remarkably prosperous, and is now enabled to rest upon his oars and view with satisfaction the result of his arduous labors.

Four children came to bless the union of our subject and his estimable wife, the eldest of whom, a son, William, is living at home; Emma became the wife of Edward Herman, and they live in Frontier County, this State; Joseph and Charles continue under the home roof. Mr. and Mrs. K. are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, and are held in the highest respect by their neighbors and fellow-citizens. Mr. K., politically, exercises the right of an independent American citizen, aiming to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office, irrespective of party.

J. W. PITTMAN, who stands prominently among the solid men of Cass County, can justly be classed with the pioneers of the State, having spent thirty years of his life west of the Missouri River. In 1859 he pre-empted a tract of land in Rock Bluff Precinct, but did not undertake its improvement, preferring to go to Nebraska City, where he engaged in freighting across the plains on his own account, continuing thus engaged for nine years. His route was from the Missouri River to Denver, and he visited at different times all the places of note between the river and the mountains. He also went into Montana Territory, and in 1862 and 1863 visited Virginia City, when the greatest excitement prevailed in the mining regions of that part of the country on account of the discovery of gold. Mr. Pittman invested in mines and operated two at that time, but his ventures were not successful, though he lost nothing pecuniarily. His experiences of frontier life have been many and starding, and had we space to rehearse them they would prove most entertaining reading. Mr. Pittman is well acquainted throughout this part of the United States, having always been the same, genial, open-hearted gentleman he now is, making friends of all chance acquaintances, and always retaining their regard and esteem. In 1867, deciding to permanently establish himself in a home of his own, our subject located on a new farm of 160 acres on section 15, Liberty Precinct, which he now occupies. He has since then added to his landed possessions, and is now the proprietor of 560 acres on section 15, eighty acres on section 10, and has a six-acre tract of timber on section 4. His farm is well watered, having running water on every eighty acres, and it is under good improvement. He has it heavily stocked, and pays especial attention to stock raising and feeding, that branch of his business being very lucrative. He is considered one of the founders of Cass County's

present prosperity, as since settling here he has been intimately connected with its growth and development, having contributed liberally toward the advancement of its interests. He has attained his present position by the exercise of his many natural gifts, among which are energy, perseverance, and good financial judgment. On his arrival in Nebraska he was not only a poor man, but was heavily in debt, having met with reverses while in the mercantile business in Iowa. He has since paid up his indebtedness, dollar for dollar, and has a large balance in his exchequer. Meanwhile, besides building up a fine property, he has built up a good name for himself, which, as Scripture saith, "is better to be chosen than great riches."

We will now turn back in the history of our subject, and give a brief review of his early life. He was born on the 25th of March, 1834, in Harrison County, Ind. (For parental history see sketch of Andrew Pittman.) Our subject is the third son and fourth child born of the first marriage of his father. He was reared in his native county, and after attending its common school for awhile, was sent to the university at Hartsville, where he was a student for several years. After attaining his majority our subject went to Iowa, and supported himself by teaching school and selling dry-goods in Weston, a small town in Marion County. He remained there until he became insolvent, then came to Nebraska to recruit, and finally liquidated all debts, as before mentioned.

Mr. Pittman was united in marriage, in Marion County, Iowa, to Miss Lydia A. Goodwin. She was born in Madison County, Ind., March 15, 1840. Her parents, Samuel and Susan (Beange) Goodwin, were natives of South Carolina, but moved to Indiana when quite young, and were afterward married in that State. Mr. Goodwin was a farmer and school teacher by occupation, and followed that business in Indiana until his death, which occurred in 1850. Mrs. Goodwin subsequently married again, becoming the wife of Mr. James Baley. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Baley removed to Iowa, then to Nebraska, locating first in Cass County, removing thence to Nebrsska City, where Mrs. Baley died in November, 1883, in the sixty-fourth year of her age. Mrs. Pittman remained with her mother until her marriage with our subject, receiving a good common-school education and thorough instruction in household duties. To our subject and his wife have been born nine children, two of whom, David J. and Stella, died when about two years of age. Of the seven living children, Arelia A. is the wife of J. D. Bramblet, a farmer of Gage County; Melissa J., a talented artist, lives at home; Hattie J. married George L. Schryder, of Weeping Water Precinct; Charles L., James S., Edward A. and Berdie D. are at home.

Politically, Mr. Pittman is a sound Democrat, believing that within that party lie the principles that are the safest guides for our National Government.

WALTER MUTZ may successfully lay claim to the honor of being one of the pioneers of Cass County, where he came with his parents in 1856. He now resides on a well-cultivated farm of 120 acres, located on section 14, Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Indiana, Jan. 24, 1852. His parents lived in that State until he was about three years old, when the family removed to Mills County, Iowa, where they resided for one year, when they continued their journey to Cass County, Neb., where they settled on a tract of wild land in what is now known as Rock Bluff Precinct, in Eight Mile Grove. At that day neighbors were few and widely scattered, and in common with the other early settlers of the county, they had their full share of the troubles and trials incident to the life of a Nebraska pioneer. The father, John Mutz, now lives in Nemaha County, Neb., with his aged wife, Phœbe, where they removed from Rock Bluff Precinct several years ago. The parents of Mr Mutz were natives of Pennsylvania; his paternal ancestors were German.

Our subject is one of a family of eight children; George W., Austin C.; Walter, our subject; William, Otto, Albert, Nettie and Hattie. George W. resides at Plattsmouth, Neb.; Austin C. resides in Nemaha County, near his parents; William resides in Dakota County, Neb.; Otto resides in Keya Paha County, Neb.; Albert resides in Otoe County; Nettie is the wife of John Majors, and now living at

McCook, Neb.; Hattie is the wife of A. T. Stewart, and resides at Omaha. The entire family are classed among the very first and representative pioneers of the State.

Our subject having been a resident of Cass County since he was three years old, has seen the country develop from a wild, cheerless waste to its present prosperous condition, and without drawing too heavily on imagination, he may be considered to all intents and purposes a native to the manner born. Possessing a fair education, he was engaged as a teacher for three terms. With this exception his entire life has been devoted to farming, in which he has proved eminently successful, bringing a rare degree of skill and intelligence to the business, and ingeniously bringing everything to bear that could in any manner contribute to his advantage and success.

Mr. Mutz was married, Dec. 29, 1876, to Martha Hall, the daughter of the Hon. James Hall, a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct. This couple have become the parents of six very intelligent and interesting children. They are named: Jessie F., Guy R., Katie E., Jay D., John G., and an infant son, Harrison H. He has a large conception of the value of a thorough education, and he is sparing no effort to afford his children such advantages as the country affords, to fit themselves to fill exalted positions in life, with honor and profit, and by giving them these facilities he gives them that which will always be of value, and in the various mutations of life cannot be lost.

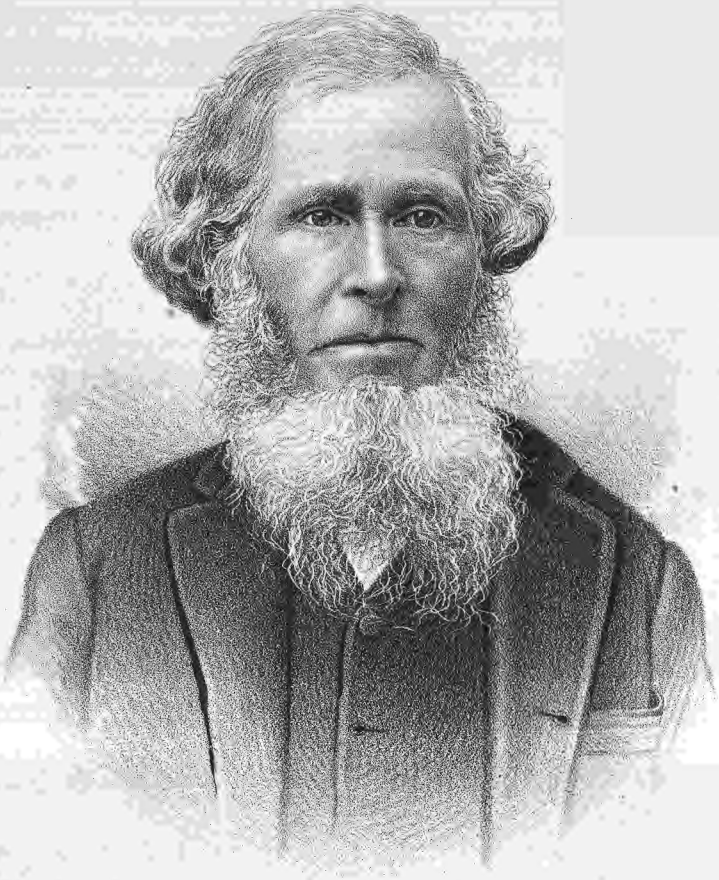
The improvements our subject has put upon his home farm are composed of very substantial buildings, especially designed for the care and economical handling of the stock and the various crops grown on the farm. His residence is neatly and tastefully designed, and is fitted with the latest appliances to reduce the household cares to the minimum, as he feels that it is but due to his good wife that she should have everything obtainable to make her household work, which at best is always heavy, as light as possible.

The subject of our sketch is a good conversationalist, and one who has not experienced the adventures incident to pioneer life cannot spend an hour to better advantage than to engage Mr. Mutz in conversation, and listen to his narration of the many perils experienced by him in his early years, which are related in such a graphic manner as to carry the listener with him back to those perilous days. In politics this gentleman is a Democrat. He has served on the School Board of his district for a number of years. Both himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, are very sociable and hospitable, and take a lively interest in all matters, either social, educational or religious, relating to the general good of their neighborhood.

MRS. CHRISTINA RUMMEL, a lady highly esteemed in the community, and the owner of a good farm property on section 21 in Plattsmouth Precinct, is the widow of the late Peter Rummel, who departed this life at their homestead April 24, 1885. They were married in Pike County, Ohio, March 22, 1864, and in November of the following year came to Nebraska Territory, locating in the pioneer days upon the land which Mrs. Rummel now occupies, and from which has been constructed a valuable homestead.

Peter Rummel was born in Pike County, Ohio, Nov. 8, 1841, was a man of industrious habits, persevering and enterprising, and occupied a good position among the early settlers of Cass County. His parents, Frederick and Angelina (Gloup) Rummel, were natives of Germany, whence they emigrated to America early in life, and settled in Pike County, Ohio, where they still reside. Mr. Rummel was a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church, and belonged to the I. O. O. F., of Plattsmouth, at the time of his decease.

Mrs. Rummel was born in Pike County, Ohio, June 29, 1842, and is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Vallery) Vallery, who were natives of Germany, and are residents of this township. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parental household consisted of eight children; six are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Rummel there were born four children, all sons, namely; George F., Jacob, William and Edward; the eldest twenty-four years of age and the youngest sixteen. Three of the sons are occupied at farming. The eldest, George F., is



Yours Truly
John F. Buck

in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, making his headquarters at Pacific Junction. Mr. Rummel during his lifetime was a Democrat, and a man of pure principles and integrity.

GEORGE W. LAMBING is one of the leading merchants of Weeping Water, and is the only implement dealer in the city, excepting a small branch of a Plattsmouth house. Mr. Lambing established his present prosperous business about six years ago, in 1882, when the railway came through, and although at one time there were two opposition dealers in implements, by his fair and square dealings with his farmer customers, he has maintained his trade, and is now the only dealer remaining that was established at that time. Mr. Lambing has a large trade in wagons, buggies, and all kinds of farming implements, and always keeps on hand a good class of goods.

Our subject was born in Jefferson County, Pa., June 9, 1844, to John and Margaret (Shirley) Lambing, natives and lifelong residents of Pennsylvania. The father died in 1876, and the mother in 1883. They were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Our subject received a substantial education in the schools of his native county, and continued to live there until 1869. In that year he came to Plattsmouth, this State, where he engaged in his trade of blacksmith, which he had learned and practiced in his native home. Nineteen months later he opened a smithy in Weeping Water, arriving here in September, 1870, and he is now the only blacksmith that was here at that early date, and he still has a shop in connection with his business. He continued to ply his trade until he opened his store for the sale of implements.

Mr. Lambing has a substantial residence on Randolph street, near the Congregational Church, and to the lady who makes his home pleasant and attractive he was married in this city, Nov. 14, 1871. Of the six children born to them, five are still living, as follows: Charles O., George E., John H., William and Clara B. All are at home and enjoying the benefit of good educations. Mrs. Lambing, whose maiden name was Sarah F. Potter, was born in Maryland. Her parents moved to Indiana when she was a small girl, and there she lived until she had grown to womanhood, and then accompanied her parents to Illinois. Her father died in that State, and her mother came here with her son, T. L. Potter, who was the first jeweler in town. He did not remain here long, but went to Springfield. While here our subject met and made the acquaintance of his wife. Her mother makes her home with our subject and her daughter the most of the time.

Mr. Lambing takes an active part in promoting the material prosperity of his adopted city, and the furtherance of any and all schemes for its improvement is sure to meet with his cordial approbation and substantial aid. He has borne an honorable part in the public life of this place, and was a Trustee of the village the first year of its incorporation. He and his wife are esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in their daily walk show themselves to be sincere Christians, guided by the highest principles, and they are therefore eminently worthy of the respect accorded to them. Mr. Lambing is identified with the I. O. O. F., and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

HON. JOHN F. BUCK. Of all the honored pioneers of Cass County who came here at an early day, and who have witnessed and aided its steady development and growth, the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch is a worthy representative, and his silvered hairs and venerable form are everywhere greeted with the respect and reverence due to an honest and upright man.

Mr. Buck was born in Metz Township, Cayuga Co., N. Y., May 31, 1815. His paternal grandfather, Elijah Buck, was a native of Pennsylvania, and came of a good old English family, who had settled in that State many years before. After his marriage he removed to Wyoming County, Pa., and during the Revolutionary War, when his son, the father of our subject, was an infant, he enlisted in

the home militia, and was mustered in as Lieutenant. He was a brave soldier, and fought gallantly for his country. While he was away the Indians attempted to massacre the people of Wyoming, and his wife escaped from the house with the baby in her arms, saving none of her household goods except the silver spoon with which she was feeding him. In 1781 Lieut. Buck moved with his family to what is now Chemung County, N. Y., and settled on the banks of the Chemung River, where he cleared a farm and spent his last years, dying in 1829, of paralysis, after a long and useful life of more than fourscore years. His wife, who had died some years before, was of Irish parentage.

The father of our subject, Aholiab Buck, was born in Wyoming, Pa., in 1776, and when five years of age accompanied his parents to Chemung County, where he grew to manhood. He was there married, in 1781, to Miss Annis Drake, who was a descendant of one of the first settlers of Manhattan Island. She was a lineal descendant of the Prince of Orange. A large part of the land now owned by Trinity Church corporation, New York City, originally belonged to that family. Her father, Benjamin Drake, spent his entire life in New York State. After marriage Mr. Buck and his wife began their wedded life in Cayuga County, N. Y., where they cleared a farm from the wilderness, seven miles from the present site of Auburn, living there until 1831, when they removed with their family of five sons and two daughters to Peoria County, Ill. Mr. Buck had accumulated considerable property while in New York, but lost it through the dishonesty of others, and was a comparatively poor man when he emigrated to the Prairie State. With characteristic energy he set to work to establish a new home for himself and family, and lived there, happy and prosperous, until his death from paralysis, Nov. 21, 1855. His wife survived him five years, dying in 1860, at the venerable age of eighty-four years. Both were earnest members of the Presbyterian Church, and lived honest, Christian lives.

John F. Buck, of whom we write, was the sixth child born to his parents. He was reared and educated in New York, and, being naturally studious and ambitious, with a keen intellect, acquired a good education, which he has further extended by constant study and reading. He was married in Peoria County, Ill., Nov. 5, 1839, to Miss Mary Schryder, daughter of Ernest C. and Sarah Schryder. (For full parental history see sketch of her brother, George F. Schryder.) Mrs. Buck was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., near Lake Ontario, May 23, 1820, being next to the youngest of the family of three daughters and two sons born to her parents. When seventeen years of age she accompanied her parents to Peoria County, Ill., and remained an inmate of their home until her marriage with our subject. She received a good education in the schools of her native State, and a superior training in domestic duties from her excellent mother, which well fitted her for her position as companion, helpmate, counselor, and all that makes a true wife and faithful mother. To her and her husband there have been born ten children. The names of the deceased are Charles D., James R., George N., Willie E. and Daniel W., all of whom died when quite young, and some of them of diphtheria. The record of the living is as follows: John S., a farmer and stock-raiser of Whitman, W. T.; he married Huldah Wolph, and they have six children; Theodore D., a farmer of Liberty Precinct, married Florence R. Barber, and they have four children; Abigail J. married Andrew Klepser, and is a resident of Bellevue; Sarah A. married W. B. Gates, a farmer of Ottawa, Kan.; Maria A. is a well educated young lady, and is residing at home with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Buck remained in Peoria County several years after their marriage, but in 1855 concluded to start with their family for the new farming regions of the West. May 19th of that year they crossed the Missouri River, and coming to Liberty, Mr. Buck pre-empted 160 acres of land, and later, after the Government had disposed of its domain to this county, he became possessor of another quarter-section in Liberty Precinct, which had really been secured by another man in Mr. Buck's name, and thus fell to him by deed and title.

A short time after our subject purchased another tract of 160 acres, thus becoming owner of three-quarters of a section before 1860. As soon as he had established himself here, Mr. Buck identified

himself with the interests of his adopted town and county, and soon occupied a prominent place among its valued and influential citizens. He is a man of great intelligence and sound judgment, and his counsel and advice have been sought on all important questions. He was one of the foremost in having the old pre-emption law of 1842 so modified and arranged that a person could pre-empt land in Nebraska, even though he had filed a claim elsewhere. He has watched with pride the many changes and improvements of the county, and facilitated by every means in his power its rapid advancement. Mr. Buck has worked with unflagging industry on his own farm, and, although deprived of the use of one arm, has by his perseverance, sagacious judgment, thrift, and wise economy, improved one of the best farms in the county, and has accumulated sufficient property to enable him and his worthy wife to spend their declining years in comfort and ease. He has erected a commodious dwelling, replete with all the modern conveniences, and has a good set of farm buildings. His realty consists of 320 acres in Liberty Precinct, and 160 acres in Rock Bluff Precinct, all of which is suitable for tillage or grazing, being well watered by branches of the Weeping Water Creek.

Our subject has done his part in making the government of Nebraska what it is, having been sent in 1855 to represent his county in the Territorial Legislature, and he was chairman of two committees while a member of the house. He was an excellent man for those positions, and worked for the highest good of his constituents, without prejudice to his opponents, being a broad and liberal minded man of the highest integrity. In politics he was formerly an old-line Whig, and voted for William H. Harrison in 1836, and again in 1840. On the formation of the Republican party he became one of its members, and has since been a firm supporter of its principles, and voted at the last presidential election for Benjamin Harrison. Until within the last few years Mr. Buck was an attendant at nearly every State and county convention of his party as a delegate, and the people of Cass County would have honored him with any office within their gift, had he been willing to accept, but his home duties were such that he could not conveniently leave them for any protracted term, and he was always obliged to decline official honors. He has, however, served as Justice of the Peace for about forty years, and is still an incumbent of that office. In 1855 Three Grove post-office was established, the first one in this part of the county, and Mr. Buck was appointed Postmaster, and served until 1862. Both he and his good wife are people of sterling worth, and possess in a marked degree those honest, substantial qualities which have made them loved and revered by all who know them, and will keep their memory green in the community where they have lived so many years, long after they have passed away.

A portrait of this venerable pioneer and honored citizen adorns a page of this ALBUM, and will be justly regarded as one most worthy of a place here.

MATTES AKESON may be taken as a typical representative of the hardy, industrious Swedish-American citizen, who has by his industry and perseverance brought his home farm, located on section 7, Mt. Pleasant Precinct, to its present high state of cultivation. He was born in Sweden, Nov. 29, 1825, where he resided and followed the occupation of a farmer until he emigrated to America in 1854, in which year he took passage in a sailing-vessel, and after a comparatively uneventful voyage of seven weeks, he landed in New York City, whence he came directly west to Illinois, residing in Henderson and Knox Counties in that State for about ten years, the most of the time working at farming by the month.

Feeling an intense love for his adopted country, our subject enlisted for service in the Union Army, on Aug. 10, 1862, in Company H, 102d Illinois Infantry. The first part of his term of service was in Kentucky and Tennessee. The regiment of which he was a member was made a part of Sherman's grand army, that cut the Confederacy in twain, and contributed so largely to the ending of the war. He participated in the battles of Snake Gap, Burnt Hickory, siege of Atlanta, and in a large number of skirmishes and battles in which Sherman's army

was engaged in his memorable march to the sea. He took part in the grand review at Washington at the close of the war, and was honorably discharged in June, 1865. He served as a private during the entire term.

Upon his return northward Mr. Akeson went to Mills County, Iowa. He remained there but a short time, when he married Mrs. Rebecca Gentry, which happy event occurred July 3, 1866. This lady was the widow of William Gentry, and was a resident of Mills County. By her first marriage the lady became the mother of three children, Milton, Katie and Benjamin, and by her marriage to our subject she became the mother of three children, Thomas, Emma, and Ella E., who is now dead. This lady was born in Henry County, Ind., Jan. 12, 1832, and is the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Wiles. Her parents came from North Carolina. Her paternal ancestors were of English origin. When she was about seven or eight years of age her parents removed with their family to Andrew County, Mo., where she lived until her marriage with Mr. Gentry, who died in Missouri in 1861.

Our subject is the son of Akey and Ellen Akeson. He is the youngest child in the family. His education was received in his native country, where all children are required to have certain educational facilities, which has served more than any other one thing to make those people fill the proud position among the educated nations of the world they occupy. Upon his arrival in America Mr. Akeson applied himself industriously to the task of acquiring a knowledge of the English language, and he has succeeded most admirably.

After his marriage our subject left Iowa for Nebraska, and settled upon his present farm in February, 1873, where he has lived ever since. When he began life in this country it was without a dollar in money, and he was deeply in debt, but by his close application and unflagging industry, he has become the owner of a farm of 480 acres of choice land, improved with good buildings and fences. His home, under the rule of his intelligent wife, is the abode of comfort and peace, and it would be difficult to find a family wherein social qualities and fraternal feeling, and general affection and goodwill one toward the other, are more harmoniously blended, than they are in this family circle. Both himself and wife are in the prime of life, and are enjoying that felicity and prosperity for which they have so diligently wrought so many long weary years, and they have at least formed an ideal home.

Mr. Akeson has adopted a systematic plan for the improvement of his farm, which he is perfecting from year to year. His dwelling is neatly and conveniently arranged and furnished, the barns and other out-buildings are located in accordance with the general plan, his orchards contain the choicest varieties of fruit, and the lawn surrounding his house is beautified with shrubbery, flowering plants and ornamental trees. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, his wife is identified with the Baptist denomination. The entire family take an active interest in the social matters of their locality. He is a Republican in politics, and loses no opportunity to secure the advancement of the success of that party. Mr. Akeson is noted for his uprightness and manly qualities, and in all matters of business his word is considered as good as his bond.

SQUIRE MARSHALL D. ABBOTT. It is refreshing to meet with such a gentleman as the subject of the following biography. He is one for whom nature has done much, who has been given a good constitution and a courageous spirit, and been able to surmount the difficulties common to the lot of man. He calls Nebraska "God's country," having a fine appreciation of its natural resources, and believing that the man who cannot delve out a comfortable fortune from its soil is of little account.

Mr. Abbott is essentially a self-made man, and has been able to turn to good account his fine natural abilities. He is of bright and sharp intellect, has good command of language, and is always entertaining on account of his humor and witticisms. Perhaps rather below the medium height, he is stout of muscle and very active, and there are few men who can accomplish more either mentally or physically than he. He has watched with more than ordi-

nary interest the growth and development of his adopted State, and has been largely instrumental in the building up of his particular corner of Cass County. He owns and operates a fine farm of 190 acres, pleasantly situated on sections 28 and 29 in Salt Creek Precinct, which is devoted largely to the feeding of stock. Mr. Abbott ships annually large numbers of cattle and swine to the Omaha market, and is at present (the winter of 1888-89) preparing two carloads of cattle and one of swine for this purpose. His homestead has around it the air of plenty and comfort which distinguishes so many of the homes of Southern Nebraska, which have been built up from first principles and illustrate the labor of man within the space of a few years. Perhaps there is no region in the Great West more fortunate in the men who have opened it up for settlement than Cass County and its environments, and Squire Abbott has been by no means behind the diligent and progressive men who have augmented its reputation and standing.

Our subject traces his immediate ancestry to New England, being the son of Stephen and Lydia (Deveraux) Abbott, who were natives of Connecticut but married in Oneida County, N. Y. The paternal grandfather came from good old English stock, and spent his last years in New York. Stephen Abbott, upon leaving New England, migrated to New York State, and was a member of the militia during the War of 1812, serving under Capt. Haskell. The parents resided a number of years in Chautauqua County, N. Y., where the father planted the first nursery within its limits. About 1856 the parents, leaving the Empire State, joined their son Marshall in Henry County, Iowa, and spent their last days at his home five miles from Mt. Pleasant, the father dying about 1863 and the mother in 1860. Their family consisted of twelve children, of whom Marshall was the youngest born.

Mr. Abbott was born April 11, 1829, in the town of Busti, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., and the scenes of his earliest recollections lay along the beautiful Lake Chautauqua. He was taught at an early age habits of industry, learning to swing the ax, to plow and sow, and to do the various work pertaining to the farm. His early education was acquired in the old log school-house, with its floor of puncheon and benches of slabs, the huge fireplace occupying nearly one side of the room, and the chimney built outside, of earth and sticks. The system of instruction was fully in keeping with the suroundings of the pupil. The boys of that day, however, although perhaps lacking polish and culture, grew up strong of muscle and self-reliant, and of them were made the men who have left their footprints on the sands of time.

Our subject remained under the home roof until reaching his majority, and the day after he was twenty-one years old he started for California. He had in the meantime learned the trade of wagon-maker, but he was not satisfied with his condition or his prospects, and believed that the Far West would furnish something more in consonance with his ambitions and desires. He proceeded to the city of Buffalo by stage, thence took a steamer to Detroit, and from there journeyed by rail to the young city of Chicago. He had for his traveling companion one L. F. Thompson, and at this point they purchased a wagon and horses, with sufficient provisions for a long journey, and started with high hopes over the plains. They crossed the Missouri River at Council Bluffs, and passed by the present site of the city of Omaha, seeing nothing whatever to indicate that a white man had ever been in that region. Sixty miles west of the muddy Missouri they came across large herds of buffaloes. The 12th of August, 1850, saw our travelers at Placerville or Hangtown as it was then called, and there they made a halt and took up a claim on Weaver Creek. They had come hither in search of gold, but knew nothing about the methods of mining, and consequently realized no profits from this first venture. They did not allow this fact to discourage them, however, but moved to another locality near Diamond Springs, where they remained over winter with the same results as before.

Our adventurers now went back to San Francisco, and soon afterward set out for the headwaters of the Feather and Yuba Rivers. There they struck a rich gulch, and within a space of twenty square feet took out ore to the value of $5,000. They divided this equally between them and concluded they would return home. They made this trip via the Isthmus

of Panama, Kingston and New York City. Upon their arrival in New York State they purchased a farm, of which they retained possession four years, selling out in 1856. Mr. Abbott again crossed the Mississippi, and took up his abode in Henry County, Iowa.

Our subject purchased a farm in the Hawkeye State, upon which he settled with his family, and in his efforts as an agriculturist met with reasonable success. In the fall of 1869, however, his attention was attracted to the advantages of the young State of Nebraska, and coming to this county he purchased his father's war claim from the balance of the heirs, and settled upon the land which he has since occupied. In the construction of this homestead he began at first principles, and the improvements which the passing traveler observes with an admiring eye are the result of the diligence and perseverance of Mr. Abbott. The farm is all enclosed with neat and substantial fencing, the buildings are convenient and well arranged, there is a grove of cottonwood, maple, ash and walnut trees, and an orchard of 200 bearing apple trees. In addition to these there are trees of the smaller fruits, and each year adds something by the way of convenience and embellishment for the happiness and comfort of the family.

Miss Mary Andrews, of Chautauqua County, N. Y., became the wedded wife of our subject May 6, 1852. This most excellent lady was the playmate of Mr. Abbott in his boyhood days, indeed they practically grew up together from childhood, attending the same school and interested in the same pleasures and recreations. Of this congenial union there have been born two children in New York State, and three in Iowa, namely: Edna M., Estella May, Mary B., an infant who died unnamed, and Dwight Marion. The eldest of these is thirty-five and the youngest twenty. They grew up bright and intelligent, and were given careful home training, which makes useful and respected members of the community. Mr. Abbott, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been always interested in the projects calculated to advance the people, socially, morally and financially. He has for years been a member of the School Board of his district, and has served as Supervisor. He was for three years Justice of the Peace in his county, and has filled many other positions of trust and responsibility. No ordinary circumstance could move him from his marked-out course of honesty and uprightness which was taught him in boyhood by his parents and which he proposes to follow the remainder of his life. It is hardly necessary to say that he is held in high respect by the people of his community, and is a man whose opinions exert no small influence among their councils.

REV. EDWARD ROOT, of Weeping Water, has occupied the pulpit of the Free Will Baptist Church about forty-five years, fifteen of which have been spent in this county. Of New England ancestry, he was born in Connecticut Feb. 4, 1822, and is the son of Dr. Anson L. and Sally (Brooks) Root. The father spent the latter part of his life in Trumbull County, Ohio, where his death took place about May 6, 1846. In pursuance of his duties as a practicing physician he rode all through the counties of Trumbull, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula, becoming widely and favorably known throughout that region. He also was a native of Connecticut, born about Jan. 4, 1793, in Litchfield, and in the Nutmeg State received his medical education. He practiced in the East a number of years before his removal to Ohio, which occurred in 1827. The country was then wild and new and the journeyings of Dr. Root were performed mostly on horseback, he frequently riding many miles to see a single patient. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Root removed to Berrien County, Mich., where she died Dec. 16, 1857.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Dr. Anson Root, also a physician, was eminent in his profession, having a very extensive practice in Connecticut, where he spent his entire life.

Edward Root, our subject, was a lad five years of age when his parents removed to Ohio, and he received a practical education in the district schools of his day. He commenced reading theology at home and began preaching when a youth of seventeen years. His first charge, two or three years later, was in Clarksfield Hollow, Huron Co.,

Ohio, where he was stationed one year. Thence he removed to Vermillion, in Erie County, where he organized a church, over which he was pastor three years. The climate of that region inducing malaria. he removed to Greenfield, Huron County, taking charge of the Greenfield and New Haven Churches, and there he resided a period of over ten years. At that point he did remarkably efficient service as a pastor and evangelist. From Ohio, about 1856, Mr. Root removed to Cass County, Mich., of which he was a resident sixteen years, having in charge one congregation at Porter, Van Buren County, fifteen years of this time, besides doing much outside work. At the expiration of this time, returning to Ohio, he spent one and one-half years with the New Haven and Greenfield Churches at the earnest solicitation of the people, and which was as long as his health would permit. In the year 1873 he came to this county and did miscellaneous church work in different localities, until the organization of the Free Will Baptist Church at Centreville. The church edifice of this society stands on the line between Centre and Elmwood Precincts.

Our subject purchased a farm in Stove Creek Precinct where he lived twelve years, still having the same church in charge, and resigned his pastorate in October, 1887. He sold his farm and moved into Weeping Water, about 1884, where he secured a pleasant home. Since withdrawing from the church above mentioned, Mr. Root has had charge of two societies, one at Long Branch, in Todd Creek Precinct, Johnson County, and the other at Grand View, in Gage County, six miles south of Firth. In connection with these he officiates alternately.

Mr. Root was married in Medina County, Ohio, May 15, 1842, to Miss Lucy S. Palmer, who was born in Tolland, Mass., April 19, 1824. Her father, Henry Palmer, was a descendant of one of three brothers who came on the Mayflower from England, and located at Stonington, Conn. He was the owner of a vessel and was its captain. His vessel being lost, his wife, Sophia Palmer, was left at an early day a widow with two children, Lucy S. and Henry F. Palmer. In 1831 the widow Palmer moved to Medina County, Ohio, and resided there until her death in 1864. Her son, Henry F. Palmer, when quite young went into the clothing and milling business, which he has followed up to the present time; he now resides in Fremont, Ohio, and is sixty-six years of age.

To Mr. and Mrs. Root there were born ten children, of whom only five are living. The eldest, Henry D., is a practicing physician and druggist of Lincoln; he served one term in the Legislature and was receiver in the United States Land Office for four years. He married Miss Emma Haggerty, and is the father of two children; Jennie, Mrs. Jeffers, resides in Dunbar, Otoe County, and is the mother of three children; her husband is a grain merchant. Nellie, Mrs. Fought, of Plattsmouth, is the mother of one child. The husband is bookkeeper in the B. & M. lumber-yard at that place. Della and Frank are at home with their parents. The children of Mr. Root have all been given a good education, and all but the youngest boy are members of the Baptist Church.

Besides his regular pastoral duties Mr. Root for a period of twenty years conducted revival meetings nearly every winter. He has been active and earnest as a laborer in the Master's vineyard and looks for his reward in the Great Hereafter.

MRS. WILHELMINA NOLTING owns a fine farm on section 17, Plattsmouth Precinct, which, since her husband's death, she has managed with great skill, and derives therefrom a comfortable income. She is the widow of the late Wilhelm Nolting, at whose decease, April 14, 1882, this precinct was deprived of a good citizen, who had materially aided in developing the agricultural interests of Cass County.

Mrs. Nolting was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, Sept. 14, 1825, and is a daughter of Conrad and Rebecca (Dorath) Gadka, likewise natives of that Province. They were lifelong residents of their place of birth, and there reared a family of four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject was the seventh in order of birth. Her parents were of pure German ancestry, and were held in great respect by their neighbors. In 1854 our subject left the Fatherland to make her home in the

future in this country. After landing she proceeded to Watertown, Wis., where she was soon after united in marriage with Wilhelm Nolting. He came of an ancient German family, and Lippe-Detmold was also his place of birth.

In August, 1865, they came to Cass County, Neb., with their family, and bought the farm where Mrs. Nolting now lives. There was a small house on the place, and some plowing had been done, constituting the only improvements. Mr. Nolting at once entered upon the work before him, and in the laborious years that followed brought about a great change, placing the land under a high state of tillage, and erecting a good house, barn, corn cribs and all other necessary buildings, everything about the place indicating that he was a practical, skillful farmer. In the midst of his prosperous career, when he was sixty-three years of age, death closed his useful life. He was a truly good man, and led an exemplary Christian life, dying, as he had lived, a firm believer in the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, within whose fold he had been reared. To him and his excellent wife were born eight children, five of whom survive, namely: Minnie, now Mrs. Adam Kaffenberger; Anna, now Mrs. Henry Jasper; Bertha, August and Frederic; the three latter live with their mother. The names of the children deceased are Wilhelm, Helena and Sophia. Mrs. Nolting is a devoted member of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, and is deservedly held in high respect by all in the community. She is a very capable, industrious woman, a good manager, and under her careful supervision her farming interests are in a very satisfactory condition.

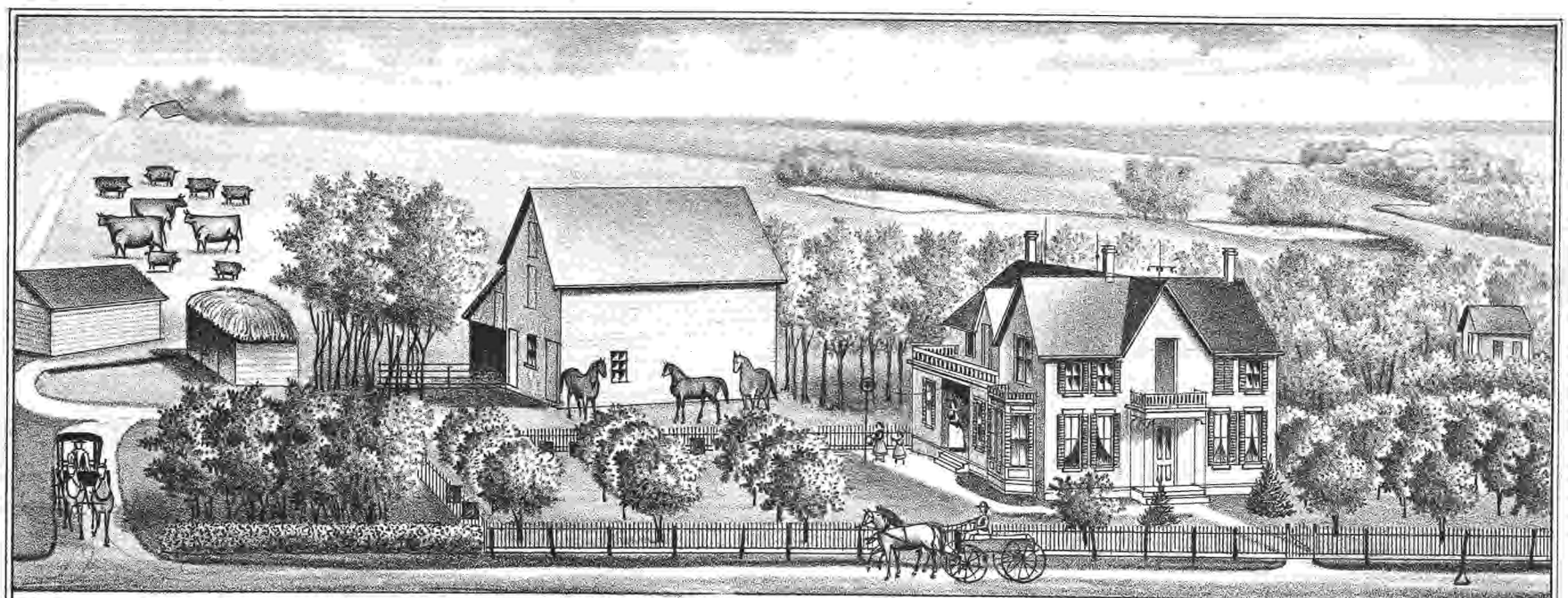
GEORGE W. YOUNG, a representative farmer and one of the earliest settlers of Cass County, resides on section 26 of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where he settled in 1867, coming from Scioto County, Ohio. He was born in Smith County, Va., July 14, 1846, where he lived until the fall of 1864, when, in company with his parents, he removed to Scioto County, Ohio, where he lived until he came to Nebraska, and settled on his present home farm. He is a son of Lewis N. and Levniah (Patrick) Young. The parents were both natives of Virginia. A family of seven children were born to them, namely: Mary, now the wife of Asher Tanner, who resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; George W., our subject; Robert A. and Lewis H., both residing in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Causby is now the wife of George W. Carroll, and residing in Keya Paha County, Neb.; Julia is the wife of Charles Troop, and resides in Rock Bluff Precinct; and Vicey J., who is deceased. The paternal grandfather was a native of Scotland.

Our subject was married, Feb. 6, 1868, to Miss Mary Barry, who was born in Noble County, Ohio, Oct. 7, 1848. She is a daughter of Thomas L. and Sarah (Headly) Barry. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother was a resident of Noble County, Ohio. Her father was of Irish descent; her mother came with her grandparents to Nebraska in 1867, and settled in Cass County. In 1885 her parents removed to New Mexico, where they at present reside. The Barry family were among the early settlers of Noble County, Ohio, where they occupied a prominent position in the affairs of the county.

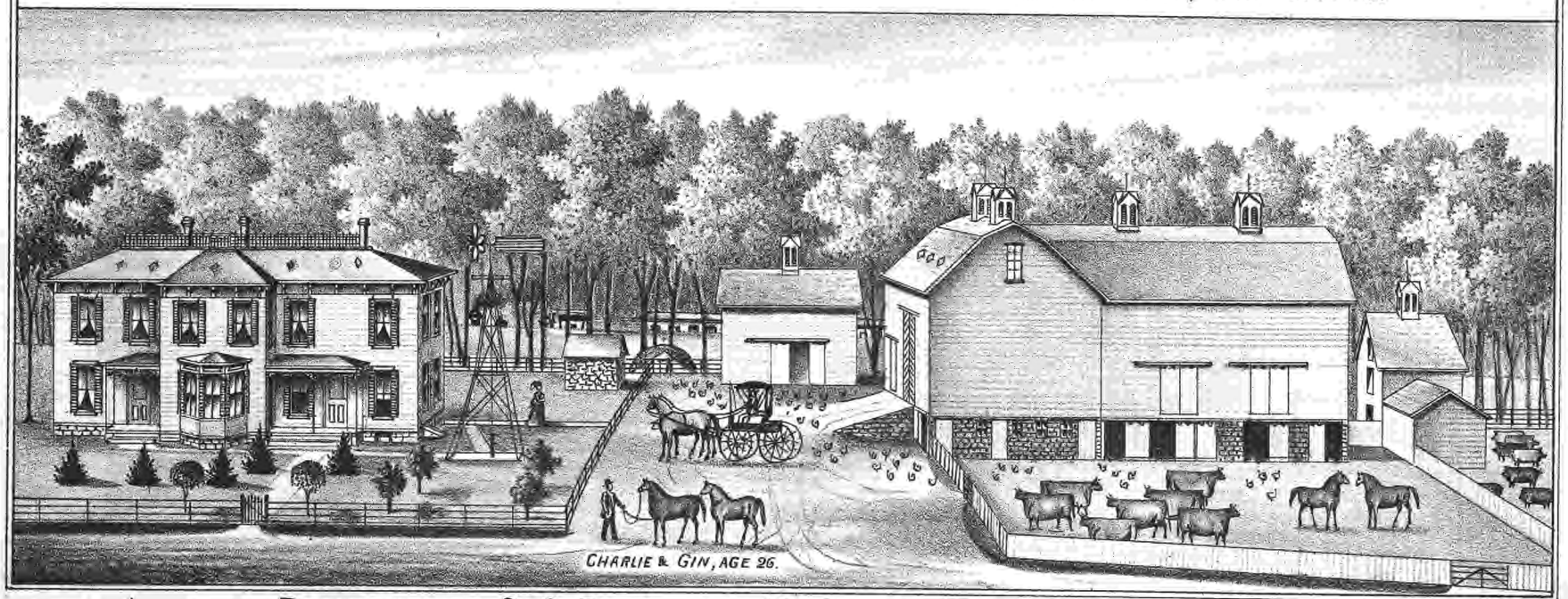
An interesting family of six children have been born to our subject and his good wife, namely: Hattie J., born May 27, 1877; Eunavista, Feb. 5, 1880; and four are dead, named James A., William, Sarah E. and Thomas L.

Mr. Young owns a tract of 240 acres of eligibly located and highly cultivated land. His improvements are of the highest class. His elegant residence, handsomely furnished and conveniently arranged, is supplied with all the comforts and many of the luxuries known to but few people outside our larger cities. His home is surrounded by an elegantly designed lawn, ornamented with evergreens and shrubbery, which present a pleasing picture. The barns are large and commodious, designed with a view to accommodating the stock and handling the various products of the farm in the most economical manner. He has a large and fine orchard and numerous groves. The farm is divided by substantial and well-kept hedges and wire fences into fields of convenient size. The whole tract is well supplied with large quantities of pure water.

In accumulating this beautiful property our sub-



RESIDENCE OF G. W. YOUNG, SEC. 36. MT. PLEASANT PRECINCT, CASS COUNTY.



RESIDENCE OF C. G. TABER, SEC. 22. CENTER PRECINCT, CASS COUNTY.

ject has been ably assisted by his devoted wife, who has been ever ready to render him all assistance by her counsel and presence. She is a refined, intelligent lady, and holds the interests of her husband and family dear to her heart. Both husband and wife are consistent members of the United Brethren Church. He is at present President of the Board of Trustees of the Otterbein Chapel, of Rock Bluff Precinct. He was one of the organizers of the school district in which he lives, and has been for a long time connected with its Board of Directors. He is Republican in politics. In the fall of 1887 he was a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, but was defeated by Louis Foltz, the present incumbent. He has served as Judge of Election in his precinct, and was Constable for two years. Himself and wife take an active part in the social life of the precinct, and are classed among the representative families of the county. They have had their share of the troubles and cares incident to pioneer life, and are now enjoying the fruits of their industry and enterprise. Mr. Young is one of the organizers and a Director of the Nehawka Bank, and is one of the Trustees of the Nehawka United Brethren Church. A view of his beautiful residence, with its surroundings, is given in this connection.

CALVIN G. TABER occupies an honorable place among the pioneers who were active in opening up the agricultural resources of Centre Precinct, and he is now one of its prominent and successful farmers. His farm of 200 acres, 120 of which is on section 22, and the remaining eighty acres on section 23, is considered one of the best kept farms in Cass County, and is admirably adapted to raising stock, to which he devotes it principally. He has a beautiful home on section 22; the commodious, substantial residence, of a pleasing architectural design, is said to be one of the finest in all Cass County. It is nicely finished on the inside, to correspond with its external appearance, and is well and tastefully furnished.

Mr. Taber was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., Oct. 29, 1831. Durphy Taber, his father, was also a native of New York, born in 179 , and spent his entire life in Saratoga County. He was a shoemaker by trade, and also a tanner and currier, being quite an extensive business man. He married Miss Sally Woodard, and to them were born six children, all of whom lived to maturity, their names being, Eliza, Susan, Orris (who lives next door north of our subject's residence), Calvin, Margaret, Laura and Melinda. The father died in 1835, while yet in the prime of life, being only forty-four years of age, in the midst of a career of usefulness, and his death was regarded as a severe blow to the industrial and financial interests of his town. His widow survived him until 1864, dying in the home of our subject, at the ripe age of seventy-eight years. Peleg Taber, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Rhode Island, and the next spring after his marriage he went to Saratoga County, N. Y., which was then mostly covered by the primeval forest, and there he built up a home for himself and family, with pioneer labor, drawing the logs for the erection of a cabin without the help of a team. He eliminated a good farm from the forest depths during the latter part of the eighteenth century, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was twice married and reared a large family of children. He was a Quaker, or Friend, in his religious belief.

Our subject lived in his native county until he was twenty-four years old, receiving in the meantime the benefit of an education at the common schools. At the age mentioned he went to Stark County, Ill., and remained there several years, prosperously engaged in farming. In 1865 he visited Nebraska for the purpose of taking up a homestead claim on eighty acres of land that forms a part of his present farm. He erected a small house, and the same fall returned to Illinois and spent the winter, closing up his affairs there preparatory to the removal to this State. In the spring of 1866 he came here with his family to locate permanently, arriving here on the 29th day of May, having driven all the way from Stark County, Ill., a distance of 420 miles. He still has the team with which he drove through, a bay team that was at that time four years old. He thinks a great deal of them, and they are now having the best of care,

having good shelter even in mild weather, and from one of them he has reared nine colts, of which he has three left. With characteristic energy, Mr. Taber immediately set to work to improve his land, planting a grove, also 200 good fruit trees, besides a variety of small fruits, put out one and one-half miles of hedge, and put the land under good tillage. In a few years he had his first 80-acre tract under good improvements, and all under cultivation but seventeen acres, and that is in tame grass. As he became more prosperous he bought another eighty, improved that, and has since added forty acres more to his land, making it a fine farm in every respect. He has erected ample and commodious farm buildings; one fine barn is 36x50, with 16-feet posts, and a stone basement. He has a large granary, 18x32x16 feet, with 16-feet posts, and large double cribs; also has a hog house, 20x30x12 feet, to protect his hogs, as he carefully cares for all of his animals. In 1887 he erected his fine residence, with a frontage of fifty-six feet, twenty-six feet in depth, and two stories in height, with an L in the rear. Mr. Taber has been exceedingly successful in raising stock. He has a fine herd of fifty-three head of cattle, mainly Shorthorns of a high grade. He has a number of hogs, of a mixed breed of Poland-China and Berkshire. He devotes most of his time, however, to horse breeding, and has several fine roadsters, besides ten work-horses of good grades, which he keeps busily employed on his farm.

Mr. Taber and Miss Sarah Harris were united in marriage in Saratoga County, N. Y., April 26, 1855, and to them have been born six children, all of whom are living, and of them the following is recorded: Sophronia, born June 24, 1856, is now Mrs. George Michael, of Webster County, Neb.; Lydia Malvina is Mrs. Orin Pitney; Wyan married Miss Susan Fairfield, and they have one child, George, and reside in Cheyenne County, Neb.; Eliza is now Mrs. Zade; Orin, William, at home. All of the daughters live in Webster County, this State. Mrs. Michael has three children—Sarah, Laura and Milton; Mrs. Pitney has two children—Clyde and Floyd; Mrs. Zade has three children—Clara, Sarah and Ertle.

Mrs. Taber was born Feb. 6, 1833, in Warren County, N. Y. Her father, William Harris, was a physician and surgeon of Athol, that county, where he always lived, with the exception of two years that he spent in Illinois. He died in 1883, aged seventy-two years. His wife, whose maiden name was Sophronia Flanders, survived him until 1885, when she, too, passed to the great beyond, at the age of seventy years. They were prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Taber is a man of more than average capacity and decision of character, and it is to such men that Cass County is indebted for her rapid progress during the last two decades to a position of prominence among her sister counties. Our subject may well be proud of the part he has taken in developing her resources, as well as of the fact that, by his own exertions, he has placed himself in the front rank among her successful farmers. His fellow-townspeople regard him with feelings of the highest respect and esteem, as he is frank and warm-hearted, is a model of honest integrity, and is the soul of honor. As a good citizen should, he is interested in political affairs of the country, and is sincerely convinced that the principles promulgated by the Republican party are the safest in dealing with public interests.

A view of Mr. Taber's fine residence, with its surroundings, is given on another page.

ELIC CHALKER COLEMAN, an honored citizen, and an enterprising lumber and coal merchant of Greenwood, was born in Miller Township, Knox Co., Ohio, on the 23d of April, 1843. His first recollections are of Ohio, where he entered the public schools when only four years of age; when he was seven years old he went with his parents to Iowa, where he lived with them and attended school until he was nineteen years old. In 1862 he joined his parents, who had preceded him two years, in Nebraska. In the autumn of 1861 he enlisted in Company F, 17th Iowa Infantry, to take part in the Civil War, which had just begun at that time. The regiment went into camp at Keokuk, from which city they went to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. In 1862 they started down the Missis-

sippi River, and participated in the battles of Pittsburg Landing and Shiloh, and took part in the many engagements which led to the evacuation of Corinth and Iuka.

At the camp at Clear Creek our subject was attacked with the intermittent fever. He was removed to St. Louis, Mo., and placed in the Good Samaritan Hospital, remaining there for some time, and was finally honorably discharged on account of physical disability. At the time of his discharge he was so reduced in flesh that he was merely a skeleton, with an epidermis stretched over it. He rejoined his people in Nebraska, and remained under the paternal roof for two years, where the wonderful climate of Nebraska, coupled with strong recuperative powers of our subject, restored him to his former state of health. In 1866 he engaged in freighting from Plattsmouth across the plains. He would occasionally meet armed bands of Indians, but they never interfered with him in any serious manner, although they would beg and steal any small articles they could secure. Exposure became so common to him, it was merely a continuation of his army life.

In 1867 our subject homesteaded a farm of 160 acres in Salt Creek Precinct, near the stream of that name. He was very successful in his farming operations, so that soon afterward he purchased another tract of 160 acres. Dec. 26, 1867, he was married to Miss Nancy Jane Loder, who was born in Coshocton County, Ohio. She came to Nebraska with her parents when she was a child, in 1863. The children born to them are as follows: Cassie M., Hettie G., Ella M., Loy L., Ada F., Isa Lola, Mattie, Lulu; William E., deceased; Myron and Elmer Chalker.

Our subject's father, Elic Chalker Coleman, Sr., was a farmer, and born in Connecticut; his mother was Catherine (Beller) Coleman, and was a native of Maryland. The Coleman family were among the earliest settlers in Connecticut, and the father of our subject went to Ohio when he was a boy, in the neighborhood of 1812. He attained to years of manhood, and was married there, and removed to Iowa in 1850, settling in Henry County, near Mt. Pleasant. In 1860 the family came to Nebraska and settled in Salt Creek Precinct, and were among the earliest settlers in that precinct. Here the father entered a homestead in the year 1863. He prospered, and lived on the farm until he died in 1878, at the age of sixty-nine years. The mother died in 1885, aged seventy-nine years. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Jane, deceased; Matilda, Ebenezer, Mary, Lucy, William, John H., Amy; Elic Chalker, our subject; Amanda and Martin Luther. Henry resides in Colorado; the remainder of the children live in Nebraska.

Mr. Coleman continued operating his farm until in 1887, when he moved into Greenwood. During this year he traveled through Eastern Colorado. In 1888 he entered into his present business, as the senior partner in the firm of Coleman & McPherson, dealing in lumber and coal, in which they transact an extensive business. Our subject has disposed of a portion of his holdings, but he still owns a well-improved and valuable farm of 120 acres in Salt Creek Precinct. He and his family reside in a pleasant and comfortable home in the northwestern part of the village.

It is to such men as Mr. Coleman that the lasting prosperity of our nation is due. It is they who open the wild, unsettled plains of the country, and make way for the advancement and progress of civilization and the fine arts. It is to the patriotism of such men that we owe our existence as a nation to-day. In no other country under the sun do we witness the spectacle of beardless youths eager to enter the service of their native land in times of need and peril, yet he, with thousands of others, did this, and endured without a complaint the terrible experiences had on the fields of Shiloh, Pittsburg Landing and Iuka. Returning home he suffered for years, broken in health, but not in courage or spirit, and we find him entering on the perilous tasks of the freighter across the trackless plains of the West, facing new and unseen dangers from the hand of the treacherous Indian. But those times have passed, taking with them their dangers, and what was then to be dreaded is as safe and pleasant as the walks in our thickly populated cities.

When that organization of old soldiers, the G. A. R., was organized, we find our subject entering zealously and whole souled into the project, and he is now Commander of Mission Ridge Post No. 149,

composed of twenty-two members, all old veterans. He is also a prominent member and Chancelior Commander of the Knights of Pythias of Greenwood. In politics he is a Republican, and takes a lively interest in the success of his party. He has been delegate many times to the different County Conventions of that party, and was delegate to the State Convention in 1886, and assisted in the nomination of Gov. Thayer. Himself and wife are esteemed members of the Christian Church.

WILLIAM SHEFFER, deceased. The name of this honored pioneer of Cass County is familiarly known to the people of Salt Creek Precinct and vicinity as that of the very first man to locate on the creek, which was then called the Saline River on account of the quality of its waters. Mr. Sheffer landed here on the 18th of July, 1856, while Indians were still roaming over the country and wild game was abundant. It was nearly eleven years thereafter before Nebraska was admitted to the Union as a State.

The subject of this sketch living here from that time until his death, Jan. 26, 1889, had thus had an experience rich in variety, as the country around him slowly developed from an uncultivated waste into the abiding-place of a prosperous and civilized community. A native of Lycoming County, Pa., he was born near the city of Williamsport, July 10, 1804, and at the time of his death was over eighty-four years of age. His father, John Sheffer, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., and married Miss Susan Reynolds, a native of the same county. The paternal grandfather, John Sheffer, Sr., carried a musket during the Revolutionary War, under the direct command of Gen. Washington. He was a native of Georgia and after the war settled in Lancaster County, Pa., where he spent the remainder of his life.

On the mother's side grandfather William Reynolds came over from England at an early period in his life and also entered the ranks of the army as a Revolutionary soldier. After the war was over he turned his attention to farming, and spent his last years in Tioga County, Pa. His son John, the father of our subject, upon approaching manhood learned the trade of a tailor, and after his marriage settled in Lycoming County, Pa. Later he removed with his family to Tioga County, and changing his occupation took up agricultural pursuits and became the owner of a farm of 100 acres. Upon this he spent the last years of his life, passing away in 1830 at the age of sixty-one years. The mother survived her husband until about 1862, her death taking place when she was seventy-five years old.

To the parents of our subject there were born twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, of whom four survive. William, the subject of our sketch, was the second born and spent his childhood and youth on the farm in the Keystone State. In common with the young people of that time and place his educational advantages were limited to the evening fireside and the New Testament, and such was his application to his only text book that he in time became a theologian of no mean abilities. He possessed a good memory and was able to quote profusely, being often able to jog the memory of the preacher in this respect. Upon the necessity arising for him to make himself useful, he began learning the tailor trade of his father, which, however, he was forced to abandon ere long, on account of the confinement, which threatened to throw him into consumption. He then began working on a farm, and when twenty-six years old set about the establishment of domestic ties of his own, being married Dec. 28, 1828, to Miss Elizabeth Kehler, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and born in Northampton County, Nov. 30, 1801. Her parents were Abraham and Elizabeth (Shelley) Kehler, who were born near the city of Philadelphia. Their family consisted of eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom Mrs. S. was next to the eldest. The paternal great-grandfather of Mrs. Sheffer was of German birth and ancestry, and upon coming to the United States settled near Philadelphia, where he engaged in farming, and there he spent the remainder of his life.

When Mrs. Sheffer was eight years of age her parents removed to Lycoming County, Pa., where she received careful home and religious training, her parents being devoted members of the Presbyterian Church. She remained a member of her

father's household until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Sheffer continued residents of their native State until coming to Nebraska Territory in July, 1856. The intention of Mr. Sheffer had been to settle in Illinois and secure land for his boys, who were fast approaching manhood. In the spring of 1856 he began making his preparations for removal, gathering together his household effects, loading them upon a wagon, and on the 28th of April he started with his family overland for the prairies. His destination was Freeport, Ill., where he proposed having his sons and son-in-law settle on rented farms in the vicinity of that then small hamlet. The boys, however, wished to take up land from the Government, so they departed from the first plan and moved onward through Illinois toward the farther West.

Upon arriving in Dubuque, Iowa, Mr. Sheffer visited the land office and found he could not locate land in that State without running a risk of settling on what might become railroad property. He therefore resolved that Iowa was not the place for him and decided to hunt until he found it. Crossing the Missouri at the present site of Plattsmouth, which was then marked by a few cabins, he moved on with courage until finding a place suitable in all respects, this being on the Saline River. There he took up a "squatter's" claim and for seven years lived on the east side of the creek. The land at that time had not been surveyed by the Government, but in 1857–58 it was marked off in sections. Mr. Sheffer turned the first furrow along the waters of Salt Creek, breaking five acres in the month of September, 1856. It is hardly necessary to state that he also built the first cabin, this being put up in August of that year.

As time passed on and other adventurous men followed in the footsteps of our subject, the latter with his natural benevolence of character, began looking around in search of some good he might do among his neighbors. He had always been of a religious turn of mind and began as soon as he could gather together an audience to hold prayer meetings in his cabin. The worshipers were few in number, but they remembered the Scripture promise and were strong in faith. The first sermon listened to by the people of that region was preached by a missionary, Mr. Turman, who was sent into the Territory to "preach to the heathens" as he expressed it. Mr. Sheffer informed him that if it were heathens to whom he wished to preach he would have to go farther West, but if he would like to discourse to people from Pennsylvania his cabin should be thrown open to all who might wish to listen to the first sermon on Salt Creek.

The first election in this country was held on the wood pile of Mr. Sheffer. The authorities at Plattsmouth appointed him the Judge, in which capacity he served thereafter a period of nine years. The ballots were written with pen and ink and the pieces of paper deposited in the hat of Mr. Sheffer, which answered the purpose of the first ballot box in Salt Creek Precinct. There was very little trouble about the election returns, for the five votes cast were unanimously in favor of the same measures and the same officials.

Mr. Sheffer planted the first cottonwood trees on Salt Creek and one of them is still living. This stood in front of his cabin, long since demolished, and has grown to be a monarch of its kind. He set out the first apple trees in the spring of 1860, the sprouts having been shipped from New York State. The first child born in the precinct was a son to Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, the daughter of our subject. The mother is now deceased, but Mr. Farmer is living on the creek. The first school was taught by Mrs. Laughlin on the creek, in the house of a Mr. Callahan, not far from the Sheffer cabin. The first Fourth of July celebration in the western part of Cass County was held near Greenwood in 1858. This was made the occasion of much hilarity in pioneer fashion, and Mr. John Loder mounting a rude stand read with great dignity the Declaration of Independence. All present entered into the spirit of the occasion, and everybody retired from the scene of the festivities feeling that he had done his full duty as an American patriot.

Those years to our subject and his estimable wife, although not devoid of pleasure, were plentifully besprinkled with hardships and privation. They had come to stay, however, and kept up their courage amid scenes and surroundings which would probably have dismayed the people of to-day. They lived not only to see their children grown and set-

tled in comfortable homes, but their grandchildren finally began to play around their door and in due time another generation; before Mr. Sheffer's death he and his wife had six great-grandchildren. Their own household included nine children, namely: Katie A., now Mrs. Ellis Calahan; Elizabeth already spoken of; Frances, now Mrs. L. K. Bell; John, Curtiss, Nelson, Abraham and Aaron. An unnamed infant is also deceased. These two latter, the eldest born, were twins and died in infancy. Mr. Sheffer was prospered in his labors as a farmer and in the building up of a comfortable homestead, which at his death became the heritage of his family and his faithful and devoted wife, who had lived by his side for more than sixty years. They were numbered among the oldest living residents along the western line of the county.

Our subject hurrahed enthusiastically for Gen. William Henry Harrison in 1840 and cast his last vote with no less satisfaction for his grandson in the election of November, 1888. He had been a supporter of the Republican party since its organization. Both he and his estimable wife were members of the Christian Church, in which he had officiated as Elder for more than forty years, and up to the time of his death. He organized the first Sabbath School on Salt Creek and the first Christian Church in the Territory of Nebraska outside of Plattsmouth. Prior to coming West he had been Superintendent of a Sabbath School in Pennsylvania for a period of nine years.

In the fall of 1856, a company of 500 Pawnee Indians came along and drove Mr. Sheffer and his family from their home, taking with them a horse and threatening to do violence if there was any resistance. The Sheffers sought refuge in Plattsmouth, where they remained during the winter. In the spring Mr. S. returned to his claim accompanied by about thirty men, fortified the house, and during the siege which followed captured one of the Pawnees, holding him until Gen. Thayer and his agents could come to their assistance. After the Indians had been driven off Mr. Sheffer went to Plattsmouth after his family, and thereafter they lived in comparative peace and safety.

The first bridge across Salt Creek was built by Mr. Sheffer in the spring of 1857. This was afterward used as a crossing place for emigrants and freighters West, instead of the old Mormon and California trail. It was run on the toll system and proved a fine source of revenue to its architect. Mr. Sheffer came to Nebraska with considerable means, and possessing a strong constitution and an abundance of energy and perseverance, was one of the men most needed at that time in the development of the country. During his residence of over thirty years he had become known to most of the prominent people in the county, and his services as a pioneer and a citizen were fully recognized by those who have watched with intense satisfaction the rapid growth of this now great commonwealth. The death of this honored pioneer, when full of years and honors, though in the course of nature not unexpected, yet evoked much sorrow and sympathy from those who had known him so long and well.

RUBEN A. CHAPIN. Among the many solid and substantial citizens of Salt Creek Precinct, none are more favorably known or have a more enviable reputation than our subject, who is a carpenter and builder, as well as farmer, owning and operating a highly improved farm of eighty acres on section 33, town 12, range 9. This gentleman is a son of Ashur M. and Mary (Look) Chapin. The father was born in Hartford, Conn., where he was a prominent man, dealing in live stock: horses, cattle, hogs, etc. He died in Monmouth, Ill., aged seventy-six. His grandfather, Asa Chapin, was of Welsh descent. His grandmother's maiden name was Franklin, a direct descendant of the renowned philosopher, Benjamin Franklin.

Our subject is the fifth child and fourth son in a family of twelve children. He was born Nov. 12, 1830, at Bath, Steuben Co., N. Y. When he was yet a boy his parents moved with their family into the heavy forests of Ohio. The place they selected for settlement was six miles from the nearest white man. When he was five years of age his parents removed to Knox County, Ohio, where he attended the public and subscription schools of the neighborhood, and the High School

at Mt. Vernon, acquiring a great desire for knowledge, which he has never lost an opportunity to gratify.

After obtaining his education our subject thought it would be well to have a practical knowledge of some mechanical trade. He therefore entered an apprenticeship as a carpenter and builder in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, which trade he completely mastered in all its details. He resided there until he was married to Miss Larinda Chevrout. This lady was of French descent, the daughter of Lemuel Chevrout, of Greenwood, Neb. After his marriage he moved to Lima, Allen Co., Ohio, where in company with his two brothers he erected a planing-mill, manufacturing everything connected with the building business. This he followed successfully for three years, when he went to Saline County, Mo. There he engaged in business as a builder and contractor, employing steadily from fifteen to twenty men.

About this time the war broke out and our subject, for his own safety and the safety of his wife, moved to Monmouth, Warren Co., Ill., where his father was living. At this place he entered the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company as bridge-builder, where he remained for several years, when, feeling that the West offered better possibilities than he was able to secure where he then was, he came to Plattsmouth, Neb., with $5 in cash, which sum represented his entire fortune. In December of the same year he came to Salt Creek Precinct, where he built the flouring mill for Messrs. Reed Bros., of Weeping Water. In 1864 he took up a homestead claim of 160 acres. He hired a man to work the farm until his boys became old enough to take charge of it.

Our subject is the father of four children—Eva, Kate, Milton and Edward E. Eva died in Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Milton died in Missouri; Kate married John Beiler, a merchant in Greeley County, Kan., and is the mother of five children living. They are named as follows: Ethel, Bert, Pearl, Verned and Raymond. Edward is a noted operator now at Bradshaw, York Co., Neb., is married to Miss Jessie McKibbon, and they have one child, Fred. Mrs. Chapin died in 1869. After a season he married a Miss Teresa Mefford, a resident of Iowa; she is the daughter of James P. Mefford, now a resident of Salt Creek Precinct. By this union he is the father of six children, three of whom, Jesse O., Ira F. and Tacy A., are living. Lillie, William P., Charles and Sallie are deceased.

There are very few men engaged in the business followed by our subject that have a better or more complete knowledge of it than he. By a systematic course of study and reading, as well as a close observation of the work of other matters in the same line of business, he keeps fully abreast of the times, and is thoroughly informed of all the improvements and details made in his favorite profession. Among all the many fine iron buildings that do credit to the city of Omaha, our subject can lay claim to the honor of erecting the first iron building in the city, which has been followed by so many magnificent specimens of the builder's art, but none are more substantially built or better designed than the first one.

Mr. Chapin recalls many incidents and episodes relating to the old "hard cider" Harrison campaign of 1840, in which he played the role of drummer boy. In his later years he has not forgotten the precepts inculcated by the orators during that campaign, and has ever since been true to the discipline of that party. He has been a Deacon of the Christian Church at Greenwood for six years, and has held the office of Justice of the Peace, being the only public office he has ever filled, preferring to devote his time exclusively to the prosecution of his business.

JOHN H. HASEMEIER is a representative German-American citizen, residing on a valuable farm of 260 acres on section 29, in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, where he settled in 1867, at which time the land was in a perfectly natural condition. He is a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born Jan. 15, 1815. He is the son of John and Catherine Hasemeier, both natives of Germany. When our subject was about eight or nine years of age he lost his mother by death; he resided in the old country until he was about seventeen years old, when, with his father, one brother and two sisters, he emigrated to America, taking passage at Havre in a sailing-ship. After a

comparatively uneventful voyage of nearly nine weeks they landed at Baltimore, Md.

From Baltimore our subject went to Franklin County, Pa., where he worked on a farm for $5 per month and board. He also performed a large amount of labor for daily wages, for which he received forty cents per day. He lived in Franklin County for a number of years. After he left his parents and brother and sisters in Baltimore, they are supposed to have gone westward to Missouri, where all traces of them are lost, although he has made strong efforts to ascertain their whereabouts, feeling that it would be a great source of consolation and gratification to know the results of their life in the country of their adoption.

During the residence of our subject in Pennsylvania he was married to Mary Potter, Feb. 9, 1848. This lady was born in Washington County, Md., May 12, 1827. Her parents were Daniel and Catherine (Stewart) Potter, and were natives of Germany, settling in Maryland, where their decease occurred. She is one of a family of four children; the following named are supposed to be alive: Barbara, John, Mary and Lewis. Barbara is the wife of John Ray, and lives in Jefferson County, W. Va.; John resides in Noblesville, Ind., and Lewis is supposed to be dead.

In the autumn of 1853 our subject with his wife and two children migrated to Henry County, Ind., where they resided until the fall of 1867, when he removed to Cass County, Neb., purchasing the 160 acres of land on which he now lives. At the time he acquired possession of the land there were no improvements of any kind upon it, but by perseverance and good management our subject has one of the best farms in the precinct. As he has prospered in his adventures, he added to the original purchase at different times, until he now owns 260 acres. At the time of his marriage his entire worldly possessions consisted of $25 in cash, but with this slender start, and by the assistance and advice of his good wife, he has accumulated his present fine property.

The family circle of our subject and his wife has been enlivened by the birth of eight children, four of whom are living, namely: Jacob A., Mary C., Benjamin S. and Charles D. Jacob is a physician in Louisville, Neb.; Mary C. is the wife of James Robertson, Superintendent of the Colorado & Nebraska Stone Quarry, at Weeping Water, Neb.; Benjamin S., resides in Louisville, this State, and Charles D. is at home. The deceased children were named Clara C., John F., William and Julia.

Mr. Hasemeier has lived continuously on his original purchase of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has devoted his entire time and energies. The buildings are of the most substantial and solid character. The barns and other necessary out-buildings are well located, and very conveniently arranged for the purposes for which they are designed. His residence is finely located, large and roomy, neatly and tastefully furnished throughout, and is a place in which his good wife can take great comfort and satisfaction, which she has most certainly earned. For the past forty years she has been an able adviser and companion to her husband, cheerfully bearing her share of the burdens of life, and contributing largely to his success, besides devoting her motherly attention to her family, the surviving members of which do her great credit, and of whom she may well be proud. Mr. and Mrs. H. are members of the United Brethren Church, in which society they take an active and substantial interest. In politics he is thoroughly Republican. Public-spirited, he is a hearty supporter of every proposition designed to advance the prosperity of the people.

LEONARD C. W. MURRY is a pioneer of Cass County of 1855. The pioneer element of Cass County has no more worthy factor than the subject of this biography, who, with his estimable wife, began housekeeping on an 80-acre farm four miles south of the present city of Plattsmouth in the spring of 1870. They lived there until 1882, then moved to a farm on section 30, in Plattsmouth Precinct, where they have since resided. This embraces 160 acres of good land, which, with the exception of having been plowed, was at the time of purchase destitute of improvement, there being no buildings. Mr. M. has put up a comfortable residence, a barn and other out-buildings, planted an orchard, fenced the fields, and by degrees added the

Yours Truly
Lewis Bird

other conveniences necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. Besides a large amount of labor involved he has expended over $4,000 in money, and has a homestead at once desirable and attractive.

Mr. Murry is essentially a Western man, having been born in Moniteau County, Mo., June 6, 1848. His parents were Jonathan and Elizabeth (Berger) Murry (see sketch of his brother Joshua), and were among the very earliest settlers of that part of Missouri, going there with their parents from Tennessee when small children. They were reared and married in Moniteau County, where they lived until 1851, then removed to Mills County, Iowa, where they lived two years, and thence came to Nebraska Territory in 1855. The father selected a tract of land north of the present city of Rock Bluff, where the family lived a number of years, and where their thirteen children were reared to maturity.

The father of our subject died at the home farm in this precinct. He had been a pioneer of three Territories, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, in fact his entire life was spent on the frontier. The mother is still living, making her home with her son Alvars, in Smith County, Kan. Leonard was the tenth child of the family, and was a little lad of five years when he came with his parents to Nebraska. There were then many Indians in the vicinity of the present site of Rock Bluff, and probably about six white families. Our subject labored with his father in the development of the Nebraska homestead, and early in life began to form his own plans for the future. A few months after reaching his majority he was married, Sept. 2, 1869, to Miss Rebecca A., daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Wiles, of Plattsmouth Precinct. This lady was born Feb. 1, 1857, in Missouri, and of their union there are eleven children living: Charles A., Clarence, John, Isabell, Laura J., Ida May, Leonard C. W., Jr., David, Florence, Eddie and Christopher C. Cordelia, the second child, died at the age of eighteen months.

When the father of our subject began life in Nebraska he was without means, and got his first cow and their limited stock of household furniture with money earned by mauling rails at fifty cents per hundred. The mother added to the family income by weaving and spinning. Thus commenced the married life of the young people, in wide contrast to the condition of most of the newly wedded people of to-day, who would consider themselves greatly abused by fate or Providence were they compelled to make the shifts and turns which pioneers cheerfully underwent together. Mr. and Mrs. Murry have gathered around them scores of friends during their long residence in this county. They are both members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. M., politically, is a stanch Republican.

LEWIS BIRD. The farming interests of Liberty Precinct and of this part of Cass County are no better represented than by our subject. He came to this county and precinct in 1863, being then in the prime of a vigorous and self-reliant manhood, and casting his lot with the pioneers of the county who had preceded him, he purchased most of the land he now owns, which was then but slightly improved. The years that have followed have been for him years of busy, patient toil, and although, in common with other settlers of this section of the West, he has met with various hardships and discouragements, which he has faced bravely, he has kept steadily onward until to-day he may be classed among the most fortunate and successful farmers of this precinct. His farm is provided with neat and substantial buildings, is well improved and well stocked, has a good supply of running water, and with its 280 acres finely located on sections 9, 10 and 4, is justly considered a first-class farm in its appointments.

Mr. Bird was born in Sussex County, N. J., June 14, 1833, and came of good old New Jersey and New England stock, and was well reared by his parents. His father, Joseph Bird, was also a native of New Jersey, and during his residence there, after he was old enough to learn a trade, he became a shoemaker. He was married in his native State to Miss Rachel Young, who was of Jersey birth and New England parentage, coming of a good family. In 1836 Joseph Bird and his family started on a pilgrimage to the State of Indiana, which was then considered to lie in the Far West, although some

of the country beyond the Mississippi, particularly Missouri, had been partly settled for several years, and Iowa was beginning to attract the attention of settlers, and a few had already made their homes there. After arriving at his destination in Indiana Mr. Bird located in the wilds of Delaware County, becoming one of its pioneers, and turned his attention to farming. He met with unqualified success in his new vocation, and improved a fine, large estate, upon which he made his home until death claimed him at the age of sixty-four years, in 1867. His wife survived him ten years, dying at the age of threescore years and ten. They were honest, hard-working people, and richly deserved the good fortune that followed their labors. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the father was Class-Leader for years.

Lewis Bird was the fifth son and child in the family of eight sons and two daughters born to his parents. He was reared to manhood on the old homestead that his father had reclaimed from the primeval forests of Indiana, he having been but a child of three years when his parents moved to that State. He received a good common-school education, and a thorough, practical drill in the calling that he has since pursued with such success, and he remained an inmate of the parental household, affording his father active assistance in the management of the farm until his marriage, which occurred in Jay County, Ind. The maiden name of his wife was Emeline R. Current, and she was born in West Virginia, Dec. 27, 1830. She was a daughter of Peter and Rebecca (Jones) Current, natives of West Virginia. They were there reared, and after marriage and the birth of most of their children, they moved to Jay County, Ind., in 1855, having first come to that State in 1832, and settled in Henry County in its pioneer days. They moved onto a farm in Jay County, and there the mother died in 1866, when past threescore years. The father later came to Nebraska and lived with his daughter, Mrs. Norris, in Rock Bluff Precinct, until his death in 1870, at the age of seventy-three years. He and his wife were people of great respectability, and were sound Methodists in their religious belief. Mrs. Bird was well educated inHenry County, Ind., and taught school for a time before her marriage. Her pleasant wedded life has been blessed to her and her husband by the birth of six children, all of whom are living, and the following is recorded of them: Rachel J. and Rebecca A. are twins, and the former is the wife of W. P. Webster, a jeweler in Lander, Wyo.; Rebecca is the wife of Aaron Porter, a farmer of Custer County, Neb.; Olive is the wife of Albert Searl, who is Deputy Clerk in the Treasurer's office in Gosper County, this State; Florence is the wife of Charles Mougey, a farmer in Custer County, Neb.; Maggie is the wife of Edward Mougey, and they live on Mr. Bird's farm in this precinct; Osta lives with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Bird have a very attractive home on section 10, and all who come beneath its hospitable roof are sure of a genial and cordial welcome from the pleasant and social host and hostess. They are bright and intelligent people, and have many warm friends in this community. They are influential members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is an official. Mr. Bird is a strong advocate of temperance, both in word and deed, and votes with the Prohibition party.

As one of the best representative farmers of the county, the portrait of Mr. Bird, on an adjoining page, is peculiarly appropriate in this work.

GEORGE W. MAYFIELD. The Louisville *Observer* was established by the subject of this sketch in 1883, and he is still its editor and proprietor. He has made of it a newsy local sheet, and impregnated it with his own uncompromising Republican principles. It is issued every Friday, and has become an institution quite indispensable to the people along the northern line of the county.

The city of Bloomington, Ind., claims Mr. Mayfield as one of its natives, his birth taking place Aug. 22, 1827. His father, Leroy Mayfield, was a native of Kentucky, and married Miss Martha Basket, of South Carolina. The maternal grandfather, William Basket, was a native of the same State, and spent his last years in Indiana. Leroy Mayfield removed from the Blue Grass regions to Indiana during its pioneer days, locating near the present

city of Bloomington when it was a small village. Here our subject was reared, and received his education in the common schools. In 1855 he drifted westward to Nebraska Territory, a single man, and taking up his abode near the present city of Plattsmouth when it was a hamlet of a few houses, employed himself working on a farm.

The same year of his arrival here young Mayfield engaged in border warfare with the Indians, under the command of Gov. Thayer, proceeding up the Loup and Elkhorn Rivers to protect the settlers from the threatened outbreak of the savages. He was thus occupied three months, during which time he took part in two or three skirmishes with no very serious results. Upon returning to this county he stationed himself at Plattsmouth, and later assisted in the establishment of the *Republican*, of Weeping Water, with which he was connected about one year. From that time until 1883 he was occupied at Weeping Water as above stated, then coming to Louisville he started the *Observer*, of which he is making a success.

Our subject found his bride in this county, being married, in 1858, to Miss Emeline Todd, a native of Nebraska, and the daughter of Jefferson and Mary E. Todd. This union resulted in the birth of eight children, who are located as follows: Clarence G. is engaged in farming in Louisville Precinct; Eugene is editor of the South Omaha *Times*; Winnie is the wife of Frank Secord, agent of the Union Pacific Railroad at Omaha; Albert U. is publisher of the Elmwood *Echo*; Leroy J. assists his father in the publication of the Louisville *Observer*; Valentine, Georgia and Oland are at home with their parents.

GEORGE T. CUTLER. The industrial interests of the western part of this county find an admirable representative in the subject of this sketch, who, in addition to being the manufacturer of bee-hives, is a dealer in bee-keepers' supplies, and also the proprietor of a grist-mill and carriage-shops at Greenwood. He came to this place in March, 1879, and settled first on a farm in the vicinity of the village. Four and one-half years later he practically abandoned the pursuits of agriculture, and by degrees turned his attention to his present enterprises. He is a gentleman of remarkable industry and forethought, of an inventive turn of mind and more than ordinary business abilities. Personally, he is of commanding stature and fine intelligence, and with all these qualities combined it is but natural that he should be a leader of his community.

The origin of family names is a question which is frequently discussed, and the name of Cutler centuries ago was applied to an English family of prominence in the Old World, who evinced particular adaptation for the manufacture of that article of commerce suggested by the patronymic. The branch from which our subject sprang, the records indicate, were from the beginning notable for their fine proportions physically, and no less for their intelligence and moral worth. While they performed feats of extraordinary strength and daring, they were alike high-minded, and possessed great integrity of character, scorning a mean action. These qualities, handed down from father to son, seem to be in nowise dying out, for the present generation is probably as noted as were those of ages gone, both in this respect and as regards mechanical genius.

Of New England ancestry and a native of the Bay State, our subject was born in Bernardston, Franklin County, Aug. 18, 1844, and is the son of Zenas and Lucy (Wood) Cutler, the former a native of Vermont. The paternal grandparents during the early years of their married life lived in Guilford, that State, but later removed to Wilmington. Grandfather Thomas Cutler was a typical Green Mountain boy, and one of nine brothers, all of whom were of unusual stature, strong of muscle and brave in disposition. None of them were less than six feet in height, and none weighed less than 200 pounds. Thomas Cutler traced his forefathers to one of three brothers who emigrated to America from England during the Colonial times. Zenas Cutler died at Greenfield, Mass., in January, 1881, at the age of seventy-six years. In early manhood he had operated a saw and grist mill at Northfield, Mass., but later purchased and lived upon a farm. The mother passed away after the decease of her husband that same year, in March, at the age of

seventy-three, and the remains of both were laid to rest in the same grave at Bernardston, Mass. Their household included seven children, namely: Lucy J., George T., Leroy Z., Nhum S., Laura S., George T., our subject, and Ella B. Of these four are living, and located mostly in Massachusetts.

Mr. Cutler spent his boyhood and youth at the homestead farm in his native county, a period of his life which was more than ordinarily frolicsome and overflowing with good spirits. Much to the regret of his excellent parents, he was a boy who did not take remarkably kindly to his books, preferring to be abroad in the fields or engaged in athletic sports. He assisted his parents around the homestead until a youth of twenty years, and then began an apprenticeship at carriage-making. It was not long before he developed unusual mechanical genius, and he did not by any means confine himself to the one department of labor. He remembers hearing his mother tell of the time before he could speak plainly, when he used to hang to her skirts and point to the hammer, which in New England style had its separate place on the kitchen wall. He would not be appeased until she took it down from its place and gave it to him. He would then amuse himself for hours by driving nails into the walk. A little later he began using other tools, and has kept up the habit to this day. When sixteen years of age he was considered a master mechanic.

A few years later young Cutler took a position with the Wauseon Car Company, at Springfield, Mass., where he distinguished himself as a competent artisan, receiving many compliments for the beauty and correctness of his work. His father's declining years finally necessitated his presence at home, and about 1865 he returned to the farm and assumed its responsibilities. In the meantime, however, he did not abandon the use of tools, and put up his first wagon-shop in his native village. This structure occupied an area 22x34 feet, and had in connection with it a blacksmith-shop. In the year 1867, having in view the establishment of a home of his own, Mr. Cutler was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Goodenough, and soon afterward they removed to Montague, Mass., where Mr. Cutler was tendered a position in the Goss' piano case factory, where he continued a period of five years. Here his skill and industry obtained ready recognition, and in due time he was given the position of general foreman in the veneering department.

After occupying the above-named position a period of one and one-half years, Mr. Cutler was solicited by his brother Nhum S. to become a partner with him in a boot and shoe manufacturing enterprise. George T. was to have charge of the machinery of the establishment, and his brother was to assume the business management of the concern, which was located at Burriston. They operated very successfully together until the panic of 1873, when collections were extremely difficult to make, and the business suffered greatly thereby. In addition to this, the confinement of the shop had its effect upon our subject, and resolving upon a change of scene and occupation, he turned his eyes toward the young and rapidly growing State of Nebraska.

Not long after Mr. Cutler was stricken with the Western fever we find him snugly located upon a tract of land in Greenwood Precinct, this county, which, he states, proved a great contrast to life in New England. In most respects it was for the better, and he remained upon the farm a number of years. The habits of his youth, however, still controlled him, and he longed to again exercise his mechanical skill, which years of experience and observation convinced him would enable him to outstrip his former efforts. Accordingly, in the spring of 1884, he selected a building site in the village of Greenwood and put up his present shop. This is a substantial frame structure of commodious dimensions, and is equipped with the various appliances necessary for the several departments of the industry in which he is engaged. There is a steam engine and an abundance of wood-working machinery, and in addition to the manufacture of bee-hives and carriage-making, there is a feed-grinder and corn-sheller, and the manner in which they are patronized by the people along the western line of the county indicates their importance and usefulness.

In addition to the manufacture of road and farm vehicles, Mr. Cutler is the agent of outside parties,

carriage and wagon manufacturers of the East. Greenwood only needs a few more such men as Mr. Cutler to quickly raise it to the standard of a first-class city. Progressive and liberal-minded, he takes a genuine interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his adopted State, and has borne no unimportant part in developing the best interests of Greenwood Precinct. He votes the straight Republican ticket, and is a man of progressive views, one who keeps himself well posted upon current events and possesses an admirable fund of information.

Mrs. Nancy (Goodenough) Cutler was born at Brattleboro, Vt., July 5, 1844, and is a lady of fine culture and accomplishments. In fact, we are assured that her husband has found in her the qualities suggested by her maiden name. She is the offspring of an excellent family, the daughter of Simon F. and Emily F. (Chase) Goodenough, who were natives of Vermont. Mr. G. was a farmer by occupation, and, with his excellent wife, is now deceased. Their family consisted of six children, four of whom are living, and located mostly in Vermont.

The family represents all that is intelligent and praiseworthy, people who, as far as the record goes back, have been celebrated—the women for their virtues, and the men for their fine business qualifications and usefulness as citizens and members of society. Mr. and Mrs. Cutler occupy a pleasant home, which is the frequent resort of hosts of friends. They have no children.

GEORGE PHILLIP NICKEL, a prosperous farmer, located on section 32 of Elmwood Precinct, where he owns and operates 160 acres of land, in addition to which he leases forty acres, is the oldest son and second child in a family of seven children born to his parents. He was born Sept. 25, 1838, in Germany, where he lived with his parents until he was fourteen years of age, when he came to America, being induced to make the change by his uncle, George P., who resided in Pekin, Ill., but is now deceased. After his arrival in this country he worked at the blacksmithing trade, but this proving injurious to his health he abandoned it, and at the age of seventeen began farming for himself. In 1867 he was married to Catherine Eidenmiller, who was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. Her parents, with their family, came to America when she was but six years old, and settled at Little York, Pa. Removing from there they went to Illinois in 1865.

Mr. Nickel came to Nebraska on a prospecting tour in 1873, where he purchased land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railway Company, and came out with his family in 1875, which at that time consisted of his wife and five children. They endured many hardships and privations, were eaten out by grasshoppers, but did not become discouraged, but kept at work on their home, feeling sure that their perseverance would be ultimately rewarded. On account of his inability to raise any crops for two or three successive years, he was not able to meet the demands of the railroad company for the payment of their land, so he was obliged to surrender his home to them.

A family of ten children have been born to our subject and his wife, named respectively: Mary E., now dead; Anna C.; George P., Jr.; Martin and Emma L. were born in Illinois; William, Edward H., Charles C. (deceased), Irene Mabel and Nellie May, were born in Nebraska. The father of our subject, John, and mother, Christine, were born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. His father died in 1856, fifty-three years of age, and his mother still lives in the old home in Germany, and is now seventy-seven years old.

In the face of many discouragements and trials Mr. Nickel has succeeded in securing for himself and family one of the most eligibly located and well-improved farms in the precinct. To bring the land to its present high state of cultivation has required, at the hands of the owner, the most strict economy and thorough application. His well-kept fences, and comfortable and conveniently arranged buildings, bespeak a man thoroughly informed in the business in which he is engaged. It is not intended to give Mr. Nickel individually the full credit for this most desirable state of affairs, for his good wife has borne an equal amount of the privations and labor required to bring it about.

She is a lady who has always been found by her husband's side, sharing equally with him the burdens of a pioneer's life, and she has contributed her portion of labor which is required to make the desert blossom as the rose. Her husband recognizes this fact, and it is only one of the many illustrations we have before us of the truism that "'tis the hand that rocks the cradle that moves the world." Mr. N. has served his neighbors as School Treasurer, that being the extent of his public services to date. In politics he is a straight Republican.

ANDREW PITTMAN. The southeastern portion of this county contains many fine farms, but none probably more attractive or valuable than that belonging to the subject of this sketch. He is a man of energy and enterprise, and in addition to general agriculture, has built up quite a reputation as a stock-raiser. His land comprises 250 acres, lying on sections 4 and 5, Liberty Precinct, and most of which is under a fine state of cultivation, fertile, and well adapted to general farm purposes. The buildings compare favorably with those of the neighboring agriculturists, while the fat cattle of the Holstein breed, together with the horses and swine, the ample stabling room, the farm machinery, and last but not least, the comfortable and commodious residence, form a picture of country life delightful to contemplate.

The improvements which are noticeable upon the farm of Mr. Pittman have been brought about by his own efforts, he having come to the place when it was little removed from its primitive condition. He had prior to his arrival in Nebraska been a resident of Harrison County, Ind., whence he removed in 1876. In Heth Township, that county, occurred his birth, Sept. 1, 1831. His father, David Pittman, also a farmer by occupation, was a native of Shenandoah County, Va., and the son of John Pittman, who was also born in the Old Dominion. The latter married a Virginia lady, and they lived in Shenandoah County until after the birth of all their children. Thence they migrated to Harrison County, Ind., settling among the earliest pioneers of Heth Township, about 1820, before Indiana had become a State. There John Pittman and his estimable wife spent the remainder of their days, and passed peacefully away at the homestead which they had built up from the wilderness, dying at a ripe old age.

The Pittman family is of Holland-Dutch descent, and the grandparents of our subject spoke mostly in the language of their native country. Their son David in his boyhood attended the pioneer schools of Harrison County, Ind., where he was reared to man's estate. He married Miss Catherine Eddleman, who was of Pennsylvania birth and parentage, her progenitors having been residents of the Keystone State through many generations. Her parents removed to Indiana when she was a young lady, and there she met her future husband.

After marriage the parents of our subject began life together on a new farm, and in due time the household circle was completed by the birth of five children, of whom Andrew was the third. The wife and mother departed this life at the birth of her last child, about 1834, when in the prime of life. She was a lady possessing all the Christian virtues, and her name is held by her children in most affectionate remembrance. David Pittman was in due time married the second time, his wife being Miss Mary Young, and they are both now deceased. In 1873, leaving Indiana, they came to this State, settling in Liberty Precinct, and here spent their last days, both dying in the same year, 1881. The father, politically, was a strong adherent of the Democratic parry, and a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church.

Our subject grew to man's estate in his native county, and was there married to Miss Elizabeth Conrad, who was born not far from the home of her husband, in Harrison County, Ind., May 19, 1831. Her parents, George and Nancy (Wiseman) Conrad, were natives of Pennsylvania, and like the Pittmans, of Holland-Dutch stock. They came to Indiana in their youth, and were married in Harrison County, where the husband took up land, and where both parents spent the remainder of their lives, dying well advanced in years. Mrs. Pittman was one of the younger members of a large family. Two brothers and two sisters are yet living. She

was educated in the district school, and remained under the home roof until her marriage.

To Andrew Pittman and wife there were born six children, two of whom are now deceased. George married Miss Nevie Koontz, and became the father of two children, Glenn and Jessie, and died at the age of thirty-three years. The other child deceased was a daughter named Emma A., who passed away at the tender age of three years. Of the survivors the record is as follows: Thomas married Miss Sarah M. Smoots, and they live on a farm in York County, this State; Charles W. married Miss Fannie Haas, and is engaged in the livery business at Waco, this State; Jacob H. took to wife Miss Anna Mauck, of Harrison County, Ind.; they have one daughter, Gertie, and he is operating the farm of his father; this son is also owner of eighty acres elsewhere in the precinct. Hattie M. is yet at home.

Mr. Pittman, politically, is a Democrat. While in Indiana he and his wife joined the German Reformed Church, of which they continue to be members. A view of the homestead of Mr. Pittman is shown on another page of this work.

JOHN A. HENNINGS. Not a furrow had been turned upon the present farm of our subject when he settled upon it in the spring of 1874, and no buildings. He realized that there was before him an Herculean task, but he was possessed of that sturdy and persistent courage which led him to believe that from it he could construct a homestead in due time which would serve to shelter him in his later years, and prove the source of a comfortable income. Happily his anticipations have been realized, and he is now the owner of one of the best farms in the northeastern part of the county. He has the manliness to acknowledge that his labors in their results might have been far different had he been possessed of a companion and helpmate less capable and efficient than the lady who has borne his name and stood by his side for a period of fifteen years. Mrs. Hennings has been in all respects the equal of her husband in diligence and industry, while her careful management has had a vast influence over the happiness of the home and the success of her husband.

The Hennings homestead comprises 280 acres of land, and is finely situated on section 21, Eight Mile Grove Precinct. The proprietor, a native of Germany, was born near the famous old city of Hamburg, March 21, 1848, and is the son of John and Sophia Hennings, who emigrated to America fifty-one years ago, and are now living not far from the homestead of their son. Both have passed their threescore years and ten. Of the children born to them there are living, John A., our subject; Charles, Henry and Ferdinand, all living in the same precinct. John A. was in the sixth year of his age when he crossed the Atlantic, and the family first settled in Washington County, Wis. He was there reared to man's estate amid the wild scenes of pioneer life, when Indians were their neighbors for a number of years. He thus received only a limited education, but he grew up strong of muscle and stout of heart, and was well fitted for life's future duties. He was at an early age taught to make himself useful, and acquired those habits of industry and economy which in later life proved the key to his success.

Mr. Hennings came to this county in the fall of 1871, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 21, paying therefor the sum of $580. It was considered very good land, but had never been cultivated. Our subject, still in the enjoyment of single blessedness, proceeded with the improvement of his purchase, and in due time found himself in a condition to establish domestic ties. He had made the acquaintance of Miss Margaret Jerdine in this county, and they were married at her home, Feb. 10, 1874. Mrs. Hennings was born in Hartford, Conn., Sept. 2, 1855, and is the daughter of David and Margaret Jerdine, the former of whom died in this county about 1864. The mother is still living, making her home with her sons in this county. The Jerdine family originated in Scotland, and there the parents of Mrs. Hennings were born. The father emigrated to America when a boy, and the mother when a young girl fifteen years old. They lived in Connecticut some years after their marriage, but came West in 1856, taking up their

abode in this county among its earliest pioneers, and eleven years before Nebraska was admitted into the Union as a State. The father secured a tract of land in the vicinity of the present flourishing city of Plattsmouth, when there was probably upon its site not a solitary building. He was only permitted to live eight years thereafter, his death taking place Dec. 20, 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerdine were the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Hennings was the eldest born. Her sister Mary is the wife of August Bomahk, of Centre Precinct, this county; Ellen married Henry Kahne, and lives in Centre Precinct; David and Alexander are residents of this county. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born eight children, namely: Henry J. and John W., deceased; Charles H., Emma M., Maggie J., William C., John E. and Louis.

Mr. Hennings cast his first Presidential vote for Hayes, and has since been a stanch supporter of Republican principles. He has served as Moderator in his school district, and is in favor of every measure to improve the county and elevate society. Mrs. Hennings is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending services at Eight Mile Grove.

WILLIAM SNYDER, one of the honored pioneers of Nebraska, settled in this county in May of 1859, improved a tract of land, and battled successfully with the difficulties of life in a new settlement. He is now in possession of a comfortable property, and has contributed his full quota to the growth and development of Southern Nebraska.

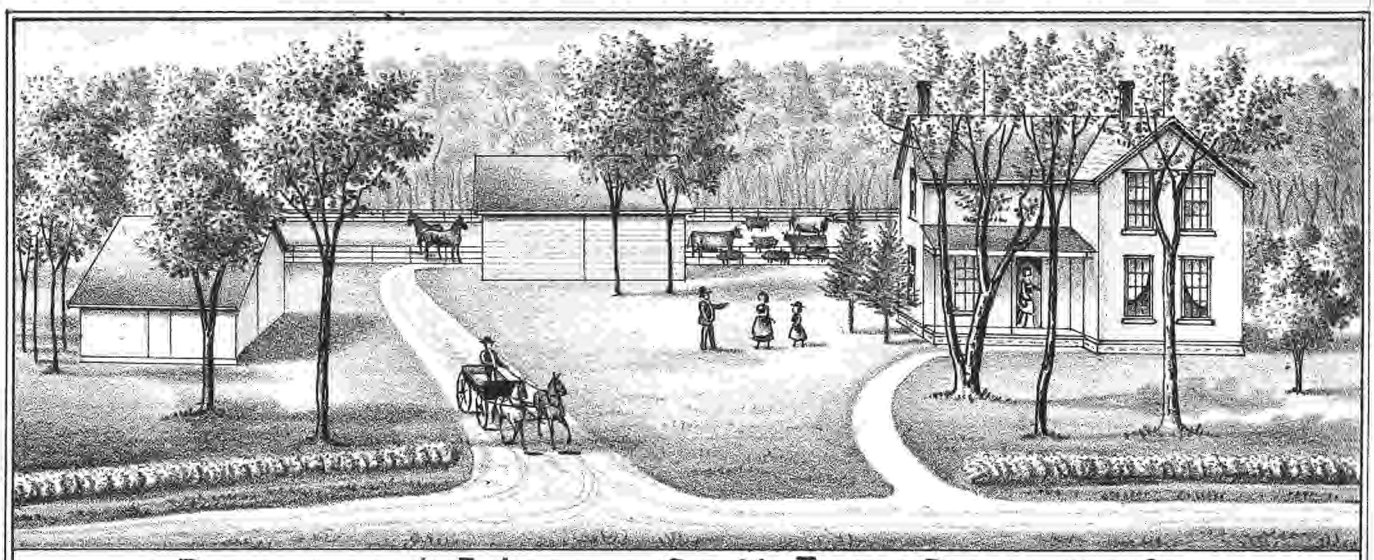
A native of the Old Dominion, our subject was born in Highland County, Jan. 1, 1830, and lived there until September, 1857, being then a young man of twenty-seven years. His parents, Abraham and Susan (Heavener) Snyder, were also natives of Virginia, to which the paternal grandparents had removed from their native State of Pennsylvania, being among the earliest settlers locating at the head of the Potomac River.

Mr. Snyder acquired a common-school education in his native township, and before leaving the Old Dominion fortified himself for the further struggle of life by taking to himself a wife and helpmate, being married, Dec. 20, 1855, to Miss Elizabeth Beverage. This lady was the daughter of George and Hannah (Heavener) Beverage, also natives of Virginia, where they were reared and married and became the parents of ten children. Of these Mrs. Snyder was the third in order of birth, and besides herself six others are living, being residents mostly of Nebraska and Virginia.

About two years after his marriage, Mr. Snyder, accompanied by his young wife and his parents, started for Scott County, Iowa, Sept. 15, 1857, making the journey overland, and being five weeks and three days upon the road. They settled upon a tract of wild land, upon which they labored two years, and then in April, 1859, set out for Nebraska Territory, making the journey by teams, as before, and arriving at the embryo town of Plattsmouth May 13 following. There were then but a few houses to mark the site of the present flourishing city. The Snyder family rented a house on the farm of Mr. A. B. Taylor, about two miles west of town, and our subject commenced working by the day, laboring thus for a period of two years.

At the expiration of this time Mr. Snyder purchased eighty acres of land on section 27, in Plattsmouth Precinct, where he has since resided. Upon this no attempt whatever has been made at improvement. Mr. S. and his father put up a small frame house, and began in earnest the cultivation of the soil. They had brought with them one horse and an old carriage, which our subject traded as part pay for his farm. Their dwelling was built of cottonwood lumber, Mr. S. cutting the trees and hauling the logs with his father's team. He and the latter worked together in the improvement of a farm until the death of the father, which occurred April 2, 1872, when he was seventy-three years old. The mother is still living, having now arrived at the advanced age of eighty-two years, and makes her home with her children.

The Snyder homestead embraces now 200 acres of finely cultivated land, with good improvements, including a substantial dwelling, barns, and the various other structures for the shelter of stock and the storage of grain. The estate is one of the



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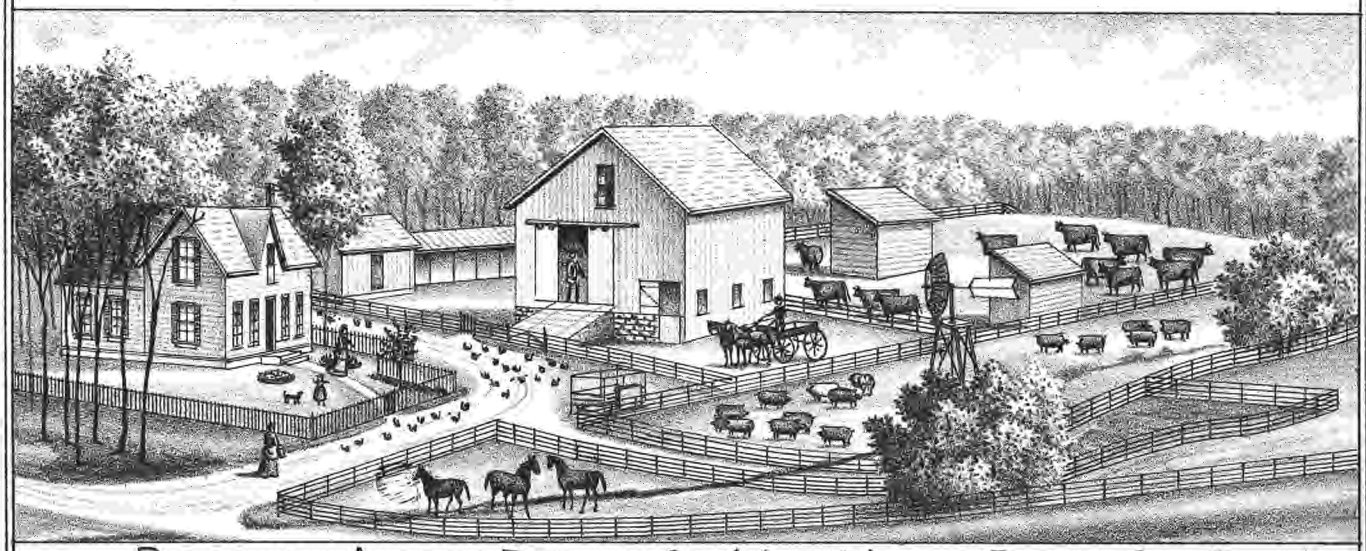
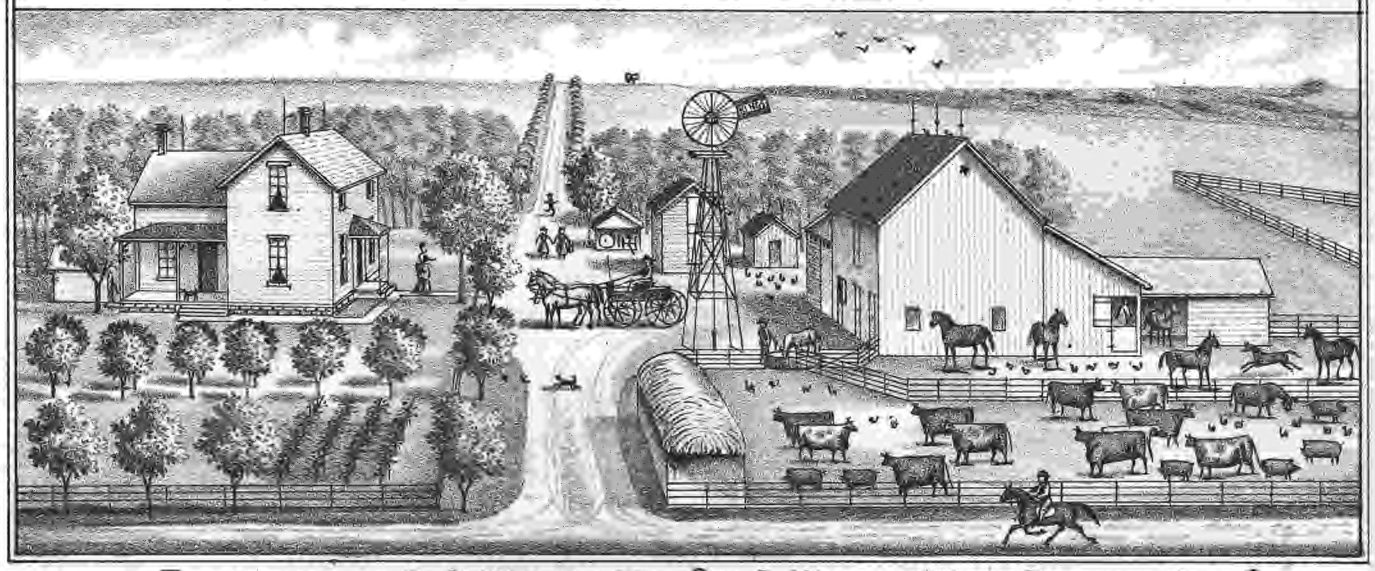


RESIDENCE OF ANDREW PITTMAN, SEC. 4. (10-13.) LIBERTY PRECINCT, CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF E. E. WILLIAMS, SEC. 6. WEEPING WATER PRECINCT, CASS CO.

most important landmarks in the history of Cass County. A windmill carries water from a never-failing well to whatever place it is required, and Mr. Snyder is supplied with all the modern machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. He has a goodly assortment of live stock, including horses, cattle and swine, and is rated as one of the most thorough and skillful farmers of his precinct. The family occupy a fine position socially, being widely and favorably known throughout this part of the county.

Mr. Snyder was accompanied to Nebraska by two brothers and one of his wife's brothers, in addition to his father's family. Andrew and John Snyder for a number of years carried on a successful freighting business from Plattsmouth to Denver and other important points. The brothers also broke prairie for the settlers around. Andrew died of consumption in San Francisco, Cal., July 15, 1872. John died in Omaha in September, 1884. John Beverage, the brother of Mrs. Snyder, is a resident of Omaha.

Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have had born to them three children, viz.: Peter died when nearly two years of age; Amanda is the wife of Charles Jean. They are engaged in farming in this township. George W. is single and at home. In politics Mr. Snyder is a stanch Democrat.

ADAM HEIL. To the German Fatherland Nebraska is largely indebted for the development of her rich resources. The subject of this sketch, now a man of seventy-four years, and who has since the spring of 1870 been a resident of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, first opened his eyes to the light in the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, May 8, 1814. He was reared to manhood amid the scenes and surroundings of his birthplace, and received a good education in his native tongue. When a youth of fifteen years he began his apprenticeship at the trade of weaver, which he followed until emigrating to America in the summer of 1851.

Our subject had in the meantime been married in Germany, in 1846, to Miss Magdalena Schafer, and there were born to them in their native Empire two children, Wendel and William.

Not satisfied with his condition or his prospects upon the soil of Germany Mr. Heil finally decided to seek his fortunes in America. Gathering together his personal effects and his little family, he secured passage at Antwerp on a sailing-vessel, and after an ocean voyage of forty-two days they landed safely at New York City. Thence they journeyed to Tazewell County, Ill., and Mr. Heil entered upon the pursuit of agriculture, which he followed in the Prairie State until coming to this county, in the spring of 1870.

The fine large farm of our subject, the property which he has accumulated by his own perseverance and industry, embraces 320 acres of improved land, whereon he has erected substantial buildings. There are few who can tell him anything new about pioneer life, for he has experienced its hardships both in Illinois and Nebraska. In addition to this, soon after his arrival in America he met with a dire affliction in the death of his wife, which occurred July 14, 1851, the day after they arrived in Tazewell County, Ill. He was thus obliged to suffer a season of inconvenience and trouble incident to the care of his motherless children, but in October, 1852, was the second time married, to Miss Mary Lautenschlager, then a resident of Illinois.

This second marriage of our subject resulted in the birth of six children, only three of whom are living, namely: George, Henry and Elizabeth. They make their homes in this county. The eldest son, William H., is one of the most enterprising young farmers of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, and remains with his father, assisting in the management of the homestead. He was born in Tazewell County, Ill., and since coming to the State of Nebraska, in the spring of 1870, has given his attention mainly to the development of the property which his father then secured. He is intelligent and industrious, and has received a practical education. There are few among the younger men along the northern line of the county who occupy a more enviable position, or whose talents have better fitted them for a worthy and

honorable career. As the father is gradually laying off the mantle of care and labor it is being shifted to the worthy shoulders of the son, who, as the elder representative of the family, is naturally looked up to by the other members with that respect and consideration which are his due, on account of the fidelity to duty and reliability of character which are especially his own.

William H. Hail votes the Democratic ticket, and although having large property interests to look after, still keeps in mind the welfare of the people around him, and especially the rising generation. He believes in the establishment and maintenance of schools, and serves as a Director in his district. He has been quite prominent in local politics, serving frequently as Chairman of the Democratic Committee. He continues in the enjoyment of single blessedness, and it is predicted by those who know him best that he is carefully paving the way to a successful future.

WALTER CUTFORTH. The business element of Louisville recognizes in the subject of this sketch one of its most capable and enterprising men. He represents the hardware and farm implement trade, carrying also stoves, tinware, and the other commodities included in this branch of merchandising. He came to this county in the fall of 1873, having in view agricultural pursuits, and settling upon a farm south of Louisville. A year later, however, he sold out, having resolved to invest his capital in town. He first established a livery business, which he conducted successfully a term of six years, then, selling out, he became interested in grain and coal. A year later we find him established as a hardware merchant. He has a choice and well-selected stock of goods in all departments, and is a man occupying a good position both in social and business circles.

A native of Adams County, Ill., Mr. Cutforth was born July 30, 1847, and comes of excellent ancestry, his parents being of Scotch and English descent. Upon emigrating to this country both families settled in New England, and later George Cutforth, the father of our subject, married Miss Jane Marston. The latter was born in Maine, and was the daughter of James Marston, the father a sea captain, who, upon retiring from ocean life, migrated to Adams County, Ill. He was married in Maine, and later occupied himself at farming. He and his estimable wife spent their last years in Adams County, Ill.

George Cutforth, the father of our subject, was a native of England, and in 1835 emigrated to America. Two years later we find him in Adams County, Ill., of which he remained a resident until his death, Oct. 11, 1888. His last years had been spent in the town of Barnard, Adams County. The wife and mother preceded her husband to the silent land, in 1871. Their family consisted of twelve children, nine sons and three daughters, six of whom are deceased; the others are living mostly in Illinois.

The subject of this biography acquired a common-school education, and remained on the farm with his parents until reaching his majority. Then, setting out in life for himself, he emigrated westward, coming to this county, and entering upon the career which has proved so successful. With him came his young wife, formerly Miss Sarah J. Merrill, of Adams County, Ill., to whom he had been married Oct. 3, 1871. Mrs. Cutforth was born Nov. 25, 1845, and is the daughter of Abijas and Percilla (Cunningham) Merrill, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and are now deceased. Of this union there are no children.

Mr. Cutforth, politically, is a sound Republican, and has been quite prominent in the affairs of Louisville. He officiated as a member of the School Board for a period of twelve years, and as a member of the City Council five years. He has frequently served as Chairman of the same, and in society matters belongs to Cass Lodge No. 146, I. O. O. F., at Plattsmouth. He looks back upon a career in which he may reasonably consider himself uniformly fortunate, the result of the sound common sense with which nature endowed him, and the impulse to honesty and uprightness, which have proved to him better friends than silver or gold. He began in life without means, and the necessity for self-reliance bred within him those traits of character

which have yielded him success. Mr. Cutforth has among his household relics a copy of the history of England by counties, which was printed in 1771, and which was originally the property of his paternal great-grandfather. This ancient volume is still in a good state of preservation, and it is scarcely necessary to add becomes more valuable each year, as one among the relics of the past, which, if lost, could scarcely be replaced.

SIMEON I. LONG. Among the thrifty and successful famers of Cass County who are represented in this biographical work no one is more worthy of notice than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. His home is in Plattsmouth Precinct, where he owns two valuable, highly improved farms, residing on the one on section 33, and renting the other on section 32.

Our subject was born in Jefferson County, Ind., July 28, 1818, to Abraham and Ruth (House) Long, natives of Virginia. The maternal and paternal grandparents of our subject removed from the Old Dominion to Kentucky at a very early date of its settlement, thus becoming pioneers of that State, and there the parents of our subject were united in marriage. They continued to live there a few years after marriage, Mr. Long occupying himself in agricultural pursuits. In about 1800 they removed to Indiana, then a wild, sparsely settled Territory, and located in the primeval forests of Jefferson County, where among other perils they had to contend with bears, wolves, wildcats, and the still more formidable foe, hostile Indians. They immediately began the tedious task of making a home in that heavily timbered country, first erecting a log cabin, in which they cooked and ate their meals, but when night came they would betake themselves to the block-house, which they had jointly built with the few other settlers as a protection against the Indians. When the red men were on the war path the father volunteered to assist the inhabitants of a British settlement in that part of Indiana to suppress hostilities; this was in Wayne's campaign. That was before his marriage, and after the close of the war he returned to Kentucky and was married. He and his wife reared a family of nine children in their pioneer home in Indiana, and in the year 1828 the faithful helpmate and devoted mother closed her eyes in death. Mr. Long returned again to Kentucky, selling the old homestead in Indiana, and remained a resident of the former State four years, marrying, in the meantime, Sarah Taigue. In 1854 Mr. Long once more became a pioneer, moving still further west, and settling in Monmouth, Warren Co., Ill. He staid there four years, when he again took up the westward march, and did not stay his course until he had crossed the Mississippi and taken up his abode in Henry County, Iowa, becoming an early settler there, and there his pilgrimage on earth was brought to a close by his death. He had been a pioneer in three States, and his life was spent on the frontier.

The subject of this sketch was but a lad ten years of age when he had the sad misfortune to lose a good mother, and he then returned to Kentucky with his father. He staid there with him three years, and then returned to his birthplace in Indiana and made his home with his brothers, Louis, Scrawder, Clay and Samuel, who had staid in Indiana. There he went to school one winter, and thence went to South Bend, Ind. From there he returned to Jefferson County, and lived with his sister, Lucinda Long, the three ensuing years. In 1839 he joined his father in Iowa, and resided in that State until 1866, returning, however, to Indiana in 1844, where he was soon after married to Miss Elizabeth Shafer, July 18 being the date of their wedding. He immediately proceeded to Iowa with his bride, he having previously bought a farm in that State, and there his family of seven children were born, namely: John S., who died at the age of two years; Malinda, now Mrs. William Wetenkamp, who lives in Plattsmouth Township; Abraham, who lives in this county; Silas and Rowen W., who also live in this county; Samuel, who died in Iowa when quite young; and William T., who lives here.

Mr. Long came to Cass County with his family in 1866, and purchased his present farm of 160

acres on section 33. There were then only a small house and about sixty-five acres of the land plowed as improvements. Now he has a fine set of commodious buildings, and has the land under the best of cultivation. He also owns another 160-acre farm on section 32, all under improvement, and from its rental he derives a good income.

Our subject has always been strictly honest and honorable in all his dealings, and his conduct in all the relations of life has been such as to command the warm friendship of the many with whom he has associated. His success in life has been brought about by incessant industry, shrewd management, and the wise economy that knows how to spend judiciously as well as how to save. He is a man of sturdy, independent views, and politically, generally casts his vote with the Democrats. When a resident of Iowa he was actively interested in public affairs, and served one term as Justice of the Peace. In his wife our subject was fortunate in selecting one who has been to him a true helpmate, and is devoted to the interests of her family. She is a sincere Christian, and a valued member of the United Brethren Church.

JOSHUA MURRAY. The family of this name is widely and favorably known throughout the eastern part of Cass County, being closely connected with its pioneer element. The subject of this sketch, a resident of Plattsmouth Precinct, and having a good farm on section 30, was born June 12, 1833, in Moniteau County, Mo., and is the son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Berger) Murray, natives of Tennessee. The parents became residents of Missouri when mere children, and there were reared and married.

The paternal grandparents of our subject, Joshua and Polly Murray, natives of Kentucky, moved from the blue grass region to Tennessee when young people, probably after their marriage. They were of English and Irish ancestry respectively, and possibly natives of England and Ireland. The grandfather, if emigrating at all, did so at a very early date, and in time to enter the Revolutionary Army, being then but a youth of eighteen years.

On his mother's side the grandparents of our subject, Michael and Margaret (Ledgerwood) Berger, were of German ancestry, and early settlers of Tennessee. Thence they removed across the Mississippi into Missouri, locating among the pioneers of Moniteau County, where all of the grandparents of our subject spent their last days. Jonathan Murry, leaving Missouri in the fall of 1852, moved to Mills County, Iowa, where the family lived until the spring of 1855; thence they changed their residence to this county, locating in the vicinity of Rock Bluff. There the father spent his last days, his death occurring in July, 1860.

Joshua Murray came to this county on the 1st of October, 1854, with his family, this being his second visit to Nebraska, as he had the spring before selected his land and built a house adjoining the present limits of Rock Bluff. He purchased the right to build from the Otoe Indians, this being prior to the consummation of the treaty between them and the Government. The humble dwelling was constructed of round logs, and covered an area of 16x18 feet. The floor was laid with puncheon, the chimney built outside, of earth and sticks, and the fireplace occupied nearly one side of the structure. When the parents and family of nine children came in the spring of 1855, father and son united their interests. The father had a team, with which he plowed for his son, and the latter paid his father by making rails for him. Of the parental family, finally embracing thirteen children, twelve were born in Missouri and one in Nebraska. One child died and two were married before the family removed to Nebraska.

Our subject was the second child of his parents, and was married in Moniteau County, Mo., in October, 1852, to Miss Rachael Williams. This lady was born in 1833, in Indiana, and of her union with our subject there were born three children, all now deceased. She only survived her marriage five years, dying at her home in this county in July, 1857.

Our subject, on July 4, 1859, was married the second time to Miss Lucina Walker, in Mills County, Iowa. Mrs. Murray was born Nov. 25, 1835, in Hendricks, County, Ind., and is the daughter of Robert and Sallie (Campbell) Walker, who were natives of

North Carolina, whence they removed to Morgan County, Ind., about 1825, and a year later changed their residence to Hendricks County, where Mr. Walker put up a little rail pen, the cracks of which were stopped up with spice brush, and in which the family lived until he could build a log cabin. He cleared a portion of the heavily timbered land at a time in the history of that section of country when they were obliged to keep a fire all night in front of the cabin to protect themselves from the wolves. There the mother died in the year 1852.

In 1854 Mr. Walker with his six motherless children started for Kansas, but on the way there stopped in Jackson County, Mo., where they sojourned from October until February of the year following. They then resumed their journey to Iowa, and thereafter lived in Mills County, where the father rested from his earthly labors in June, 1878, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. He was a true type of the pioneer and frontiersman, of sturdy frame, industrious and persevering, a man of limited education but reliable qualities of character, who, though living a quiet and unostentatious life, performed faithfully his part, and is held in kindly remembrance.

The subject of this sketch, like his father before him, is intimately acquainted with all the phases of pioneer life, having been an early settler of three States, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. By a course of regular reading he keeps himself thoroughly posted upon current events, and while making no pretenses to be a politician, is a stanch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He occupies a good standing in that party in this section, and in the fall of 1886 was its nominee for the Nebraska Legislature, in place of the regular nominee, who had been withdrawn about two weeks before the election. So little did he care for the office that he declined to spend one cent to secure his election, and being in a Republican county was defeated, as he expected, although by only twenty votes. This indicates in a forcible manner the estimation in which he is held by the people of this section. He was Assessor of Rock Bluff Precinct while a resident there, and has filled many positions of trust.

Of the second marriage of our subject there have been born seven children, namely: Alvis C.; Estella M., the wife of William Mutz, of Cuming County, Neb.; Sarah E. and Robert G., deceased; Charles E., Emma E. and Joshua L. The home farm includes 320 acres of valuable land, finely improved, and occupying a part of sections 30 and 31. Besides the homestead Mr. Murray owns 160 acres of improved land in Holt County, in addition to a timber claim there. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, feeding about seventy-five head of cattle and from seventy-five to 100 hogs annually. It will thus be seen that he has borne no important part in stimulating the agricultural interests of this portion of the county.

LYCURGUS RUSSELL. The precinct of Salt Creek recognizes the subject of this sketch as one of its most prominent men and useful citizens. He owns and operates 200 acres of good land on section 18, and has signalized himself as a gentleman of more than ordinary enterprise and ability. His home is that of the typical American, attractive, orderly and well-regulated, and is presided over by one of the most estimable ladies, Mrs. Russell being in all respects the suitable companion for such a man as her husband. Their children are being carefully trained and educated, and under these circumstances it is hardly necessary to say that the Russells are surrounded by hosts of friends.

Wapello County, Iowa, was the early tramping ground of our subject, and where his birth took place Oct. 14, 1849, in the little village of Dahlonega, two and one-half miles from Ottumwa. His father, Owens Russell, was born in Pennsylvania, and the mother, in her girlhood Miss Mary Kight, was a native of Ohio. The paternal grandfather first opened his eyes to the light among the Scottish Highlands, and upon emigrating to America settled in Pennsylvania, among its earliest pioneers.

The Kights were of English origin, and the first representatives of the family in America settled in Pennsylvania during the Colonial days. Owens Russell upon leaving his native State migrated first to Ohio, where he was married, and a few years

later pushed on further westward to Wapello County, Iowa. In the Hawkeye State he was abundantly prospered as a tiller of the soil, and accumulated a good property. He rested from his earthly labors in April, 1868, at the age of fifty-six years. The mother had died in 1861, when forty-seven years old. The seven children of the parental household were named respectively: Harriet, Rhoda, Elizabeth, Lycurgus, our subject; Hamilton, Franklin and Monroe. Five of these are living, and located mostly in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

After leaving the district school our subject entered the graded school at Ottumwa, where he completed his education. He was a little lad eight years of age at the time of his mother's death, and about fifteen years when deprived of his father's care. Although so young he then assumed mainly the charge of the homestead, assisted by his two elder sisters, who presided over their domestic affairs. After the marriage of Rhoda the family was practically broken up, and the year following, in April, 1869, at the age of sixteen, young Russell came to Nebraska. He was a resident of Plattsmouth four or five years, employed at working on a farm. His first intention had been to go to Denver, but meeting Mr. T. Martin Marquette, of Plattsmouth, he was advised to remain at Plattsmouth. His farming experience now served him well, and he entered the employ of Mr. E. Sage, of Plattsmouth, as foreman of his ranch at Plattsmouth. He occupied this position a period of four years, then coming to Greenwood Precinct, purchased a homestead claim of eighty acres, comprising a part of the southwest quarter of section 18. This purchase was made in the spring of 1874, and it was then an uncultivated tract of prairie. He took up his abode upon it alone, in a frame house, and his labors that year came to naught on account of the grasshoppers. In the spring of 1875 Mr. Russell added forty acres to his real estate, and two years later purchased another forty acres, thus becoming owner of a quarter section.

The marriage of Lycurgus Russell and Miss Mary E. Robbins was celebrated at the home of the bride in Saunders County, Neb., Feb. 18, 1876, and they soon thereafter took up their abode at the new farm. They are now the parents of seven children, one of whom, the eldest, a son, Bertie, died when four years old. The survivors are: Maude, Etta E., Goldie, Leonard J., and an infant, Lonie. Mrs. Russell was born Jan. 10, 1857, in Davis County, Iowa, and is the daughter of Charles and Nancy (Pollard) Robbins, who were natives of New York State and Iowa. They came to Nebraska when their daughter Mary was a little child three years of age, and settled in Ashland, where they are still residing.

Mr. Russell in common with the men around him has embellished his farm with groves of cottonwood, ash, maple and walnut trees, and the much admired Catawba flourishes adjacent.

The buildings are neat and substantial structures, and Mr. Russell has the farm machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. Although having little time to meddle with political affairs, he is a uniform supporter of Democratic principles, and has been quite prominent in local affairs, serving as a member of the Board of Education five terms, officiating as a Grand Juror, and otherwise identifying himself with the interests of the community. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias at Ashland.

ISAAC STONE, a model citizen, conscientious Christian and prosperous farmer, owns and resides on a fine farm embracing 240 acres on section 24 of Greenwood Precinct. He was born in Indiana, Oct. 18, 1817, the son of Benjamin Stone, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and in his early life moved to Indiana. He was a school teacher, and engaged in educational pursuits all his life. He died in 1833, aged fifty years. The mother died in 1871, aged eighty-seven years.

Our subject is one of a family of ten children, who are named: Abigail, Polly, Ann, Elijah, Rebecca, Benjamin, Abraham, Sarah J., Isaac, Jeremiah and Lovisas. Ann was born in Pennsylvania; Elijah, Rebecca and Benjamin were born in Ohio; Abraham and Isaac are twins.

Our subject resided a short time in Kansas, where he settled in March, 1871. About one year from

this date he moved to Cass County, Neb., and settled on the farm where he now resides. He was married, Nov. 7, 1841, to Miss Nancy Milner, a resident of Indiana. She departed this life in September, 1861. She was the mother of a family of five children—Zerelda D., Minerva D., Richard K., David M. and Mary M. Richard resides on a farm located on section 24, this precinct; Minerva is married, and the other three children are deceased.

After a season Mr. Stone married Miss Malisinth P. Wygall, a resident of Ohio County, Ind. By this marriage he became the father of five children: Edgar Mc., I. Dean, Roland A., Adelea H. and Josephine W., all of whom are at home at this writing, assisting in the various duties of the farm, attending school, acquiring an education, and thus laying the foundation for a life of usefulness and benefit to themselves and the world.

Mr. Stone is a pleasant, agreeable gentleman to meet, highly educated, and thoroughly informed on the general topics of the day. He has a good farm, well improved, and the land is divided into fields by fences of wire and hedges, good barns and commodious sheds for the accommodation of cattle, of which he has a large number, all high-grade animals, which he keeps in fine condition, and gives the best care possible. They are a goodly source of profit to their owner.

The residence of Mr. Stone is neat and tasty in appearance, and is well kept both inside and out. It stands in the midst of a fine grove of trees, mingled with shrubbery and flowering plants, the whole presenting a very attractive and beautiful appearance. All the improvements are arranged in order, indicating the owner to be a man thoroughly well posted in his business.

Mr. Stone was elected to the Legislature of the State in 1878, where he served one term. He has been Postmaster ten years, and Mrs. Stone has served four years. He has been School Director for some time, and has been connected with the School Board in some capacity the greater portion of the time he has resided in Nebraska. He is now, and has been for the last twenty years, a minister of the Gospel in the Free-Will Baptist Church. His daily life is a living example of what the love of God will accomplish, when the heart of a man is devoted to His service. His good wife joins her husband in his plans and labors, is a conscientious, unostentatious, Christian woman, a joy, blessing and comfort to all with whom she comes in contact. She is several years younger than her husband. In politics Mr. Stone is a Republican.

STEPHEN HULFISH. The best interests of a town in its incipiency depend largely upon the men instrumental in its establishment and after them those who seek to identify themselves with it. The subject of this sketch is numbered among the men of prominence and influence who are bringing Wabash into a position worthy of more than a passing notice. Here he has invested a large portion of his capital, while his enterprise and intelligence have been the means of others of like character locating here. He officiates as Postmaster and Notary Public; and conducts a flourishing trade in drugs, medicines, paints and the other articles pertaining to this department of trade. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1880, settling first in Bushberry, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits until Wabash was laid out, when he changed the scene of his operations to this place, a very fortunate thing for Wabash. He brought to it the first stock of commodities in which he is now dealing, and is looked upon as a leading man of his community.

A native of the Keystone State, our subject was born in the city of Philadelphia, April 24, 1840. His parents were David and Rebecca (Carpenter) Hulfish, the father a native of New Jersey, and the mother of Philadelphia, Pa. The paternal grandfather was a native of Germany, and emigrated to America in time to shoulder a musket effectively during the Revolutionary War. Later he served in the War of 1812. David Hulfish, his son, upon approaching manhood, learned the trade of a shoemaker, and afterward became a large dealer in boots and shoes in Philadelphia. He lived there after his marriage until 1853, and then removed to Owensville, Ind., where he also established a trade in boots and shoes, and where he still lives, being now seventy years old. The mother is likewise

living, and is five years younger than her husband. They were the parents of two children only, Stephen, our subject, and Ewin D. a newspaper man and editor, of Owensville, Ind.

The first recollections of our subject are of a modest home in his native city, where he commenced a practical education in the public schools. Being necessarily much of his time in the shop and store of his father, he learned the rudimentary details of the business at an early age, and when a lad of thirteen years, being unusually bright and apt, was given a position with a large wholesale establishment in Philadelphia, where he remained until 1853. He was reared to man's estate in his native city, but in 1859 joined his parents in Owensville, Ind., where he met his future wife, then Miss Kate Storton, to whom he was married March 31, 1863. In the spring of 1865 he began on his own account in the boot and shoe trade at Owensville, being then twenty-five years of age. His good business capacities and his progressive ideas as a citizen, and member of the community brought him into prominence among his townsmen, and in the year above mentioned he was appointed, by President Johnson, Postmaster of Owensville.

Mrs. Kate (Storton) Hulfish was born in England, and came to America with her parents when young. Of her union with our subject were born two children, the elder of whom, a son, Willie, married Miss Henrietta Gorden, of Wabash, this county, and is now living in Wabash. The daughter, Rebecca, is the wife of Charles Hite, a well-to-do farmer, of Elmwood Precinct. They have two children—George and Letta. Mrs. Kate Hulfish died at Owensville, Ind., in December, 1874.

Mr. Hulfish contracted a second marriage in December, 1875, with Miss Anna Worrell, daughter of Charles and Catherine (Templeton) Worrell, of Wayne County, Ill. This marriage has resulted in the birth of three children, a daughter and two sons—Myrtle, Charles and Frank. They are a bright trio, and the daughter is completing her education in St. Francis' Academy at Council Bluffs, Iowa. She has evinced considerable musical talent, and is a young lady greatly liked in the social circles of her community.

In 1880, the present wife of our subject having been in ill-health for some time, Mr. Hulfish decided upon a change of climate, and accordingly left Indiana for Nebraska. He started the first store in Bushberry, this county, and was soon thereafter appointed Postmaster. During the building of the Missouri Pacific Railroad he came to Wabash, and after assisting in platting the town, built a store and post-office. His residence is a neat and substantial structure, and both himself and family are highly esteemed by the people of this locality. Mr. H. in 1882 was first appointed Notary Public, and reappointed in 1888 for another term of six years. Politically, he affiliates with the Democratic party, and is an active member of the I. O. O. F. He believes in the establishment of schools and churches, and as he has opportunity gives his aid to every enterprise calculated to advance the interests of the people, morally and financially.

JOHN PHILPOT, SR., an enterprising farmer, lives on a highly cultivated and improved farm, located on section 27 in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Kent County, England, March 10, 1815. He is the son of George and Abigail Philpot, and lived at home in England with his parents until he was twenty years old. Recognizing the fact that for a young man in his position in life there was no opportunity for advancement or procuring a home for himself, he decided to emigrate to America. In pursuance of this decision he took passage from London in the sailing-ship "St. James." After a stormy passage of eight weeks he arrived in New York City. His means being very limited he found it necessary to seek employment, which he procured on a farm in New Jersey, where he worked for two years.

Wishing to see more of the country and learn the ways of the people, our subject went to New Orleans, where for a time he worked at various occupations. He then worked his way northward, and finally settled in Jo Daviess County, Ill., which was then an unsettled wild country. He secured a tract of finely located land, which he proceeded to improve, and in later years, when the railroad was built, and a market was made for the varied prod-

yours Truly
John Stine

ucts of the farm, and other settlers coming to the neighborhood, he found himself by the natural increase bestowed by these advantages to be the owner of an extremely valuable farm. He resided on this farm for thirty years, and he still owns it.

While Mr. Philpot was living there he married Miss Sarah Dugan, who survived her marriage but about a year. After a season he married a second time, and to him and his wife were born a family of eight children, five of whom are living, namely: Charles, John, Alfred, James and Mary. John is a resident of Nebraska (for a sketch of his life see another page in this work). Shortly after the close of the Civil War our subject went to Carroll County, Mo., where he remained a short time. From there he came to Cass County and secured a fine tract of land, which he has thoroughly improved, and he has become an honored and respected citizen of the precinct.

Our subject is in all respects a self-made man. Since his arrival in America he has applied himself so diligently to the observation of men and events as they transpired about him, that he now possesses a good, practical knowledge, which is available in the everyday affairs of life. He is widely and favorably known in his locality, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of all who know him. In politics he is a thorough Republican. He cast his vote for William Henry Harrison, in the ever memorable "hard cider" campaign of 1840, and cast his last vote, in 1888, for the grandson, Benjamin Harrison.

JOHN STINE, a pioneer farmer of this State, is as closely connected with its growth and development, and has lent as much assistance toward placing Nebraska in the front rank among the western commonwealths, as any one individual residing within its limits. His first advent in the State was April 8, 1855, when he crossed the river at Omaha, then a mere hamlet of three shanties. He bought a claim two and a half miles west of that place, on which he lived one year, and during that time took an active part in local affairs, being an influential member of the well-known Claim Club of that day, which had a branch in Omaha consisting of 160 members. They executed whatever they undertook, and protected the pioneer against the encroachments of the claim jumper. Mr. Stine recollects very clearly the incidents and scenes of his early life in Omaha, and can recall the time, when, in the fall of 1855, the first treaty with the Indians was made. The Government agreed to pay annually for a term of years to the different tribes, Omahas, Otoes, Pawnees and Sioux, a large revenue, some of the payments of which are already completed, and in no case was a tribe to receive indemnity for more than forty years. He also remembers when John Brown was granted a charter to run a ferry across the Missouri River at Omaha. Times were then perilous, the people being largely a lawless set, struggling for supremacy as well as for existence, and it was decidedly unsafe for a man to make any encroachment on another man's property. Soon after coming to Nebraska our subject was employed by the present Governor of the State to break 105 acres of the land now embraced within the limits of Omaha, receiving $6 an acre for his labors, this being before the original Government survey was made. He also broke the same year fifty acres not far from Omaha. This was practically the first breaking of prairie in the State. In 1856 Mr. Stine concluded to locate south of the Platte River, thinking the soil there better adapted to farming. He therefore sold for $1,000 the squatter's claim that he had taken up in Omaha before the Government had set a compass in the State, and moving to Otoe County, he pre-empted a quarter-section in what is now Wyoming Precinct, but was then the enterprising and lively town of Wyoming, having the appearance of a city with a boom on, but is now defunct. The land had, however, more timber on than our subject desired for farming purposes, so, after making considerable improvements, he exchanged it for 160 acres four miles west, on what is now section 7, Wyoming Precinct. He partly improved that farm, and in 1866 purchased his present homestead of 160 acres on section 22, Liberty Precinct. It was then in its primitive wildness, with not a furrow turned, but as its natural advantages were good, our subject set to work with enthusiastic zeal to improve it, and by indomitable

perseverance and industry he has succeeded in his efforts, and has now a good productive farm, well stocked with choice breeds of animals, and is in receipt of a comfortable income therefrom.

Our subject was born in Berks County, Pa., Aug. 6, 1829. He is of the old Pennsylvania Dutch stock, his father, Philip Stine, having been a farmer in Berks County, where he was reared and subsequently married to Sarah Dundore. After their marriage they remained in the Keystone State until 1840, when they removed with their family of seven children to Fairfield County, Ohio. There Mr. Stine purchased a good farm, and there remained until his death in 1847, being then forty-seven years old. His wife survived him many years, dying in Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio, in September, 1887, at the venerable age of eighty-one years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stine were members of the Lutheran Church, and lived upright Christian lives. They had eleven children, ten sons and one daughter, John, of whom we write, having been the fourth child and third son.

The latter remained at home until twenty-two years of age, and then commenced life for himself. He was married in Liberty Precinct to Catherine D. Tyson, who was born in Adams County, Ill., Dec. 8, 1845. Her parents, Mathias and Katie (Bailey) Tyson, were natives of Virginia, but were both reared in Ohio, and moved with their parents to Indiana, where they were married. They began their wedded life on a farm in Central Indiana, living there until after the birth of three children, then moved to Adams County, Ill., going thence in 1851 to Texas. They were not pleased, however, with the Lone Star State, and returning North, spent a year in Missouri, then came to Nebraska, crossing the Missouri River March 5, 1855. They took up 160 acres of land on what is now section 22, Liberty Precinct, that being one of the first preemptions in this part of the county. They were very successful in their labors, and improved a fine farm, on which they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Tyson dying in 1874, when sixty-five years of age, and Mr. Tyson in 1877, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. They were worthy types of the pioneer, and exercised the generosity and hospitality characteristic of the early settlers of that time, and always helped the needy and the afflicted.

To our subject and his wife have been born five children, one of whom, George A., died in infancy. The living ones are: Reuben B., William L., Sarah E. and John R. In his political views Mr. Stine is a Republican, and is fearless in his endorsement of those principles which he believes to be for the general good of his community and the country at large. Both he and his worthy wife are held in the highest respect in the community which has known them so long and so well, and their pleasant home is the resort of a large circle of friends.

We are pleased to present herewith a fine portrait of this worthy pioneer farmer, who has done much to develop the agricultural interests of the county.

JAMES K. KEITHLEY, editor and publisher of the Weeping Water *Republican*, came first to Nebraska in 1875, and to Weeping Water in 1878. In the year 1882, in company with his brother, W. A. Keithley, he established the journal which has now become an indispensable institution of this county. Three years later James K. purchased the interest of his brother, and has since conducted the business singly and alone. The *Republican* has a large circulation, and is a stanch advocate of the principles of its party. In connection therewith is a fine job office, the presses operated by the only steam printing power in the county. The office is equipped with a select assortment of type and other material, and turns out some of the prettiest job work done in this part of the State. This department gives employment to four men the year round. Mr. Keithley, although a warm advocate of his party principles, has never made any effort to become an office-holder, preferring that some other man should assume its cares and responsibilities. In business circles he is a member of the Board of Trade, and a financier of good abilities. He is well spoken of by the people of his community, which indicates at once the true character of the man.

Mr. Keithley was born in Louisville, Ky., April 21, 1852, and in 1855 his parents removed to Min-

nesota, where the father took up a tract of land. The boyhood and youth of our subject were employed mostly in securing his education, and after a brief period spent in the district school he was sent to the Academy of Salem, Ind. After spending two years at this institution he taught school a period of six years in the States of Indiana, Minnesota and Nebraska, coming to the latter in the spring of 1875. His father in the meantime had died when he was a youth of sixteen years, and he aided in the support of his mother. The latter is now dead, and her remains are interred at Nebraska City.

Mr. Keithley upon coming to Nebraska was located for a time in Nebraska City, and was there married, Oct. 22, 1878, to Miss Agnes E. Kay. This lady was born May 15, 1859, in Nebraska City, Otoe County, and received a good education, completing her studies in the Nebraska City High School. She made her home with her parents until her marriage. She is the daughter of Dr. M. K. and Demaris (Seaton) Kay, the former a prominent physician of Nebraska City and one of its earliest settlers. He comes of excellent ancestry, and was born in Inverness, Scotland, in 1818. He came to America about 1848, settling first in Illinois, and removing in the year 1855 to Nebraska City. Mrs. Demaris Kay, the wife and mother, was born in Louisville, Ky., and married in Hennepin, Ill. Of this union there were born four children, two only of whom lived to mature years. Dr. Kay obtained his medical education in Glasgow, Scotland, being graduated from one of the colleges there. Both he and his estimable wife are still living, making their home in Nebraska City, and both are members of the Episcopal Church.

Samuel T. Keithley, the father of our subject, was born in Harrison County, Ind., Dec. 23, 1818, and lived there until reaching man's estate. He was married, in 1839, to Miss Sarah J. Catlin, of Washington County, and they became the parents of seven children, four of whom are living, namely: James K., our subject; Nancy C., Mrs. J. S. Bean, of St. Paul, Minn.; Theo W., a resident of Montevideo, Minn., and William A., publisher of the *Saunders County Leader*, in Ashland, this State.

Samuel Keithley was a ship carpenter by trade, which he followed for a time in Louisville, Ky., and until 1855, then migrating to Minnesota, he took up land in LeSueur County, and improved a farm, upon which he lived until 1862. The progress of the Civil War called him from his farm and family, and he enlisted in Company K, 7th Minnesota Infantry. During his absence there occurred the Indian outbreak in which the family fled to the city, leaving the farm to the mercy of both Indians and white outlaws, who stole everything they could carry off.

In the meantime the father of the family, after serving as a Union soldier two years and ten months, suffered greatly in health, and was obliged to accept his honorable discharge two months before the expiration of his term of enlistment. He then returned to Cleveland, where the family lived until 1867, when they removed to Fredericksburg, Ind., where in December, 1868, his death occurred. The mother was left with four children, and returned to Minnesota, where she resided until the spring of 1876, when she went to the home of her son James K., in Nebraska City, and died there in 1877. Both parents were lifelong members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which the father officiated as Class-Leader and was otherwise prominent in its councils.

James Keithley, the paternal grandfather of our subject, it is supposed was a native of Pennsylvania, and for many years filled the pulpit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as an itinerant, and rode the circuit a number of years in the fashion of the Methodist preachers of that day. He settled in Harrison County, Ind., and married a Miss Kendall, by whom he became the father of two sons, who lived to mature years. This lady died, and he married a second time. He passed away some time between 1840 and 1850.

CHARLES C. HENNINGS and the estimable lady who has borne his name for the last seventeen years settled on their farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct about 1874. The land was then as the Indians had left it, not a furrow having been turned and no attempt whatever having been made at improvement. After putting in the first

season's crops, the area devoted to this being necessarily contracted, Mr. H. began to fence the remainder of his purchase, and in due time to plant fruit and forest trees and gather about him the comforts of life. He has now one of the most productive farms on the northern line of the county. He has not been slow to avail himself of modern methods and machinery, and is consequently numbered among the progressive agriculturists of his time.

Mr. Hennings came to this section in time to assist in the organization of his school district and the various other enterprises gradually developing as the country settled up. He has been liberal and public-spirited, aiding by his influence and more substantial means the enterprises set on foot for the good of the people. By his own thrift and industry he was the means of attracting to his neighborhood a class of intelligent people who were not slow in imitating his example. The Hennings farm is largely devoted to stock-raising, which yields the proprietor a handsome income.

The infant years of our subject were spent on the other side of the Atlantic, in Germany, where he was born Nov. 13, 1847. His parents, John C. and Sophia Hennings, were of pure German stock, and natives of the same Province as their son. The father on his native soil occupied himself as a shoemaker, but had ambitions which were not satisfied in the Fatherland. About 1851 he decided that it would be best for himself and family to emigrate to the United States. After a safe voyage they took up their abode on a tract of land in Washington County, Wis., where they were numbered among the earliest pioneers. They lived there a number of years, the father carrying on agriculture, but in the spring of 1872 he sold out his interests in the Badger State and came to this county. Both parents are now living in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, each being past seventy years of age. They have good property, and while passing down the hill of life are surrounded by those things conducive to their comfort and enjoyment, and which they so richly deserve as the reward of their toils and sacrifices.

To the parents of Mr. Hennings there was born a large family of children, of whom but five survive, namely: John A., Henry H., Ferdinand, Emma, the wife of Lorenzo Brou. and Charles C., our subject. The latter, the youngest born, lived in Washington County, Wis., until a youth of nineteen years, then left the parental roof to seek his own fortune. He first emigrated to Illinois, then to Iowa, and finally came to this county in 1871. Later that same year he, in company with his brother John A., purchased a part of the land which he now owns and occupies. Before settling upon this our subject farmed on rented land in the vicinity of Plattsmouth two years. At the expiration of this time he took possession of his own property.

The marriage of Charles C. Hennings and Miss Mary Volk was celebrated at the home of the bride in Illinois, Feb. 18, 1872. Mrs. Hennings was born in Tazewell County, Ill., Feb. 1, 1849, and is the daughter of Nicholas and Maggie Volk, natives of Germany and pioneers of Tazewell County, Ill., where they still reside. This union has resulted in the birth of nine children: Elizabeth, Oct. 24, 1872; John F., Jan. 26, 1874; Nicholas F., Jan. 5, 1876; Jacob C., Nov. 28, 1877; Charles F., Nov. 25, 1879; Mary E., Dec. 6, 1881; Annie E., Dec. 18, 1883; Maggie M., Dec. 6, 1885, and Ferdinand J., Feb. 1, 1888. They form a lively little company, and are a perpetual source of interest to their devoted parents.

JOHN R. BAIRD, a self-made man, and a farmer operating a farm of 200 acres, 160 of which he owns, is a native of Canada, where he lost his mother by death when only seven years old, and as in many similar cases, he was, by the second marriage of his father, practically left homeless. For years he drudged and worked for a Canadian farmer for his board and (old) clothes. When he had reached the age of eighteen years, having a desire to improve his interests he went to Saginaw, Mich., where he engaged as a sawyer for two years. While there he conceived the idea of going to the West, and securing a home for himself. Accordingly he left Michigan for this purpose. When he reached Cook County, Ill., he found his money exhausted, and he was obliged to go to

work on a farm in that county. This he continued until he resumed his journey toward Nebraska in 1875. Arriving in this State he purchased eighty acres of land on section 32 of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, which he immediately began to improve. Prospering in his new location he purchased in 1879 another eighty acres on section 29, Elmwood Precinct.

While working on the farm in Cook County our subject met Miss Mary L. Grant, to whom he was married on the 14th of December, 1871. This lady was born in Kankakee County, Ill., and is the daughter of Thomas W. and Margaret Jane (Geddis) Grant, who came to Illinois from Battle Creek, Mich. After their marriage they lived in Illinois on rented land for two years. Three children have been born to this couple: Elsie I., now deceased; Jessie M. and Walter P. Bright and intelligent as they are, the parents are proud of them.

The father of our subject, George Baird, was a cooper in Prince Edwards County, at Solomon's Point. He found a market for the product of his labor among the fishermen. His mother, Grace, was born in Canada, of Scotch parents. She died in 1856, forty-eight years of age, leaving five children, namely: Nancy; Maggie, now deceased; Mary E.: John R., our subject; and George R., now deceased. The father married a second time, and had four children by the last union. He died in 1884 in Canada, sixty-eight or seventy years of age. Our subject was born in Prince Edwards County, Canada, Aug. 12, 1849.

Mr. Baird is a man who began life under very marked disadvantages and adverse circumstances, but by the inherent force of will and determination he has progressed and conquered all obstacles, until to-day he is recognized as one of the leading men in Elmwood Precinct. He and his faithful wife have fought life's battle bravely, and they now find themselves well remunerated for all the struggles and privations they have endured in former years, while making their home what it is to-day; and they can look out over their broad fields with a degree of complacency and satisfaction that is justifiable to the fullest extent. An orchard of choicest varieties of fruits annually yields its golden stores, and the fields their rich harvests of grain, and plenty is indicated all over the farm, while inside their nice new dwelling peace and pleasure reign supreme.

Mr. Baird is a charter member of the Order of Modern Woodmen of America, in the Wabash Lodge. He has served several terms as School Director, also as Constable, and assisted in building the school-house in District No. 44. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States during his first year of residence in Nebraska. He holds political allegiance with the Republican party.

JOHN HESS, an estimable farmer of Elmwood Precinct, was born in Holstein twelve or fifteen miles from Hamburg, Germany, where his father, Hans Yocum, was a farmer. His father died in the old country when our subject was nine years of age. To escape military service in the German Army our subject sailed with his brother for America, arriving in New York City April 5, 1853, their final destination being Davenport, Iowa, where he resided until 1856. He removed from Davenport to Plattsmouth, Neb., intending to go down into Kansas, but on account of the Kansas and Nebraska troubles he stopped at Plattsmouth, where he worked until the breaking out of the late Civil War, when he enlisted, June 11, 1861, in Company A, 1st Nebraska Infantry, under Dr. R. R. Livingston. They went into camp at Omaha, where they were drilled and instructed in military tactics, and from there they went down the river to Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.; from there to St. Louis, thence in turn to Pilot Knob, Syracuse, Georgetown and Sedalia, participating in the various battles and skirmishes in that section. In the spring of 1862 the regiment of which he was a member was under the command of Gen. Grant, and participated in the battles of Ft. Donelson and Shiloh. From the latter battle-field they went to Corinth, Miss., and were attached to the command of Gen. Lew Wallace. After the evacuation of Corinth they went to Memphis, Tenn., and Helena, Ark. From Helena they were sent to Missouri under the command of Gen. Steele, stopping on their old camping

ground at Pilot Knob. From there they were dispatched to Cape Girardeau, Mo., then to St. Louis, where the 1st Nebraska Infantry was merged into the 1st Nebraska Cavalry. He, with the consolidated regiment, took an active part in the Arkansas campaign.

Before leaving Omaha our subject was made a Corporal, and when the 1st Regiment was merged into the new cavalry he was made a Sergeant, at some point in Missouri. While in the Arkansas campaign his term of enlistment expired, he was returned to Omaha, and there honorably discharged on the 12th of August, 1864. He was so attentive to his duties as a soldier and so prompt that he never missed a roll call during his entire term of service. His record as a soldier is unexceptionable in every particular, and is a matter in which he can justly feel the greatest pride.

In 1856 Mr. Hess married Miss Emily Graves, who bore him four children—Frederick A., George D., J. Johnson and Emily. He lost his wife by death. He came to Elmwood Precinct, and homesteaded on eighty acres of land, to the improvement of which he devoted his entire time and attention. In 1885 he contracted a second marriage, with Miss Lois Gordon, daughter of Ransom and Rachel Gordon. At the time of her birth her parents were residents in Canada, where they lived until she was three years old, when the entire family came to Iowa, where she lived with them up to the time of her marriage with Mr. Hess. Being naturally of a sharp, intelligent disposition, she availed herself of all the educational facilities of her home, and profiting by the experience of others, she is one of the brightest ladies in Elmwood Precinct. Possessing a keen sense of the beautiful, her home is arranged in an exceedingly neat and tasty manner. She is a good manager, and is in every way a true helpmate to her husband, which he fully appreciates and values accordingly. No children have been born to them. The children by the former wife find in their stepmother a fitting successor to their mother who has gone.

Mr. Hess purchased his present home farm in 1879, which he has thoroughly improved by the erection of his comfortable home, and the necessary barns and granaries calculated to handle the various farm products to the best advantage and in the most economical manner. The tract of land is well supplied with pure water, and is well fenced and cared for. He prides himself on the fact that he is one of the earliest Nebraska pioneers, and he well may be, for he has certainly borne his share of the toils and struggles incident to the opening of a new and wild country.

Our subject is the youngest of a family of six children. His brothers, Amos, Frederick and Henry, and sisters Anna and Catherine, are older; he was born in August, 1832. He was twenty years old when his mother died. The latter's name was Pelonia Cathrena. His parents as well as himself were consistent members of the Lutheran Church. In politics he has always been a stanch Republican, but has never sought or held any public office, preferring the quietude and enjoyment of his own home.

PHILIP J. SCHAFER. In the career of this estimable citizen of Mt. Pleasant Precinct and his worthy wife are presented some of the phases of early life in Southern Nebraska. They took up their abode in this section of country before it was converted from a Territory into a State, and when the long prairie grass as high as their heads waved over the now beautifully cultivated fields. In those primitive days one of the duties of Mrs. Schafer was to hunt for the family cow early in the morning when the dew lay heavily on this long grass, and which task, as may be imagined, was far from being pleasant. Those days are long past and gone, and now the sturdy old pioneer and his no less courageous wife are sitting comfortably under their own vine and fig tree. In reviewing the scenes through which they have passed they feel that they now have little reason to complain of the manner in which their toils and sacrifices have been rewarded.

The Schafer homestead, one of the distinctive features in the landscape of the central part of the county, is pleasantly located on section 15, and with its substantial buildings has about it the air of comfort and plenty which is extremely pleasant to contemplate. The proprietor, a native of the Prov-

ince of Bairen in the German Empire, was born Aug. 19, 1842, and is the son of Adam and Barbara (Yung) Schafer, the latter of whom died in Ohio in 1886. When Philip J. was a lad twelve years of age the parents, in May, 1854, emigrated to America, setting sail from Havre, France, and after an ocean voyage of sixty-five days landed in New York City. Thence they proceeded directly to Pike County, Ohio, where the father secured a tract of land and prosecuted agriculture from that time on. He is still living there, and is now over seventy years of age. The parental family included eight children, six of whom are surviving, and making their homes mostly in Nebraska and Ohio.

Our subject spent his boyhood and youth in the Buckeye State, and there attained to his majority. He had gained the rudiments of a good education in his native Germany, and being fond of his books he, after coming to America, learned to read and write in English. Keeping his eyes open to what was going on around him, he acquired a good fund of general information, and upon reaching manhood was reasonably well equipped for the more serious business of life. Deciding finally to seek his fortunes in the farther West he set out in February, 1865, coming directly to this county, and for three years thereafter was employed as a farm laborer. In 1867 he purchased the wild tract of land on section 15 in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, which he has since transformed into one of its most desirable homesteads. Upon this not a furrow had been turned, and his first business was to put up a temporary shelter for himself and wife. There now came into play the qualities of character which he had inherited from his substantial German ancestry, and in due time they yielded their legitimate reward. Believing that it was proper to secure a cage before he brought to it a bird, when married, the 24th day of December, 1869, he was quite well prepared to invite the lady of his choice, Miss Mary Egger, to share his home and fortunes. This lady has been equal in all respects to the confidence which her husband first reposed in her, proving a most efficient wife and helpmate during the years of their early struggles and labors, and later assisting in maintaining the dignity and reputation of the family and the homestead. Mrs. Schafer was born in November, 1848, in the Canton Bern, in Switzerland, and is the daughter of John and Mary (Gygli) Egger, who were natives of the same romantic country, and who emigrated to America when Miss Mary was a young lady of eighteen years. They settled first in Tazewell County, Ill., thence came into Nebraska in September, 1868. The father purchased a tract of land in Lancaster County, from which he constructed a good homestead, and where he and his estimable wife are now living. Mrs. Schafer remained under the home roof until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born twelve children, four of whom are deceased, namely: Andrew, Annie, Jacob, and a babe who died unnamed. The survivors are George, Frederic, Adam, Albert, Mary, John, Christina and Otto. The eldest of these is sixteen years old and the youngest two, and they are all at home with their parents.

Mr. Schafer, politically, is a stanch adherent of the Democratic party. Coming from a country believing in compulsory education, he is naturally interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools, and has frequently served as a director in his district. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and are held by their neighbors in the highest respect. Their home and their surroundings at once indicate their substantial and reliable qualities of character, and they naturally have made hosts of friends in a community of people more than ordinarily intelligent.

GEORGE ALEXANDER STEWART. As the town of Louisville gradually settled up there came a demand for artisans in various trades and occupations, and among them was the subject of this sketch, one of the most intelligent and skillful machinists now numbered among its citizens. He is still comparatively young in years, having been born July 20, 1851, in the city of Ogdensburg, N. Y. There his boyhood was spent, and he was carefully educated in a private school. He at an early age developed more than ordinary

genius and skill as connected with machinery, and in the exercise of this talent he has been enabled to make a comfortable living.

This branch of the Stewart family is of excellent ancestry, the father of our subject, George Standley Stewart, having been the scion of an old French stock, and a man possessed of large means. He was born in fair France, and after becoming a citizen of the United States, being provided with ample means, lived mostly at his leisure. He married a lady of his own country, Miss Mary DeClivros, and after emigrating to America they settled in Ogdensburg, N. Y., about 1812, where they spent the most of their days thereafter. In 1859 the father made a visit to his native land, and while there was taken ill, died very suddenly and was laid to rest upon his native soil. The wife and mother is still living, and makes her home in London, England. The household included eight children, four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living, our subject being the sixth in order of birth. They are all in the United States.

Our subject when a lad of nine years accompanied his mother to France, and spent some time there with his brother William, in the meantime serving an apprenticeship at the trade of machinist. Seven years later he returned to the United States, then went to Montreal, Canada, and for five years following was in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Two years of this time he was foreman of their foundry. Later he acted in the capacity of fireman on the Great Western branch of the same railway system.

In 1884 Mr. Stewart resolved upon seeking a permanent location in the Great West, and coming to this county entered the employ of the Burlington & Missouri River Railway Company, with whom he continued three years, making his headquarters at Louisville. Later he became associated with Mr. Walter Cutforth as a master mechanic, which position he still holds. In the settlement of his father's estate a large portion of it was wasted in litigation, the family deriving little benefit therefrom. Our subject has therefore been mainly the architect of his own fortune, but his natural abilities form an inexhaustible capital, which will serve him in some cases perhaps better than money, being that which no man can steal from him. Although nearly thirty-eight years of age he is still unmarried, but with this exception has performed all his duties faithfully as an honest man and a good citizen. Politically, he is a stanch Republican.

LOUIS C. EICKHOFF. One of the finest farms in Louisville Precinct belongs to the subject of this sketch, who settled in Cass County in 1859, during the Territorial days of Nebraska. He began life without other resources than his own muscle and his persevering disposition, which have resulted in making him independent—the owner of 800 acres of land, which comprises one of the most valuable estates along the northern line of the county. This he built up from an uncultivated tract of land, and has erected a good residence and all the out-buildings necessary for the storage of crops and the shelter of stock. The place is abundantly supplied with fruit, and all the other appliances calculated to make a pleasant and attractive home.

Upon coming to this county our subject stopped first at Plattsmouth, where he occupied himself a year at whatever he could find to do. He then rented a tract of land two miles west of Plattsmouth, upon which he operated two years, and at the expiration of this time purchased 400 acres of his present property. This lies on section 32, and years of arduous labor and close economy have been required to bring it to its present condition. It now yields to the owner a handsome income.

The Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, was the native place of our subject, his birth occurring April 15, 1847. He was the youngest of a family of six children, four sons and two daughters, the offspring of Frederick and Mary (Schweitzer) Eickhoff, who were also of German birth and ancestry. The father was a tailor by trade, which occupation he pursued during his early manhood, but later engaged in agriculture. He, however, was not satisfied with the outlook in the Fatherland, and in 1855 started with his little family for America. They sojourned for a very brief space in the city of New York, then proceeded westward, and for a

to Miss Susanna Shull, and they became the parents of one child, whom died at the age of six months. The wife and mother died soon afterward, a few weeks prior to the accident which befell Mr. McPherson, and by which his legs were broken, proving in his case the maxim "that misfortunes never come singly." He contracted a second matimonial alliance in the fall of 1880, with Miss Lottie, daughter of Jacob and Charlotte Leesley. This lady was born in Canada. Her parents were natives of England, and are now dead. Of this union there were born three children, one son and two daughters, Charles, Frances and Edna. The second wife of McPherson died in March, 1887, at their home in Nebraska City. Our subject now makes his home with his children at Greenwood.

In the fall of 1858 Mr. McPherson, while watchman on the "Watasa," received news of the discovery of gold on Cherry Creek in Colorado. His former chum, Will Preston, had a severe attack of the gold fever and urged Mr. McPherson to accompany him to that region. The latter very reluctantly consented, and they equipped themselves for the journey, gathered together three yoke of cattle, a wagon and a year's provisions, and started for the Eldorado. There journeyed with them two others, Ben. Bittis and Fred. Cruise. They crossed the Platte River at Ft. Kearney, and journeyed westward over the plains, reaching Cherry Creek the last day of October, 1858. They rolled up snugly in their blankets at night under a moonlit sky, clear and cloudless, and awakened in the morning to find themselves under a foot of snow, which had fallen during the night. The weather, however, in due time enabled them to proceed with their operations, and they employed themselves in lumbering and prospecting (in the meantime building themselves a log house) until February, 1859. Will Preston and our subject also put up a huge log house for Messrs. Curtis & Cartwright on the present site of the business part of Denver, for which they received fourteen lots there.

It is hardly necessary to say that at that time Denver gave little indication of its present importance. Our subject had his mind on the river much more than on the gold mines. It was otherwise with his companion, Will Preston. Mr. McPherson desired to return to Omaha, but this scheme did not meet with the approval of Will. Each was bent on persuading the other to accede to his particular wish. The arguments grew urgent, and began to develop traces of anger on both sides when Fred. Cruise stepped in and asked our subject what he would take for his Denver property.

In the space of a few minutes Mr. McPherson had sold out his interest in lots for Cruise's navy revolver, which subsequently served him well in expounding and maintaining the dignity of "unwritten law," as alone and on foot he made his way back over the plains to Omaha. In this journey he encountered various tribes of Indians, among whom were the Arrapahoes, who for several weeks during the winter had besieged and threatened the whites on Cherry Creek. Arriving at Omaha our traveler began his river experience, and during the years which followed became immensely popular among the people of the three cities of Omaha, Plattsmouth and Nebraska City. Few people along the western line of Cass County are not familiar with the name and fame of John P. McPherson.

WENDEL HEIL. The well-regulated farm of our subject which he purchased in the spring of 1869, occupies the southwest quarter of section 22 and 160 acres in the northwest part of section 27, in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, and with its appurtenances comprises one of the most valuable estates within its limits. For this land Mr. Heil paid the consideration of $35 per acre, about half of it being in an uncultivated condition. He at once began its improvement and cultivation, and the erection of the necessary buildings, the planting of trees, the laying of fences, and the other miscellaneous labor necessary in the construction of the complete homestead. No one can deny that his industry has met with its reward, for the farm is now numbered among the best along the northern line of the county, and its owner as one of the representative agriculturists and stock-raisers. To the latter industry he has given his especial attention.

The birth of our subject occurred March 12, 1848, in the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt, Ger-

to the half-formed hope that it may some day serve to unlock the mystery of his birthplace.

The orphan child, after the death of his mother, was legally adopted by a family of the same name, who had afterward one daughter, Frances Grace, who is now Mrs. Sanson, of East Orange, N. J., the wife of a lawyer of New York City. When our subject was ten years old the McPhersons removed to Saratoga County, that State, settling in Galloway Township, where Mr. McPherson, the elder, operated a hotel. Later, however, the family returned to Schenectady, where Mrs. McPherson died first, and Mr. McPherson a few years later. John, who had been taught to call them father and mother, left the roof of his foster parents when a youth of eighteen, in the fall of 1855. Joining one of his young acquaintances in Bellevue, this State, they wintered in a tent at St. Mary's, Iowa, and waited there until the snow should disappear, so they could locate in Nebraska.

Our subject, as soon as winter broke, repaired on the 1st of April, 1856, to Omaha, and began running on a ferry boat, which was the initiation of a long and successful career as a pilot on the Missouri River. His first experience was as a common deck hand, but by faithful attention to his duties he worked his way upward, and in a few months was made master of the ferry boat "Nebraska, No. 1." He continued in the employ of the Nebraska Ferry Company until the spring of 1858, when he made his first trip down the river as a watchman on the "Watasa," plying between St. Joseph and Omaha. He operated as a pilot up and down the Missouri for a number of years, and about 1865 built the boat "P. F. Geise," designed to run on the Missouri River, fitting it up with machinery at Wellsville, Ohio. Later Mr. McPherson bought the transfer boat "H. C. Nutt," the first of its kind at Omaha, to which he brought it from St. Louis. He operated on various transfers, steamboats and ferry boats on the Missouri thereafter until about 1888, making his home in the meantime at Omaha, Plattsmouth and Nebraska City, becoming the employe of the Union Pacific Company, running the old "Matamoras," which conveyed the first locomotive into Nebraska at Omaha. He continued in the employ of the Union Pacific about two years, and until the railroad bridge across the Missouri was completed at Omaha. Afterward he plied from Omaha to Sioux City.

Becoming aware of the fact that the transfer and steamboat business would eventually give place to more expeditious methods of travel and transportation, Mr. McPherson turned his attention to a totally different occupation, embarking in the grocery business at Omaha. This venture, however, not proving successful, in fact, being attended by severe loss, he returned to river life, and resumed his occupation of pilot for the "Vice President," a transfer boat conveying merchandise and cars from Omaha to Plattsmouth. Upon the completion of the railroad bridge at Plattsmouth they took the "Vice President" to Nebraska City, and Mr. McPherson continued pilot until March, 1888. He then engaged in the lumber business with his present partner, Mr. E. C. Coleman.

Mr. McPherson has piloted thousands of cars across the Big Muddy, as many as 300 in one day. In company with Capt. Butts he built the steam ferry "Capitola Butts," and later sold out his interest to the son of Mr. Butts. Both the "Vice President" and "Capitola Butts" are now (November, 1888) lying dormant at Nebraska City. Mr. McPherson during his thirty-two years' experience as a Missouri River pilot was uncommonly fortunate, never having lost more than two boats, and strange to say, without loss of life or limb. He, himself, however, sustained quite serious injuries one day on the "Vice President," having both legs broken. By skillful treatment, however, he recovered.

Upon the building of the "Q" bridge at Nebraska City Mr. McPherson spent the greater part of the winter of 1887–88 in looking up another point at which he might carry on his business. Greatly to his disappointment and regret, however, he was forced to abandon his purpose, and the employment which notwithstanding its dangers and responsibilities possessed for him a strange fascination. He has been enabled to save a snug sum of money, and the prospect is that his venture in the lumber business will be successful. He is a man genial and companionable, and one who naturally makes friends wherever he goes.

Our subject was first married at Omaha in 1861,

ber claim in Antelope County, Neb. He has had a long and varied experience in this State, endured privations and hard work, but through it all he has maintained his usual good cheer and has come out unscathed. He was married, Feb. 1, 1882, to Miss Edith M. Foote, daughter of James Foote, one of Otoe County's earliest settlers, and who is now comfortably located on his large farm in Otoe Precinct, Otoe County. Mr. Richards has not only strong and willing hands for work, but has also a bright and active intelligence to direct his efforts into the best channels, and in the course of his business of farming and cattle dealing he has accumulated a handsome property. In addition to the lands that he owns in Elmwood Precinct he has 160 acres in Stove Creek Precinct, in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have two children: Warren T. and Mary E., bright and intelligent, partaking of their father's energetic disposition and their mother's sweetness of temper. Mr. Richards is generous, and no application for aid for any cause possessing merit is turned away unsatisfied. Mrs. Richards is an active and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Wabash.

Our subject has a fine two-story frame dwelling, very conveniently arranged and nicely furnished, with good orchard and groves. The lawn surrounding his home is well kept and presents a very pleasing appearance. His home farm has a never-failing and abundant supply of the purest water; he has commodious barns for his cattle and hogs, and all the latest improved machinery for making his business a success. Taken as a whole the farm of our subject presents a pleasing scene, and everything connected therewith denotes a thrifty and prosperous condition, the result of intelligently directed labor, close application, and a thorough knowledge of the business. The hardships and privations endured by Mr. Richards upon first entering the State certainly justify some recompense, and if the present indications are realized the gentleman will certainly have no reason to complain.

For further and complete history of the gentleman's parentage see biography of his brother, Edwin F. Richards, upon another page, and elsewhere in this volume we give a view of his fine home and its comfortable surroundings.

JOHN P. McPHERSON. This old-time popular pilot of Missouri River fame has been the hero of many a thrilling experience and witnessed scenes which, were there time and space to detail them, would comprise a much longer biography than is proposed within the compass of the present work. Naturally of an adventurous and courageous disposition, he may be termed a self-made man, one who has kept his eyes open to what was going on around him in the world, and who from experience has gathered wisdom, possibly of more value to him than that which he might have acquired in college halls. He is now numbered among the leading citizens of Greenwood Village.

Mr. McPherson was born in Canada, and when a little child two years of age was taken by his mother to Schenectady, N. Y. The mother not long afterward was taken seriously ill with a fever, and her physicians being of the opinion that she would not recover, she was induced to relate a few incidents connected with her history which might in time be of service to her only child.

It was learned that the mother of Mr. McPherson was the daughter of an English gentleman, and from her apparel and other circumstances there was little doubt that she was the offspring of a wealthy family, and had been accustomed to the surroundings of refined life. She was married to Capt. Parmer McPherson of the English Navy, against the wishes of her parents, and with whom she came to Canada. She soon passed away, and our subject was too young to have any recollection of her. A scene which appears almost like a dream is thus related by Mr. McPherson in connection with his infantile days. He remembers sitting in the lap of a lady, presumably his mother. He looked out through the window and saw an orchard and a bridge, beneath which ran a river, upon which was a boat containing a man. On the opposite side was a little rude dwelling, and the man in the boat in making efforts to land capsized the little craft. The mother upon seeing this arose to her feet undoubtedly much moved, and placing the child on the floor the panorama to him thus ended. This view stands out prominently before the eyes of Mr. McPherson, being about the only one in a space of time which is mostly a blank. But he still clings

time made their home in Chicago. In 1859 they sought the farther West, coming to this county. In the meantime three of the sons of the family had died in Chicago, and of the six children only two are now living. The father spent his last years with his son, our subject, his death taking place in 1874, in the sixty-third year of his age. The mother died Feb. 5, 1889, at the home of her daughter, aged seventy-eight years, having been born in May, 1810.

The subject of this sketch was a lad seven years of age when he landed in the United States with his parents, and he completed his education in the common schools of this country, attending mostly in the winter season, while in the summer he assisted his parents around the homestead. Of this he took charge after the death of his father. To this he brought a bride in 1867, having been married that year to Miss Sophia Brunko, a native of his own country, and the daughter of Frederick Brunko and wife, who were also natives of Germany; the mother is dead, but the father is still living in Nebraska. This union resulted in the birth of nine children, five sons and four daughters.

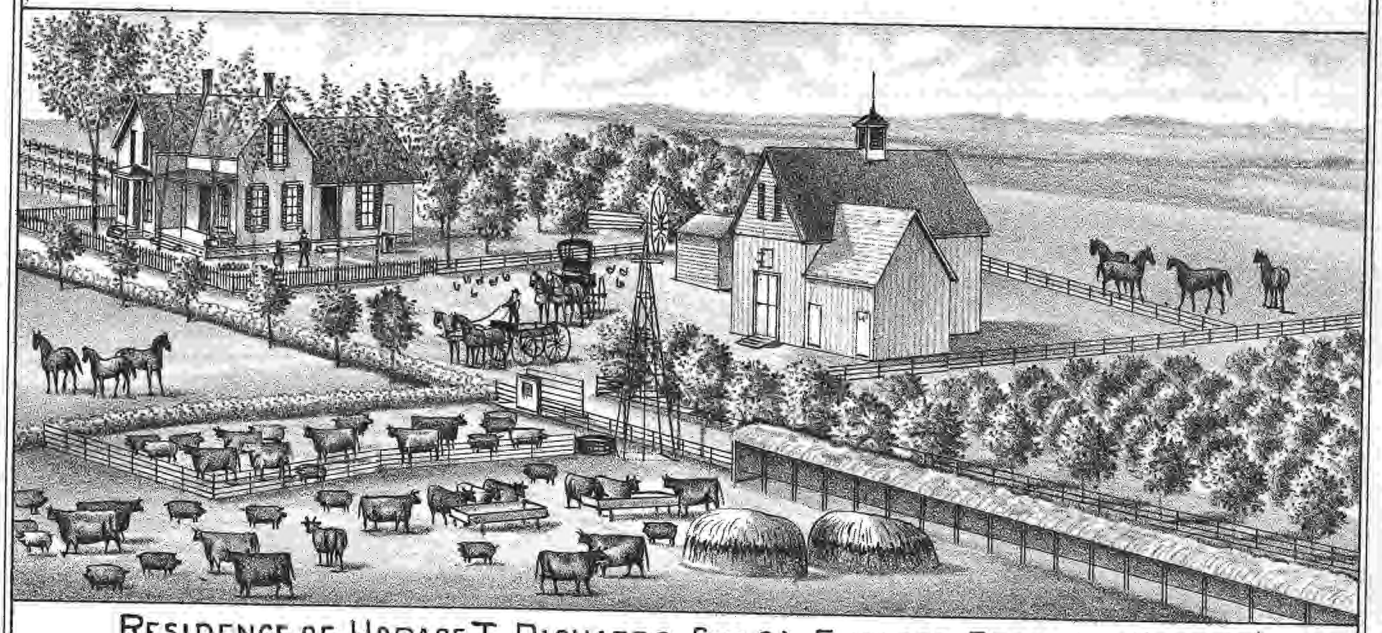
One of the noticeable features on the farm is the fine barn which was erected by Mr. Eickhoff in 1884, and covers an area of 40x66 feet. It has a solid stone foundation, forming a good basement, and is considered the best structure of the kind in Louisville Precinct. It is nearly surrounded with cattle sheds, and within it are all the conveniences required by the progressive agriculturist. There is also a model corn crib, with numerous other buildings, all indicative of the thoroughness and skill with which the estate has been conducted.

Mr. Eickhoff has been prominent in local affairs, and is a man of decided views. He votes the straight Republican ticket, has officiated as Township Supervisor four years, as Assessor a period of seven years, and as a member of the School Board fifteen years. In religious belief he espouses the doctrines of the Evangelical association. His good management is indicative of the fact that he has inherited from his German ancestry the admirable, thrifty qualities which distinguish that nationality. A man prompt to meet his obligations, and systematic in the oversight of his finances, he occupies a position second to none among the leading men of this part of the county. His property has been the result mainly of his own industry. The family, upon landing in Chicago from their ocean trip, owed $50, and upon coming to Nebraska were obliged to economize in the closest manner for years, in order to make both ends meet. That early experience, Mr. Eickhoff acknowledges, instead of being a detriment, has been a benefit to him, imbuing him with those habits of industry and economy which have enabled him to gather an ample competence for his declining years.

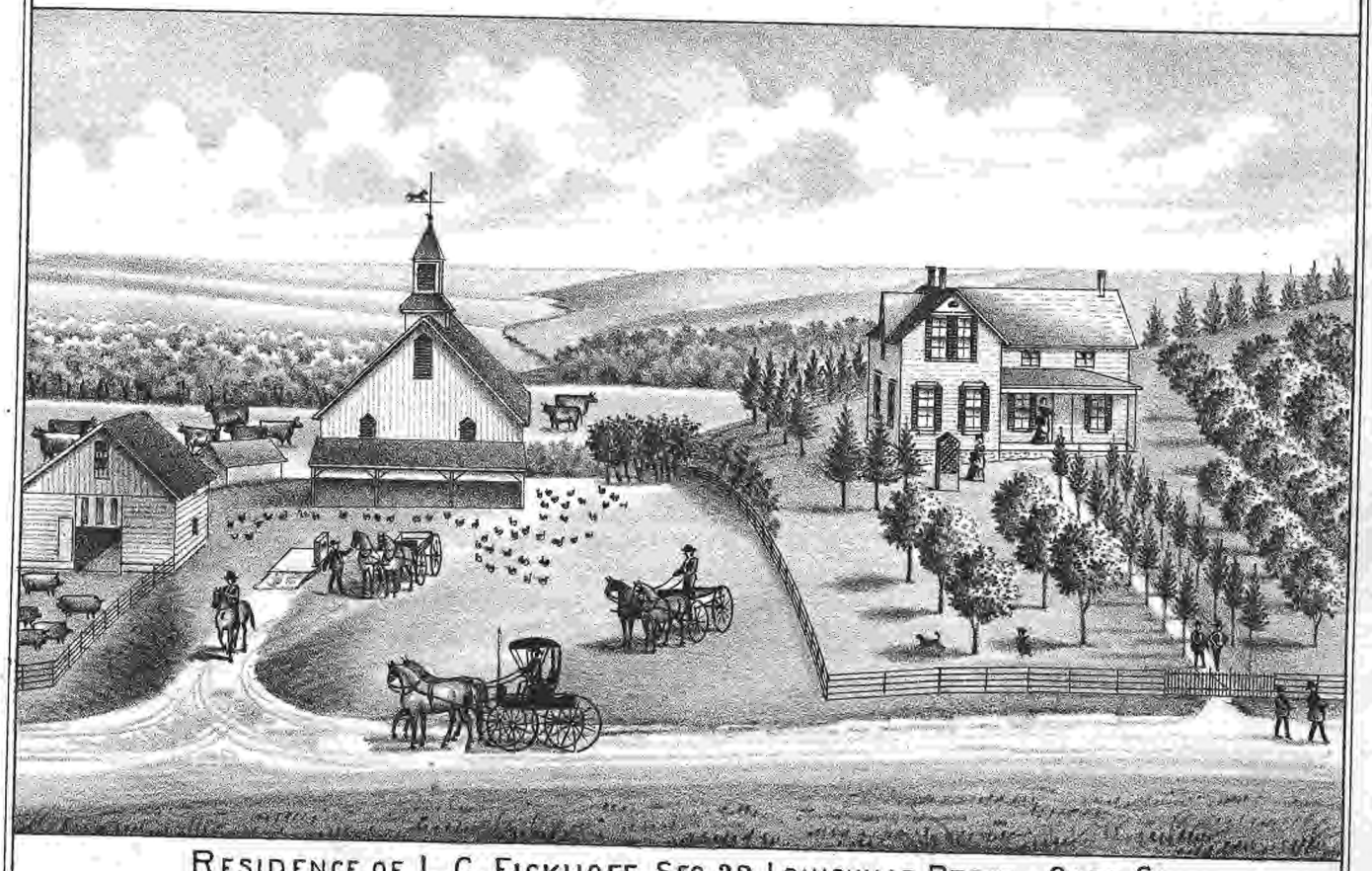
The view of Mr. Eickhoff's premises, on another page of this ALBUM, shows what a fine property the one-time poor German emigrant has acquired by his own unaided efforts.

HORACE T. RICHARDS, one of the most prosperous and enterprising men of Elmwood Precinct, Cass Co., Neb., was born in Goffstown, N. H., Oct. 5, 1848. He was a member of a family of seven children—Emma C., Mary A., George W., Ephraim W., Edwin F., Charles A. and George W. Two are deceased, Ephraim W. and Charles A. The early life of our subject was spent on the farm in New Hampshire. In 1871 he migrated to Illinois, where he joined his younger brother, Edwin F., who had preceded him, and they determined to try their luck together in the then Far West. They each had a team, and they started across the prairies of Illinois and Iowa for Nebraska, crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, where they purchased 160 acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. They experienced very hard times at first, and this purchase of land was let go by default. Time has righted matters, however, and Mr. Richards is now a large land-owner. For many years past he has been a shipper of cattle and hogs. He also feeds a large number of cattle on his own account.

In 1883 Mr. Richards filed a homestead and tim-



RESIDENCE OF HORACE T RICHARDS, SEC. 24. ELMWOOD PRECINCT, CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF L.C. EICKHOFF, SEC. 32. LOUISVILLE PRECT, CASS CO.

many, his parents being Adam and Magdalena Heil, the latter of whom died about July 14, 1851. The father came to America with his wife in 1831, and is now a resident of Eight Mile Grove Precinct. The parental household included five children. Wendel was a little lad three years of age when his parents emigrated to the United States and settled in Tazewell County, Ill. There our subject developed into manhood, becoming familiar with farm pursuits, and resided there until coming to this county. He received a limited education in its primitive schools, which were carried on in a manner far different from those of the present day, but his native intelligence sufficed to provide him with a good store of general information, and he launched out upon the more serious business of life with a fair idea of its requirements and the health and strength which were the natural results of temperance and correct habits.

To the mother of our subject there were born two sons only, Wendel and his brother William. The latter is now living in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. The father was subsequently married a second time, and six children more were added to the parental household, three of whom survive, namely: George, Henry and Elizabeth. These are now residents of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, and settled in comfortable homes of their own. Adam Heil is now in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He has been a man who has done a large amount of hard labor, and is now the owner of a good property, able in his declining years to surround himself with all the comforts of life. A man careful and conscientious in his daily walk, he is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church. His property embraces a fine farm 320 acres in extent, upon which he settled in 1870, being among the leading German pioneers in his neighborhood.

Wendel Heil, our subject, was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Meisinger at the home of the bride in Cass County, Neb., March 26, 1873. This lady was born in Tazewell County, Sept. 10, 1855, and is the daughter of Michael and Catherine Meisinger, the latter of whom died April 21, 1884, at their home in this county. Mr. M. came to Nebraska with his family about 1869, and settled among the pioneers of Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He is still living and a resident of the city. To the parents of Mrs. Heil there was born a family of seven children, of whom five survive. Lena, the eldest, is the wife of John Wallinger, and with her brother Henry is a resident of Eight Mile Grove Precinct; Anna married Charles Reifenstahl, of Pekin, Ill.; Emma, Mrs. George Weitman, lives in Plattsmouth, this county; Mrs. Heil is the youngest living of the children.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heil there have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: John, George, Henry, Carrie, Eddie, Ida, Philip and William, the latter of whom died when eighteen months old. Our subject, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, and with his estimable wife a member of the Lutheran Church, attending services at Eight Mile Grove, and taking an active interest in its prosperity. Considering his nationality he could not be otherwise than in favor of the establishment and maintenance of schools, and serves at present as Moderator of the district. The family represents the substantial element of citizens along the northern line of Cass County.

GEORGE L. BERGER. There came to Louisville Precinct during its pioneer days the subject of this sketch, casting his lot among the other adventurous spirits bent upon investigating the resources of Nebraska Territory. He was amply fitted for the task before him, being the offspring of a hardy race, and possessing the elements of character most needed in subduing the soil of a new section of country. Coming here in his boyhood he completed his education in the primitive schools, rounding up with two terms at Plattsmouth, and then, with the spirit of adventure strong within him, engaged first as a freighter across the plains. This occupied his attention, however, only a year, when he resumed the farm pursuits to which he had been accustomed, operating first on rented land, and the year following purchased that which he now owns and occupies.

A native of Mercer County, Pa., our subject was born at the farm of his father near Greenville, Sept. 4, 1849. The latter, Jacob T. Berger, was a

native of Germany, and married Miss Margaret Waltenbugh, after coming to the United States. The mother of our subject was born in Mercer County, Pa., and departed this life at her home in Louisville Precinct, in August, 1886. She had survived her husband some years, Jacob Berger having died in 1872, at the age of sixty-eight. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters, and only three of the family survive. The family came to Nebraska in 1857, and settled one-half mile south of the farm now occupied by our subject. Here the latter was reared to man's estate, and may properly be termed as one having grown up with the country.

Mr. Berger labored many years in the opening up of his farm, bringing the soil to a state of cultivation, and erecting the buildings needed for his convenience and success. His residence, a substantial stone structure, was built in 1886, and he has also a stone barn flanked by stables, a corn house, and the other requisite buildings for his convenience. The farm with its appurtenances presents a picture of plenty and content, which is most delightful to look upon.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Berger took to himself a wife and helpmate, being married, Nov. 3, 1870, to Miss Florinda Kilgore, who was born in Indiana, and is the third child of six children comprising the household of Jesse and Ann (Smith) Kilgore. Her parents were natives of Kentucky and Maryland; the father is now living in Nebraska, but the mother is deceased. Our subject and his estimable wife took up their abode in Louisville Precinct, of which they have since been residents, and they are now the parents of seven children, namely: Ella J., William H., Anna May, Harry E., Flora J., Jesse T. and Bertha M.

Mr. Berger cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and since attaining his majority has been an active supporter of Republican principles. He has been an active member of his community, serving as School Director for the last nine years, and representing his precinct in the County Board of Supervisors. Of late years he has given his attention to the breeding of swine, which has been the source of a snug sum of money. He commenced for himself at first principles, without other resources than his own industry and perseverance, his worldly goods a suit of clothes costing $6, and thereafter employed himself by the month until he could gather together sufficient capital to begin operations for himself.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Christian Berger by name, was a native-born German, and emigrated to the United States late in life, coming to the West and making his home with our subject until his death. Jacob T., his son, and the father of our subject, met his death, it is supposed, by the hand of an assassin, in the fall of 1872, while on a trip to the mountains, via the Bear River Valley. He took with him upon leaving home between $4,000 and $5,000 for the purpose of establishing a cattle ranch in Colorado, and was accompanied by a young man. They were last seen following a path leading up the valley in a remote section among the mountains, and a few days later the young man was seen with the pony, saddle and outfit owned by Mr. Berger. Upon being questioned as to the whereabouts of the latter he replied he had bought him out, and that was the last ever heard.

The Berger family made the trip from Pennsylvania to the West overland by wagon to Rochester, which was a small town on the Ohio River, whence they made their way by boat to St. Louis, and from that point up the Missouri River to Plattsmouth. The latter place was then a settlement of one frame house, three log cabins and three or four tents.

THEODORE STARKJOHANN stands among the foremost of the successful and enterprising farmers of Plattsmouth Precinct, and his farm on section 4 has been developed by his energetic and able management into one of the finest estates in this locality. Our subject was born in Hamburg, Germany, Aug. 10, 1852. His parents, Thies and Maggie (Timm) Starkjohann, were natives of Holstein, Germany, and were there reared and married. In 1850 they removed to the city of Hamburg, where they lived until 1866. In that year they came to America with their family of four children, making the voyage on the steamship

"Borussia," in ten days. They landed at New York City and immediately came to this State, and made their home in Weeping Water, Cass County, until the spring of 1869, when Mr. Starkjohann bought 160 acres of land, comprising the farm on which our subject now lives. There was a small frame house on the place, and about seventy acres of the land had been plowed, and the father immediately set about its further improvement, and by his well directed toil greatly increasing the value of the farm in the few years that were spared to him in his new home in his adopted country. He had not reached old age, but fifty-five years having passed over his head, when, Feb. 17, 1872, he was called to a better world, leaving his family to mourn the loss of a good husband and kind father. The mother of our subject, a most estimable lady, still lives on the homestead, a welcome inmate of her son's home. She has three children besides our subject, namely: Mary (now Mrs. Philip Tritsch, of this county), William and August. The latter is dead.

Theodore Starkjohann was married in February, 1881, to Miss Mary, daughter of Philip Horn, of whom see sketch on another page. Two children complete the pleasant household circle of our subject and his wife: Lula, born March 10, 1883, and Henry, born July 1, 1885. Mr. Starkjohann, with characteristic energy has continued the improvements begun by his father, until his farm is numbered among the finest places in the township. He has erected a splendidly built and commodious frame house, a good barn, corn cribs and granary; has planted an orchard of about 150 fruit trees of choice varieties, and has at least 1,000 forest trees. This well fenced farm, with its neatly painted buildings, beautiful trees, and well kept surroundings, is one of the most attractive places in the vicinity—is, indeed, a pleasant feature in the landscape, and is indicative of the taste, thrift, and wise management of the owner.

A perusal of this brief outline of the life of our subject shows that he is a man of more than ordinary foresight, shrewdness and capacity, and that an indomitable will and incessant industry have been prominent factors in the success that he has achieved in his life work thus far, for, although he is yet a young man, his position among the leading farmers of his neighborhood is assured. His personal integrity is of a high order, and he is a devoted member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, which embodies the religious belief of his ancestors, that has descended from father to son for many generations. His political faith is that of the Democratic party, of which he is a stanch supporter.

PETER W. MARCELLUS, one of the leading photographers of Cass County, is the proprietor of the Weeping Water Art Studio. He is a young man of excellent business principles, with a thorough knowledge of his work, and displays much taste and ability in his chosen calling. He is a native of New York City, born Oct. 3, 1859, and remained there until he had attained his majority. He was educated in the public schools of that city, and after finishing his school life he worked at various occupations during his residence in the city of his nativity. Deciding to establish himself in some Western city he came to Nebraska, and engaged in farming in Brock, Nemaha County, remaining there three years. Having no special taste for agriculture, Mr. Marcellus turned his attention to photography, and in Southern Kansas learned the business he has since followed. From Kansas our subject came to Nebraska, and opened a gallery in Stella, where he met with much success. Desiring a larger field for his operations, our subject next moved to Fairbury, where he carried on the same business. In December, 1887, deeming Weeping Water an excellent place for his branch of business, he established himself here, his being the oldest establishment of the kind in the place, and he is now doing a thriving business. During his short stay here he has earned the reputation of being a first-class artist, sending out none but work of the first quality, done after the most approved methods of the times.

John Marcellus, the father of our subject, was born in New York May 25, 1807, and lived there until his death, May 16, 1868. He was three times married. Of his union with the mother of our subject, who was his second wife, there were born six

children, four of whom are still living, namely: Thomas J., of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Martin L., of New York City; Edward, of Lancaster, Wis., and Peter W. Mrs. Marcellus, whose maiden name was Eliza Waldron Byrne, died in December, 1863, aged about forty years. Our subject was then four years of age, and some time after his father married again, and his widow is still living in New York City. Mr. Marcellus was a cabinet-maker by trade, and lived an honest and honorable life, respected and esteemed by all who knew him. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and faithfully lived up to his belief. The subject of our sketch is also a communicant in the church to which his father belonged, and in his daily walk exemplifies its teachings. He is a strictly temperate man in all his habits, and a Good Templar.

GEORGE HEIL. In the subject of this biography we find one of the most prominent and successful farmers of Eight Mile Grove Precinct. His property is finely located on section 21, and embraces 160 acres of good land, which, under careful cultivation, produces abundantly, and is amply adapted to the purposes of general farming. Mr. Heil came to this region in the spring of 1870, accompanied by his parents, and has since made his home within the limits of this county, identifying himself with its interests, morally, socially and financially. He bears the reputation of an honest man and a good citizen, one who has contributed his quota to the development of the general resources of Southern Nebraska.

A native of Illinois, our subject was born near the town of Pekin, in Tazewell County, May 31, 1856. His parents were Adam and Mary (Lautenschlag) Heil, who were natives of Germany, and are now numbered among the well-to-do residents of Eight Mile Grove Precinct. George was a lad of fourteen years when they crossed the Mississippi, and in the meantime had received the greater part of his education in the district schools of his native county. His boyhood and youth were spent after the manner of most farmers' sons, making himself useful as he had opportunity, and becoming imbued with those principles which form the foundation of all manly character. He was nearly twenty-eight years old at the time of his marriage, which occurred in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, Feb. 28, 1884, Miss Maggie Stoher being the bride-elect. Mrs. Heil was born Feb. 5, 1865, and is the daughter of Christian and Lizzie Stoher, who were natives of Germany, and are now living in this county not far from the home of our subject. A sketch of them will be found on another page in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Heil commenced their wedded life at their present homestead, and here have been born two children: Henry E., May 18, 1886, and Mary L., March 1, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. H. were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, of which they are devout members, and our subject, politically, gives his support to the Democratic party.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoher, the parents of Mrs. Heil, upon leaving their native land and coming to the United States settled in Tazewell County, Ill., where the father carried on farming, and where they lived until the spring of 1882. They then came to Nebraska, settling in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, where they still live and are prospering. They are the parents of a large family of children, eight of whom are living. George and Philip continue residents of Tazewell County, Ill., near Pekin; Conrad is carrying on his own farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, this county; Alice, Katie, Louisa and Adam continue under the home roof.

JOHN PHILPOT, JR., a pioneer farmer, residing on section 33, Mt. Pleasant Precinct, was born in Jo Daviess County, Ill., April 19, 1851. He is a son of John and Sarah Philpot. (See sketch of John Philpot, Sr., elsewhere in this work.) Our subject attained man's estate in his native county, and from his early boyhood has been inured to farm labor. He received his education in the district schools of the day, which he attended during the winter months, when he could do nothing else. The summer was devoted to the various duties pertaining to farm life. He possesses a studious and observing disposition,

Yours Truly
Noah Clemmons

and has by the close study of events added largely to his fund of practical knowledge.

In the summer of 1872 our subject came to Nebraska, where he purchased the eighty acres of land on which he now lives, and returned to Illinois. In the autumn of 1873 he settled on his present farm, where he has lived ever since. His land was wild and uncultivated when he bought it, and when he settled on it he devoted his energy to its cultivation and improvement. His efforts have been very successful, and he has from time to time added to his original purchase until he now owns 280 acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and rendered very valuable by his energy and industry.

After our subject had visited Nebraska and purchased his land he returned to Illinois, and was married to Miss Mary Mosley, Feb. 20, 1873. This lady is a native of England, was born Jan. 7, 1855, and is the daughter of James and Ellen Mosley, who came to America from England, and now reside in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. They first located in Jo Daviess County, Ill., when this lady was a child about three years old. They resided there a number of years, when they came to Cass County, Neb. Her parents have a family of seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Mary, Sarah E.; Hattie L., the wife of J. E. Leyda, residing in Avoca Precinct; Annie L., the wife of Abram Cutter, resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and Ella S. The two deceased children were James and William. Both her parents are members of the Christian Church; they are in the prime of life, surrounded by their friends and relatives, and are enjoying the fruits of a life of usefulness and well-doing.

A family of five children have been born to Mr. Philpot and his wife, named as follows: James H. was born Feb. 16, 1874; Sarah E., Aug. 11, 1876; Laura E., Sept. 13, 1878; Alice L., Nov. 11, 1880, and an infant daughter, not yet named, June 17, 1888. In his efforts to secure a competency his wife has proved an able counselor for many years. No task was too hard for her to undertake, no duty too unpleasant for her to perform, if she felt that the interests of her husband and family would be subserved. It is to this self-sacrificing spirit manifested by her that their present competency may be largely attributed. She is a consistent and active member of the Christian Church, taking a special interest in all matters connected therewith. Our subject and his wife find time to share in any and all plans having for their object the ultimate good of the community in which they live, in a social, educational or religious manner.

In politics Mr. Philpot is a Republican, is serving the second term as President of the Mt. Pleasant Precinct Central Republican Committee, also a second term as School Director, and has served as Judge of Elections in his precinct. In addition to his general farming he is just entering into the business of thoroughbred stock-raising, and in a few years from now will have made his mark in that branch of the business.

NOAH CLEMMONS. Perhaps one of the most distinguished traits in the character of the subject of this biography, who is an ex-member of the Wisconsin Legislature, is his uncompromising advocacy of temperance, and his decided prohibition principles. His peculiar experience in life, and the opportunities which he has had to observe the evils of strong drink, have led him to set his face in opposition to both the manufacture and the sale of liquor in any form. He has for the last forty-two years devoted himself to the temperance work, and given his aid in every way possible to prohibition, first, last, and all the time.

Our subject traces his ancestry to Ireland, of which his grandfather, Zachariah Clemmons, is thought to have been a native. If he were born there, however, he emigrated to America in time to do good service in the Revolutionary War, being in the army the whole seven years, and becoming closely acquainted with Gen. Washington. After the independence of the Colonies had been established, he migrated to Jackson County, Ohio, during the period of its early settlement, and there spent the remainder of his days, passing away at the advanced age of one hundred and fifteen years. A year prior to his decease he was quite active on his feet.

John Clemmons, the father of our subject, was

born in Tazewell County, Va., in 1771, where he lived until reaching man's estate, then made his way to Tennessee. During his sojourn there he made the acquaintance of Andrew Jackson, later President of the United States, with whom he played ball and engaged in other youthful sports. While a resident of Tennessee he was married to Miss Phœbe Travis, and later they removed to Jackson County, Ohio, where Noah, the subject of this sketch, was born Feb. 8, 1814. John Clemmons was a resident of the Buckeye State thirty years thereafter, and then in his old age came west of the Mississippi, and died at the home of his son John, in Cass County, Neb., March 20, 1855, when eighty-seven years old. The mother had passed away fifteen years before, about 1840, in Scioto County, Ohio.

Our subject was reared in Jackson and Scioto Counties, of the Buckeye State, receiving a very limited education, as there were then no schools except those carried on by subscription. The father was in limited circumstances, and the children, as soon as old enough, were obliged to render assistance in working the farm. Noah soon began to "paddle his own canoe," working for the farmers of his neighborhood, mornings, evenings and Saturdays, for his board, and the balance of the time attending school in the town of Wheelersburg, where he learned bookkeeping and the other details of a business education.

March 28, 1842, when a man of twenty-eight years, Mr. Clemmons left his native State, and making his way to the Territory of Wisconsin worked four years in the lead mines of Grant County, and at the expiration of this time was given a situation as clerk in a store of general merchandise in Platteville. Later, in the spring of 1853, in company with a friend he embarked in the mercantile business, which he carried on for the space of five years. He had in the meantime distinguished himself as a public-spirited and intelligent citizen, and was esteemed worthy by the people of that county to represent them in the Wisconsin Legislature, being elected in 1851 on the Independent ticket. He received all but five out of over 500 votes in the township where he lived, and the solid vote of the township adjoining, being elected by perhaps the largest majority ever given a man in the State. He served his term acceptably, and in 1855 removed to Madison, of which he was a resident until July, 1869.

In the year above mentioned Mr. Clemmons, crossing the Mississippi, came to Southern Nebraska and purchased the farm of 200 acres on section 13, in Rock Bluff Precinct, where he has since lived. In this community, as heretofore, he was recognized as a valued addition to the ranks of its enterprising and able men, and has occupied various positions of trust. While in Wisconsin he served as Assessor, and has also held the same office two years in Rock Bluff Precinct.

Liquor, during the pioneer days of Ohio, as in other places, was freely dispensed both in the stores and the harvest fields, and Mr. Clemmons at an early period in his life was brought face to face with the evils resulting therefrom. In several stores where he was employed as clerk, he, by persevering argument, induced the proprietors to abandon the sale of liquor, and in Madison, Wis., was instrumental in organizing a lodge of the Sons of Temperance, its two first members being Albert Maine and Daniel Johnson, inebriates whom Mr. Clemmons induced to sign the pledge with him. From this trio started the lodge which afterward became one of the important factors of the work in that section, they in the course of six weeks having secured about sixty members. Mr. Maine was a man of means, and prominent in his community, and happily listened to the arguments of Mr. Clemmons against the use of liquor in time to save himself from ruin. He finally became one of the most earnest workers in the temperance cause. Mr. Maine served as Sheriff of Dane County, Wis., several years, and was succeeded to the office by his son. The father passed away some time ago, and the son is now one of the prominent men of Madison.

At one period of his early life Mr. Clemmons was a bartender on the steamboat "Brownville," plying the Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. During this time what he saw around him completed his disgust for whisky, and strengthened him in his resolve to fight it to the bitter end. He saw around him men of fine talents being ruined

by its use, happy homes made desolate, and the standard sometimes of an entire community laid in the dust. That he has been enabled to contribute toward the demolition of this monster should be a source of deep satisfaction, and confer upon him the consciousness that he has not lived in vain. Of this prominent and popular citizen a fine portrait appears on an adjoining page.

WILLIAM T. COLE, of Plattsmouth Precinct, in common with most of the men around him, built up the homestead which he now owns and occupies nearly from first principles, it being but slightly improved when he took possession of it in 1875. In addition to carrying on agriculture, he has put up a good house, barn, stable, corn-cribs, and the other structures necessary for his convenience, besides fencing his fields and planting fruit and shade trees. His farm ranks in value among the best in his locality. He has a fair assortment of live stock, and is each year adding something to the beauty and value of his property.

Our subject was born in Shelby County, Ohio, Nov. 18, 1838, and is the son of DeMitt and Elizabeth (McVey) Cole, who were also natives of the Buckeye State, and born respectively in Pickaway and Shelby Counties. Their mother died in her native county in 1842, when her son William T., was a little lad of four years. The father subsequently removed, about 1844, to Pickaway County, where he lived a period of twenty years, then set his face toward the farther West, coming to Nebraska Territory in the year 1864. He located on land eight miles south of the present city of Plattsmouth, and there followed agriculture until his death, which occurred in December, 1883, after arriving at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years.

William T. Cole upon the outbreak of the Civil War was a resident of Ohio, and enlisted as a Union soldier in Company B, 88th Ohio Infantry, serving a period of thirty-three months, and being in the meantime promoted to Corporal. Although only a member of the State Militia, he was sent outside with his regiment several times, and his squad captured John Morgan, while making his raid through Southern Ohio. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, Mr. Cole received his honorable discharge, and returning to Pickaway County, Ohio, engaged there in farming until the year 1867. Then joining his father in the new State of Nebraska, he located on the farm of the latter, which occupied a part of section 25, Rock Bluff Precinct. He was a resident there five years, then removing to town, was engaged in the sale of sewing machines two years. At the expiration of this time he purchased the land which he now owns, and began in earnest its development and improvement.

Our subject was married in Pickaway County, Ohio, Dec. 7, 1865, to Miss Harriet A., daughter of William and Susan (Hoffhine) Peters. Mrs. Cole was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, Oct. 6, 1844, and lived there with her parents until her marriage. The family of the latter consisted of six children. The parents were natives of Ohio and Maryland. The father was a Universalist in religious belief, and is now deceased. The mother is still living, and belongs to the Lutheran Church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cole there were born four children, the eldest of whom a daughter Ella, is now the wife of William T. Adams, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Elmer E., Verna E. and Lily are at home with their parents. In politics Mr. Cole is a Democrat.

MAYNARD SPINK is County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and serving his second term, which is ample indication of the estimation in which he is held by the people interested in educational matters. He has had a thorough experience in connection with his calling, and has always been warmly interested in the most important matter of training the young, making it a life study to adopt that system which shall effect the best results. He came to Nebraska first in April of 1880, taking up his residence in Elmwood Precinct. Later he purchased land, and in connection with the cultivation of this also pursued his calling as a teacher. His land, however, was located in South Bend Precinct, and comprised 160 acres in an uncultivated condition. He moved

upon it in the spring of 1881, and commenced in earnest the battle with the primitive soil, fencing the land, putting out an orchard and forest trees, and erecting the necessary buildings. Upon this he lived until the spring of 1886, engaged mostly in teaching, while at the same time superintending the operations of his farm. He has always taken an active interest in the educational affairs of the county and State, and in the fall of 1885 was elected to his present position. The spring following he removed from the farm to Weeping Water, where he has since resided. At the expiration of the first term of his office he was re-elected by a very greatly increased majority, and the people have indicated in many other directions the esteem and confidence in which they hold him, not only as an instructor and official, but as a man and citizen. Politically, he affiliates with the Republican party.

Our subject was born in Wayne, Wayne Co., Mich., Dec. 27, 1856, and completed his education in the schools of Belleville, that State. His experience as a teacher commenced when he was a youth of seventeen years, and he has been continuously engaged in the duties pertaining to his calling until the present. In his native State he was first elected, in 1879, Superintendent of the schools of Sumpter Township, Wayne County, and served in that capacity until coming to Nebraska. He was married in Cass County, Neb., Sept. 28, 1881, to Miss Kate Magee, who was born in Peoria County, Ill., Jan. 5, 1860. Mrs. Spink came to this county with her parents when a young girl of fifteen years, they settling in South Bend Precinct, where she lived until her marriage. She is the daughter of George and Elizabeth Magee, who were natives of Ohio and Kentucky, and the father for many years carried on farming in Peoria County, Ill. He is living in Aston, Saunders Co., Neb. To Mr. and Mrs. Spink there has been born one child only, a daughter, Lefie Claire, born July 19, 1886.

Solomon Spink, the father of our subject, was born near Whitehall, Vt., and left New England with his parents when a small boy, they settling in Western New York. He was there reared to man's estate, and married Miss Jane C. Heath. In due time they became the parents of four children, three sons and one daughter, and all are now living, and residents of Nebraska, Colorado and Michigan. After their marriage the parents emigrated to Wayne County, Mich., where the father followed his trade of carpenter until after the outbreak of the Rebellion. He watched the conflict until 1863, and then, unable further to restrain his patriotic impulses, left his little family and enlisted in a Michigan regiment. He returned to them again, dying at his home in Michigan. His widow is still living, making her home with her children in Eastern Colorado. She was born at Olean, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., in 1831, and both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

ADAM KRAEGER. The pioneer element of Cass County numbers the subject of this sketch as one of its most enterprising and succesful men. He came to Eight Mile Grove Precinct in the spring of 1871, and purchased 160 acres of uncultivated prairie land, for which he paid the munificent sum of $1.50 per acre. He was without means for its development, and for two years thereafter employed himself as a farm laborer by the month to secure that by which he could proceed with the cultivation of his property. Upon it not a furrow had been turned, neither was there a building nor a fence. He thus began from the first principles in the construction of a homestead, and looking upon his possessions to-day—a finely improved estate of 320 acres—we must acknowledge that the industry and perseverance with which he has labored are worthy of more than a passing mention.

One of the finest representatives of the substantial German element of this county, our subject was born May 5, 1840. His parents, John and Eve Kraeger, were natives of the same locality as their son, and there the father died. The mother later, in company with her two sons, Adam and John, emigrated to America, taking passage on a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen, and after an ocean voyage of about one month landed at New York City. They had embarked about the 1st of December, 1865, and first set foot upon American soil in Jan-

uary following. They made their way at once to Tazewell County, Ill., where the sons provided comfortably for their mother until her death, which occurred about 1871. The brother John thereafter took up his residence in Illinois. He is now living in Eight Mile Grove.

Mr. Kraeger after coming to this country turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and believing that it was not good for man to be alone, he was married, Feb. 15, 1881, to Miss Louisa Wagner. This lady is a native of the same Province as her husband in Germany, and was born Jan. 12, 1857. Her parents were William and Wilhelmina Wagner, also natives of the Fatherland, and the former of whom died in his native Germany about 1868. The mother in 1875 came with her two daughters to America, making the passage in eleven days on a steamer, and like the future husband of Miss Louisa, coming directly to this county. It was not long thereafter until the young people met and decided to unite their fortunes for life.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born five children, namely: Caroline, Feb. 25, 1882; Dollie, Jan. 25, 1884; Wilhelmina, July 21, 1885, and John, April 8, 1886. Mr. Kraeger, politically, affiliates with the Democratic party, and has distinguished himself as a peaceable and law-abiding citizen, attending strictly to his own concerns, but always willing to aid and encourage the projects calculated for the general welfare of the community.

PHILIP C. ENGELL, a prominent pioneer of Cass County, is now a prominent member of its farming community. He owns and manages a large farm comprising one-half of section 14, Liberty Precinct, and here he and his family have a very pleasant home. He is a native of New York, Schoharie County his birthplace, and Sept. 25, 1831, was the date of his birth. His parents, Peter and Catherine (Crounze) Engell, natives of the State of New York, were early settlers of St. Joseph County, Mich., going there when our subject was an infant, and settling in the woods when the surrounding country was in its primitive wildness, inhabited by the Indians, as is indicated by the date of their arrival there early in 1832. There by hard labor they reared a comfortable home, and bore an honorable part in the development of the county, and there the father rounded out and completed a useful life, dying in the sixties on his homestead in White Pigeon Township, he then being past middle age. His wife is yet living there with her youngest son, Henry, by her second husband, Lorenzo Jones, and she is now seventy-nine years old. She is a devoted member of the Methodist Church, as was her husband, and she shared with him the respect of the entire community.

Their son of whom we write grew to man's estate amid the pioneer scenes of his parental home, remaining an inmate of the household until he was twenty-five years old, never until that time, since his entrance into the county when an infant, going beyond its boundaries, his first journey into the great world at that time being to Pike's Peak and Denver City. This was during the great excitement caused by the discovery of gold in 1859. Our subject prospected for some six weeks with others who went with him, but they found that the precious metal was not to be picked up on the surface as many seemed to think when they started for that region, and that, in fact, its hidden sources were undiscoverable, so our subject and his companions retraced their way across the great plains that they had traversed so recently with such exultant feelings and strong hopes of securing a fortune. Mr. Engle determined not to return to his old home only to confess the failure of his schemes, but decided instead to locate somewhere on the rich farming lands of the Missouri River basin, and in a surer, if slower way, build up the fortune that he had vainly sought in the Rocky Mountains. He soon decided on Cass County as the most desirable place for location, as he was favorably impressed with its many advantages of climate, fertility of soil, etc. With characteristic energy he went to work at breaking land for other settlers in order to pay for land of his own, and in that way secured a part of his present farm, and doubtless broke a section or more of land. In the spring of 1862 he completed the purchase of his land, which was

then in a primitive state. It now forms one of the finest and best improved farms in this part of the county, and with its neat and comfortable buildings, of a modern style of architecture, attracts the eye of the stranger, who singles it out as one of the most desirable places for a home to be seen in the precinct. At one time in the early years of his settlement here Mr. Engell was actively and profitably engaged in freighting across the plains to Denver and even beyond. While thus engaged he hunted some, and has killed as many as fourteen buffaloes, besides a large number of antelopes.

When our subject first located here he was a single man, and for a few years kept bachelor's hall, but April 16, 1863, he became a benedict, as on that day his marriage was solemnized in Liberty with Miss Luticia Brinson, a native of Madison County, Ind. She was born Oct. 12, 1843, to David and Margaret (Saylor) Brinson, natives of Indiana. They were there reared and married, and after the birth of two children, Lydia A. and Mrs. Engell, they moved westward in 1844, and lived in Missouri five years. Later they removed to Madison County, Iowa, and there the mother died in 1851, leaving six small children. Two years after her death Mr. Brinson married Sarah Evans, and in 1854 the family moved to Nebraska City, when that place was in its infancy. Mr. Brinson took up a claim and lived on it two years, and then sold it and purchased another in Liberty. He lived here for some years with his family, and finally went to Broken Bow, Custer County, this State, with his family, and still resides there, he at the age of seventy years, and his wife at the age of sixty-five years. Mrs. Engell remained an inmate of the parental household until she was married. She is the mother of seven children, of whom three are dead—an infant, Anna E. and Emery. Those living are all at home, and their names are Frederic E., Charles E., Theresa A. and John B.

Mr. Engell has seen much of pioneer life, having been reared in a pioneer home in a newly settled country, and then, in the vigor of early manhood, becoming in turn an important factor in the development of a frontier Territory. He was well endowed with a courageous, self-sacrificing spirit, powers of endurance, energy and capacity, necessary to encounter the difficulties that lay before him in the wild, undeveloped West when he first cast in his lot with the early settlers of this region. The probity of his character and his unblemished life record cause him to be greatly respected by all in this community, of which he has been a member for so many years. He and his estimable wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Engell is Trustee and Steward of that church. In politics he is a solid Republican.

GEORGE F. SHRYDER, SR., retired farmer, is a genuine pioneer of Cass County, having been here since 1856, arriving on the day that James Buchanan was elected President of the United States. He first located in Three Grove, twelve miles east of Weeping Water, where he bought a claim for $1,600, and settled on it before there were any improvements, excepting that there was a small house on it. When Mr. Shryder came to this county there were only two houses in Plattsmouth, and none between there and Three Grove, which received its cognomen from the fact that there were three houses there, three settlers in a grove. In 1857 there was quite an Indian scare in that region, and all in the vicinity of Three Grove were out scouting, and camped one night on the site of the present city of Weeping Water. They captured one Indian and a pony; the former was tied and a guard placed over him, but he escaped in spite of their precaution. Some of the people who took part in that affair are still living here. The alarm was all caused by the shooting of an Indian on Salt Creek near Lincoln. Nothing more was heard of the Indians for some time after that. Indian scares were often aroused by maliciously disposed people, who would don red blankets and show themselves to the settlers for the purpose of frightening them.

Our subject was born Sept. 10, 1822, in Cayuga County, N. Y., where he was reared and educated. His father, Ernest C. Shryder, was born in Hamburg, Germany, and when six years of age emigrated with his mother to New York. In that State he grew to manhood and was married, Sarah Cooper

becoming his wife. She bore him five children, three girls and two boys, all of whom grew to maturity, and three are still living, our subject being the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Shryder spent their last years in Nebraska. Both were members of the United Presbyterian Church, and lived consistent Christian lives.

George F. Shryder, of this sketch, remained in his native town until the age of sixteen, when he removed with his parents to Illinois, settling in Peoria County. He worked at various occupations, and continued a resident of the Prairie State until taking up his abode here, as previously mentioned. The claim which he bought consisted of 220 acres of land in its primitive wildness, and from this, by dint of hard labor, ambitious energy and practical judgment, he has eliminated a fine, productive farm. During the twenty-eight years that he resided on it he fenced it, set out an orchard, small fruits and vines, and from it gained a good subsistence, and amassed a handsome competency by raising stock and grain, and expending the proceeds judiciously. In 1884 Mr. Shryder sold his farm for the modest sum of $8,000, and moved into town, where he lived fourteen months. He then bought 160 acres of land on section 36, Centre Precinct, where he has since lived. He also owns a good house on the edge of the city of Weeping Water, where he now resides.

The union of our subject with Miss Margaret A. Parr was solemnized Jan. 4, 1852, in Illinois. Her parents, Joseph and Margaret (Bloomer) Parr, were natives of Ireland, and lived there several years after their marriage, finally coming to America, and settling in Peoria County, Ill., where he pursued his occupation of farming. Of their union six children were born, three during their residence in Ireland, and three after they came to Illinois. Of these five grew to maturity, of whom the following is the record: Nancy, born Feb. 10, 1828; Margaret, Oct. 1, 1833; Thomas, April 12, 1839; James, born June 6, 1841, died Feb. 4, 1887; Sarah M., born Dec. 19, 1844. Mr. Parr remained in Illinois until his death, which occurred Nov. 15, 1852, in the fifty-third year of his age. His wife survived him and married again, living until Feb. 11, 1881, when she too quietly passed on to the silent world beyond.

Of the union of our subject and his wife six children have been born, three of whom died in early childhood, namely: James, John and Theodore. Of the three now living the following is recorded: Sarah Margaret married L. A. Young, and they have two children (see sketch of L. A. Young); Ida May married Robert Young, and they have three children; George L. Shryder married Miss Hattie J. Pitman, a native of Nebraska, born in Nebraska City, Sept. 30, 1866. Her father, Wesley Pitman, is a native of Indiana, and removed with his family to Liberty Precinct in the early days of its settlement.

Our subject takes a deep interest in the welfare of his town, and is at all times ready and willing to aid all practical schemes for its moral, social or intellectual improvement, and though not a politician, he has held various town offices, always performing the duties devolving upon him with care and fidelity. He is a stanch Republican, voted for William H. Harrison, and also for Benjamin Harrison. Both he and his estimable wife are valued members of the Presbyterian Church, and are sincere and conscientious Christians.

FRANK STANDER. The Great West is permeated with the thrifty German element which has found its way into every channel of trade and business, and comprises a large proportion of the bone and sinew and the wealth of the United States. The sons of the Fatherland were not slow to avail themselves of the inducements held out for settlement beyond the Mississippi, and among them in the earlier days came the subject of this sketch, who is now one of the most prominent farmers of Louisville Precinct, and President of the Louisville Bank. This institution was purchased by himself and his son James in 1884, having been established the year previously by J. J. Manker and his brothers. James Stander operated as cashier, and the bank is conducted upon those principles which are calculated to insure its perpetuation and success.

Our subject was born in the small village of Valkarota, in Prussia, on the 26th of May, 1835, and is

the son of George and Mary (Hartman) Stander, natives of the same section of country. Their family comprised four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living, and of whom Frank was the sixth in order of birth. In accordance with the laws and customs of his native country he was placed in school when a little lad six years of age, and gave close attention to his studies until fourteen years old. He then served an apprenticeship of three years at the trade of shoemaker, and thereafter was engaged as a journeyman until a youth of nineteen, when he set sail for America.

From the city of New York young Stander made his way to Milwaukee, Wis., where he was employed two years at his trade and other pursuits. Later we find him working on a farm for about five years, and in the fall of 1858 he turned his steps toward the farther West. Coming to this county he stopped for a brief time at Plattsmouth, and later visited the land-office in Nebraska City, where he entered 120 acres on section 35, Louisville Precinct. From this he opened up a good farm, occupying it eight years, then selling out, purchased 160 acres on section 34. To this he added from time to time until he is now the owner of 480 acres in one body. He has carried on mixed farming successfully, making a specialty of grain and stock raising, breeding horses, cattle and swine, his favorite equines being the Norman and Clydesdale stock.

In 1882 Mr. Stander erected a large store building in Louisville, wherein he put a good stock of general merchandise, and three years later the bank was established in the same place. In addition to the property already mentioned, Mr. Stander has two sections of land in Keith County, which is mostly under a state of cultivation. He has been a man prominent in his community, serving as a member of the School Board for the last fifteen years, officiating as Assessor six years, and occupying the various other local offices. He votes the straight Democratic ticket, and in religious matters is a devout member of the Catholic Church. For a man who crossed the Missouri River without capital, borrowing $1.50 to get across, it must be admitted that his industry and perseverance have been amply rewarded.

Our subject was married, in the spring of 1859, to Miss Eliza, daughter of Jacob and Fillapena Regula, who was a native of Wisconsin. They began their wedded life together at the farm in Louisville Precinct, and in due time the household circle was completed by the birth of twelve children, nine sons and three daughters. The eldest, James, has already been mentioned; George is occupied at farming on his own account; Helen, the eldest daughter, and her brother Peter, are the assistants of their father in the store and bank; Henry, William, Lizzie, Louie, Leslie, Arthur, Olivie and Ralph are at home with their parents.

HIRAM G. HAWLEY is one of the kind of men to whom the thriving State of Nebraska is deeply indebted for the present proud position she holds in the galaxy of the States of the nation. It is by the skill, knowledge and energy he exerted that he has made his home farm, which is located on section 31 in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, to blossom as the rose, and to bring forth abundant fruits.

This gentleman is a native of Ohio, having been born in Lorain County, Aug. 8, 1834. There he resided and attained to years of manhood, becoming, from the earliest days of his life, accustomed to the trials and cares incident to a life in a new country, as at that time his native county was in a comparatively wild and sparsely settled condition. During his youth he received a fair common-school education, and since that time he has lost no opportunity for adding in a practical way to his store of knowledge. In the autumn of 1855 Mr. Hawley went to Scott County, Iowa, and remained there about a year. From there he went to Cedar County, same State, where he lived for thirteen years. In the spring of 1869, having heard so much about the advantages held out by Nebraska, and the opportunity that it offered for securing a home and a competence, he decided to test the truth of the reports for himself. Accordingly, in the spring of 1869 he migrated to this State, and at once settled upon his present farm of eighty acres, which he purchased for $450. The land was void of all

improvement, and the present high state of its cultivation is due in every respect to the application and perseverance of the owner.

The subject of our sketch was married in Lorain County, Ohio, Aug. 15, 1855, to Emily B. Bunker. She is a daughter of James and Julia Bunker, both of whom are dead. Nine children have been born to the couple, six of whom survive: Archie L. resides in Chase County, Neb.; Dwight H. in Cheyenne County; Frederick in Chase County; Ada is a teacher in the district school, and Harry and Frank are at home with their parents.

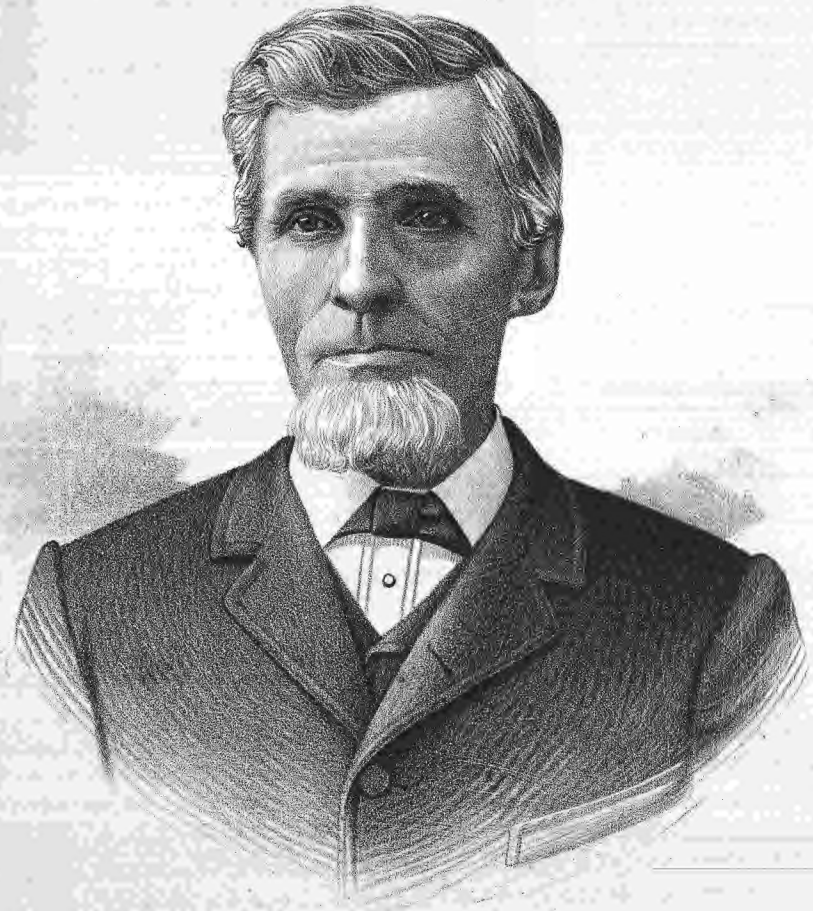
Mr. Hawley is a son of Uriah and Elizabeth Hawley, both natives of New England. The father was supposed to have settled in Lorain County, Ohio, as early as 1824 or 1825. His paternal ancestors are believed to have been of English descent, but no record in existence will verify the belief. A family of seven children was born to his parents, of which number the following survive: Elizabeth, now the widow of Josiah Jenney, resides in Ottumwa, Iowa; Newton J. resides in Missouri; Sarah is the wife of Henry Boswith, and resides in Henry County, Iowa; and Hiram G., our subject. Maria was the wife of Quincy Boswith, and is now deceased.

For a few months after settling on his new land Hiram G. Hawley lived in a shanty until he could build a home sufficiently comfortable for his family. He began his work with a will and determination to have a home second to none in the county, and it needs but a glance to be convinced of what success he has had in his undertaking. In the course of his life in Nebraska he escaped many of the hardships which came to his fellow settlers, yet he saw sufficient trouble, and endured self-denials to an extent that has taught him what a pioneer in Nebraska should expect. When he settled here Weeping Water contained only a few buildings, one a blacksmith-shop, and one building used jointly for religious and educational purposes, and from this wild and desolate condition he has seen the entire country develop into its present perfected state.

Our subject has by a life of rectitude and honor gained the entire confidence and good-will of the entire neighborhood, and has been called by the people of his precinct to fill a position of credit and trust. For three years he has been the Assessor of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and in 1888 he was re-elected his own successor. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, in the success of which he takes an active and lively interest. His wife and daughter are members of the Congregational Church. The entire family hold a prominent position in the society of the precinct.

EDWIN F. RICHARDS, a prosperous young farmer, a resident of Elmwood Precinct, was born in Goffstown Village, Hillsboro Co., N. H., July 13, 1852. His early life was spent in that Switzerland of America, living upon a farm. When he was three years of age his mother died, and he was cared for by his sister Mary A., then only eleven years of age, and who is now a resident of Illinois. At the age of fourteen he went to Illinois, where he joined his sister, who had married Mr. Harrison Stinson, and removed to that State, settling in Ogle County, where Mr. Richards lived until 1872. Edwin's educational advantages in New Hampshire as well as in Illinois consisted only of the good common schools, which he improved to the fullest extent. He began work at an early day, and was taught to be industrious and to rely solely upon his own efforts, which early training has been of the utmost value to him in his life in the West. In the spring of 1871 his brother Horace came West and joined him in Illinois, and in the following year they determined to seek their fortunes in the at that time Far West. In pursuance of this determination they started with teams overland for Nebraska. They crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, where they purchased a quarter-section of land from the railway company, but which they were not able to retain.

After the grasshopper scourge had abated, our subject and his brother thought they would again make the venture, as their faith in the ultimate prosperity of the State was unshaken, so they repurchased their first selection. In 1879 Mr. Richards purchased his present eighty acres of land, and has since added to it, until he is now the owner of 200



Yours &c
Brand Cole

acres, 120 of which is located on section 24 and eighty on section 25, which is improved by a snug and conveniently arranged one and one-half story frame house, good barns, very extensive cattle sheds and corn cribs, a fine orchard and thrifty groves. His entire tract of land has a never-failing supply of the purest water.

Our subject was married, in 1881, to Miss Alvira B. Colbert, the eldest daughter of James Colbert, a resident of Elmwood Precinct. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Richards: Ralph E., born June 15, 1882, died while an infant; Mary A., born May 15, 1884, still living, is a brilliant, lovable child: and another son, Henry C., born July 18, 1887, died while an infant.

At the time of her death the mother of our subject was but thirty-six years of age. She possessed one of those fine, high-strung natures which enabled her to see all that was beautiful and grand in nature, which she has transmitted fully to her sons. A fine poetical vein threaded her nature, which often showed itself during life, and especially at the time of her last illness, when she wrote many fine poems, one of which we give:

Farewell, farewell, now husband dear,
And you six little ones,
For I am going to my long home
Never more to return.

Death soon will break the tie
That has bound us heart and hand,
But soon we all shall meet again
In that holy, happy land.

I leave you with these little ones,
Watch them with a parent's eye,
For they will have no mother near
To hear them when they cry.

When pain and sickness rack your frame
And make your flesh decay,
Then may you be provided for
As I have all my days.

And when your days are past,
And the Saviour calls you to rest,
Then shall we all meet in that holy land
Where we may all be blessed.

She died as she had lived, having a deep and abiding faith in the promises of the Creator, and having a Christian's hope.

The father of Mr. Richards is still living in New Hampshire, and is a man of considerable wealth. In 1887 he visited his sons and was very highly pleased with the progress they were making and the prospects that lay before them. He has attained the ripe old age of seventy-four years. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Warren, were born in New Hampshire, and were among the early settlers of Goffstown. The mother was a granddaughter of the Gen. Warren who fell in defense of his country at the battle of Bunker Hill, at the beginning of the War for Independence. The paternal grandfather died when the father of our subject was a young boy, so the family history on that side is lost. Our subject's father remarried after his first wife's death, and four children were the result of that union; only one, Arthur, is now living. He resides on the old homestead in New Hampshire.

The subject of our sketch is one of a family of seven children, namely: Henry C., Mary A.; George W., now dead; Horace T., and Ephraim W., deceased, were older, and Charles A., who died when an infant, was younger. For several years Mr. Richards has been widely and favorably known as a well-informed stock-raiser, bringing a great degree of intelligence to the prosecution and successful conduct of that business. He is a liberal, large-hearted, kind man, who almost idolizes his wife and little daughter. He has contributed liberally toward the erection of all the churches in his vicinity, and is found in the front in all charitable enterprises, doing his part. In politics Mr. Richards is a Democrat. His services as public officer have up to this time been limited to membership in the School Board.

JOHN H. BECKER. The precinct of Eight Mile Grove finds no more substantial or reliable citizen than the subject of this biography, who is the owner of over 1,000 acres of land. His property lies on section 13, the home farm comprising 1,000 acres, which his native thrift and industry have transformed from a raw prairie to one of the most thoroughly cultivated tracts of land along the northern line of the county. Like a large proportion of the solid men of this

precinct. Mr. Becker is of German birth and parentage, first opening his eyes to the light Nov. 3, 1840. When a youth of seventeen years he emigrated to America, making the long voyage across the Atlantic from Havre, France, to New York City, being on the ocean forty-two days.

From the great metropolis our subject, a stranger in a strange land, and with very little money in his pocket, made his way directly to Tazewell County, Ill., where he set about earning his own living by the sweat of his brow. Engaging as a farm hand in that county, he sojourned in that region a period of seven years. There also he met his fate in the person of Miss Harriet E. Fuller, to whom he was married May 12, 1864. The young couple began the journey of life together in the modest home in that county, and lived in Illinois until the spring of 1878. Then, deciding to cast his lot with the people of Nebraska, Mr. Becker gathered together his personal effects and his little family, and crossing the Father of Waters came to this county. He had previously purchased 160 acres of land which is included in his present farm. From that time on he labored diligently, early and late, and was more than ordinarily wise in his investments, while his careful cultivation of the soil soon placed him upon an independent footing. Aside from a small amount received from his father's estate, he has had no assistance, being the architect of his own fortune.

Mr. Becker, who struggled under many difficulties for a number of years after coming to Nebraska, is now numbered among the leading land-owners of this county. In proportion to his property there also increased his position and standing among his fellow-citizens, who would have gladly raised him to the most important offices within their gift. While in Illinois he had held the minor offices of his township, and in 1884 he was the candidate of the Republican party of Cass County for Commissioner, but owing to his position on the county seat fight, he was defeated. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church, while his estimable wife belongs to the Baptist.

Mr. Becker received a good education in his native tongue, and by a course of reading keeps himself well posted upon topics of general interest. His land of late years has been largely devoted to stock-raising, with results eminently satisfactory. The homestead proper lies on section 13, and with its substantial and commodious buildings fulfills the modern idea of rural life with all its comforts. Seven children completed the household circle, who were named respectively: George H., William A., Mary E., Henry E., Philip T., Dora A. and Carrie O.

Philip and Catherine (Scheneider) Becker, the parents of our subject, were also natives of Germany, and spent their last years there. The family consisted of six children.

EBENEZER G. LAUGHLIN, senior member of the firm of Laughlin & Laughlin, is, with his uncle, Benjamin F., conducting a very successful livery business at Greenwood. He is a man who at once attracts universal attention on account of his fine physique, being of commanding presence, upright, and of handsome proportions. In addition to a fine physical frame he has been endowed by nature with more than ordinary good business capacities. In a business requiring much tact and good management, he is extremely popular in his community, being courteous and obliging, and prompt to meet his obligations.

Our subject is a son of one of the first three pioneers of this county, William J. Laughlin, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Henry Co., Iowa, May 12, 1859. He was an infant of five months when his parents moved to Nebraska, settling in Salt Creek Precinct. The country in that vicinity had at that time received but little attention from white settlers, and the first school in Salt Creek Precinct was conducted in the house of William Laughlin by the mother, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary Coleman. Later, a school building was erected on Salt Creek, where our subject attended principally in the winter season.

Our subject spent his boyhood and youth amid the scenes of frontier life, his mind and muscles developing in a healthy atmosphere. He assisted his parents around the homestead and continued

with them until his marriage, which occurred Oct. 2, 1882, the bride being Miss Alice L., daughter of S. L. Anderson, of Kentucky. Mrs. Laughlin was born in Marion County, Iowa, Nov. 25, 1862, and was a maiden of seventeen years when her parents came to this county. They are now residing in Salt Creek. Their family consists of five children, all of whom are surviving and making their homes in this State except one, who lives in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Laughlin commenced their wedded life together at a modest home in Salt Creek Precinct, and of their union there have been born four children, namely: Mary L., Pearl, William G. and Earl, the latter of whom died in infancy. Mrs. L. is a member in good standing of the Christian Church, and our subject uniformly votes the straight Democratic ticket. The family residence is pleasantly located in the southwestern part of the city, and is the resort of hosts of friends.

The livery business of Laughlins' was established at Greenwood in 1887. They have commodious quarters, located on Third street, and their horses and equipments will compare favorably with anything of the kind along the western line of the county. They enjoy a good patronage from the people of this locality.

DAVID SAMSON. This gentleman played no unimportant part among the men of intelligence, thrift and foresight, who as pioneers of Cass County have been factors in its growth. He was an early settler of Plattsmouth, and has now been a permanent resident here for several years. He was at one time interested in agriculture quite extensively, but the state of his health does not permit him to carry on any active business, and he employs his time solely in looking after his property.

Mr. Samson was born in Pike County, Ohio, May 11, 1823. His father, James B. Samson, was a native of Virginia, and his father, David Samson, is also supposed to have been born in that State, He removed to Ohio about 1800, the removal being made in wagons, and he became a pioneer of Scioto County, where he bought quite a tract of timbered land, from which he evolved a farm. Twenty years later he sold that homestead, and entered a large tract of Government land in Pike County, where he resided until death. He had in the meantime labored hard at the pioneer task of clearing and improving a farm, which ranked among the best in that locality, and was provided with good buildings. He married a Miss Brouse, a native of Pennsylvania, of German ancestry.

The father of our subject was about six years old when his parents removed from the old Virginian home, and the place of his birth, to the wilderness in the Territory of Ohio. He there grew to a vigorous manhood, and soon established a home, having married Margaret Bradford, a native of Virginia, and daughter of Ezra Bradford, an early settler of Scioto County. Mr. Samson had learned the stonemason's trade, and also picked up a knowledge of blacksmithing. At the time of his marriage he settled in Scioto County, but after living there one year he took up his abode in Pike County. He bought a tract of timbered land there, and built a log house, the same in which our subject was born. He worked at his trade of stonemason on the Ohio Canal, receiving $1 a day, and in that way earned enough to pay for his land, and when he did not have work at his trade, he cleared away the timber that covered it. He continued to reside on it until 1835, and then traded it for a farm in Scioto County, to which he immediately moved his family. In 1845 he disposed of that place, having decided to seek a location beyond the Mississippi River. Accompanied by his wife and children, he started for his new home, traveling by the way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Missouri, disembarking at Savannah Landing, Andrew County. He soon bought a tract of land four miles from that place, in the same county; a log cabin on the place and twelve acres of the land broken, the rest being timbered, constituted the improvements. He cleared quite a tract of the land, and resided on it about ten years, when he sold out and moved to the village of Fillmore, where he bought a home. Soon after his removal there he was elected Justice of the Peace, and he also became a local preacher of much repute,

having joined the Methodist Episcopal Church when he first took up his residence in Missouri. He died there about 1873, but his memory is cherished by those who knew him as a man of large heart, kindly impulses, whose life was blameless, and who sought to do good.

Our subject was the third of the nine children born to his worthy parents, who trained him to a useful manhood. He was reared amid pioneer scenes, and he well remembers when his mother, having no stove, was obliged to cook their meals by the heat of the fire in the rude fireplace, and when the clothing that he wore was spun and woven by her hands. He resided with his parents until he was twenty-two, and then bought a claim to some Government land in Andrew County, in company with his brother-in-law, and commenced to improve it. One year later he sold it and returned home, and lived with his parents two years. We next hear of him in Ohio, where he was variously employed for a year. He then went back to Andrew County and farmed on shares for a year. He traded his share of the crops for lumber, and buying a lot in Fillmore, built a house. He sold that residence in 1853, and moved to Coonville, now Glenwood, Mills Co., Iowa. That place was then only a small hamlet, and a great deal of the land thereabout was owned by the Government. He bought an interest in a sawmill which he operated for six months, and then disposed of his share, and turned his attention to building up the town, and erected three houses in Glenwood. His health was not good, and he was obliged to give up his business almost entirely. In 1856 he sold his property there, and made ready to move to Oregon. But before the time set for him to start, he made arrangements that entirely changed his plans, agreeing with some gentlemen who had claims in Cass County to come here and hold those claims for them, one of the claims joining the city, and the other on the prairie a short distance west. He found that he could not hold both claims, so he bought the one on the prairie, and entered it from the Government. At that time the whole of Nebraska was a wild, undeveloped prairie, with but one or two permanent settlements, and deer, wild turkeys and other game very plentiful. Mr. Samson spent a few days on his claim, and then settled in Plattsmouth, and buying a lot here, he erected a frame building, and rented the upper stories to the county for public offices. Four years later Mr. Samson moved to his land to cultivate it and improve it into a farm. He staid there four years, and then once again made Plattsmouth his home. He soon after bought the improvements on a tract of school land that belonged to the State, and farmed that three years, when he traded it for land in Mills County, Iowa. Five years subsequently he sold that place and tried life in Southeastern Kansas. He did not like it there, and four months later found him once more a resident of Plattsmouth, and ever since that time he has made his home here.

Mr. Samson and Miss Margaret F. Clement were united in marriage in 1858, and of their happy union five children have been born, as follows: Wilbur C.; Agnes, the wife of Hon. Samuel M. Chapman; Susan and Margaret N., both teachers; and Edwin Stanton. They have been given good advantages for education, and have been carefully trained in all that makes good and helpful lives. Mrs. Samson was born in the Province of Lorraine, France, May 28, 1825. Her father, John Francis Clement, was a native of the same place, as was also his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Catherine Puloung. Mr. Clement learned the trade of cabinet-maker, and followed that trade in France until 1831. In that year he first located in America, settling in Maryland, and carrying on cabinet-making there. St. Louis subsequently became his home for a time, and he still continued to work at his trade. From that city he went to Illinois and pre-empted Government land near Pekin, Tazewell County, of which he thus became a pioneer. He was the first man in that county to break the land and engage in farming. He resided there until his death, July 15, 1844. His widow died on the home farm four years later. After the death of her parents Mrs. Samson lived with a sister at Tremont until 1857, and then left Illinois for the Territory of Nebraska, coming by water. They found this city only an insignificant hamlet, with scarcely any indications of its present size and importance. In Mrs. Samson we have a fine representative of the pioneer women of Nebraska who

have been such important factors in the settlement of this commonwealth. She possesses a remarkably clear mind, and is well endowed with firmness and judgment, and her many pleasing attributes have gained her many warm friends.

Mr. Samson is, as his fellow-citizens long since found, an eminently trustworthy man, of high principles and right conduct, and he is regarded with sincere respect and esteem. He has borne an honorable part in developing Cass County, and his share in building up Plattsmouth will not be forgotten.

HON. ANDERSON ROOT, an ex-member of the Nebraska Legislature, and one of the solid citizens of Cass County, is a gentleman of more than ordinary capabilities, kind-hearted, public-spirited and benevolent, possessing hosts of friends, and of that uniform and kindly temperament which carries a happy influence with him wherever he goes. He owns and occupies a fine farm on section 34, in Rock Bluff Precinct, comprising 220 acres, and gives his support to all enterprises having for their object the general welfare of his community. His family comprises an amiable and intelligent wife, and a group of bright and interesting children, the latter named respectively: Charles T., who is a student at the school of telegraphy, Janesville, Wis.; Robert S., Eliza J. and Ralph Roy are at home. Mr. Root is a lifelong Republican politically, and he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church at Murray.

The subject of this sketch is a great-grandson of Dr. Anson Root, an eminent physician in the State of Connecticut, where his entire life was passed. His son, Anson L. Root, grandfather of Anderson, was also a native of Connecticut, where he was reared, and where he married Miss Sally Brooks, also a native of that State. They remained in New England until after the birth of their son Charles T., father of our subject, then emigrated to Trumbull County, Ohio, during the earliest settlement of the Buckeye State. There Grandfather Root battled successfully with the elements of the soil, and from the wilderness built up a good homestead, where he spent his last days. The grandmother later removed to Michigan, and spent the remainder of her life with her son Nelson, in Berrien County, where her death took place Dec. 16, 1857.

The father of the subject of this sketch was born in Connecticut, and went with his parents when they removed to Ohio. He staid in that State but three years, however, and then removed to Newaygo County, Mich, where he made his home until 1870, when he resolved to try his fortune in the new State of Nebraska, and came to Cass County. He has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Sarah A. Laughlin, mother of our subject, who died in 1849. Mr. Root again married, but is again a widower, and is now engaged in farming in Cheyenne County, Neb.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of James Laughlin and his wife, whose maiden name was Rachel Matthews. The father of James, and maternal great-grandfather of Anderson Root, was Alexander Laughlin, a native of County Down, Ireland, where he was united in marriage with Sarah Gordon, of the same county. Prior to the War of the Revolution he emigrated to America, and settled in Western Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming, and there reared a large family. Tradition has it that he served in the Patriot Army for three years in the latter part of the Revolutionary War. He died June 25, 1822, at the age of fifty-nine years, and is buried in the Kinsman Cemetery, in Trumbull County, Ohio. Of the time of his wife's death we have no record.

James Laughlin, son of Alexander, and grandfather of Anderson Root, was born in Beaver County, Pa., Aug. 10, 1791. He became a farmer, and while yet a young man removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, where he was married to Rachel Matthews, and reared a large family. A man of unbounded enterprise and energy, he hewed out of the wilderness a good home, and acquired an ample competence for his declining years. On the breaking out of the War of 1812, imbued with the patriotic impulses of his sire, he enlisted as a private in the United States Army, and served until the close of the war. Receiving an honorable discharge he returned to the pursuits of peace, and

died July 10, 1868, aged seventy-six years, eleven months and eighteen days. In politics Mr. Laughlin was originally a Whig, but on its formation joined the ranks of the Republican party, with which he ever after affiliated. He and his wife were both members of the Presbyterian Church.

Rachel Matthews, wife of James Laughlin, and grandmother of Anderson Root, was also a native of Beaver County, Pa., and was a daughter of Deacon William Matthews, who was born in County Down, Ireland, and emigrated to America while a young man. With the innate love of liberty characteristic of the sturdy race from which he sprang, he entered the Continental Army, and for three years battled for the freedom of his adopted country. He fought until the close of the war, and with the return of peace and the assumed liberty of the Colonies, left the army, receiving an honorable discharge, and in the latter years of his life drew a pension. He had settled at Georgetown, near the mouth of the Little Beaver River, in Beaver County, Pa., to which he returned, and there he was married and reared a numerous family. In 1804 the patriot soldier decided to go farther West, and removed to a farm on what was then known as the "Center Road," in Trumbull County, Ohio, where he lived until he had attained the ripe old age of eighty-three, dying in 1834, full of years and honor. For many years in Ohio he had been Justice of the Peace, an important office in that day and country. In regard to this venerable old pioneer we extract the following from "Historical Collections of the Mahoning Valley, Ohio," published in 1876:

"The name of Deacon Matthews should be remembered and cherished, not only by his descendants, but by all the inhabitants of the township of Kinsman, Trumbull Co., Ohio, especially all those who are interested in its moral and religious improvement. In this regard his influence was greater and entered more deeply into the structure of society than that of any other of the first settlers of the town. He early established religious meetings and assemblies of worship on the Sabbath, where there were no clergymen present, as there was not except occasionally until 1813, and he always conducted the meetings. His attendance was a fixed habit, no matter what the state of the weater or roads. Whether hot or cold, wet or dry, mud or snow, he was in his place promptly at the hour of service. His venerable appearance always commanded respect, and his meek and unostentatious manner and fervency of spirit gave all who knew him confidence in the sincerity of the religion he professed."

From such stock on both sides our subject drew those inspirations which have been his guide through life; of sterling worth, these hardy pioneers were well fitted to become the progenitors of a race embracing all those attributes which go to make up the best type of American manhood and womanhood. Prominent among their characteristics were deep religious convictions, and an unflinching loyalty and patriotism shown by them and their descendants in three wars—the Revolution, 1812, and the great Rebellion.

Anderson Root was born Aug. 14, 1842, in Trumbull County, Ohio, where he pursued his first studies in the district school, and became familiar with farming as carried on in the pioneer days. His education was completed by an attendance of one term at Jamestown (Pa.) Seminary. On the 7th of December, 1864, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret L., daughter of Robert and Eliza J. (Thompson) Snodgrass. William Snodgrass, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Root, was a native of Ireland, whence he emigrated to America when a small boy. He married Miss Margaret McMaster, and about 1800 located in Crawford County, Pa., when that portion of the Keystone State bore little evidence of civilization. He built the first farmhouse in his neighborhood, at a time when his nearest market was at Meadville, a distance of twenty miles away.

Upon the Crawford County farm there was reared a family of five children, and there the grandparents looked their last upon the scenes of earth. Their son Robert was the eldest born, and spent all his life at the old homestead, dying there in November, 1887. His wife, the mother of Mrs. Root, still lives there, and has now arrived at the age of seventy-four years. They were the parents of four daughters, Margaret L. being the second born. William and Mary (Latta) Thompson, the

maternal grandparents of Mrs. Root, were natives of Ireland, and of Scotch ancestry. They came to the United States with their respected parents when mere children, and spent the remainder of their lives in Crawford County, Pa. They trace their progenitors to the Erskines, one of the best families of Scotland.

Mr. and Mrs. Root were married at the old Snodgrass homestead in Crawford County, Pa., and lived there until September, 1865. Then deciding to cast their lot with the pioneers of Nebraska Territory they came to this county, and were residents of Rock Bluff Precinct seven years. Next they removed to the farm of the State Agricultural Society of Lincoln, over which Mr. Root had been appointed Superintendent, and there they lived three years. Mr. Root had in the meantime purchased 320 acres of land in Rock Bluff Precinct, to which he returned. Later he sold 100 acres of this, having now 220 acres, and is largely interested in the raising of cattle and horses.

The Root farm and its appurtenances indicates on all sides the thoroughness and skill with which the land has been cultivated, and the good management of the proprietor. A large portion of the land is necessarily devoted to pasture, and the barns and outhouses are furnished with all modern conveniences for the shelter and care of stock. The residence is in keeping with the taste and means of the proprietor.

During the late Civil War Mr. Root, in August, 1861, enlisted in the 2d Ohio Cavalry, and journeyed with his comrades through Missouri, Kansas and the Indian Territory, under command of Gen. Blunt. In 1862 he was in the Indian expedition under Gen. Weir. He met the rebels in several hand-to-hand conflicts, but escaped wounds and capture. He was, however, injured by the accidental falling of his horse upon him while at Columbus, Ohio, recruiting his regiment both with men and horses, and was obliged to accept an honorable discharge March 11, 1863.

Mr. Root upon coming to this section of country was at once recognized as a valued addition to the community, and after filling many positions of trust, and otherwise indicating his ability for business and his integrity of character, was selected by the Republican party as their candidate for the State Legislature, and being elected, discharged his duties in a manner creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. He has never indicated a desire for office, preferring the quiet of his farm and family. He cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has ever been a uniform supporter of Republican principles.

NICHOLAS THEIS for the last seven years has been industriously engaged in the cultivation of a good farm on section 16, in Plattsmouth Precinct, where he settled in the year of 1883. His career has been one of persevering industry, and he has ranked among the most thorough and skillful farmers along the northern line of Cass County. In addition to general agriculture he makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping good grades of cattle, horses and swine. He first settled in the county in 1878.

Our subject traces his ancestry to Germany, which was the birthplace of his paternal grandfather, Adam Theis, who, upon reaching manhood, married Miss Susan Newell, and became the father of one child, a son Matthew. The latter, also born in Germany, married Miss Lucy Reicharth, and they became the parents of seven children, namely: Adam, John, Joseph, Nicholas, Susan (Mrs. James Miller, of Sheboygan County, Wis.), Theodore, and Anna (Mrs. Theodore Baker, of Ozaukee County, Wis.)

Matthew Theis, after his marriage and the birth of two children, set sail with his little family and his parents for the United States, arriving upon American soil in the year 1851, and making their way to Washington County, Wis. There they took up land and followed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. The grandparents passed away a few years later. The parents of Mr. Theis are still living and continue residents of the Badger State. Their family consisted of seven children, six of whom are living, and residents of Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch was born in Washington County, Wis., at the modest home of his par-

ents near Fillmore, Nov. 5, 1856. He acquired his education in the district school and assisted his father on the homestead, remaining with his parents until reaching man's estate. When twenty-two years of age, starting out for himself, he made his way to this county, and began farming on rented land in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, in the year 1878. Three years later he was married, Jan. 13, 1881, to Miss Mary, daughter of Nicholas and Henrietta Holmes, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work.

Mr. and Mrs. Theis commenced the journey of life together in this county. Mr. T. purchased his present farm in the year 1888, and besides this property has 160 acres of improved land with buildings in Pierce County. For a man coming to Nebraska comparatively without means it must be conceded that he has made good headway. He has an interesting little family, including three children, two daughters and a son—Mary A., John W. and Susan. Politically, he is a Democrat.

HON. BRAUD COLE. Residing within the borders of Cass County there are many citizens whose names are an honor and credit to her records, and prominent among them will be found the name of the subject of this sketch. He is a well-known and widely respected gentleman, and is noted not only for his straightforward and honorable characteristics, but for that prosperity and success which gild their possessor with the light of popular admiration. He is one of the oldest residents of Cass County, and lives in South Bend Precinct, where he devotes his time and attention to the prosecution of the business of general farming. He was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, Sept. 20, 1824, the youngest child in a family of eleven. His father, Shadrach Cole, was born in Baltimore County, Md., and his mother was Mary (Mathena) Cole. Grandfather Braud Cole was also born in Baltimore County, Md., and when a young man removed to Pennsylvania. During the Revolutionary War he returned to Maryland, on account of the Indian troubles in Pennsylvania. The great-grandfather was a resident of Maryland, and was a highly educated and refined man. He was one of the progenitors of the Braud family, and held large possessions in Maryland. In all the ancestry great mental vigor and bodily strength are exhibited. Our subject's grandfather was on the frontier, assisting in the protection of the settlers from the depredations of the Indians during the war of the Revolution. He was not an enlisted soldier, but being a strong, earnest patriot, he felt that his first duty was due to his country, and that he should render it all the aid in his power. After the Revolutionary War he removed to Bourbon County, Ky., where he was one of the first settlers. He was very influential, and took an important part in the development of that State. In later years he removed to Ohio, where he joined the great-grandfather in Fairfield County, Sept. 14, 1805. The former settled in that county, removing from Pennsylvania in 1801. The great-grandfather died there when quite old. The grandfather died in Pickaway County, Ohio. The father of our subject also died in Pickaway County, Sept. 24, 1845, aged sixty-seven years. His mother died when our subject was only ten years of age, leaving the following-named children: Elizabeth, Demitt, Sarah, Wesley, Rebecca, Polly, Ann, Shadrach, Ivah, and Braud, our subject.

The earlier years in the life of Mr. Cole were passed on a farm. Possessing a great desire to obtain an education he said to his father: "Give me a chance to educate myself." The father, having a full knowledge of the value of education, gave his consent. Our subject then entered the Blendon Young Men's Seminary, now Otterbein University. There he studied the more advanced branches. He taught school the winter after he entered the university, for which he received $14 per month and boarded himself. He occasionally taught school during the winters following. In 1853 he was married to Miss Harriet Bruner. This lady was an orphan, brought up by our subject's brother Wesley. She was born in Greene County, Ohio, and was the daughter of Joseph Bruner and wife, who had been a Miss Cummins. Her ancestors on both the maternal and paternal side were distinguished, educated people. She studied and improved all her educational advantages, and at the

age of eighteen she engaged in teaching. Her salary was $1.25 per week, "boarding 'round." She was in all respects a splendid girl and a noble woman.

Mr. Cole removed to Lee County, Iowa, in 1851, where he had gone and secured a home before he returned to Ohio to claim his wife. He lived in his Iowa home until 1854, when early in the year he sold his property and moved to the Territory of Nebraska. He stopped at Council Bluffs, Iowa, during the summer of that year, entering Nebraska in the autumn, settling on the now celebrated Walker farm, two miles southwest of Plattsmouth, where, in 1857, he set out the first extensive orchard in the State, containing 2,000 trees. In the same year he pre-empted an additional 160 acres of land. About this time serious trouble began growing out of the conflicting claims of the settlers. To facilitate the amicable settlement of such disputes, Mr. Cole suggested the formation of a "Claim Club," which was accepted and acted upon, a club organized, and he was elected Secretary of the organization. During its existence it formed an important factor in the peaceful settlement of disputes and difficulties, caused principally by the new Government survey of the land.

After Mr. Cole had settled on the Walker farm he recognized the possibilities of the site now occupied by the city of Plattsmouth, intended to purchase it, but failed to carry out his plans, and other parties secured it. He suggested the present name for the proposed city. He was elected a member of the Third Territorial Legislature, where he at once took a prominent place, and was instrumental in securing much important legislation; one of his acts was securing the passage of the law prohibiting cattle and hogs from running at large, which law has been of incalculable benefit to the State, as it made the opening up of the broad prairie lands and their conversion into valuable farms possible, which could not otherwise have been done, by reason of the scarcity and high price of lumber, that would necessarily be required for fencing.

Mr. Cole sold his farm in 1864 and removed to Grand Traverse County, Mich., where he expected to engage in the fruit business, but afterward changed his mind and came back to Nebraska. In order to give his children better educational advantages he removed with his family to Baldwin City, Kan., the seat of Baker University, in 1872. He remained there for two years, and in 1874 he came back to Nebraska and settled in South Bend Precinct, where he has lived ever since.

Our subject and his good wife became the parents of the following-named children: Lester O., Ivah A., Almeda, Sylvia, Myra, Oran, Harland, Emery and an unnamed infant. Of this number Lester, Oran and Harland are deceased. Almeda is now the wife of Rev. T. H. Whorley; she and her husband were missionaries in China for two years. At this time they reside at Exeter, Fillmore Co., Neb. Sylvia is the wife of Rev. T. H. Hull, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now residing at Wahoo, Neb.; Myra is the wife of Prof. Andruss, and resides at Baltley, the seat of Mallalieu University, where she is at the head of the department of oratory and elocution; Emery, now eighteen years old, is attending a course in Mallalieu University. The mother of this family passed from this to a higher life June 2, 1886, while on a visit to her brother in Ohio. A woman of most estimable character and of many lovable qualities, her death was a severe blow to her sorrowing husband and children, and she was sincerely mourned by everyone who knew her.

All the children of our subject who have reached the age of maturity hold high positions in life among the refined and educated classes, and reflect great honor on their parents. Their lives show that no pains were spared to instruct them in the paths of virtue and honor, and they are counterparts of the devout, earnest, Christian lives which have been and are now the attributes of the parents. The farm now occupied by our subject contains 550 acres, located in South Bend Precinct. It is all under the highest state of cultivation, the larger portion enclosed by substantial hedge and wire fences. The buildings are second to none in size in the precinct, and are built very solidly and substantially. The family residence is nicely located, is very large, and is complete in all its appointments, and is a typical home, where love and fraternal affection reign supreme.

Mr. Cole has experienced many of the vicissitudes and changes of life, but he has been in the main very successful, and has prospered until he is now not only one of the wealthiest men, but one of the most highly respected citizens of the southeastern part of the State—in fact wherever he is known he holds the perfect confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. He is interested to the extent of 200 shares in the Mexican Iron Manufacturing Company, of Murango, Mex. He is deeply interested in the religious affairs of his neighborhood, and has always led an upright, consistent Christian life. He was the first Sunday-school Superintendent, and organized the first Sunday-school in Plattsmouth. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ashland; in politics he is a straight Republican.

A good portrait of this pioneer of Nebraska in its Territorial days is given on another page in this ALBUM.

JESSE R. McVAY, of Rock Bluff Precinct, is perhaps as fine an illustration of the self-made man as will often be found. He started out in life for himself with a capital of $5, which he was obliged to spend not long afterward for clothing. He made a practice thereafter of saving $100 a year, and at the time of his marriage had accumulated in this manner the snug sum of $1,850 in cash. This he was enabled to invest judiciously, and he is now numbered among the solid men along the eastern line of this county, who have developed its resources and brought it to its present position.

The parents of our subject were James and Hannah (Lemasters) McVay. The paternal grandfather, John McVay, is supposed to have been a native of Pennsylvania, and married a lady who was probably, as indicated by the records, born in Pickaway County, Ohio. They were residents the most of their lives in Shelby County, that State, where their remains were laid to rest. Of their thirteen children the record is as follows: Betsey became the wife of Dimitt Cole, of whom mention is made in the sketch of W. P. Cole, elsewhere in this volume; Polly, Martha, Minerva, Hannah, Thomas, John, James, Jason, Aaron, Miller and Henry comprise the remainder of the household circle. James McVay and his estimable wife are still living, and have for many years resided on the old home farm in Shelby County, Ohio, where they settled soon after their marriage.

After their marriage the parents of our subject took up their abode in the woods of Shelby County, Ohio, where the father cleared about forty acres, then sold out and purchased another farm of eighty-five acres, which was mostly in a state of cultivation. Upon this he erected good buildings and has since made it his home. Upon that farm the subject of this sketch was born Nov. 10, 1836, and lived there with his parents until a youth of eighteen years; then, desirous of beginning for himself in life, he began working for the farmers of his neighborhood, and was thus employed two years for the consideration of $12.75 per month. In the year 1856, leaving the Buckeye State he made his way to Shelby County, Ill., where he still pursued agriculture at an increased salary, working now for $14 per month about two and a half years.

At the expiration of this time Mr. McVay started on horseback for a visit to his native State, and upon his arrival there commenced working on a farm in Clarke County, being the employe of Mr. William Foreman. He continued with him one year and ten days, then in the spring of 1861 going into Clinton County, operated there, still as a farm laborer, until the fall of 1862. Returning then to Illinois he worked on a farm in Shelby County until the fall of 1864. The Civil War being then in progress he entered the ranks as a member of Company D, 12th Illinois Infantry, and going to the front participated in the battle of Kingston, N. C., where he was wounded by a musket ball in the left cheek. He was confined in the hospital a short time, and upon recovering from his wound contracted typhoid fever and another disease, which kept him in the hospital until the close of the war.

Mr. McVay received his honorable discharge July 4, 1865, and returning to the old homestead in Ohio visited with his parents two weeks, then setting out once more for the Prairie State engaged

to work on a farm in Shelby County for the sum of $30 per month. In the spring of 1866 he rented a farm of his uncle, Caldwell Russell, and the fall following purchased a half interest in a threshing-machine. A year later he sold the machine and commenced working by the month again in Illinois until July 16, 1867. Then going back to Ohio, he was employed in a gristmill until the spring of 1868, when he again set his face westward, sojourning a brief time in Shelby County, Ill., and proceeding thence to Iowa City, Iowa.

The spring of 1869 found our subject again on the soil of Illinois, working on a farm in Tazewell County for Alexander Mooberry, where he remained until completing his preparations for his marriage. This most interesting event of his life occurred on the 9th of November, 1871, the maiden of his choice being Miss Lucy A. Mooberry, a sister of his employer. They remained in Illinois until September, 1872, then came to this county with a view of locating. Being pleased with the outlook, Mr. McVay purchased eighty acres of his present homestead, to which he moved with his young wife on the 11th of February, 1873. Here they have since lived. Two years later Mr. McVay purchased another eighty acres, and has now 160 acres of good land, in productive condition with a neat and substantial dwelling, an ample barn, granaries, corn cribs, an apple orchard and the smaller fruit trees, and in short all the accessories of a modern farm. The fences are mostly of wire, and the land which is not devoted to grain furnishes excellent pasture for the live stock to which Mr. McVay has given considerable attention. He at one time bought and sold land to a considerable extent, realizing good profits.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born two children, a daughter and a son, Jessie M. and Lintie M. The elder was born Aug. 20, 1872, in Tazewell County, Ill., and the younger April 30, 1874, in Cass County, Neb. The parents of Mrs. McVay were John and Lydia (Marion) Mooberry. The father was born in York County, Pa., and was the son of William Mooberry, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, whence he emigrated to Franklin County, Ohio, during its early settlement, and where his family was reared. The mother of Mrs. McV. was a native of Norfolk, Mass., and born in 1805. She came with her parents, Elijah and Lydia Marion, to Ohio about 1815, they settling in Franklin County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Our subject, politically, is a solid Republican, and as a business man and citizen, ranks among the reliable and substantial men of Cass County.

GEORGE HAIN, a prosperous farmer, is a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where he owns a valuable farm of 160 acres on section 23. He was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in December, 1850. His parents were natives of Scotland and came to America in 1849, and located in Trumbull County, Ohio, where they still reside. Mr. Hain is a purely self-made man, being obliged from his early youth to support himself by the labor of his own hands. His first employment was milling, which he followed successfully; having a strong taste for mechanical pursuits, he obtained employment as a sawyer in a sawmill, which he followed for a season, and later he was employed as stationary engineer, which pursuit was especially congenial to him, and which he followed for a long time. He has received a fair school education, to which he has added the knowledge derived by a wide experience and varied observation.

In the autumn of 1877 Mr. Hain came to Cass County, Neb., and for the following two years he worked at farming and operated a threshing-machine. In 1879 he bought eighty acres of wild prairie land, which he proceeded to improve by plowing his land and erecting the necessary buildings for residence and protection of his stock, which he still owns. He has been very prosperous in his venture, and has purchased an additional eighty acres, which, with the original eighty, he has brought to a very high state of cultivation. It has taken years of hard, steady work for him to accomplish this result, and now, after he has attained it, it is exceedingly gratifying to him, as it is the result exclusively of his own energy and ability.

Our subject and Jenna McCool were married

March 1, 1882. The lady is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in Venango County, May 25, 1858. She is a daughter of Robert and Fietta (Shurtz) McCool. Her father died when she was about five years of age. Shortly after his death the mother removed with her children to Trumbull County, Ohio, where they settled, and where her mother still lives. One son has been born to this couple, James, July 24, 1886.

Mr. Hain is one of those live, progressive men who are not content with living in yesterday, and following up the old routine in vogue many years ago, but on the contrary he believes in the advancement of modern ideas and modern methods. The late improved machinery for agricultural purposes is found on his farm, and all the labor-saving inventions that will assist in the household are provided for his wife, by means of which their life is not now one continual round of toil and labor, but they have many hours which they can and do devote to recreation and the advancement of social life of the neighborhood. Both himself and wife are very sociable and take a leading position in the society where they live. They are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His political allegiance is held by the Republican party.

DR. MILTON M. BUTLER, a prominent physician and surgeon of Weeping Water, is one of the oldest settlers of this county, arriving in this State in the year 1870, and becoming a resident of the village three years later. A man of fine capabilities, excellent judgment and good education, he has been an important factor in the building up of the town, and has uniformly entertained a lively interest in everything connected with its welfare. He has a fine residence at the corner of Elm and G streets, and is numbered among the leading men of the place.

Dr. Butler, a gentleman in the prime of life, was born near Greenfield, Hancock Co., Ind., Nov. 15, 1845. He there received the rudiments of his early education, and later entered Earlham College, at Richmond, where he studied for some months. Upon leaving this institution he engaged in the reading of medicine with his brother, Dr. D. W. Butler, who was then located in Dunreith, and with whom he continued a period of ten years. In the meantime he had begun the practice of his profession, but later entered upon a course of lectures at Miami College, in Ohio, and became the regular partner of his brother, with whom he practiced a number of years. On coming to Nebraska, in the fall of 1870, Dr. Butler established himself first in Plattsmouth, on the eastern line of this county, where he remained until 1873. In the month of August of that year he changed his field of operations to Weeping Water, coming to the town at a time when he had only been preceded by one other physician. There were then probably not to exceed 250 people in the place. The town now numbers probably 3,000 souls. Dr. Butler has thus watched the growth and development of one of the most enterprising cities in Southern Nebraska, and has been one of the most generous contributors to its prosperity.

A Republican in politics, Dr. Butler, while keeping himself well posted upon current events, has been no office-seeker, although his natural capabilities have always obtained ready recognition at the hands of his fellow-citizens. He has frequently been pressed into service upon important occasions, serving as Chairman of the County Central Committee, and occupying other positions of trust. During the late election (1888) he served as a Republican elector, and takes satisfaction in the reflection that he was instrumental in the selection of the grandson of Old Tippecanoe for the future President. He was chosen President of the Electoral College of the State at the meeting of that college. He has almost uniformly been a delegate to all the conventions, County, State and National, and is always willing to serve in any capacity where he can do anything which shall result in the furtherance of the principles of which he has been an earnest adherent since old enough to reflect upon men and things and life in its various places.

Dr. Butler became identified with the I. O. O. F. about 1872, while a resident of Plattsmouth, and is one of the warmest advocates of the principles of the order. He has filled every office in Prairie Lodge No. 25, serving as its first Presiding Officer,

and has represented it in the Grand Lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. The local camp in this city was named in his honor, Butler Camp No. 748.

At Weeping Water, Neb., on the 19th of August, 1874, occurred the marriage of our subject with Miss Stella A. Paine. This lady was born at Painesville, Ohio, July 19, 1853, and is the daughter of Hon. Henry Paine, of Lake County, Ohio. Mr. Paine was at one time a member of the State Legislature, and was otherwise prominent in public affairs, serving as County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and in various other official capacities. He married Miss Harriet N. Tuttle, and they became the parents of ten children, all of whom are living. Of these Mrs. Butler was next to the youngest. Her brothers and sisters are located mostly in Nebraska. Mr. Paine met his death by accident, falling from a wagon in 1868, a few days before the first election of Gen. Grant. His widow continued her residence at the old homestead in Painesville, and survived her husband a period of twenty years, her death taking place Jan. 17, 1888.

As may be surmised, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Butler was one of the earliest settlers of Lake County, Ohio, and the founder of Painesville. He emigrated there in the pioneer days, carried on agriculture a number of years, and built up a home for himself in the wilderness, which remained the property of the Paine family for years. The town is located upon a part of the land which he took up from the Government. To Dr. and Mrs. Butler there were born four children, one of whom, Mattie R., the second child, died at the age of two years and nine months. The survivors are: Charie A., Agnes E. and Mildred Mary. These children are being given first-class advantages. The eldest, though only thirteen years of age, is very proficient in music, and they are remarkably promising.

George W. Butler, the father of our subject, was born in Virginia, April 11, 1818, and a week later his mother died. Not long after he was doubly orphaned by the death of his father, and was assigned to a guardian, who bound him out to a farmer in Virginia. Soon after his guardian moved to Ohio. He was reared to manhood in the Buckeye State, whence he migrated to Hancock County, Ind., and was there married to Miss Martha Rawls. They became the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, and most of whom are located in Indiana. Two of the sons are physicians of note, and one is a professor in one of the public schools of Rushville, Ind. The father belongs to the Society of Friends, and is one of the prominent men among this peaceable sect. He makes his home in Fairmount, Ind. Mrs. Martha (Rawls) Butler, the mother, was born Sept. 21, 1814, and departed this life at her home in Fairmount, Ind., May 13, 1880. She was the daughter of John Rawls, a substantial farmer of the Old Dominion.

Dr. Butler and his estimable wife, together with his eldest daughter, are members in good standing of the Congregational Church at Weeping Water. The Doctor has always cherished a warm interest in Sunday-school work, and has always been one of the liberal supporters and pillars of the church. As a business man and citizen he is well spoken of by his fellow-townsmen.

EDWARD A. SACKETT, a product of the Buckeye State, and junior member of the firm of Sackett & Amerman, stands at the head of a flourishing hardware trade in Weeping Water, the house handling a heavy stock of goods in this line, and having a wide and steadily increasing patronage. Mr. Sackett is one of the leading men of the town in business as well as in social circles, and is the owner of valuable property including a fine home on Commercial street, and besides the store he occupies owns another one utilized by Flower Bros. as the city drug-store. Mr. Sackett put up a handsome residence in the summer of 1888, which, with its surroundings, is not only an ornament to the city, but combines all the comforts and conveniences of modern life.

Edward Sackett was born July 28, 1859, at the homestead of his father, Hiram Sackett, in Tallmadge Township, Summit Co., Ohio, a homestead which comprised a tract of valuable land lying among rolling hills and fertile fields, and there spent his

boyhood and youth. His first studies were conducted in the little school-house at the "Six Corners," to which he traveled a distance of about a mile up and down the hills, and when further advanced he entered the High School at Kent, three or four miles from his home, where he completed his education. Then returning to the farm he remained there with his father until a young man of twenty-three years. Leaving Tallmadge in the spring of 1882, he turned his steps westward, and coming to Nebraska, purchased land on section 9, Weeping Water Precinct, this county, from which in its raw state he constructed a good farm. Upon this he turned the first furrow, put out trees, built fences, and during the first three years of his labors here harvested 4,000 bushels of wheat. The only year in which he put in a corn crop, the sixty acres which he devoted to this cereal yielded him 3,600 bushels. He thus secured the capital which laid the foundation of his present business.

In the fall of 1886 Mr. Sackett sold his farm and became a member of the firm of Cole & Sackett, engaging in general merchandising on a large scale. This business was located on I street, and was conducted by our subject and his partner two and one-half years very successfully. In October, 1888, they sold out and dissolved partnership, and less than two weeks later the present firm was organized, and purchased the hardware department of Chase & Churchill's store, opening up with a fine large stock and the promise of future prosperity. Mr. Sackett was reared as it were under the wing of the Republican party, to which he still loyally adheres. He was also trained in the doctrines of the Congregational Church, of which his honored father has been for years a Deacon at Tallmadge, and upon coming to the West identified himself with the same, to which he still belongs, with his estimable wife. He is warmly interested in the religious training of the young, and has been interested in Sunday-school work for many years.

Mr. Sackett found his bride in the West, being married, Oct. 6, 1887, to Miss Nellie Monroe, of Weeping Water, and they have one child, a son, William M., born Aug. 19, 1888. Mrs. Sackett is the daughter of William J. Monroe, and was born Aug. 5, 1865, in Indiana. Of Mr. Monroe and his estimable wife a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Hiram Sackett, the father of our subject, was also born in Tallmadge, Ohio, March 28, 1824, and up to this time has spent his entire life there. He is the son of Deacon Clark Sackett, a native of Connecticut, and one of the pioneers of Tallmadge, a man held in the highest respect by the people of Summit County, and who for many years was one of the pillars of the Congregational Church. Deacon Sackett lived to be quite aged, reared a large family, and died full of years and honors, about 1862. Hiram Sackett is still living a few miles from the farm where he was born and reared, and is worthily bearing the mantle which descended to him from his honored father, being an active member and Deacon of the same Congregational Church, officiating as Clerk, and from his youth up being otherwise foremost among its councils and deliberations. Politically, he still abides with the Republican party.

The mother of our subject, Mrs. Eliza (Treat) Sackett, was the daughter of Richard and Amorett (Hutchins) Treat, and was also born in Tallmadge Township, a few miles from the boyhood home of her husband. They were reared in the same township, becoming members of the same church at an early period in their lives. Grandfather Treat, like Deacon Sackett, was also one of the prominent men of Tallmadge, the owner of a good property, and the father of a large and highly-respected family of children. He suffered many years from inflammatory rheumatism, and passed away about 1872. His excellent wife survived him several years, and died about 1875, being found one morning in a sleep from which she never awakened. To Hiram and Eliza Sackett there were born nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom are living, some of them not far from the homestead, where the mother and father still reside.

Clark Sackett, Jr., an uncle of our subject, owns and occupies the old Deacon Sackett homestead, two and one-half miles west of Tallmadge Center, and which is one of the finest farms in that region. Edward Sackett, our subject, is one of the most worthy representatives of this large family, who for three generations have been landmarks in the his-

tory of the Buckeye State; and coming to Nebraska a young man, if life and health be spared, and he continues here, there is no doubt that he will leave his mark in this section of Nebraska as thoroughly as his progenitors impressed themselves upon the soil of Ohio.

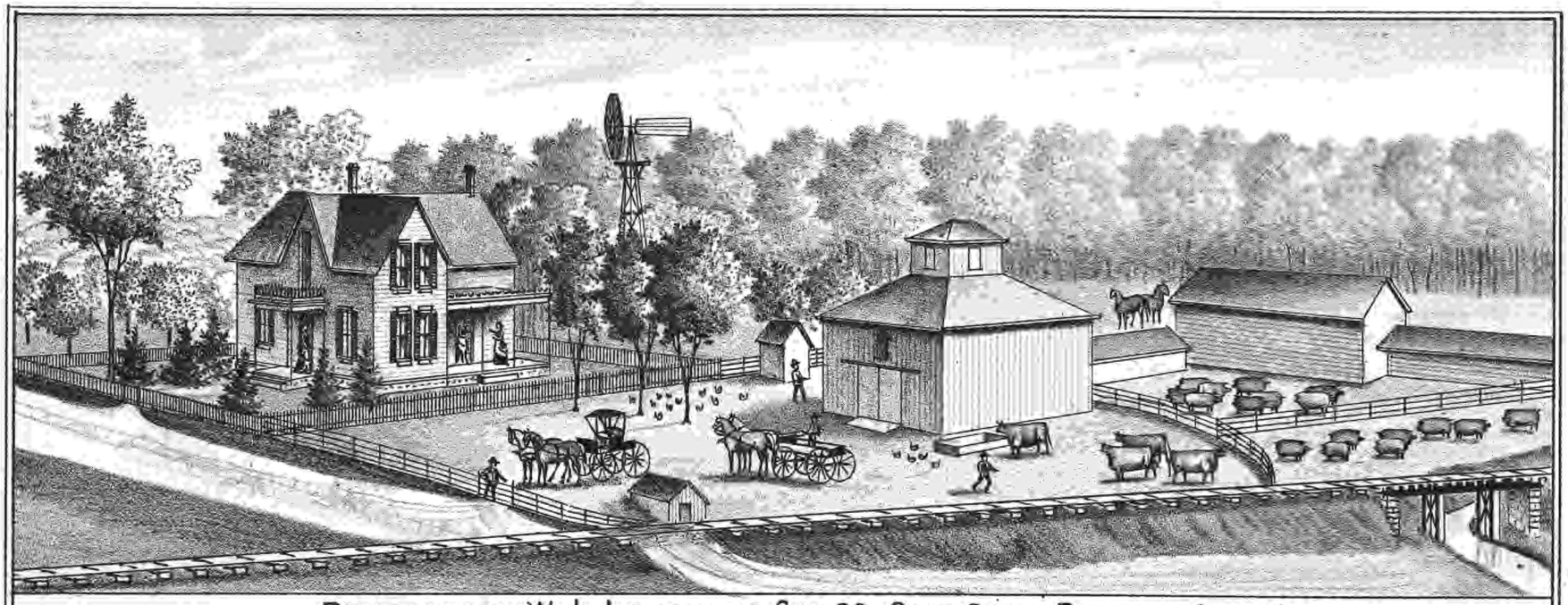
WILLIAM TIGHE. The pioneer element of Mt. Pleasant Precinct is admirably represented by the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch, and who is the owner of a pleasant country home on section 7. His has been a career filled with industry, and in which the exercise of diligence and perseverance has met with its natural reward. Upon coming to Nebraska he battled for many years with the difficulties of life in a new settlement, but from the struggle has emerged with flying colors. He is regarded by the people of his community as an honest man, a good citizen, and one amply worthy of representation in a work of this kind.

The place of the birth of our subject is recorded as near the town of Toronto, Province of Ontario, Canada, and the date March 31, 1840. He is of pure Irish ancestry, being the son of John and Mary A. Tighe, who were both natives of Ireland. They emigrated to the United States after their marriage, and are now residents of this precinct. Their household consisted of seven sons and three daughters, making a large and interesting family, of whom the survivors are recorded as follows: James is married, and numbered among the well-to-do farmers of Centre Precinct, this county; Jane, the wife of Michael Kennedy, together with William and Edward, also resides there; Margaret married John Casey, and they are residents of Richardson County; John lives in Grand Island, this State; Charles and Joseph are residents of this State, the former in Centre Precinct, this county, and the latter in Bradshaw; Mary A., Mrs. James Carper, and Josiah S., live in Mt. Pleasant Precinct.

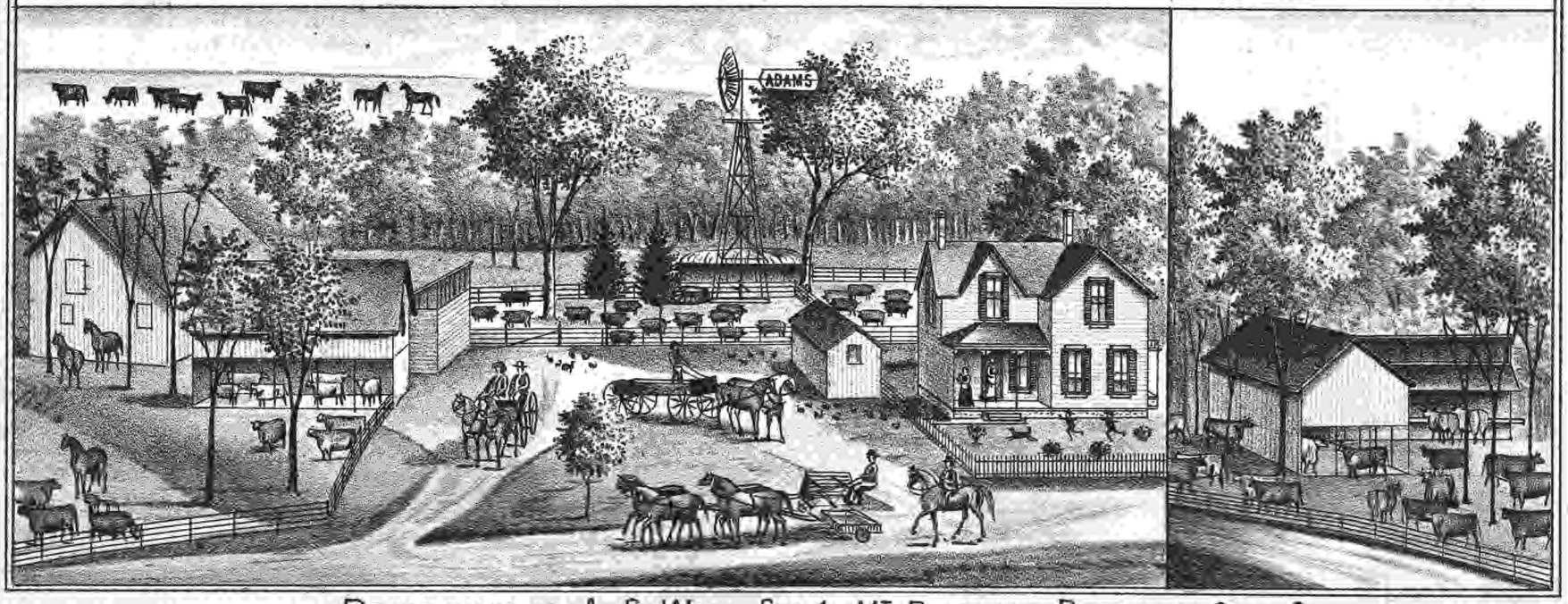
The subject of this sketch was reared to man's estate in the Dominion, receiving a common-school education. He has always been a reader and has thus kept himself well posted upon passing events. He came over into the States after the close of the late Civil War, locating first in Clinton County, Iowa, where he resided a number of years and carried on farming. In the spring of 1873, leaving the Hawkeye State, he came to this county, and traded a portion of his Iowa land for the quarter-section in Mt. Pleasant Precinct which he now lives upon. He has watched the raw prairie developing from its primitive condition into beautiful homesteads and valuable farms, the erection of school buildings, and all the other indications of the advance of civilization, with that satisfaction only felt by the intelligent and progressive citizen. A man who has spent most of his time attending to his own concerns, he is nevertheless public spirited and liberal-minded, and has ever been ready to give his substantial aid to the projects calculated for the advancement of the people around him. His course has been that of a peaceable and law-abiding citizen, who has done good as he has had opportunity, and who will leave a record of which his children need never be ashamed.

The 16th of November, 1879, witnessed the marriage of our subject with Miss Mary Quinn, who was born in Clinton County, Iowa, Sept. 22, 1856. Mrs. Tighe is the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Crowly) Quinn, who were natives of Ireland; the mother is now deceased. They emigrated to America prior to their marriage, indeed when quite young, and the parents of each settled in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Later the family emigrated first to Illinois and then to Iowa. Mrs. Tighe came to this county on a visit in the fall of 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn settled in Linn County, Kan., where they lived for a number of years. The father is now in Cass County. The parental household included eight children, six of whom are living: Ann, Mrs. William Wells; Ellen, Mrs. Thomas Murphy, and Kate, Mrs. Michael Murphy, are residents of Richardson County, Neb.; Hannah lives in Anderson County, Kan., being the wife of Thomas Hunt, who is carrying on farming; John is a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county. Mrs. Tighe is according to age in about the middle of the group.

Mr. and Mrs. Tighe commenced their wedded life together at the modest farm homestead in Cass



RESIDENCE OF W. J. LAUGHLIN, SEC. 22. SALT CREEK PRECINCT, CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF A. S. WILL, SEC. 1., MT. PLEASANT PRECINCT CASS CO.

County, Neb., and they have labored side by side since that time to accumulate their snug property and rear their family. Of their children, five in number, the record is as follows: John Q. was born Jan. 12, 1881; Mary M., Aug. 1, 1882; Thomas J., in 1883; Maggie, Dec. 15, 1884, and Edward J., June 13, 1886. Mr. Tighe, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat. Both he and his estimable wife were reared in the doctrines of the Catholic Church, to which they still loyally adhere.

WILLIAM J. LAUGHLIN. Among the goodly land-holders of this county, and a gentleman respected for his sterling worth and integrity, is the subject of this sketch, who resides on and operates a valuable farm of 360 acres on section 22, Salt Creek Precinct. He was born in North Carolina, March 13, 1830. His earliest recollections are of his home in Randolph County, in that State, followed by the memories of early days in the heavy timber regions of Indiana. He was early in life harnessed to hard work, and for many long weary days he has driven four, five and six yoke of oxen, breaking new land and cultivating it in after years. The subscription schools of those days were his only source for acquiring an education, every opportunity for which he eagerly improved. At the age of twenty he was attacked with the gold fever, and in 1850 he formed a company of several of his neighbors, and they went across the plains to California, their journey ending at Placerville, that State, August 6, they having been a little over four months on the way. This trip was made by the way of Salt Lake, where Mr. Laughlin spent several days among the Mormons. On their arrival in California, our subject with his companions, Winthrop Cheney and James McCauley, took up a placer claim, and worked in the mines for a year, when the former went to Nevada and worked on Gold Run until Oct. 1, 1851, and then started for home. Having had enough of mining life, Mr. Laughlin took passage on the steamer "Oregon" for the Isthmus of Panama, which he crossed, took steamer again for New Orleans, from which city he came up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa, thence by stage to the home of his parents, which at that time was near Mt. Pleasant, Henry Co., Iowa.

The subject of our sketch is a son of John and Mary (Tucker) Laughlin. The father was born in Randolph County, N. C., in 1808. Grandfather James Laughlin was born in Ireland. Grandfather Amos Tucker was a noted stockman in North Carolina, where he was born. Great-grandfather Tucker was a native of England. The parents of our subject were married in North Carolina, where the father was a prosperous farmer. Becoming dissatisfied with his native State, he sold his possessions and removed to Putnam County, Ind. There he resided for about eighteen months, when he removed to the prairies of Henry County, Iowa, settling near Mt. Pleasant before the land had been surveyed by the Government or put on the market. During his later years he removed to Washington County, Iowa, where he died in 1865, aged fifty-seven years. The mother died in December of the same year, aged fifty-five years. Our subject is the eldest of the family of eleven children, who were named as follows: William J., our subject; McKenzie G., Louisa, Nancy, Charity, John M., Benjamin F., Ephraim D., Jesse, Thomas and Mary, of which number the following only survive: William J., Louisa, Benjamin F. and Ephraim D.

After his return from California, William J. Laughlin remained on the farm with his father until he was married to Miss Mary Coleman, Dec. 8, 1853. This lady was born in Knox County, Ohio, where she lived at home with her parents until she was a young lady of seventeen, when, in the fall of 1850, her parents removed with their entire family to Iowa, settling near the town of Mt. Pleasant. Her parents were Elic and Catherine (Beiler) Coleman. The father was born in Connecticut, and the mother in Maryland. Her mother was reared to womanhood in Knox County, Ohio, where she lived with her parents, who were married in Ohio, and had a family of two children when they removed to Knox County. From there in 1850 they removed to Henry County, Iowa, where they resided until 1861, when they joined our subject and his wife. Her father died in 1873, aged sixty-nine years, and

her mother died at Greenwood in 1881, seventy-eight years old.

The wife of our subject is one of a family of eleven children, who are named as follows: Jane, Matilda, Ebenezer, Mary, Lucy, William, John H., Amy, Chalker, Amanda and Luther. The Coleman family originally came from England. The great-grandparents settled in Connecticut in the early Colonial days, and the great-grandfather, Ebenezer, was a soldier in the War for Independence, in which he took no insignificant part. On the maternal side, the Beilers were of German blood, and came to America in Colonial times, settling in Maryland. Grandfather Beiler died a comparatively young man, and the lineage cannot be traced any further. The wife of our subject received her education in the common schools of Ohio, and in the High School at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. After being graduated from the High School, she was employed as a teacher in Henry County, Iowa, for three years, and she was the first teacher in charge of a public school in the western portion of Cass County, Neb.

After his marriage our subject continued farming in Henry County until 1859, when he was again seized with the gold fever; this time his destination being Pike's Peak, Col. He, in company with several of the leading citizens of Mt. Pleasant, among whom was William Coleman, made preparations for and began their journey to the land of gold. When they had gone as far on their way as Salt Creek, they met large numbers of disheartened men, who were returning from the gold regions, and the reports which these men gave were so discouraging that the party westward bound determined to discontinue their journey. Mr. Laughlin became so infatuated with the location and appearance of the country in which they then were, that he laid claim to 160 acres of land through a "squatter's right." He dug a cellar and hewed his logs ready to be built into a house. He also plowed sixteen acres of the ground before he returned to his family in Iowa. In the fall of 1859 he came back to his claim with his family, with the avowed purpose of making it his future home, and he has since made it so.

The following spring Mr. Laughlin began the improvements which have now reached such a perfect state, by setting out an extensive grove and plowing the balance of his land. The house that he built of logs has long since given way to a more convenient and roomy residence. To enter into all the details of the history pertaining to their first year in Nebraska would require a volume, and would be but a repetition of thousands of other histories, as contemporaneous with that of our subject. At that time their nearest post-office was Plattsmouth, thirty-four miles away, and the nearest railroad was at Ottumwa, Iowa. He has hunted deer and antelope on the site occupied by the now flourishing city of Lincoln.

Our subject, profiting by the experience of his life with his father in the new country, worked hard and with unbounded energy, having an abiding faith in the future possibilities of his adopted State. He devoted himself to the task of doing his share toward the development of the country of his choice. He is always found to be generous, and ready to lend substantial assistance to those who stand in need. He is large-hearted and public-spirited, and holds the welfare of the people in his locality near to his heart. Himself and wife are the parents of seven children: Oscar W., Mary Catherine and Ebenezer G. were born in Iowa; John C., Lucy Matilda, Benjamin F. and Nellie A. were born in Nebraska. Lucy M. is deceased. The entire family form an important factor in the social life of the precinct.

Mr. Laughlin has filled many positions of trust received at the hands of his neighbors, devoting a good share of his public life to the educational interests of the community. He has been a member of the School Board for sixteen years, and assisted in the organization of the first public school in Salt Creek Precinct. The district embraced at that time all of the precinct, the northern half of Greenwood, and the western half of South Bend. He is a member of Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4, K. T., of Lincoln, Neb., and holds a prominent position in Unity Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Greenwood. In politics he is a Democrat, and was delegate to the State Democratic Convention in 1884. He has been a delegate to the various County Conventions of his party, and has served as a member of the

County Central Committee, has been nominated twice by his party for the office of Representative, once from Cass County and the second time from Cass and Saunders Counties. Himself and wife are consistent members of the Christian Church at Greenwood.

The fine residence and buildings of Mr. Laughlin are shown in a view on another page of this volume.

BURWELL SPURLOCK came to Cass County in the opening years of his manhood, and cast in his lot with the early pioneers of Nebraska, and he has ever since been a resident of Plattsmouth. He has figured in the civic life of the county, and has been identified with its business interests. He now holds a clerkship in the store of E. G. Dovey & Sons, where he has been for over eleven years, which alone is sufficient evidence of unusual faithfulness. His honorable and upright life has been an influence for good in this community, where he is held in the highest respect and consideration.

Our subject was born in that part of Cabal County now Wayne County, W. Va., June 28, 1835, and is the eldest son of Wesley and Mary A. (Booton) Spurlock, of whom see sketch. He was in his third year when his parents moved to Illinois, and therefore has no recollection of the scenes of his birth. He first attended school near Abingdon, Ill., and later, when about twelve years old, entered the Cherry Grove Presbyterian Seminary, and remained a student for about two years. His faithful parents carefully trained him to a useful and industrious life, and early instilled into his mind those high principles of honor, justice and truth, which have been the guides to a pure and conscientious life. He made his home with his father until the removal to Iowa, assisting in the improvement of the farm, and doing all kinds of farm work in the days when machinery did not play so important a part in lightening the labors of the farmer, the cradle being then the most improved method of harvesting the grain; splitting rails being his work in the winter season. Soon after the family moved to Greenwood, he engaged as clerk for Sarpy & English, the former being a pioneer of Nebraska, for whom Sarpy County (where he had charge of a station of the American Fur Company, and was engaged as an Indian trader) had been named. He first agreed to work for the firm for a month. All stores in those days had liquor for sale, and the store in which he was employed was no exception. At the end of a month his employers were so satisfied with his services that they wished to engage him for a year. But, mindful of the instructions of his parents, who had taught him to abhor the liquor traffic, he told them that he could not work for them and sell liquor, and they readily excused him from that duty. There was in that vicinity, as in all new countries, the usual percentage of men only a step removed from barbarism, who on the slightest pretext were ready to reek vengeance on the unfortunate offender. One of those men of Belial came into the store one day where young Spurlock was clerk and called for whisky. He took the man one side and told him he could not sell him liquor, and the reason why. The man said that was all right, and went away expressing his approval. A few days later the same man came in again and called for whisky, and when our subject refused to sell him any, he cursed him and said that he would cut his heart out. Mr. Spurlock grabbed an ax that stood near him, as a means of self defense, and emphatically told him that he would chop him into mincemeat before he would sell him a drop of whisky. Seeing that the young clerk was not frightened by his threats he laughed and said it was all a joke. In the fall of 1855 our subject, wishing to improve his education, entered the Iowa Wesleyan University. There were no railroads in Iowa at that time, and he was obliged to go to his destination on the old stage coach, and while on the road a terrific storm struck them, and on account of the excessive rain and unusual flood of the streams, a bridge gave way under the weight of the stage coach, and he narrowly escaped drowning, but he managed to get out of the water and the wreck, and assisted the driver in rescuing the horses. After attending the university but a few terms, he then came to the Territory of Nebraska, arriving in Plattsmouth April 1, 1856. The city

had been platted previous to that time, and a speculation in house lots ran high. There was then one store here, kept in a log building by Messrs. Slaughter & Vallery, and they engaged the services of our subject as clerk. He continued with them until 1858, and during that time was Deputy Postmaster. The store then changed hands, and young Spurlock was retained in the employ of his first employers' successor for a time. He subsequently engaged with Tuttle & Hanna, who kept a large establishment, and did a large business during the Pike's Peak excitement, selling supplies and mining appliances to the emigrants. Those emigrants who were eagerly pressing forward across the vast plains, then known as the "Great American Desert," in search of gold in the rocky barriers that rise on the Western horizon, were many of them a novel study to the lover of human nature, and displaying as they did so many varieties of it, ranging from grave to gay; men of decision and determination, men of weak and careless natures, and men of noble characters, with those of vicious tendencies, traveling side by side, all aiming for the same goal. On many of the wagons was inscribed in large letters, "Pike's Peak or Bust." Alas! for the hopes of man. It is unnecessary to say here that most of them came back in a condition expressed by the last word of the legend just referred to.

In 1861 Mr. Spurlock was elected County Clerk, running as an independent candidate. His administration of the affairs pertaining to that office was so eminently satisfatory that he was afterward three successive times unanimously nominated for the position by Republican Conventions, and was three times re-elected. After his fourth term expired he refused to be a candidate again. Retiring from office, he engaged in the real-estate business with R. B. Windham, for awhile, and then accepted a position as clerk in the Burlington & Missouri River land-office, and acted in that capacity until the office was removed to Lincoln, a few months later. Clark & Plummer then secured his services as salesman and book-keeper, and he remained with them until they sold out five years afterward. Our subject then made a new move, and going to Falls City, engaged in the real-estate business for one year. Then Plattsmouth again became his home, and he obtained a situation as clerk in Dovey's establishment, and has remained there ever since.

Mr. Spurlock was married, Nov. 1. 1860, to Miss Isabella Smiley Davis, and their union has been blessed by the birth of one son, George M., to whom they are giving every advantage to obtain a good education, and he is now a student at the DePauw University. Mrs. Spurlock was born in Andrew County, Mo., and is a daughter of the late William H. Davis, a well-known pioneer of Cass County, who was prominent in public life here in the early days of the settlement of the county. He was born in Tennessee, and was a son of Wade H. Davis, a native of South Carolina. The latter went to Tennessee when he was a young man, and from there to Missouri, and was a pioneer of Andrew County, where he entered a tract of Government land and carried on farming there until he died. The father of Mrs. Spurlock moved from Tennessee to Illinois when a young man, and married, in Fulton County, that State, Sarah Elizabeth Windham, a native of Virginia, and a daughter of Kinchen and Betsy (Barnes) Windham. Mr. Davis moved from Illinois to Andrew County, Mo., and he being quite well educated for these times, taught school there and served as Justice of the Peace. He was opposed to slavery and was in favor of the free-soil system, consequently Missouri became rather too warm a place for him, and he returned to Illinois about 1848. He bought a farm in Vermont Township, Fulton County, and lived there until 1852, when he sold the farm and once again crossed the Mississippi to find a home in the West. He went up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to St. Joseph, Mo., and from there with teams to Glenwood, Iowa. Soon after settling there he was appointed Sheriff, and when the term expired, was re-elected to that position. He built a home in the village for himself and family. In 1853 he visited Nebraska with others, while it was still held by the Indians, their titles not having been abrogated, and he and his friends paid the savages $100 to let them select lands for themselves. In 1824 Mr. Davis and his family crossed the border and spent a few months on his claim in Rock Creek, five miles west of the present site of Plattsmouth. In order to secure a good title to the land, he had built a log cabin

Elizabeth S. Shafer William Henry Shafer

on the place, in which his family lived. During that year the stage line was established by his place, and he was appointed Postmaster of the post-office, that was established at that time in his house. The land had not been surveyed when he settled on it, and he joined the Claim Club Association, and was made Secretary of it. He assisted in the organization of the county, and was the first County Clerk. In 1862 he moved to Marysville, Mo., and resided there until his death, July 12, 1875, his wife dying two years later, Aug. 4, 1877. They were both prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock are also identified with that church, being among the leading members of that denomination in Plattsmouth, Mr. Spurlock having assisted in organizing the society, and been active in building up the church, and has for over twenty-five years been Recording Steward. In politics he was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Cass County and the State, and has ever since been a stanch supporter of the same.

WESLEY A. DAVIS is a level-headed, clear-thinking farmer, one of the first settlers of Cass County, residing on a well-improved farm on section 31, Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He may well lay claim to the appellation of pioneer, for he has been a resident of the State since 1856, when he came with his parents and settled in what is now known as Liberty Precinct, where his father had purchased 160 acres of wild land. At that time it contained a rude log cabin and a small field of plowed land, which amounted to but little value. At that time neighbors were so few that there was but one house between their home and Plattsmouth.

Our subject was born in Yadkin County, N. C., June 16, 1851. He is the son of Ruel R. and Biddy Davis. The parents were both natives of North Carolina. The father died in 1861; the mother is still living in Weeping Water Precinct. Mr. Davis is one of a family of nine children: Stephen A., who resides in Plattsmouth; Orlando J., who resides in Otoe County, as does Brantley H., Wesley A.; William R. resides in Avoca Precinct; Julia A. is now the wife of William Jamison, and resides in Weeping Water; John H. was born Nov. 3, 1857, and now resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. It is claimed that he was one of the first white children born within the limits of Cass County. The children deceased were named Eunice and Joseph.

The subject of this sketch has always lived on a farm, amid the stirring scenes incident to the development of a new country, and by the death of his father, when he was but thirteen years of age, he was thrown upon his own resources, and was obliged to render all the assistance possible to the other members of the family. He assisted one of his brothers in working a farm which he had rented, and also worked for neighboring farmers whenever occasion offered. It was owing to this mode of life that he was deprived of the opportunity for acquiring an education by attending school. But he has studied and read all available books and papers, and closely observed events as they occurred. until he now possesses a large fund of practical knowledge, the greater portion of which has been learned in that best of all schools—experience.

The subject of our sketch and Alice Harmon were married Dec. 19, 1876, in Mills County, Iowa, where the lady was born Sept. 18, 1859. She is the daughter of Francis M. and Minerva Harmon. Both parents were natives of Indiana, and settled in Mills County in 1856. Her father was in the army during the late war; he was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and which resulted in his death. Her mother is now the wife of Joshua Boyd; she resides in Washington Territory. The parents of the lady had a family of three children; her brother Fielding resides in Washington Territory; Alice is the wife of our subject, and Mary E., now the wife of William R. Davis, resides in Avoca Precinct. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have one adopted child—Lulu M.

After his marriage our subject resided in Rock Bluff Precinct for four years. He then removed to Liberty Precinct, where he lived a short time; in the summer of 1883 he settled in his present home, where he owns 120 acres of land, which he

has very highly improved, by the erection of a neat and pleasant dwelling-house, which is comfortably furnished throughout, conveniently arranged barns and other out-buildings for the care and protection of his stock and crops. The farm is divided into conveniently sized fields by permanent wire fences and well-cared-for hedges. The farm presents a picture of industry and untiring zeal; a fine orchard and groves of trees add beauty and value as well.

Mrs. Davis, the wife of our subject, came with her mother to Cass County and settled in Rock Bluff Precinct, where she lived up to the time of her marriage with Mr. Davis. Mrs. Davis is an active and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; they take a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the best interests of the people among whom they live. They occupy a prominent position in the social life of the community, and are honored and respected. In political matters he is a Democrat, and takes great interest in the success of his party. He has served as School Treasurer in Mt. Pleasant District four years. He is a leading member of the I. O. O. F., belonging to the Lodge at Weeping Water. He never has sought and does not care for political or public preferment.

AARON L. VAN DOREN, a noted and successful breeder of English Shire and Cleveland Bay horses, resides in Salt Creek Precinct, where he owns a valuable, highly improved farm of 245 acres of land, on which he settled when he came to Nebraska in 1880. The gentleman was born in Chester, Morris Co., N. J., on the 8th of March, 1842. He lived in his native place until he was a lad fourteen years of age, when he migrated with his parents to Mills County, Iowa. In the years prior to their leaving New Jersey he attended the excellent schools of Newark, in that State, consequently he had a good educational training when they went to Iowa. There, however, the advantages were meager, and presented a striking contrast to the schools in the East. Their first residence in Iowa was in the typical log house, built not for beauty, but for comfort and shelter, and it can be truly said that the log cabins of our country have been the homes and birthplace of many of the brightest intellects and noblest lives that have come to this world on which we live.

The father of our subject died when his son was only fourteen years of age, leaving the mother and our subject, with his brothers John and George, at home in charge of the farm. John died in 1859, leaving the two surviving brothers to care for the mother and the farm. The father was a very energetic, pushing man, and his sons inherited from him that very desirable quality. The two sons continued on the farm with their mother until the opening of the late Civil War, when, in response to President Lincoln's first call for 300,000 men, our subject enlisted for three years, or during the war, at Sidney, Iowa, Aug. 27, 1861. He, with his comrades, went to Davenport to Camp McClellan, and then to Camp Harland, at Mt. Pleasant, where they were drilled and instructed in the science of war. Leaving Camp McClellan they departed for the seat of war in the South, by the way of St. Louis. The remainder of their military education was obtained by actual experience under Confederate fire.

The command of which our subject was a member took an active part in the battles of Springfield and Pea Ridge, Mo., where the 4th Iowa Cavalry did effective service. Our subject was a member of Company A, of this regiment. Beginning with the Missouri campaign, the regiment was actively and continuously employed, and was present and took part in the engagements at Helena, Ark., Grenada, Jackson, Guntown and Osage, Miss., finding themselves at last a part of Grant's army around Vicksburg. His brother George was killed near our subject, being the third man from him, in the same rank. In this engagement eight companions of our subject were killed and nine wounded inside of twenty minutes. During the siege of Vicksburg our subject re-enlisted as a veteran in Company A, 4th Iowa Cavalry, when he was granted a furlough of thirty days, which gave him an opportunity to visit his home and friends. At the expiration of his leave of absence he rejoined his regiment at Memphis, Tenn.

After rejoining his regiment our subject accom-

panied it, and participated in the engagements at the Big Blue and Monticello, Mo., Selma, Ala., and Columbus, Ga., besides taking part in many skirmishes, reconnoitering and foraging expeditions. They were at Macon, Ga., when Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House. They then went to Atlanta, Ga., when they were sent to Davenport, Iowa, where they were mustered out, and honorably discharged Aug. 24, 1865. At Vicksburg he was made a Corporal, and in 1864, at Louisville, he was promoted to Duty Sergeant, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. During his entire term of service, covering a period of four years, he never missed a roll call. Our subject and his comrade, Jacob Barnett, had the best records of any members of the regiment, and the commanding officer not wishing to make any distinction between the two, who were equal in every respect, granted them both a duty furlough of forty days, as a reward for duties well and faithfully performed. In 1865 he returned home and began farming.

In July, 1866, Mr. Van Doren and Miss Sarah E. Hill were married. The lady is a daughter of Edmund and Harriet (Morey) Hill. The father of this lady was born in Ohio, and the mother in Maine. The parents went to Henry County, Iowa, in 1844, and there lived for a period of eighteen years, when they removed to Mills County, Iowa. Her father was a wagon-maker, and by his industry he became the owner of a farm in Mills County, Iowa. In the years 1854–57 he visited the gold mines in California, and then returned to his family in Iowa. His sons, who are living in that State, continued to write him such flattering letters, and described the country in such glowing terms, that they induced their father, at his advanced age, to sell his home in Mills County and remove to California, which he did in 1874, and lived there until his death, which occurred Dec. 6, 1887, when he was sixty-eight years old. The mother is still living, at Cedarville, Cal., aged sixty-nine years.

Mrs. Van Doren is the second eldest in a family of seven children, her brother Daniel E. being older; and George F., Alvin (who died when one year old), Nellie A., Charley (who died when four years old), and Eva M. are younger. Sarah E. was born in Henry County, Iowa, where she lived with her parents until she was sixteen years old, when she went with them to Mills County, Iowa. At the age of seventeen she began teaching school, which she continued for three years. After her marriage she lived with her husband in Mills County, Iowa, until they came to Nebraska in 1880.

The father of our subject, William Van Doren, was born in New Jersey, where he was a farmer. He moved to Mills County, Iowa, in 1855, settling near Emerson, where he prospered and owned a large and valuable farm. He became widely known as an excellent judge of cattle and horses. He died on his homestead in 1856, aged fifty-four years. The mother, Perthenia (Drake) Van Doren, was also a native of New Jersey; she was married twice, and one child was the result of her first union, named James A. Lusk, now an esteemed citizen and farmer of Logan, Harrison Co., Iowa. Eight children were born to her after her second marriage, who were named: Ann Maria, Nancy J., Caroline, William, Mary E., George W., John (now dead), and our subject, Aaron L. George was married, became the father of a son, and is now dead; Ann M. resides at Alexander, Dak.; Nancy resides in Lawrence, Mills Co., Iowa; Caroline resides in Topeka, Mason Co., Ill.; William resides in Malvern, Iowa; Mary E. is the wife of William J. Baldwin, for a sketch of whose life see another page of this volume. After her husband's death, the mother lived on the old homestead, where she died in 1886, eighty-five years old. The Van Doren homestead is now owned jointly by the heirs, but all of them have homes of their own, so none of the family live there.

The paternal grandparents of our subject came to America from Holland, and settled in New Jersey in the early Colonial times. The mother's people came from England at a very early date, and settled in New Jersey.

A family of six children have been born to our subject and his wife, named: Edgar W.; Flora, who died aged three months; Frank H., Freddie L., Nellie M. and Raymond. His wife is a lady of culture and refinement; kind and hospitable, she takes and holds one of the first places in the social life of the precinct. Coming to the West as she

did at an early age, the toils, privations and dangers of pioneer life are not strange to her, she having borne unflinchingly her full share as a dutiful daughter and faithful wife, and she has richly earned the life of competence and ease which is now her portion.

Mr. Van Doren is a gentleman who presents an ideal of manly beauty and strength; he is rather above the medium stature, well and strongly built, a frame closely knit, with sinewy muscles, he has all the attributes that make him a man of extraordinary physical power. He is a man of great force of character, and makes his individuality felt and recognized by all. His career as a soldier is one of which he may be exceedingly proud. There may have been others who possessed one equally as good, but no one surpasses him in that respect. Bearing all the privations, discharging every duty, however dangerous, unflinchingly, seeing his only brother shot down at his side, and exposing his own life to the same fate, show him to be a man of courage and resolution. In tracing his ancestry back to the early days of our country, no flaw or stain can be found attaching to any of the name, but each one faithfully discharged every duty of patriotism and honor devolving upon them.

The love of horses exhibited by our subject is inherited from his father, and he has cultivated it from his earliest childhood. The horse was an object of great delight to him in his early years, and in his later life and during the time of the Rebellion he held constant companionship with the graceful members of the equine tribe, and it is therefore no wonder that in his years of mature manhood he should engage in a business having for its purpose the breeding and development of the most noble animal of creation. Such has been his experience, the result of study and observation, that his judgment in all matters relating to stock-raising is accepted by his neighbors without question, it being proverbial, and the farm which he has devoted to this purpose presents to the eye of the observer a place perfect in all its details, designed especially for the comfort and accommodation of the many fine specimens of the horse—the property of our subject. His farm is well improved by substantial fences, large and conveniently arranged barns, and a commodious, well-furnished dwelling-house, a choice orchard, and numerous groves and numbers of ornamental trees. A large supply of pure water is available, made convenient to the barns and dwelling by a system of piping from a large tank, filled by a pump operated by a large windmill. A view of the place is shown on another page of this work.

Our subject is Junior Vice-Commander of the G. A. R. Post at Greenwood, and is Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias. He is a School Director of District No. 81, and is now serving his third term. In politics he is a strict Republican, and takes a lively interest in the success of that party.

FRED WEHRBEIN is one of the leading farmers of Plattsmouth Township, and his highly productive farm, one of the most valuable estates in this locality, is sufficient evidence that he has met with more than ordinary success in his chosen calling. He comes of an ancient German family, and is a son of Frederic Wehrbein, who was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, and was there united in marriage to Amalia Goedike. There were eight children born unto them, namely: Wilhelmina, Amalia, Charlotte, Dorothea, Frederic (who died in infancy), our subject, William and Gustine; the latter is deceased.

In 1855 Mr. Wehrbein emigrated to the United States with his family, and located in Jefferson County, Wis., where he was prosperously engaged in farming for some years. In 1868 he removed to Nebraska with his wife and children, and made his home here until his death, his wife also dying here. He was a capable, self-reliant man, and while acquiring a competency contributed to the material welfare of Cass County.

The subject of this sketch was born in the home of his fathers in far-away Germany, June 14, 1848, and but seven years had passed over his head when he left the Fatherland with his parents and came to the United States, of which he was to become a useful citizen after attaining manhood. He continued to live with his parents until his marriage. He first purchased eighty acres of land on section 18,

Plattsmouth Precinct, now included in his present farm, and the good success that he had in managing it enabled him to buy more land, until he is now the possessor of as fine a farm as is to be found in Cass County, comprising 227 acres in all. It is under good tillage, and is amply supplied with everything necessary for carrying on agriculture after the most approved methods. Mr. Wehrbein has erected a conveniently arranged, substantial dwelling, corn cribs and other necessary out-buildings, and everything about the place wears an air of neatness and thrift.

To the wife who presides over his pleasant home Mr. Wehrbein was united in marriage in this county, in January, 1873. Her maiden name was Margaret Hagel, and she is also a German by birth. Mrs. Wehrbein's parents, Anton and Theresa (Schoeule) Hagel, were likewise natives of Germany, who emigrated to this country and spent their last years in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Wehrbein have five children living, namely: Ida, Emma, Mary, John and William. Frederic, their eldest child, died at the age of nine months.

Mr. Wehrbein is a manly, upright man, of good financial ability, and prompt and methodical in his business habits, In him the Presbyterian Church finds a useful and earnest member. Mrs. Wehrbein is a much esteemed lady, was reared in the Catholic Church, and has remained true to the faith of her forefathers. Politically, Mr. W. is a Democrat.

WILLIAM HENRY SHAFER is distinguished in the annals of Cass County as being the second oldest settler in point of settlement, and to him and men of like energy, enterprise and ability, does it owe its present importance and prosperity. He took up his residence in Plattsmouth in 1854, when there was scarcely another habitation for miles around, shrewdly noting its eligible position for a town site, and it is with pleasure that he has witnessed the various stages of its growth from the wild, lonely prairie, and then a struggling village, to its present size and importance as the metropolis of one of the finest counties and richest farming regions in the State, and it must be to him a source of satisfaction that he has had a hand in bringing about this marvelous change. He is extensively engaged in the real-estate business in this city, aside from devoting much time to looking after his private interests, as he has a large amount of property, and at one time owned 1,000 acres of land in Cass County, besides 1,500 acres in other parts of Nebraska and Iowa.

The subject of this biographical notice was born in Pendleton County, Ky., and his father, Frederic Shafer, was likewise born in that State, Harrison County being the place of his birth. His father, Henry Shafer, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married. His first wife died there, and he married a second time, the grandmother of our subject being his second wife. After his second marriage he resided in Mercer County, his native State, until his removal to Kentucky with several other families. They made the journey from Pittsburgh down the Ohio River in a flatboat. The country through which they passed presented a very different appearance from what it does to-day, the picturesque banks of the stream being thickly wooded with tall, centuries-old trees. But in the depths of the primeval forest lurked the implacable enemy of the early settlers, the Indian; and once on the way they were attacked by the hostile aborigines, but all escaped unharmed. The grandfather of our subject took up a tract of heavily timbered land in Harrison County, after his arrival in Kentucky, and cast in his lot with the pioneers of that State. The land had never been surveyed, and he marked the boundaries of his claim by blazing trees. The Indians being numerous, the settlers were obliged to build a fort, to which they could flee on occasion of hostile demonstrations from them. The men had frequently to go out on scouting expeditions, and Mr. Shafer was with Poe on one of these when Mr. Poe killed the Indian chief, Big Foot. There were no markets in that part of the country for farm products for some years, and the people lived in the most primitive manner. The grandmother of our subject used to spin, weave, and make up all the cloth used in the family, and the skins of wild animals were utilized to make clothing. After several years of hard labor, and the patient endurance of hardships, Mr. Shafer cleared a fine farm,

which remained his home until death claimed him. His wife then removed to Illinois with her son John, and died at his home in Vermilion County. She was the mother of nine children, of whom the father of our subject was one.

The latter was reared in Harrison County, but after marriage he moved to Pendleton County, in the same State, and bought timbered land, from which he cleared a farm. He built a log house for a dwelling, and in that humble abode his son, of whom we write, first opened his eyes to the light of day. The father engaged in general farming there for several years, then took up his residence in Gallatin County, where he bought a partially improved farm. In 1836, seven years later, we find him among the pioneers of Decatur County, Ind., where he purchased a tract of land, which he cultivated during his six years' residence there. After that he spent eight years in Tipton County, and then he found a home in Nebraska with his son, our subject, until his death, Oct. 3, 1867, at the advanced age of seventy-eight. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Jones, and she was a daughter of Joshua Jones, of Pennsylvania. She was born in Harrison County, Ky., and died at the home of a daughter in Cass County, this State, April 5, 1865. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: Seth, Milton, Thomas, William H., Joshua and Harriet.

William Shafer was four years old when his parents moved to Gallatin County, and about twelve years old when they crossed the border to take up their abode in Indiana, the removal being made with wagons. The home that his father selected comprised a tract of land in the wilderness, and there our subject was reared amid the pioneer influences that often serve to bring out strength of character and manly self-reliance. The household lived in the most simple manner, luxuries being almost unattainable; the mother did all her cooking before the fire in the rude fireplace, and it was her skillful hands that made all the clothing for her family. Our subject made his home with his parents until he was about twenty years of age, although he had previously worked out by the day or month, receiving for wages fifty cents a day in harvest seasons and $8 a month at other seasons of the year. At the age mentioned he went to Switzerland County, Ind., with two of his brothers, and they rented land and engaged in agricultural pursuits for two years at that point. Our subject then married, and after that rented land and farmed it on its own account for three years. We next hear of him in Tipton County, where he invested the money that he had accumulated in a 100-acre tract of timbered land, at $2 an acre. He built a primitive log structure, with an earth and stick chimney at one end of it, and in that house he and his wife took up their abode. Pioneer conditions still obtained in that part of the country, from which the primeval forests had not yet been eliminated by the ax of the settler; nor had the wild turkeys, deer, wolves and other wild animals fled before the advancing steps of civilization, but venison and the delicious meat of the wild turkey often set forth the table of the settler. Mr. Shafer cleared and cultivated twenty-five acres of his land, and made his home on it until 1854. In the spring of that year he sold his land, and migrating with his family to Iowa, purchased a tract of timbered land, comprising 500 acres, near Glenwood, opposite Plattsmouth, and there resided from May 25 until November 19. His removal to that place had been by rail to Madison, Ind., where he had embarked on a steamer for Bethlehem, Iowa, traveling on the waters of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. He paid his first visit to Nebraska April 25 of that year, and pre-empted the land where he now lives, which now forms a part of the city. May 19 he erected a log house on the place, with a stick and mud chimney, and a few months later moved into it with his family. At that time there were but two houses in Plattsmouth, and the Indian titles had not been quieted, but after the ratification of the treaties, the Government sold the land for $1.25 an acre. In 1855 Plattsmouth was surveyed, and Mr. Shafer assisted in the first survey by carrying the chain. Two men named Martin and O'Neill had kept a store on the opposite side of the river, and had later become the proprietors of the town site, and had platted the city. They both died here. In 1855 a post-office was established here, it being kept in a log building that was for some years used for a store, and the

mail came once a week from Glenwood, Iowa. After settling here Mr. Shafer turned his attention to the improvement of his land, a part of which was open prairie and a part of it covered with brush. In August, 1850, he commenced freighting across the plains to Denver, starting with two wagons laden with flour, with three yokes of oxen to each wagon. Two men accompanied him, and they took provisions and cooked and camped by the way. The Indians were at that time peaceable and friendly, and did not attempt to molest them. Buffaloes, deer, antelopes and other wild game were plentiful and were seen nearly every day. It took three months to make the round trip to and from Denver, and each year after that he made two trips across the plains until 1868, and then made trips from Julesburg to Denver. During that year he also made two trips from Denver to Ft. Wallace, Kan., a distance of 160 miles, for the purpose of teaming lumber, and during the time he killed several buffaloes. The Indians were then hostile, but he fortunately never happened to encounter them. In 1879 Mr. Shafer freighted from Denver to the Upper North Platte, and also for the contractors on the Union Pacific Railroad, between the Upper North Platte and Echo Canyon, and from Bayant City to Salt Lake City. In the fall of the year he disposed of his team at a good price, and returned to his home in Plattsmouth, and established himself in the real-estate business. In the spring of 1876 he concluded to resume freighting, and started for Sidney, Neb., with three wagons and seven yokes of oxen, and there loaded freight for the Black Hills. It took six weeks to make the round trip between Sidney and Deadwood, and the cost of freighting articles to the latter point was from two and one-half cents to three cents a pound. Mr. Shafer continued freighting between those points for three years, and then he went upon the route between Ft. Pierce and Deadwood for two years, July 12, 1881, he sold his teams at Ft. Pierce, and returned home, In 1882 he set about the improvement of his real estate by building, and during that year he erected seventeen dwellings and a blacksmith-shop, thus giving Plattsmouth's building interests quite a boom. In 1882 he formed a partnership with William Wise, and they became agents for the Union Pacific Railroad for the sale of that company's Cheyenne lands. At the end of one season they dissolved partnership, and our subject has been dealing in real estate alone since that time. His is a busy, active life, and has been fraught with much adventure. He has accomplished much where a less determined and energetic man would have failed, and is now numbered among the substantial and wealthy men of this community.

Mr. Shafer was married, May 30, 1846, to Elizabeth Gullion, a native of Switzerland County, Ind., Dec. 14, 1826, being the date of her birth. Her parents, John and Elizabeth (Scudder) Gullion, were also natives of Indiana. Dec. 22, 1872, this devoted wife and tender mother was removed from the cares and sorrows of earth, and many there were to share the grief of the family thus left desolate. To her and her husband twelve children had been born, seven of whom are living—John F., Melissa J., Missouri A., Sarah C., Zilva, Hattie and Ida. In early manhood Mr. Schafer was a Whig, and he cast his first vote for Henry Clay. On the formation of the Republican party he fell into its ranks, and has firmly supported its measures ever since.

Portraits of this noble old pioneer and his equally noble wife, who had witnessed and participated in the growth of the city of Plattsmouth from its primitive state of open prairie to its present flourishing condition, are given herewith.

FREDERIC GORDER is one of the leading citizens of the city of Plattsmouth, standing in the foremost ranks of its energetic and enterprising business men, and taking a prominent part in its civic life. He was born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany, in 1838, and his father, August Gorder, was likewise a native of the same locality. He was a shoemaker by trade, and followed that calling in the old country for some years, afterward, however, engaging in farming. In 1853 he embarked for America with his wife and six children, setting sail from Bremen in March, landing in New York City the following May. He went to

Jefferson County, Wis., and worked at his trade of shoemaker there for two years. After that he bought a tract of improved land in Watertown Township, and for several years was prosperously engaged in farming. He subsequently retired with a comfortable competence to the town of Watertown, and there passed his last years, dying in 1880. He and his wife were highly respected by all who knew them for their many good traits of character. The children born to him and his wife were as follows: Frederic, Henrietta, August, William, Mena and Sophia.

The subject of our sketch attended school in his native country, and acquired a substantial education. He was fifteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to the United States, and he began life here by working on a farm at $5 a month. After his father bought a farm he resided with his parents until marriage, and assisted in the management of the homestead, thus gaining a sound, practical knowledge of agriculture. Feb. 14, 1862, Mr. Gorder established a home of his own, and to the young lady, Miss Charlotte Wehrbein, whom he asked to preside over it, he was united in marriage. Six children have been born unto them, namely: Emma, Fred, Annie, August, Louisa and John.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Gorder bought 120 acres of improved land in Waterloo Township, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits with good success until 1868, when he sold all of his property in Wisconsin, having decided to try his fortunes in the young State of Nebraska. He came to Plattsmouth and bought a farm in this precinct, which he managed with profit for five years. At the expiration of that time he removed into town and engaged in buying grain, continuing in that business the greater part of the time until 1887, and for the past eight years he has also been engaged in the sale of farm implements. He still carries on that business, and has built up a large trade. When the Plattsmouth canning factory was established Mr. Gorder became a stockholder and director in the company, and in 1888 he was appointed manager and secretary.

Mr. Gorder is a fine example of the self-made men of this country who, solely by their honorable ambition, persistence and industry, have placed themselves among the most substantial and wealthy citizens of the localities where they reside. He is a man whose genuine honesty, capacity for affairs, and unblemished characters, have been instrumental in raising him to responsible offices, as in him his fellow-citizens saw one whom they could trust to serve them faithfully, and, it is needless to add, their confidence has never been betrayed. Mr. Gorder is a stockholder in the Cass County Bank, and he is prominently identified with the local Board of Trade, having been a charter member. He has been a member of the City Council, and is at present a member of the Board of Public Works. He is independent in politics, voting for the men whom he thinks to be best fitted for office, and sustaining such measures as in his judgment are for the best interests of the country, regardless of the party from which they may have emanated. He and his family are among the most active members of the German Presbyterian Church.

ARCHIBALD McFALL, who is profitably engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 13 of Stove Creek Precinct, has been in Nebraska only a few years, but during his residence here he has gained the respect and confidence of the community by his upright dealings and fair business transactions. He was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, June 29, 1839. He is of Scotch-Irish descent, his paternal grandfather having emigrated from Ireland to Canada, and was a pioneer in the Province of Quebec, remaining there engaged in farming until his death, at the advanced age of eighty years. William G. McFall, the father of our subject, was born in Ireland in 1816, and when three years of age came to Canada with his parents. When old enough to establish himself in life he bought 100 acres of densely timbered land in Canada, from which he cleared a farm. He took part in the Canadian Rebellion in 1838, going out as a volunteer in the home guards. In 1855 he removed to the Province of Ontario, where he began pioneer life anew. He

improved a farm of 200 acres, put up good buildings, and remained there many years. In 1881, disposing of his property in Canada, he came to Nebraska, and has since lived with his son at Eagle. He is a member of the Baptist Church, and a man of excellent personal character. He married Miss Ellen Broadie, a native of the Province of Ontario, who died there in 1857, when thirty-nine years of age. Her father was born in Scotland, and emigrated to Canada when a young man, and spent the remaining years of his life there. To Mr. and Mrs. McFall were born eight children, namely: Archibald, Ellen, James, Adam, William, Mathew, Margaret and Michael.

The subject of our sketch was reared in his native town, and remained at home, assisting his father on the farm out of school hours, until sixteen years of age, when he moved with his parents to Ontario. He then worked with his father until he attained his majority. Soon after that auspicious event our subject bought 100 acres of land in Canada, which was covered with a dense forest, and began the arduous task of clearing a farm. He succeeded, put up good buildings, and devoted himself to general farming and stock-raising, wheat having been his staple product. Becoming dissatisfied with the country, Mr. McFall moved from Canada to Nebraska, coming by rail to South Bend, thence to his present farm, which he had purchased the year before. It was in its primitive state, and he at once commenced its improvement. He lived in a small house, but has since built a more commodious one, and the first season broke fifty acres of ground. The next season he set out groves of forest trees and an orchard of 115 fruit trees, and fenced his land. His farm is well watered, being crossed by two streams of running water, besides having two wells on the place. Our subject pays much attention to raising cattle and hogs, feeding out the larger part of his grain to them. His herd of cows comprises some fine grades. He also keeps three teams of horses of a fine grade.

Mr. McFall was married in Perth County, Canada, April 7, 1864, to Miss Ellen, daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Mathewson) Morrow. Both parents were natives of Ireland, and soon after their marriage moved to Canada, where Mr. Morrow engaged in the mercantile business in Quebec. He subsequently bought a farm of 300 acres in the Province of Quebec, on which he lived until his death in 1864. In 1838 he took an active part in the Canadian Rebellion, having enlisted as a volunteer. Mrs. Morrow died on the homestead in 1857. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Rebecca, Sarah, George (deceased), Ellen, John and Gilbert.

The household of our subject and wife has been brightened by the birth of eight children, seven of whom are now living, namely: Ellen, wife of E. Boyles, of Stove Creek Precinct; Annie, Emma, George, John, Ida and Bertha. Mr. McFall is an intelligent, industrious man, of sound judgment, always interested in local and general affairs, and during his residence in Canada was for many years a member of the Board of Education, a position which he has also filled here to the satisfaction of all, and he has likewise been Supervisor of Roads. Both Mr. and Mrs. McFall are worthy members of the Christian Church at Elmwood, and contributed generously toward building it, and have since helped to support it. Mr. McFall was naturalized in 1886, and has since identified himself with the Prohibition party.

EVERETT E. DAY. As one of the practical business men of Weeping Water and representative citizens of Cass County, it affords us pleasure to place before the reading public a brief commendatory notice of the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He is of good New England origin, his great-grandfather, William Day, having been born in Massachusetts, where he spent his entire life. He was President of the first body of men who came together to formulate a petition to Congress praying for the Declaration of Independence. John Day, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Sheffield, Berkshire Co., Mass., about 1770. He married a Miss Austin, and after spending many years of their married life in Massachusetts, they emigrated to Ohio with their family of fourteen children in 1816.

Judge William Day, the father of our subject,

was born Dec. 15, 1796, in Sheffield, Mass., where he remained until his removal to the Western Reserve in Ohio. When he crossed the Cuyahoga River there were only a few houses on the site now occupied by the city of Cleveland. He settled in Sheffield, Lorain Co., Ohio, where he hewed out a farm from the forest-covered land. His father and Isaac Burrill, afterward his father-in-law, bought the whole township of Sheffield. He being only about twenty years of age at the time of moving to Ohio, remained with his father until he went to New Orleans to take charge of a large hotel for his uncle, and remained there for several years. In 1833 he returned to Ohio, and was soon after married to Miss Augusta, daughter of Isaac Burrill, who was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and moved with his family to Sheffield, Ohio, in 1817, going with an ox-team, and cutting his road a large part of the way. After their marriage Judge Day and his wife settled on a part of his land which he had previously taken up, and he now has a magnificent farm, the homestead comprising five or six hundred acres of land. Besides this he owns other farms, but the larger part of his fortune was made by dealing in white oak lumber. He has been for many years Associate Judge of the District Court of Ohio. He is still living, a hale and hearty old man, having the universal esteem of the community, and is a prominent and representative man of his county. He, with a few of the older families, was a founder of the Congregational Church of Sheffield, and has always contributed liberally toward its support. The Judge's estimable wife died Oct. 9, 1887, her death having been the first one in the family since the marriage of herself and husband fifty-four years before. She left seven children and sixteen grandchildren. The record of the children is as follows: E. I. Day lives in Weeping Water; Maria is the wife of Prof. G. F. Wright, of Oberlin College; William is now at the old homestead; Henry lives in Elyria, Ohio; Marietta is now Mrs. Disbrow, of Atlantic, Iowa; Sumner B., also living in Elyria, owns a large farm in Weeping Water, and Everett E. The children were all educated at Oberlin College.

Everett Day, of whom we write, was born in Sheffield, Lorain Co., Ohio, Nov. 3, 1850, and remained in his native State until through school. After leaving the district school our subject entered Oberlin College, and subsequently pursued his studies for two years at Tabor College, afterward returning to Oberlin for another year. Soon after finishing his education he started for the West, and in 1870 visited Nebraska. He did not, however, make a permanent stay here then, but afterward engaged in business in Atlantic, Iowa, where he remained two years, and in 1881 came to South Bend, Neb., where he bought a bankrupt stock of goods and an elevator, staying there two years. He then built two elevators on the Missouri Pacific Railway, and had Mr. Norton take charge of one. Five years later Mr. Day came to Weeping Water, and continued the stock business which he had before begun. His first investment in stock was the purchase of a carload of Herefords and Jerseys in Ohio, in 1884, and to this, besides the natural accretions and single purchases, he has since added two carloads of fine cattle, so that in his herd he has fully one-half dozen Herefords imported from England, and registered in the American Hereford Cattle Herd Book. He also has thirty-five or forty-five Jerseys registered. "Sir Evelyn, 2d," stands at the head of the Hereford herd. "Miss Barbara," full-blooded, at the age of eight years won the sweepstakes at the St. Louis Fair. "Miss Patti" won the sweepstakes at the Lincoln and Omaha Fairs. "Lilac," a fine imported cow, also won the sweepstakes at the Omaha Fair, and a half-dozen others have taken premiums at various fairs.

Our subject, besides attending to his stock, is the owner of E. E. Day's dry-goods store, of Weeping Water, and also of three elevators, one at Walton, one at Eagle, one at Weeping Water, and, until recently, one at Avoca; the one that he owned at Wabash he sold about a year ago. His real estate consists of two farms in Centre Precinct, one on section 36 and one on section 35, one half-mile west of the town, on which he resides. He also owns another farm in South Bend, one-half mile from the station, all of which are used as stock farms.

Mr. Day was united in marriage, Dec. 15, 1881,

to Miss Jennie, daughter of G. W. Norton, of whom see sketch on another page of this work. Of this union two children have been born, Harold E. and Mabel Bess. They are yet young, but will receive good educational advantages, both parents believing a good education the best foundation for future success and happiness.

Our subject is a patriotic, liberal-spirited citizen, and, though avoiding all offices as far as possible, does his duty at the polls, voting consistently and intelligently with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Day are people of good social standing, and during their residence here have made many warm friends and won for themselves an enviable place in the regard of others in the community. Both are highly esteemed members of the Congregational Church, and teachers in the Sunday-school.

ABRAM HATHAWAY. Among the old pioneers of Liberty Precinct and Cass County, the subject of this biographical sketch deserves more than passing notice, as by his industry and practical farming he has been an important factor in the development of the rich agricultural resources of this region. The farm that he occupies on section 24, in the southeastern part of the precinct, is the same which he obtained from the Government by pre-emption in the early days of the settlement of Nebraska, he having been well satisfied with its location and the unusual facilities it afforded for successfully cultivating the land, the soil being exceedingly rich and well watered. The time, care and money that he has expended on it have been well rewarded, and the once wild prairie yields him bountiful returns. The buildings are ample and well arranged, and everything about is indicative of the thrift and wise management of the owner.

Mr. Hathaway was born Feb. 16, 1813, in Steuben County, N. Y., and his parents were P. D. and Rebecca (Howard) Hathaway, who were also natives of that State. During some period of their married life they moved to Ohio, and some years later to Lake County, Ind., where they died at an advanced age, the father being eighty-two, and the mother, who died some years prior to his death, being over sixty. He was a farmer all his life, and with his wife a member of the Methodist Church for many years. In politics he was a sturdy Democrat, and zealously promoted the interests of his party.

The subject of this sketch was the third child in a family of thirteen children, eight sons and five daughters. He was reared in his native State until he was fourteen years old, when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, and attained his majority in Shelby County, that State. He afterward lived in Indiana for some years, making his home at different times in LaPorte, Porter, Lake and Shelby Counties. During his residence in that State he contracted a matrimonial alliance with Miss Ann Cannon, a native of the Hoosier State. She was born Oct. 11, 1817, and was a daughter of Abraham and Jane (Thatcher) Cannon, who are both deceased, the father dying in the prime of life in Ohio, and the mother, who had married a second time, dying at a ripe old age in Indiana. Mrs. Hathaway was reared in her mother's home in that State, and was married from there. The marriage of our subject and his wife has been blessed with the birth of twelve children, one of whom is dead, Elizabeth, who was the wife of William Hardy. The record of the others is as follows: Rebecca J., Mary A., Peter D. and Esther, all of whom are married; Bethuel, single; Lewis P. and George, married; Alfred D., Sylvester and Joseph T., single; Charlotta, married.

Some time after his marriage Mr. Hathaway removed to Kankakee County, Ill., and made his home near the river of the same name for nearly twelve years, and then crossed the Mississippi River to Iowa, and was a resident of Polk County, near Des Moines, until his removal to this State.

Since coming to Nebraska Mr. Hathaway has crossed the plains to the Rockies, starting on his journey in April, 1850, and after his arrival in the vicinity of Pike's Peak engaging in mining until September of the same year. He then returned to his home in this county, richer in experience if not in pocket, and he has since lived on his farm in contentment.

Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway are well known and

warmly liked in Cass County as good, honest people, and to their many friends they present examples of busy lives fully rounded by their various experiences into a serene and active old age. Mrs. Hathaway is a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hathaway, although taking a quiet interest in public affairs, has never sought office. In his political sentiments he is a Republican of the first water.

HENRY ENGELKEMEIER. Perhaps no State in the Union has derived greater benefits from the enterprise and industry of the thrifty German citizen, who is represented in such generous numbers along its southern line, than Nebraska. Among them may be mentioned in no unworthy terms the prosperous agriculturist whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He selected his location in the spring of 1880, on section 34, in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, and since that time has been industriously engaged in his farming pursuits, taking little part in the noise and dissensions of the world outside. By this, however, it must not be inferred that he is in anywise an ignorant or uninformed man, for on the contrary the very appearance of his farm indicates his native intelligence.

Our subject is a direct offspring of the Fatherland, and was born April 10, 1854. The son of Henry and Anna M. Engelkemeier, he was the fourth of their eight children, seven of whom are still living. William, the eldest, continues a resident of his native Germany; Frederick came to America with friends, and is carrying on farming in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county; August lives not far from the brother before mentioned, while Charles is a resident of this county. The parents have been content to remain upon the soil which gave them birth.

Continuing in his native Province until a youth of eighteen years, our subject received the benefits of a practical education, and in revolving within his mind his plans for the future, decided to seek his fortune on another continent. Accordingly, in the spring of 1872 he bade adieu to his old friends and the associations of his childhood, and embarking on a steamer at the port of Bremen, landed in the city of Baltimore after an ocean voyage of seventeen days. Thence he made his way directly westward to this county. His honest and intelligent face soon secured for him friends and employment, and for about seven years he worked by the month as a farm laborer. He then commenced operating on rented land, and in the spring of 1882 had made such good headway that he was enabled to settle upon a farm which he could call his own. This he still occupies. His first purchase was 160 acres, for which he paid $2,000, and upon which there were no improvements whatever, it being simply a tract of uncultivated prairie, which not long before had been traveled over by wandering bands of Indians.

The results of energy and perseverance have been finely illustrated in the career of our subject. Beginning as he did from first principles, the task which lay before him was of no small dimensions, but with hereditary perseverance and by laboring early and late, he soon gained a solid footing, and there opened before him the prospect of a home and a competency. In due time he added to his first purchase, and is now the owner of 243 broad acres, which he has enclosed with substantial fencing, and upon which he has erected the buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience and the successful prosecution of his calling. He keeps a goodly assortment of live stock, and avails himself of modern machinery, making of farm work not the drudgery it used to be twenty years ago, but changing it in many respects to a pleasure and a pastime.

Among the interesting incidents in the life of our subject, none was of more importance than his marriage, which occurred in Cass County, Neb., April 27, 1883, his bride being Miss Lizie Sieker, a native of his own country, and born Oct. 29, 1859. Mrs. Engelkemeier is the daughter of William and Minnie (Engelkemeier) Sieker, the former of whom was a farmer by occupation, and died in Germany about 1858. The mother is now living with our subject. Miss Lizie, when a young lady of twenty-two years, came with her brother, August, in 1881, to America, and located with him

in Woodson County, Kan. Later she came to this county by herself, making her own living until her marriage. Of this union there have been born two children, sons: William, June 11, 1885, and Charles, Oct. 7, 1886. Both Mr. and Mrs. E. were reared in the doctrines of the German-Lutheran Church, to which they still give their loyal adherence, attending services in this precinct. Our subject, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket. He was well educated in his native tongue, and has picked up a fair knowledge of English. After coming to this country he attended school for a time, and this fact in itself indicates his appreciation of those things which tend to the elevation of society and the formation of the useful and worthy member of the community.

JAMES INGRAM, a thorough-going Scotch-American citizen, resides on the well-improved farm located on section 30, township 12 north, range 12, in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He was born March 16, 1826, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and is the son of Adam and Margaret (McGregor) Ingram. His mother was a descendant of the clan McGregor, who were at one time among the bravest of the brave of Scottish clans. His father is now residing in Aberdeen, Scotland, at the ripe old age of ninety years. Our subject is the only child by his father's first marriage. He lived in his native country until he was fourteen years old, when he went to England and worked for three years. He was on railroad work the greater portion of the time, connected with the track-laying department. Subsequently he passed some three and a half years on the Channel Islands, erecting a breakwater for the British Government. It was designed for the protection of their man of war ships.

During the early years of his life our subject availed himself of all the educational facilities afforded by the neighborhood in which he lived, and has, since leaving his native country, made a careful study of events, until he now possesses a large fund of knowledge. About the year 1847 he took passage at Liverpool, England, on an American sailing-vessel, called the "Florida," bound for the New World. After an uneventful voyage of one month he landed in New York City. Wending his way westward he arrived in Buffalo, N. Y., July 4, and continued his journey via Chicago to Elgin, Ill., where he obtained employment on the Chicago & Galena Railroad, which was then under construction, working a portion of the time at track laying, when he was promoted to the position of foreman. He remained there about six months. He then went to Indiana, and obtained work on the Michigan Southern Railroad, which was then being built, where he remained about six months, when he left, and went on the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad, near LaSalle, Ill., for about four months.

During much of the railroad work done by our subject he was employed by George Armour as a foreman. Armour was a railroad contractor and builder in those days. Growing tired of working for others he concluded to engage in business for himself, when he secured a contract on the railroad, which he completed. Subsequently we find him connected with the Illinois Central Railroad, as a contractor, for about nine months. He then went to Guthrie County, Iowa, and began farming, which he followed for about two and one-half years. In the fall of 1856 he came to Nebraska having heard the country so highly spoken of and as possessing superior advantages. Arriving in the then Territory he located for a short time in what is known at present as Louisville Precinct, where he lived until he finally settled on his present farm in 1865. He "squatted" on 160 acres of land, which he afterward pre-empted as soon as it came into market. There was about one acre plowed when he settled on it. He has improved it since then until he now owns one of the finest improved farms in the country. He now exercises ownership of over 280 acres of land.

The subject of our sketch and Elizabeth Urwin were married May 16, 1857; the lady was born in England, Nov. 16, 1840. She is a daughter of William and Ellen (Wandless) Urwin. Her father now resides in Cass County, Neb., and is one of the oldest settlers. He was born in Newcastle, England, and when this lady was about eight years old the parents emigrated to America, where they set-

tled for a time in Wisconsin, where her mother died. In the year 1856 her father removed with his family to his present home, where he has resided ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingram have become the parents of a large family of children, of whom the following named survive: William, Elizabeth, James, Adam, Ellen, Margaret, George, Elsie, Andrew, Adella and Nora. Elizabeth is now the wife of A. Swason, and resides in Kearney County, Neb.; Ellen is the wife of George Palmer, and resides in Cass County; Margaret is Mrs. Isaac Tenant, and lives in Kearney County, and her brother George is a resident of the same county; three children are deceased. They were named: Joseph, Samuel and Mary.

The improvements that have been made by our subject are of a very substantial and prominent character. The barn and other out-buildings are large and commodious, and well adapted to the purposes for which they were intended. His residence contains many of the improvements that are seldom found outside of older settled communities; the house is roomy, well designed and nicely furnished. His wife is the presiding genius of his home, and is a refined and intelligent woman. She has in every way possible been an assistant to her husband in acquiring the handsome property which they now own. Both husband and wife occupy a prominent place among the pioneer families of the county; they are widely and favorably known for their generosity and hospitality. In politics Mr. Ingram is a Democrat. With the exception of being Treasurer of the School Board for several years he has accepted no public office.

STERLING F. GIRARDET, senior member of the firm of Girardet, Boone & Emens, is, with his partners, conducting a lively trade in dry-goods, groceries, fancy goods, notions, carpets, and an unusually full assortment of everything pertaining to the country or city household. They have as fine an establishment as is to be found in Weeping Water, where the business was inaugurated in January of 1888. Mr. G. is essentially a Western man, the son of one of the earliest pioneers of the county, and was born in Nebraska City, April 28, 1858. He is consequently a young man still, and he has entered upon what at present appears to be an undoubtedly prosperous business career.

Our subject received a good practical education, completing his studies in the Normal School at Peru, and also attending the school at Tabor, Iowa. He entered upon his mercantile career as the clerk of L. Wessel & Co., of Nebraska City, with which firm he remained continuously for a period of five years at that point. At the expiration of this time, still in the employ of the same firm, he was assigned to the branch of their house at Weeping Water, which they established in 1883, and was manager of this five years. The building, with its contents, being destroyed in the general conflagration of Dec. 19, 1887, the firm withdrew from business there.

In January of 1888 our subject associated himself with Messrs. Boone & Emens, the latter of whom had been for some time in his employ as a clerk. They opened their doors for business on the 10th of January, 1888, in the new brick block on the south side of I street. They carry a large and finely selected stock, and enjoy a trade which is steadily increasing.

On the 26th of October, 1887, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Gertrude Potter, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Ogallala, Neb. Of this union there is one child, Max, who was born Aug. 3, 1888. Mrs. Girardet, a native of Ogle County, Ill., was born Sept. 17, 1866, and is the daughter of Thomas L. and Urilla (Heistad) Potter, who came to Cass County about 1872 or 1873. They are now residents of Maria, Neb. Mrs. G. is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church, of which her husband is a regular attendant, giving liberally to its support. Our subject, socially, belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the K. of P., in the latter of which he is Vice Chancellor. As a successful business man he has avoided meddling with politics, excepting doing his duty at the polls, when he casts his vote with the Democratic party.

Jules Girardet, the father of our subject, and a

native of Switzerland, was born in the Canton of Bern, Nov. 6, 1818. When a young man he emigrated to the United States, settling in New York City, where he followed his trade of baker, and came thence to Nebraska City in 1856, during its pioneer days. He purchased a tract of slightly improved land in Otoe Precinct, Otoe County, and for a number of years labored in its cultivation and the building up of a homestead, putting out an orchard of apple trees and the smaller fruits, and erecting a dwelling and the other buildings required for the comfort of himself and family. Upon this farm he is still living, and it is now numbered among the finest homesteads of the county. The land, 160 acres in extent, has been brought to a high state of cultivation.

In his native Switzerland Jules Girardet was united in marriage with Miss Susan Zimmererer, and they became the parents of six children, five of whom are living and all residents of the West. The wife and mother departed this life Aug. 31, 1872. She was born Nov. 6, 1818. Mr. G. is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and a man held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens.

Our subject remembers Nebraska City when it was only a village, and often recalls the interest with which the citizens watched the completion of the first railroad, the Midland Pacific, which ran through it. When he settled in Weeping Water it was a little town of between 300 and 400 inhabitants, and there was being built through it the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He has practically "grown up with the country," and takes the deepest interest in its progress and development. His friends predict for him a most prosperous future, and that when years have added dignity to his age he will be numbered among the solid citizens of the place.

T. L. Potter, the father of Mrs. Girardet, was married in early manhood to Miss Urilla Heistad, who was born in Ogle County, Ill., and is now in Maria, Neb. Of this union there were six children, five of whom are living and residents mostly of the West. Mr. and Mrs. Potter left this county in 1887, settling in Perkins County, Neb., where they are now living, and the father successfully engaged in farming. He was formerly in the jewelry business, having learned the trade in Illinois, and was one of the first practical jewelers of Weeping Water, where he carried on the business until failing health compelled him to seek a change of occupation. He served as a soldier three years during the late Civil War, participating in several active engagements. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Congregational Church. Sterling F. Girardet has already signalized himself as a citizen interested in education and the other enterprises calculated to build up a city, giving to these his support and his substantial encouragement, and has served as a member of the Village Board, besides occupying other positions of trust.

OLIVER JACOBS. In the career of the subject of this sketch we have that of a man who has arisen to a high position solely through his own unaided efforts, and through many struggles. He was at an early age thrown upon his own resources, and grew up to be a thoughtful and industrious young man, self-reliant, and imbued with those principles which have developed a character respected and liked by all who know him. A man remarkably quiet in his demeanor, there is little about him at first glance to indicate his strong qualities of character, and that which he has accomplished in the space of comparatively a few years. He possesses the innate culture and refinement coming only from an excellent ancestry, and has been fortunate in making the most of his opportunities of observation, his mind naturally turning to the useful and the good. Nature has not endowed him with a very strong body, but mentally, he has attained to the highest manhood. His business is that of a merchant in the young and growing town of Wabash, whose people have learned to respect him for his genuine worth, and with whose development he has been closely identified.

Mr. Jacobs was born in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, April 7, 1853, and was orphaned by the death of both parents when a tender child of three. He was the youngest of three brothers and two sisters, these being named respectively: John, Henry,

Anna and Mary. Mr. Jacobs has no recollections of his father, and but a faint remembrance of his mother. After the death of the latter, who only survived her husband a short time, the little family was separated, and our subject was adopted by an Englishman, Thomas Talbot, who lived on a farm in the vicinity of Oneida, Knox Co., Ill. Mr. Jacobs was therefore reared amid the quiet scenes of rural life, with limited school advantages. Through all these years he had his doubts about the manner of his education and training, and when a youth of nineteen left the farm, and began working in one of the many iron manufacturing establishments of Cleveland. He was thus employed a period of five or six years, but in the fall of 1876 resolved upon another change of location.

Mr. Jacobs now leaving Ohio made his way to the West. The fall of 1878 found him this side of the Mississippi, located near Blue Springs, in Gage County, this State. Later he sojourned in various places at Weeping Water and South Bend, employing himself at times on a farm and at times as clerk in a store. Amid all these changes he managed to pick up much useful information, gaining a good idea of business methods. Finally he started in business for himself at South Bend as a general merchant, and soon afterward was appointed Postmaster, holding this position two years.

In April, 1886, Mr. Jacobs desired to establish himself at Wabash, and accordingly securing ground began putting up his present store building. It was completed in due time, and he moved into it with a stock of goods. It is a two-story frame structure which would do credit to a burg far more pretentious than Wabash, and which will be an ornament to the town when it shall have attained to much larger proportions. He soon took two partners in the business, Messrs. Emery, of Iowa, and P. Horton, of Wabash, the firm name being Jacobs & Co. They are all gentlemen of good business abilities, courteous in demeanor, and are rapidly building up a large and lucrative trade.

As one of the first settlers of Wabash and one who risked his capital in a new town at a time when other men were afraid to invest a dollar, the name of Mr. Jacobs deserves to be preserved in its annals for all time. Liberal-minded and public-spirited, he has done much to develop the town, and bring to it a worthy class of people. When he put up his store building there were few houses in its vicinity, it being erected literally in a field. Wabash has now become one of the most promising villages on the line of the Missouri Pacific, between Nebraska City and Lincoln, and ships more grain and live stock than any other village of its size in the State. The early experience of Mr. Jacobs among agricultural pursuits has been of service to him in his later enterprises, as in connection with his merchandising he operates a market garden of twenty-five acres adjacent to the village. Like Horace Greeley, nothing gives Mr. Jacobs more pleasure and diversion than the hours devoted to horticultural pursuits. With an organization fully appreciative of the charms of nature, there is not a more lovely sight to his eyes than the springing up of vegetation on the soil, and its development under the action of the sun and rain. He recognizes as the spring of this the great Power which gives life to the universe, and before which every intelligent person must bow with reverence and praise.

With an eye to the near future of an intelligent community who must have their pleasures and recreations, Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Horton have established a boating park immediately east of the village on a branch of the Weeping Water, which here winds around in graceful curves, as if purposely loitering to enjoy the beauty of the situation. Mr. Jacobs, upon discovering this bit of natural scenery, decided that a park might here be established with comparatively little trouble and expense, and accordingly set himself about it with his characteristic energy. He has, with the above-named partner, spared no pains to make it attractive as a summer resort, constructing a little lake, and placing rowboats at the service of visitors, while the waters are stocked with that favorite fish, the German carp, for the recreation of anglers. This enterprise has met with the hearty approbation of the people in this vicinity, who fully appreciate the enterprise of its projectors.

In fact there have been few projects tending to the growth and progress of Wabash Village to which Mr. Jacobs has not lent a helping hand. As the head of the Oliver Jacobs & Co. Commission

House of Lincoln, he has intercourse with the best business men of the county, and occupies a high place in their confidence and esteem. Although not a member of any religious organization he believes in the establishment of churches, and to this end has contributed liberally of his means, the Methodist and Baptist Churches of Wabash being the objects of his especial benefits. Socially, he belongs to the Modern Woodmen, having a lodge at Wabash, in which organization he is the banker. Distinctively a man of progress, it is hardly necessary to state that Mr. Jacobs is a stanch member of the Republican party, to which he lends a hearty support, and labors in the maintenance of its principles as he has opportunity. During his incumbency of the office of Assessor of Elmwood Precinct, he pursued a course which was eminently satisfactory to his constituents, and one reflecting great credit upon himself. Cass County recognizes no more worthy citizen within her limits than Mr. Jacobs, who is building for himself a monument that shall endure for decades to come.

HIRAH STANFORD was an early settler of Stove Creek Precinct, where he is now prosperously engaged in business as a carpenter, besides superintending his farming and stock-raising interests on section 36. He is a native of Boardman, Ohio, March 12, 1823, being the date of his birth. His parents, Oliver and Olive (Mason) Stanford, were natives respectively of New York and Massachusetts. His father was a pioneer of Ohio. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and also carried on farming, having cleared a 160-acre tract of land from the primeval forests of Ohio. In 1854 he sold his property in that State and moved to Wisconsin, locating in Elkhorn, Walworth County. He subsequently removed to Waupon, where his death occurred in 1864, at the age of seventy-two years. His widow died in Howard County, Iowa, in 1876, at the age of seventy years. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in their exemplary lives were illustrated the beauties of the Christian religion. He was a man of strong convictions, one of which was that the policy of the Democratic party of his day was the right one to be pursued in the conduct of National affairs. To him and his wife were born nine children, namely: Leroy and Orin (deceased), Orcemus, Chauncey, Squire, Hirah, Wesley, William and Mary (deceased).

Hirah Stanford grew to manhood on the homestead of his father, amid pioneer surroundings, and gained an education in the common schools. At the age of twenty-one he left the parental home and began life for himself as a carpenter in Ohio, remaining there until he was twenty-nine, with the exception of three years spent in Wisconsin. After his marriage he removed to Elkhorn, Wis., and there established himself as a carpenter, also engaging in farming a part of the time. In 1860 he removed with his family to Nebraska City, traveling with a team and driving his cattle before him. They were five weeks on the journey, and forded every river between Wisconsin and Nebraska except the Mississippi, which they crossed at Savannah, and the Missouri at Nebraska City. Mr. Stanford immediately identified himself with the agricultural interests of Otoe County, beginning to farm on Summit Farm. He owned 120 acres of land, which he cultivated five years. He then sold it and moved to Nebraska City, built a residence, and his wife, determining to do her share toward increasing the family exchequer, kept a boarding-house, while he was actively employed at carpentering. They continued their respective employments until the spring of 1866, when they came to Cass County, and in Stove Creek Precinct Mr. Stanford took up his present farm under the provisions of the Homestead Act. This 80-acre tract then formed a part of the wild, treeless prairie, where but few settlers had preceded our subject. Notwithstanding the fact that the first few years were disastrous, and but little was accomplished in the way of cultivating the land on account of the grasshopper plague, drouth, etc., our subject has done well, and has made many valuable improvements. He has five acres of forest trees, an orchard containing eighty fruit trees; has hedges and wire fences around his land; has erected a good dwell-

ing, barns, and other needed buildings, and has everything in order, so that his place compares very favorably with others in the neighborhood. Besides obtaining a good income from the products of his land, he finds stock-raising very profitable, and has his farm well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs. He has had quite an extensive business as a carpenter, besides attending to his agricultural interests.

Our subject was very fortunate in the selection of his wife, to whom he was married March 29, 1850, in Rootstown, Portage Co., Ohio. She has been to him a true helpmate, and to their children a wise mother. She is an excellent housekeeper, and rules her household with a firm hand, thus contributing to the comfort of its members, and making their home neat and attractive. She has seen much of life on the prairies, and in the trying times of pioneer days her cheerfulness and sympathy encouraged her husband. She is a devoted Christian and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Elmwood. Of her happy wedded life three children have been born—Henry, Nettie and Fred. Henry is farming eighty acres of land on section 27, Stove Creek Precinct, which he purchased in 1882. He has it all broken, and has a good house, barn, windmill, etc. He is a stalwart Republican in politics. Fred married Miss Minnie Donelly, and they have one child, Herbert. They reside in Nebraska City, where he is engaged as book-keeper in Lorton's wholesale grocery store.

Mrs. Stanford was born in Rootstown, Ohio, March 14, 1826. She received a common education and taught school. Her maiden name was Sarah L. Shewell, and she was a daughter of James and Mary (Chapman) Shewell, natives respectively of New Jersey and Rootstown, Ohio. Her grandfather, Henry Shewell, who was of English descent, was a pioneer of Ohio, where he carried on farming, and was also a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Nathan Chapman, was of English descent. He was born in Connecticut, where he learned the trade of chairmaker. He, too, was a pioneer of Ohio, and carried on a farm there. Mrs. Stanford's great-grandfather, Paine, was a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner. Her father and mother were married in Ohio, and there Mr. Shewell engaged in the pioneer task of clearing a heavily timbered tract of ninety acres, which he improved into a good farm, whereon he and his family made their home until 1860. He then sold it and moved to Nebraska City, where he died in 1865, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife died on the old homestead in Ohio in 1858, at the age of fifty-one years. They were stanch members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Four children were born of their marriage, as follows: Sarah L.; Samantha L., who resides with our subject; Oscar, who owns and operates a sawmill in Ohio; Henry, a banker in Nebraska City.

Mr. Stanford is well known and honored throughout this community. His high character and generous nature are so evident to all as to need no comment here. He is a man of good understanding, and his opinion both in public and private carries much weight. In his home life he is kind and devoted to his family; in public, he is faithful to his obligations to his neighbors and in his duties as a citizen; he has been Justice of the Peace. He takes great interest in politics, and is a prominent member of the Republican party of Cass County, and has served as delegate to conventions.

GEORGE W. ADAMS, senior member of the firm of Adams & Gilbert, is one of the leading grain and stock men of Cass County, having his headquarters in Weeping Water. His has been a remarkably interesting experience, the main points of which, as near as we can gather, are as follows: The fifth in a family of twelve children, he was born in Crawford County, Pa., Dec. 23, 1836, and lived there only until a little lad of three years, when the father, accompanied by his family, started for the West with teams. They lived afterward several years each in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In the latter State the father died six months after his arrival, leaving a widow and eleven children.

The mother of our subject after the death of her husband returned to Pennsylvania, where her death occurred in 1872, she being about sixty-four years

of age. David M. Adams, the father of our subject, was also a native of Crawford County, Pa., where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and when reaching man's estate was married to Miss Grazillia Hickernell, who became the mother of seven sons and five daughters. Seven of these are now living, being located in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, California and Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch is numbered among the earliest pioneers of this county, and one of the first men to settle upon the present site of Avoca Precinct. There are now very few remaining of the men who followed him within the course of a few years to this place. His nearest post-office and trading point for some time was at Plattsmouth, or Nebraska City, and for a number of years these places seemed, as it were, to stand still, while Indians roamed over the country frightening the white settlers, but really doing no serious injury. Wild game was plentiful, and many were the adventures of which our subject and his few companions at that time were heroes.

Mr. Adams first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska in the summer of 1858, when he came to the southern part of this county and took up land on section 3, in Avoca Precinct, upon which not a furrow had been turned or a tree planted. He labored in true pioneer style in establishing a homestead, planting fruit and shade trees, making fences, erecting buildings, and bringing about the other improvements naturally suggested to the enterprising and progressive mind. In Mt. Pleasant Precinct he has now a beautiful farm 520 acres in extent, and another tract of 160 acres in Avoca Precinct, this also being brought to a high state of cultivation. His stock operations yield him annually a handsome income. He deals largely in fine cattle and horses, being able to exhibit some of the handsomest and most valuable animals in this part of the State.

Mr. Adams put up the present family residence on his farm in Avoca Precinct in the year 1876. It is a very handsome and commodious structure, and at the time of being built was considered one of the finest dwellings in this part of the county. It has stood the storms of twelve years in an admirable manner, with no perceptible change in its appearance since its completion. On this farm Mr. Adams has expended his best efforts, much of the land being enclosed with beautiful hedge fencing, while he has planted an abundance of fruit trees, and has five acres of forest trees, forming one of the grandest windbreaks in this section.

The stock barn of Mr. Adams is a very noticeable feature of his farm, occupying an area of 40x60 feet, with a fine basement, and ample conveniences for the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. In his stables are some splendid specimens of the equine race, high-bred imported Norman horses, and in another department registered Shorthorn cattle, comprising one of the finest herds in the country. Among his horses are Ney, No. 2,950, French imported, of the foal of 1882, an imported two-year-old; he is now a beautiful dark iron-gray, weighing about 2,000 pounds, with fine points in every particular, and valued at $2,000. In all, Mr. Adams keeps about thirty head of horses, a number of them registered, the others of high grade. Mr. Adams is a lover of this noble animal, a good judge of its value, and thoroughly acquainted with the best methods exercised in its proper care and treatment.

Mr. Adams in 1884 transferred his farming interests mostly to the hands of his son Himenus, a very energetic and enterprising young business man, possessing many of the traits of his honored father. Moving into the city he associated himself with Mr. Gilbert in the grain business, of which the firm has the monopoly in Weeping Water and vicinity. They have a large elevator here as well as at Elmwood and Eagle, all of which are in constant use and prove a great convenience to the business men and farmers of the surrounding country. The present residence of Mr. Adams is a handsome dwelling, finely situated on Eldora avenue, and stands in the midst of seven acres of land, which furnishes ample grounds for the carriage barn and drive, and the various other conveniences and comforts which tend to make a charming suburban home. In Avoca Precinct Mr. Adams served as Assessor and School Director for a number of years and was otherwise identified with local affairs. He lays no claim to being a politician, in fact, is desirous of avoiding this channel of public life, except-

ing so far as to do his duty at the polls, when he uniformly gives his support to the Republican party.

After the death of the father of our subject, in St. Clair County, Ill., George W. Adams passed the three years following engaged in boating; then he started for the West, his sole possessions the clothing which he wore, no money, in fact, nothing to depend upon but his own resources. It is hardly necessary to say that he traveled on foot, worked his way along the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and finally landed in Peoria County, Ill. where he purchased a loaf of bread with five cents he had left. His equipments were not near fine enough to linger in the town, so he made his way into the agricultural districts, and secured employment with a farmer about three miles from LaSalle, for whom he engaged to work the following summer for the sum total of $16 and his board.

Young Adams did not encroach upon his capital during the time of his sojourn there, but in the fall, taking his money, made his way across the Mississippi into Cedar County, Iowa. There he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, working on the farm in summer, and sawing wood in winter, for a period of four years. In the meantime he met and married Miss Sabra Girard, the wedding taking place in Iowa, Aug. 17, 1858. The young couple soon afterward, leaving the Hawkeye State, came to this county, then a bare prairie, and began their wedded life together in a small house on an open tract of land. The land now constitutes the farm of our subject in Avoca Precinct, but that first humble dwelling was long since abandoned for a more pretentious residence.

After a few years of earnest labor and strict economy, our subject began to realize the reward of his toils. It is not necessary to state here what has been so often repeated in connection with the history of the Nebraska pioneer. Suffice it to say that Mr. Adams in his labors, in common with the men around him, worked early and late and endured many hardships and difficulties, and while many men abandoned their purpose after coming to the Territory, he persevered in his first resolve and has had no reason to regret it. The universal regard in which he is held by the people around him is sufficient evidence of his personal worth and integrity. He bears the reputation of a man honest and honorable in all his transactions, one whose word is considered as good as his bond.

Mrs. Sabra (Girard) Adams, the wife of our subject, was born June 5, 1840, near LaFayette, Ind. She received a common-school education and was carefully trained in all housewifely duties—those things which have so much to do with the happiness and comfort of a home. Of her union with our subject there were born five children, only two of whom are living. The eldest son, Himenus, of whom we have before spoken, married Miss Louisa Gruber, and as before stated, is operating the home farm. George G. makes his home with his parents in Weeping Water.

James M. Girard, the father of Mrs. Adams, was born Aug. 25, 1814, in Ohio, whence he removed when a boy to LaFayette, Ind., when it was but a small town. He was there married to Miss Elizabeth Miller, and they became the parents of five children, four of whom are living. The family about 1852 moved across the Mississippi into Cedar County, Iowa, where the father, as before, followed farming for a number of years, then changed his residence to this county, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Adams, where his death took place during the winter of 1888. The wife and mother passed away at the same place in 1886. Besides Mrs. Adams their surviving children are located in Nebraska.

JOHN G. WUNDERLICH. The subject of this sketch is probably about the youngest established farmer in his community, being not quite twenty-four years old, and having already a snug farm of 160 acres, a wife and a little child. He owns his farm, and is of that quality of character which constitutes him a prudent manager and an industrious worker. His land is fertile and he has comfortable buildings.

Mr. Wunderlich has been a resident of Avoca Precinct since the spring of 1880, and purchased his present property two years later. He was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in the little King-

Capt. J. T. A. Hooper

dom of Bavaria, July 2, 1865, and is the only child of John F. and Maggie (Patal) Wunderlich, who were also natives of Bavaria, and of pure German ancestry. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and met his death accidentally in his native country, by falling from a train of cars, being caught and having both legs severed from his body. He only lived about five hours. This calamity occurred in the fall of 1869. He was a good and worthy man, and labored industriously to maintain his little family in comfort.

The mother of our subject remained a widow ten years after the death of her husband, and was then married to Henry Hepner, also a Bavarian by birth. They came to the United States in the fall of 1880, and settling in Avoca Precinct have since made it their home. Mr. Hepner is carrying on farming successfully, and is regarded as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Wunderlich accompanied his mother and stepfather to the United States before reaching his majority. He had received a practical education in his native tongue, and from his youth up been accustomed to labor. He was married in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County, March 9, 1887, to Miss Lena Carsten, who was born in Avoca Precinct, this county, Dec. 26, 1865, being a few months younger than her husband. The history of her parents is given in the sketch of Henry Schomaker, which will be found on another page of this work.

Our subject and his young wife settled soon after their marriage at their present homestead, and are the parents of one child, a daughter, Lotta, who was born Dec. 14, 1887. Mr. Wunderlich votes the straight Democratic ticket, and both he and his wife in religious matters adhere to the faith of the Lutheran Church, in which they were reared.

CAPT. JOHN T. A. HOOVER, well known as the founder of Louisville, Cass County, has by that fact alone, independent of his well-known character for energy and enterprise, made himself a man of much consequence along the northern line of Cass County. His sagacity and forethought made this point, in his judgment, a good one for future operations, and after persuading the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company to lay their track as near as possible to the projected site of the village, contributed $500 for the location of a station there. He put up the first house in the place, and the town has since been the object of his fostering care.

Capt. Hoover, it is hardly necessary to state, was one of the pioneers of this county, to which he came with a capital of but $320. He has now a fine property, and at his farm on sections 23 and 27, Louisville Precinct, he has inaugurated the modern improvements which have made it one of the most valuable estates in the precinct. One noticeable feature is a fish pond of seven acres, well stocked with German carp, the first enterprise of the kind in this region. The Captain has of late years been engaged in the manufacture of fire brick, in which he utilizes some of the best quality of clay found in the West, the product of his own land. A citizen public-spirited and liberal, giving generously of his time and means for the advancement of his township, he holds a position second to no man in Cass County. He was the founder of the Louisville Pottery, one of the flourishing industries of the place.

The birthplace of our subject was in the city of Nagold, Wurtemberg, Germany, where he was born Sept. 13, 1826. He was the youngest of twelve children, seven of whom lived to mature years, but only three of whom now survive. The father, Ferdinand Hoover, was a farmer and stock-trader, and was married in his native Germany to Miss Catherine Scheahinger. This lady was born in 1783, being five years younger than her husband, whose birth took place in 1778. After marriage they settled on a farm in their native Province, where the father carried on agriculture until 1846. He then emigrated to America with his family, landing in New York City after a voyage of twenty-one days. From the great metropolis they proceeded directly to Darke County, Ohio, where the parents settled on a farm, and where the death of the father took place in 1857. The mother survived her husband a period of seventeen years, passing away in 1874.

The subject of this sketch was placed in school at the age of five years, and followed his studies quite closely until a youth of sixteen. He then entered an establishment for the manufacture of

essences, where he also learned the compounding of medicines, and devoted himself to the study of chemistry. He was thus occupied three years, and then accompanied his parents to the United States, and made his home with them in Ohio until the death of his father. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he resolved to assist in the defense of his adopted country, and soon after the first call for troops enlisted in Company D, 58th Ohio Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, under command of Gen. Smith. He met the enemy in some of the most important battles which followed, being in the fights at Ft. Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, and various other minor engagements and skirmishes. Such was his natural intelligence and energy that he was made a First Lieutenant, and was a short time later promoted to a Captaincy, receiving his commission from Gov. Denison of Ohio. He was thus actively engaged about two years, and then, on account of failing health, was obliged to resign his commission in March, 1863.

Capt. Hoover now returned to his home in Darke County, Ohio, and thereafter engaged in agricultural pursuits. Later he disposed of his interests in the Buckeye State and determined to locate in Nebraska Territory. Coming to this county he purchased land on section 23, Louisville Precinct, securing at once 320 acres, upon which there were no improvements, with the exception of a small log house. Under many disadvantages he commenced the opening up of a farm, and six years later, in 1869, put up the present stone dwelling, which is a fine, substantial structure, commanding the admiration of the country around. The material was quarried on his farm, and the building is constructed to stand for generations. The Captain has found that his land was best adapted to the cultivation of corn, from which he has realized as high as 100 bushels to the acre. This he utilizes largely in the fattening of swine. His well-regulated pens, to which he gives particular care, make a cleanly and healthy domicile for his porkers, and they have been singularly free from the diseases usually attending this species of live stock.

The marriage of Capt. John T. A. Hoover and Miss Eva Hufnagel was celebrated in Darke County, Ohio, Dec. 31, 1848. Mrs. Hoover was born in Lebanon, Pa., in 1832, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Breckbiel) Hufnagel, who spent their last years in Ohio. This union resulted in the birth of ten children, six sons and four daughters, all of whom are living, presenting a family group which any parent may well be proud to look upon. These are recorded as: Benjamin G.; Ellen, the wife of G. Metzger; Catherine, Mrs. Hern Smith; Lizzie, Mrs. Morris Carnay; Emily M., Mrs. William Worth; James; Mary, Mrs. Nelson Dewey; Andrew, William and Isabelle. The two latter are at home with their parents.

After signalizing himself in a most decided manner as a man well fitted for positions of trust and responsibity, Capt. Hoover was, in 1867, elected to represent this county in the Nebraska Legislature on the Republican ticket, endorsed by the Democracy. He served his term acceptably, and in 1870 was appointed by President Grant the Postmaster of Louisville, which position he held a period of ten years. He has served in the various other local offices, and, socially, belongs to the G. A. R., Post No. 175, of Louisville. This well-known pioneer and founder of one of the flourishing towns of Cass County is fitly represented by his portrait, shown on an adjoining page.

THOMAS GOODIER is one of the early settlers as well as one of the most prosperous farmers of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and resides on a well-improved farm located on section 21. He was born in Manchester, England, Jan. 17, 1831. He attended the schools in his native country until he was about eleven years old, where he acquired a taste for reading and study, which he continues to the present time. In his twelfth year he began the business of gardening, which he followed for two years; from this time for nearly twenty years he was employed in the warehouse of Wolff, Hassah & Co., in Manchester, England, his duties in this house being principally the packing of goods for foreign shipment. Another year was spent in the same business for another firm.

In September of 1856 Mr. Goodier was married

to Frances Woolstencroft, a daughter of John Woolstencroft, who resided near the native city of our subject. They are now the parents of five children, named: Mary E., George, Anna, Maud and Thomas. Mary E. is the wife of James Stockem, and resides in Custer County, Neb.; the son George also resides in the same county; Anna is the wife of Jacob Stamm, and resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct.

Feeling that there were countries that offered better advantages than his native land, our subject with his family came to America in 1872, sailing from Liverpool, England, in the Cunard steamer "Batavia," and after a voyage of ten days they landed at New York City, came direct to Cass County, and purchased the eighty acres of land on which they now live. When they arrived on their land it was in a perfectly wild condition, not a furrow had been turned or any improvement of any kind had been made. With the pertinacity for which his countrymen are noted, he went to work with a will to improve his farm, and by close application and continuous hard labor he is the owner of one of the most productive tracts of land in the county.

From a wild and unsettled condition our subject has seen the country about him develop into the splendid, prosperous and highly cultivated state it has now reached, and he has taken no unimportant part in bringing it to its present high and flourishing degree of prosperity, and where a few years ago deer and buffaloes roamed at will, we see productive fields, pleasant, comfortable homes, churches and school-houses abound, denoting an intelligent and God-fearing people.

Our subject is the son of John and Mary Goodier. The mother is now deceased. Both parents were natives of England. He is the second oldest son of the family; all the surviving members of his parents' family are still in England. He has become an American citizen by complying with the laws of the country relative to that question; all his interests are here and his sympathies are wholly and entirely with the American people.

The residence of our subject is pleasantly situated, neatly designed and comfortably furnished. The barns and other out-buildings necessary to the successful prosecution of the business in which he is engaged are conveniently located and are sufficiently extensive to meet his present requirements. A fine thriving orchard yields to his family an abundance of fruit, and a number of ornamental trees and a quantity of flowering plants and choice shrubbery add to the beauty of his home and the pleasure of its inmates. The political allegiance of our subject is with the Democratic party. He has served one term as School Director, but declines to accept further political favors from his neighbors, as he cannot spare the time from his farm duties. He is large-hearted and public-spirited, and with his wife and family, takes a great interest in the social matters of their locality. They are members of the Christian Church, are widely and favorably known, and enjoy the confidence and esteem of all who know them.

IRA GORDON, one of the first business men locating in the young town of Wabash, established himself in the hardware trade here in March, 1888, and is now carrying on a prosperous trade, receiving a generous patronage from the people of this part of the county. He came to Nebraska in 1879, from Dubuque County, Iowa, to which he had been taken by his parents when a little lad seven years of age, and where he developed into manhood on a farm. He was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, near the town of Patton, April 15, 1847, and was the fourth child in a family of seven, the offspring of Ransom S. and Rachel (Little) Gordon, who were natives of Maine and Ireland. The father died at the old homestead in Dubuque County, Iowa, at the advanced age of eighty years. He was twice married, and was one of a family of fourteen children. The mother is still living, making her home with her son, Smith Gordon, in Red Willow County, this State, and is now seventy-eight years old.

This branch of the Gordon family is of Scotch ancestry, and was first represented in this country forty years or so after the settlement of the Plymouth colony by the paternal great-grandfather of our subject, Alexander Gordon, who took up his abode in Saco, Me. His progenitors were the heirs of a large estate in Scotland, Gordon Castle and

its appurtenances, which is still in existence, and estimated to be worth $40,000,000. The brothers and sisters of our subject were named respectively: Ransom, Smith, Henry and Lois. The first named is now numbered among the prosperous farmers of Centre Precinct; Smith is a resident of Red Willow County; Henry is a soldier of the regular army, and located at Ft. Windgate, New Mexico; Lois is the wife of John Hess, of Elmwood Precinct, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Gordon was given the advantage of a practical education in the common school, completing his studies in Dubuque County, Iowa. He was but a boy at the outbreak of the Rebellion, and consequently did not enter the army as he wished, in company with his brothers and half-brothers. In the meantime they had pre-empted land in Centre Precinct, this county, where they settled afterward. Young Gordon, also deciding upon the pursuit of agriculture, purchased, in 1879, eighty acres of land in Stove Creek Precinct, to which he came with his little family not long afterward. He had been married, Dec. 22, 1875, to a Miss Ida Tisdale, who was born in Dubuque County, Iowa. Mrs. Gordon was carefully reared and thoroughly educated, completing her studies in St. Mary's Academy in Dubuque. She became the mother of two children, daughters, May M. and Emma M., and departed this life at their home in Iowa, July 23, 1879. Thereafter our subject for several years following lived in Iowa, and his children were taken care of by himself, his sister keeping house for him.

On the 18th of February, 1886, Mr. Gordon contracted a second marriage, with Miss Annie, daughter of William Thaler, of Palmyra, Otoe County, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Of this union there is one child, a daughter, Bessie Lurettie. In March, 1888, leaving his farm in Stove Creek Precinct, Mr. Gordon purchased the hardware business of G. W. Woodruff, the pioneer establishment of its kind in Wabash. His energy and enterprise are proverbial among the people of this section, and he has become identified with the various leading interests of the town, to which he gives his encouragement and support. He is one of the stockholders of the Wabash Publishing Company, and uniformly votes the straight Republican ticket. In religious matters he adheres to the doctrines of the Free-Will Baptist Church, and in Masonic circles is a member of Euclid Lodge, at Weeping Water. He has distinguished himself as an able financier, and if we may judge anything from the opinions of his fellow-citizens, no man stands higher in the business or social circles of Wabash and vicinity than Mr. Gordon.

GREELEY GARRISON. The main points in the history of this highly esteemed resident of Plattsmouth are as follows: He was born near Three Rivers, St. Joseph Co., Mich., Feb. 16, 1854, and is the son of William Garrison, a native of the State of New York. The paternal grandfather it is believed was a native of Holland, and upon coming to America early in life, located in the State of New York, whence he removed later to Michigan, settling in St. Joseph County, and there spent the remainder of his days.

William Garrison, the father of our subject, was reared to manhood in his native State, which he left about the time of reaching his majority, casting his lot among the pioneers of St. Joseph County, Mich. He purchased a tract of timber land near which grew up the present flourishing city of Three Rivers, eliminated a good homestead from the wilderness, and lived there until November, 1854. Then crossing the Mississippi he established himself a short time in Glenwood, Iowa, where he sojourned until March, 1855, and with the spirit of adventure still upon him, once more changed his residence, taking up his abode among the pioneers of Nebraska Territory. He located this time in Cass County, when there were little indications of white men in this region.

The removal of the father of our subject from Michigan was made overland by means of a team of horses and a wagon. He crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, before this now flourishing city had even assumed the dignity of a platted vil-

lage. There was one store, which was conducted in a log building, and of this Mr. Garrison soon secured possession. The Indian titles had been only a short time extinguished, and the savages themselves still lingered in the country. But few white people had ventured within the Territory, and they were mostly located along the river. The land was still owned by the Government, and was selling at $1.25 per acre.

For several years afterward the elder Garrison carried on general merchandising in primitive style, but finally sold out and located on a tract of land northwest of the city. This he improved and occupied until about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, when he once more gathered together his family and his personal effects, and journeyed to Douglas County, Col., where he now resides.

Mrs. Mary A. (Crawford) Garrison, the mother of our subject, was born in Richland County, Ohio, and is the daughter of Robert Crawford, a native of Maryland, who emigrated to Ohio and located in Richland County during its pioneer days. Thence a few years later he pushed still further westward into St. Joseph County, Mich., being also among the first settlers there. He improved a farm, erecting buildings and gathering together all the comforts and conveniences needful, and there closed his eyes upon earthly scenes. Mrs. Garrison is still living, making her home with her son in Plattsmouth. The parental family included six children, five of whom grew to mature years, and are now living.

The subject of this sketch was but an infant when his parents came to Nebraska Territory, and he has thus literally grown up with the country. He has been a resident of this county all his life, and has witnessed the growth and development of Southern Nebraska with the warmest interest, and borne no unimportant part as an honest man and a good citizen in building up its reputation. Plattsmouth during this time has grown from a settlement of a few log cabins and frame shanties to one of the most important cities west of the Mississippi, and contains now nearly 10,000 souls. Mr. Garrison spent his boyhood and youth at his father's farm, amid the wild scenes of pioneer life, and upon reaching manhood chose agriculture for his occupation, and gave to this the most of his attention until the spring of 1888, when he disposed of his farm property, and moving into the city established himself as a blacksmith, and is in the enjoyment of a good patronage. He is a natural mechanic, and without having served any regular trade either as blacksmith or carpenter, is a regular expert in the handling of tools. This talent has been the means of saving him many hundreds of dollars on his farm and elsewhere.

The marriage of H. Greeley Garrison and Miss Harriet N. Bailey was celebrated at the home of the bride in Cass County, July 19, 1883. Mrs. Garrison was born in Schenectady County, N. Y., Sept. 4, 1855, and is the daughter of William P. and Angelique (Van Slike) Bailey, who were natives of New York, and are now residing in this township. (See sketch of Mr. Bailey.) Of this union there is one child, a daughter Letta. Our subject and his family occupy a snug home in the northwestern part of the city, and which is the frequent resort of a large number of friends. Mr. G., politically, is a member of the Democratic party.

HEZEKIAH VAN HORN, a highly respected farmer of Plattsmouth Precinct, is pursuing the even tenor of his way on one of its well-cultivated farms, and has built up a good homestead by his own persevering efforts, unaided except by his faithful and devoted wife. He was thrown upon his own resources early in life, and his possessions are the accumulations of industry and economy. He is one of the many men who came to Nebraska with faith in its future, and whose labors have been crowned with their legitimate reward.

The ancestors of our subject were originally from Holland, where his paternal grandfather, by name Christian Van Horn, was born, and whence he emigrated to the United States when a young man, locating in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Pa. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and when his services were no longer needed located in Belmont County, Ohio, about 1836. Thence he re-

moved to the vicinity of Xenia, in Greene County, where his death took place in 1858, when he was seventy-five years old. His son James, the father of our subject, was born in Berks County, Pa., in 1817, and accompanied his father to the Buckeye State. He was there married to Miss Lydia Gray, and they became the parents of eight children, viz: Christian, our subject, Caroline, Thompson, James, Zeruiah, William and Edward. The mother died when a young woman, aged about thirty years, in February, 1853, at the home in Ohio.

The father of our subject was married the second time, in Ohio, in 1857, to Miss Caroline Ruse, a native of Virginia. Of this union there were born six children: John W., Howard; Maggie, who died in August, 1885; Joseph, Ida and Laura. The family lived in Ohio until the year 1863, then decided to push on further westward, and located in the vicinity of Shawneetown, Ill. Not being satisfied with their surroundings at that place, they changed their residence to Posey County, Ind., but later returned to Illinois, settling in Crawford County. Thence in the year 1881 they moved across the Mississippi to Union County, Iowa, where they still live.

The subject of this sketch was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Nov. 8, 1843, and remained with his father until a youth of fifteen years. He then started out for himself, going first to his uncle, Joseph Van Horn, in Grape Grove, Greene Co., Ohio, with whom he remained one year. He then returned to his father in Greene County, and in 1863 went with his parents to Illinois, and then he journeyed alone to Iowa, in September, 1872. Two years later he was married, Sept. 10, 1874, to Miss Mercy I. Barlow, and they commenced the journey of life together in Iowa, where they lived until coming to this county, Oct. 19, 1879. Mr. Van Horn was quite prominent in Grant Township, Iowa, serving as a Constable, and occupying other positions of trust. Politically, he is a stanch Democrat. Christian, the oldest brother of our subject, was a soldier in the Union Army during the late war, and was killed at Goldsboro, N. C., about the time of Lee's surrender.

To our subject and his estimable wife there were born four children, three of whom are living, viz: George C., Albert M. and Emma Laura. One son, James M., died Aug. 27, 1882, when seven years, two months and six days old. Mrs. Van Horn was born Aug. 14, 1851, in Crawford County, Ill., and is the daughter of Henry M. and Laura E. (Barlow) Barlow. The father was a native of Crawford County, Ill., and the mother of Vermont. The parental household consisted of three children two of whom are now living.

WILLIAM EDGAR came to Nebraska three years ago, and immediately attached himself to the farming community of Cass County, having previously purchased a partly improved farm on section 25, Centre Precinct. He has brought his land to a good state of cultivation, and is continually making improvements. He raises both grain and stock, and is meeting with unqualified success.

Mr. Edgar was born in Northumberland County, Pa., Sept. 9, 1843, to Moses and Mary (Winner) Edgar. His father was a native of the Eastern States, although it is not known in which one he was born, as he died when our subject was a child. He spent his last years in Pennsylvania, where he was engaged as a weaver. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity. After his death his widow, who was a woman of much capability and energy, moved with her children to Wisconsin, thence to Illinois, and finally to Iowa, where the most of the family are now living.

He of whom we write was a lad of ten or more years when his mother moved to Wisconsin, and in Green County, that State, he obtained his education in the common schools, and was reared to a practical, useful life. A few years later the family moved to Ogle County, Ill., and he resided there until he came to this State. He has always followed farming, and had a good farm, which he had brought to a high state of cultivation. But in the spring of 1885 he sold all his property in that State to start anew in Cass County, Neb., having previously purchased this one. It was partly improved, but by his wise management and hard labor he has

greatly increased its value, and has made many fine improvements. The past summer (1888) he erected a large and conveniently arranged barn, 36x44 feet in dimensions, with high posts, and well painted. Everything about the place is neat and orderly, denoting the practical, thrifty man in the owner. There is a good orchard and grove, and from the former Mr. Edgar already derives an income. He usually raises about sixty acres of corn and other small grains, the fertile soil yielding large harvests.

Mr. Edgar was married to Miss Mary Jane Vanderkar, Sept. 22, 1869. She was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., Sept. 14, 1850, and lived there until she was five years old, when she accompanied her parents to Ogle County, Ill. She there grew to womanhood, receiving from her good mother a careful training in all that goes to make a good housewife. She remained in the home of her parents until our subject claimed her assistance to build up another. Her father, Michael Vanderkar, was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., March 29, 1827, and was a son of John B. and Mary (Warrington) Vanderkar, natives of New York. His mother was a daughter of James Warrington, who came from England, and was a pioneer settler of Saratoga County. He improved and owned two farms, clearing them from the unbroken forest, and on one of them he lived and died, having his home on the banks of the beautiful Mohawk River. The father of Mrs. Edgar married Miss Adeline Vandercook, a daughter of Peter and Nancy (Filkins) Vandercook, and a resident of Saratoga County, which was also the place of his birth. He was a farmer by occupation, but later in life he retired from active labor, and died at his home in Cohoes. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderkar spent the early part of their married life in their native county. Later in life, about 1855, they removed with their family to Ogle County, Ill., where they still reside, he owning a valuable farm there. They have had nine children, seven of whom grew to maturity.

The shadow of a heavy grief has darkened the married life of our subject and his wife, in the death of four of the five children who have been born to them, Addie being the only one now living. Of the others the following is recorded: Blanche died Jan. 18, 1877, aged six years, six months and six days; Carrie died January 24, the same year, aged three years, twenty-four days; Lula died April 4, 1886, aged six years, eight months and twenty-eight days; Arthur, the only son, died Nov. 11, 1888, aged five years, eight months and twenty-seven days. The first two died of membranous croup. In this great bereavement Mr. and Mrs. Edgar do not sorrow without the hope that their darlings will be restored to them in a future and brighter life, and to them, in the beautiful words of the poet:

More homelike seems the vast unknown
  Since they have entered there;
To follow them were not so hard,
  Wherever they may fare;
They cannot be where God is not,
  On any sea or shore,
Whate'er betides, Thy love abides,
  Our God, forevermore.

Mr. Edgar is a man of good understanding, keen and prompt, and, withal, honorable in his dealings. Although he has been a resident of this place but a comparatively short time, yet he has made a favorable impression upon the people by his manly, straightforward ways, and, with his wife, is justly regarded with feelings of respect and friendship by all in the community. He keeps well informed on the political issues of the day, and is decidedly in favor of the Republican party.

Mr. Edgar had three brothers in the Union Army —John, Reuben and Lazarus. John was killed at the battle of South Mountain; the other two were spared to return home, but broken down in health, as were so many of our bravest soldiers.

DANIEL G. MENDENHALL, an old settler of Stove Creek Precinct, is now numbered among its most successful farmers, and is one of its leading citizens. He is a son of Pennell and Mariah (West) Mendenhall, natives of Lancaster County, Pa., the father born April 27, 1811, and the mother May 17, 1811. Both his paternal and maternal grandfather were of English descent, and the former was a native of the Keystone State. His father passed his early years in the State of his nativity, and when a youth learned

the shoemaker's trade. When a young man he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and was there married. He carried on shoemaking in that city a short time, and then moved to Indiana, and became one of the first settlers of Randolph County. He bought timber land there, improved a good farm of 140 acres, built up a nice home for himself and family, and was prosperously engaged in agriculture there until his death in 1871, at the age of sixty-eight years. His widow died in Indiana, in 1881, at the age of sixty-five years. They were active members of the Free-Will Baptist Church, and occupied a high position in the society of their community, where they were valued for their many good traits of character. They had eleven children, as follows: Jesse, Sarah, Joseph (deceased), James, Lydia, Susan, Daniel G., Eliza, Margaret, Ann (deceased), William. Joseph enlisted in the defense of the Union as a member of an Indiana regiment, went to the front, and in Tennessee died of diarrhœa. James enlisted in an Ohio regiment in 1861, served three years without a wound, and was honorably discharged in 1864.

Daniel G., the subject of this biographical notice, was born near Ridgeville, Randolph Co., Ind., July 7, 1846. He passed his early years on his father's farm, and in the winter seasons attended school. In February, 1865, when a youth of eighteen years, he enlisted in the 147th Indiana Infantry, was mustered in at Richmond, Ind., and with his regiment sent to join the Army of the Potomac in Virginia, but did not arrive in Richmond until Lee had surrendered. Our subject acted mostly as guard in the Shenandoah Valley, and was finally mustered out at Harper's Ferry, and discharged at Indianapolis, having shown himself to be possessed of the valor, patriotism, endurance and other qualities necessary to make a good soldier. After his military experience he went back to his father's farm, and worked for him until he attained his majority. He then rented the home farm for three years. In the fall of 1871 he determined to come farther West to build up for himself a home, and, coming to Nebraska City by rail, he came from there to Stove Creek Precinct, and bought the west eighty acres of the northeast quarter of section 25. He broke the land, built on it, improved and farmed it for two years, and then sold it, and purchased 160 acres on the northwest corner of the same section, from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. This was also wild prairie land, with not a tree on it. He broke the soil, set out a large grove of forest trees, six acres of orchard, containing 600 choice fruit trees, besides a vineyard and plenty of small fruits. He had to draw the timber for his first house from McKesick Island, in the Missouri River. He had not paid for the whole of his land when the grasshopper raid came, and for two years he was the only one who held on to railroad land in Stove Creek Precinct, the others having to leave, starvation staring them in the face. He pitted himself against the grasshopper, and, though these insects left nothing but the soil, his staying powers proved the stronger, and he won in the end, and has now much more than retrieved his losses. His farm is in a fine condition, and is one of the best appointed in the precinct, with a large, well-arranged house, good barns, corn cribs, windmill, tank, etc. It is well supplied with running water, and is willow hedged and wire fenced. It is admirably fitted for a stock farm, and he raises and feeds fine Durham cattle, full-blooded Poland-China hogs, with a thoroughbred sow, and he has three teams of graded horses.

The marriage that united our subject to Miss Jane Smithson, a native of Randolph County, Ind., took place Aug. 29, 1868, and of their pleasant wedded life seven children have been born, as follows: Rosetta B., born Aug. 21, 1869; Elizabeth F., Sept. 4, 1870; John W., May 7, 1872; Charley, born March 13, 1874, died May 22, 1874; Margaret A., born Oct. 10, 1875; William H., May 19, 1877; Frankie O. S., Nov. 27, 1884.

Mr. Mendenhall is a practical man, endowed with sufficient enterprise and tenacity of purpose to make him successful in whatever he undertakes. That he is an intelligent and skillful agriculturist is demonstrated by the appearance of his farm, with its well-tilled fields, and well-kept, finely graded stock. He stands high in the esteem of his fellow-citizens, who show their confidence in his ability and integrity by entrusting to him such responsible offices as the Supervisorship of the precinct,

and electing him to a position on the School Board. He is influential in the councils of the Republican party of his locality, being a strong believer in the principles promulgated by that party. He has served as a juryman. Religiously, he adheres to the doctrines of the Free-Will Baptist Church.

GEORGE W. GRIMES, who settled in Otoe County, Neb., in May, 1865, in McWilliams Precinct, and Sept. 20, 1869, moved to his present home, owns an extensive farm in Liberty Precinct, and is classed among the most substantial and well-to-do representative agriculturists of Cass County. His farm is supplied with good buildings and all the necessary improvements to make it one of the most desirable estates for many miles around. It comprises 380 acres of finely tilled land, which is distributed on different sections as follows: 140 on section 19, eighty acres on section 30, and 160 acres on section 17. It has living water on it and many other advantages, adapting it admirably to stock-raising or any other purpose to which the owner chooses to apply it.

Mr. Grimes was born in Howard County, Mo., Nov. 19, 1826. His father, Robert Grimes, was a native of what is now West Virginia, and a son of Aaron Grimes, a native of Ireland, who, coming to America prior to the Revolutionary War, cast in his lot with the struggling colonists and gallantly assisted them in obtaining their freedom from the mother country. After the war he settled in that part of Virginia now known as West Virginia, and there spent his remaining years, his wife preceding him to the grave. They had a large family of children, and Robert Grimes, father of our subject, was one of the youngest members of the family. He attained his majority in Randolph County, where was the home of his birth, and while yet a single man, accompained by his elder brother George, he made his way to Kentucky, living there some years, near Lexington. His brother became a prominent man in public life, and represented either Bourbon or Clark County in the State Legislature for a number of terms. He was married, but died without children. Robert Grimes was married not far from Lexington, Ky., to Miss Temperance Swetman, a native of either Clark or Bourbon County where she was reared and lived until marriage, after which Mr. Grimes began life as a farmer in Kentucky. Subsequent to the birth of four children, he moved with his family to Howard County, Mo., and was among its earliest settlers, having arrived there in the fall of 1826. The Indians were numerous and troublesome at that time, and Mr. Grimes took an active part in suppressing their outrages during the various raids made by the savages. He had also been a patriotic soldier in the War of 1812, while he was still a resident of his native State, Virginia. Mr. Grimes later in life made another move, and with his wife and children settled in Randolph County, Mo., and began to farm in Prairie Township, and there he and his wife made a comfortable home. He served as Major of Militia in the Mormon War in Missouri at the time they were driven out of that State and located in Nauvoo, Ill. During the last part of their lives they moved to the northern part of the same county, where they both died, he at the age of sixty-three, Nov. 1, 1847, and she eight years later, when past sixty years old. They were members of the Christian Church, and their daily lives exemplified the beauties of its teachings.

Our subject was the first son and the fifth child in order of birth of the six sons and seven daughters born to his parents and of this large family all are living but two. He comes of a long-lived, hardy race, and inherits many of their independent, sturdy traits of character, that make him invaluable as a citizen and successful as a man. He was married in Randolph County, Mo., June 15, 1854, to Miss Nancy M. Goddard, a native of that county. She was born Feb. 10, 1834, and was a daughter of John G. and Talitha (Fipps) Goddard, now deceased, they having died in Randolph County. The father's death was tragic, for as he was standing on his own door-step he was shot by bushwhackers, Feb. 26, 1865. He was then over fifty years old. During the war he had stood on neutral ground. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Grimes, ten years before his death had departed this life, and he had married a second time. He and his first wife were natives of Kentucky, but were married

in Randolph County, Mo., to which county they had gone from Kentucky some years before. Mr. Goddard was a lifelong farmer. Mrs. Grimes was the eldest of a large family of children, and she was reared and educated in the county of her nativity. She is the mother of ten children, five of whom early passed to the great beyond, two of them being named Francis E. and George E. The other three died in infancy. The record of the living children is as follows: Talitha T. is the wife of E. M. Smith, a farmer of this precinct; Louvina is the wife of W. P. Comer, a farmer of this precinct; Mary A., Floreta and John E. are at home with their parents.

Mr. Grimes has not achieved success without hard labor, but his toils have been directed by a clear head and cool judgment. He is shrewd in his dealings, and his credit stands high in financial circles. He and his good wife are active members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Union Village, and he is an Elder. In politics he is a sound Democrat, and has been true to his party ever since he became a voter.

WILLIAM HENRY H. CASSEL is a practical farmer, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 26, Weeping Water Precinct. He is the son of one of Nebraska's pioneers, his father, John Cassel, having been an early settler of Otoe County, where he evolved a valuable farm from the wild prairie near Nebraska City. Our subject was only a boy when he accompanied his parents to this State in 1856, but he may well be denominated a pioneer of Nebraska, not only for his share of the pioneer labor needed to improve his father's farm, but for the hard work that he has performed since coming here in developing his own farm from a state of nature, and thus materially assisting in advancing the agricultural interests of Cass County.

Our subject was born in Indiana, May 7, 1844, and there the first twelve years of his life were passed, and he gained the rudiments of his education in the public schools of his native State. His father was a native of South Carolina, and there lived until he had attained manhood. He then sought the wilds of Ohio, and was there married to Sarah Thomas, and with her valuable aid hewed out a farm from the forest-covered land. They subsequently moved to Indiana, and later to Nebraska, always keeping on the frontier, and again began the pioneer task of building up a home far from the haunts of civilization. On the tract of wild prairie not far from Nebraska City he improved a farm, and there spent his remaining years, dying in 1882. He left the record of a life of usefulness and good deeds, and his memory is respected by his early associates in pioneer days, and by later comers, as that of a just and upright man, whose kind hand was readily extended to them in times of trouble. He was an earnest Christian, and a member of the Baptist Church, as is also his esteemed wife, who still survives him. Of their wedded life twelve children were born, nine of whom lived to maturity.

Their son, of whom we write, was a strong and active boy of twelve years when they came to Nebraska, and thus it has been his privilege to witness the growth of the State, its upbuilding from the wild prairies, from which the buffalo, deer and antelope had not fled when he first came, and where the Indian still lingered. He can remember when Nebraska City was an insignificant trading-post with less than 100 habitations, and most of them of rude style of architecture, or of no architecture at all. In the early schools of that city he completed his education, and on his father's homestead he gained a good knowledge of agriculture. He remained an inmate of the parental household until 1871, when he came to Cass County and purchased the land comprised in his present farm of ninety-two acres, finely located on section 6, township 10, range 11, Weeping Water Precinct. From that cultivated prairie he has developed one of the most productive farms in this region, and every improvement has been the work of his own hand. He planted a lovely grove of forest trees that adds greatly to the attractiveness of his place; a good orchard, and small fruits in abundance. His farm is mostly fenced with hedge, and the buildings that he has erected are in good order, and look neat and substantial. He devotes his time principally to

stock-raising, and his cattle, horses, and hogs of good grades, are always in fine condition, and bring good prices when thrown on the market. He makes a specialty of raising hogs, finding them very profitable. The first dwelling in which our subject lived on his land was the typical dugout of these Western States, which he built himself, and in which he for a time kept a bachelor's establishment until he could secure a more commodious residence. The following year, 1872, after making various improvements, he was married to Miss Sarah Emery, and she has cheerfully aided him in building up their present comfortable home. In this four children have been born to them, of whom three are still living, namely: Wayland, Lottie and Earl. Their son Harry died when one year old. Mrs. Cassel was born in Canada, and came to Nebraska with her parents. They settled near Tecumseh and lived there until lately, when they moved to Crab Orchard.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassel are members in good standing of the Baptist Church, of Wabash, and they earnestly and sincerely strive to live up to their professions. They are cordially liked in this community, and none know them but to respect them. Mr. Cassel votes with the Republican party, and always takes an intelligent interest in politics. He uses his influence to procure good educational facilities in this precinct, and has done good work for the cause while serving as Director on the School Board.

WILLIAM FRANS and his son R. H. are carrying on an extensive mercantile business in the town of Union, and they may well be classed among the leading merchants of this part of Cass County. Mr. Frans was one of the original settlers of Cass County, and during the first decade of the settlement of Nebraska he was one of its active pioneers. There are but few people now living in this State who visited it as early as he did, and saw it in all its primeval wildness, when it was the domain of the Indian, with scarcely a trace of civilization, and some time before its great possibilities were realized, or it was dreamed that it would one day become a powerful commonwealth, occupying a proud position as one of the States of the great American Union. The time of Mr. Frans' first visit here to which we refer was 1848. He was in the Government service, it being the last year of the Mexican War, when he, an adventurous, high-spirited youth of eighteen, crossed the Missouri River at Ft. Kearney, now Nebraska City, to enter the employ of the Government as teamster. The fort was then occupied by five companies of United States troops, known as the Oregon Battalion, that had been recruited in Missouri for service in the Mexican War if needed, and had been sent from Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., to take possession of the unoccupied post at Nebraska City. In the fall of that year old Ft. Kearney was finally abandoned, and the garrison moved to what was afterward known as new Ft. Kearney, in the southern portion of the State, on the Platte River. Our subject was engaged in hauling supplies to the new fort, making three trips during the year, and on the last one he went in a diagonal direction across the Territories from new Ft. Kearney to Ft. Leavenworth, where he was discharged from the service, having been in the Government employ just five months. He then returned to his home in Buchanan County, Mo., and remained there until 1851, when he took up a claim near Plum Hollow in Fremont County, Iowa, and made several improvements on his 80-acre tract of land, continuing to reside on it until 1854. He then crossed the Missouri River at a place known as Thompson Ferry, which he himself had managed in 1853, and found himself once again in the Territory of Nebraska, this time as a settler He took up a claim where the old town of Rock Bluff was first laid out, and with his father-in-law and a son of the latter who had come with him, each of whom took up claims, paid the Indians a tribute of $13 for the privilege of being allowed to stay and not be molested, as those settlers who refused to pay the tribute exacted were run off by the natives to whom the land then belonged. Our subject and his kinsmen remained on their farms until 1862, and during that time had materially aided in building up the now defunct town of Rock Bluff, which was at that time

a thriving little village, and one of the foremost in the county on the Missouri River. In 1862 Mr. Frans sold all his interests in the Territory, and again took up his abode in Buchanan County, Mo. While a resident of Nebraska he had engaged to some extent in freighting, and from the 17th of March, 1861, until Jan. 10, 1862, had made three trips to Denver on his own account. He afterward made two other trips across the plains, one to Denver, Col., and one to Jewelburg, Neb. Mr. Frans did not escape the vicissitudes of life in a pioneer country, and avers that it was desperately hard times for the pioneers in 1858 to 1861, and the only way to make money was to freight provisions across the plains, and at that business he was financially successful.

The early years of the life of our subject were passed in Meade County, Ky., on the banks of the Ohio River, where he was born March 1, 1831. His father, Tazwell Frans, was a Virginian by birth, and spent the first few years of his life in the Old Dominion, but while he was still a boy his parents, likewise natives of Virginia, moved from there to Kentucky and settled among the pioneers of that State. They built a home in Meade County, and there John Frans and his wife, the grandparents of our subject, passed away, full of years, leaving the blessed memory of well-spent lives. They were Missionary Baptists in their religious faith, and held tenaciously to the tenets of their church, The father of our subject grew to manhood in his father's home on the beautiful banks of the Ohio, and there he and Ruan Hardin united their lives for better or for worse, and began their wedded life on a farm in that vicinty. Mrs. Frans was a relative of the celebrated Ben Hardin. The most of their family were born there, and in 1844 they migrated to Missouri and settled in what was commonly called Platte Purchase, being the northwest corner of the State of Missouri. Their remaining years were passed there, the father dying in 1864, in the opening month of the year, and the mother preceding him in death six months before, having died in July, 1863, and they were both aged sixty-three years. They were of the Baptist faith, and were strictly honorable, upright people. Of the sixteen children, eight sons and eight daughters, born of their marriage, thirteen lived to marry and settle in life, and twelve are yet living.

Our subject, who was the fourth child of that large family, was a lad of fourteen years when he accompanied his parents to their new home in Missouri. We have seen that two or three years later he started out in the world for himself, and have traced his life to his return to Buchanan County, and we will now resume the thread at that point. After his return from the mountains he left Nebraska in 1862 and went to Buchanan County, Mo. He there turned his attention to farming, which occupation he laid aside awhile in 1864, at the call of duty, to enlist with the State troops for the protection of the State. He was in the service for seven months, and was then honorably discharged without having taken part in any battles. He continued to reside in Buchanan and DeKalb Counties until 1884. In the latter county he sold his interests and in the year just mentioned returned to Nebraska, and in Factoryville, this county, entered into the mercantile business with his son R. H., who had established himself there the year before. They continued to conduct their business in Factoryville until October, 1887, when they moved their stock of goods to this point, regarding the location as more favorable for their trade. They have a new and commodious store, 36x40 feet in dimensions, with a wareroom at the rear, 20x16 feet, a fine basement beneath the whole, and a comfortable tenement above. They carry about $10,000 worth of stock, and have an annual sale of about $20,000 of general merchandise, having to supply all the country trade for miles around. The post-office is also in the store, and R. H. Frans has held the position of Postmaster for several years, while our subject is Deputy Postmaster. Mr. Frans is a stanch Democrat, and takes an active interest in local and National politics. He is a man of honor, who is cordially liked by all with whom he has dealings, and his credit stands high in the commercial world. He is a man of deep religious feelings, and has been for years Deacon of the Baptist Church, of which his wife and all but their three youngest children are also valued members.

Mr. Frans and Miss Rebecca Spiers were united in marriage in Buchanan County, Mo. Mrs. Frans

is a native of Ohio, born in Coshocton County, Sept. 9, 1835, and is a daughter of Benedict and Ruphena (Rife) Spiers. They were natives of Germany, born near the famous Rhine, where they were reared and married. Soon after the latter event they came to America and located in Ohio, where Mr. Spiers carried on farming and milling, being a professional miller. In 1843 the family made their way to Buchanan County, Mo., and there Mr. Spiers was engaged as a miller for some time. In 1854 he and his family came to Nebraska, and settled in Rock Bluff Precinct. In 1875 he left his Cass County home, and with his wife and son moved to Kansas, and settled in Smith County, where they are yet living, the parents both being past eighty years of age. Mrs. Frans was quite young when her parents moved to Missouri, and there she completed her education. Of her marriage with our subject eleven children have been born, all of whom are living, and the following is recorded of them: Augustus lives in DeKalb County as a merchant, and he married Clara Jones; R. H., in business with his father, married Jennie Fitch; Charles W., a farmer in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County, married Belle Fitch for his second wife, his first wife having died some years ago; Florilda is the wife of Joseph Sands, a farmer near old Rock Bluff Village; Rosanna is the wife of Robert Cogdill, a farmer of Factoryville; Isabel is the wife of Dr. M. L. Thomas, a physician of Union; Betsy is the wife of Wyatt Hutchinson, a farmer in Rock Bluff Precinct; Lavinia is the wife of William W. Wolfe, a blacksmith at Union; Colmore R. is a clerk in the store, and lives at home; Harry is also at home, and a clerk in the drug-store of Dr. Thomas; Emma is at home.

CHARLES A. WEBSTER, proprietor of the leading jewelry and book store of Weeping Water, also carries a fine line of stationery and fancy goods, and is transacting a large and lucrative business. The house was established in the winter of 1881–82, first as a jewelry store, and was the first of its kind in the place. It has grown gradually from a modest beginning, and enjoys a constantly increasing patronage. Mr. Webster is a thorough business man, a master jeweler, and numbered among the stirring and enterprising men of his community.

Our subject was born in Batavia, N. Y., March 18, 1840, and lived there until a lad twelve years of age. He then accompanied his widowed mother to Oberlin, Ohio, and four years later, in 1856, to Mills County, Iowa. He was a resident of the Hawkeye State until after the outbreak of the Rebellion, and on the 12th of August, 1862, he proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in Company K, 29th Iowa Infantry, as a private. He was soon promoted to Sergeant. His regiment was made a part of the Western Army, and operated mostly in Arkansas and Louisiana. Mr. Webster participated in many of the important battles of that period, including the fights at Helena, Elkinsford, Poison Springs, Camden, Jenkins' Ferry, the siege of Spanish Fort, and numerous other engagements and skirmishes. He escaped unharmed, and at the expiration of his term of service was mustered out at New Orleans, Aug. 10, 1865, and reached home the first week in September following.

Mr, Webster now began his business career at Tabor, Fremont Co., Iowa, where he first carried on farming and then engaged in general merchandising a period of five years. Selling out in January, 1876, and coming to this county, he first purchased 160 acres of land in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and occupied this farm until 1881. He effected some excellent improvements, and added later to his original purchase, providing the whole with good fences, and setting out an apple orchard and trees of the smaller fruits, putting up buildings, and generally adding to the value of the property. In the year mentioned he sold out, and invested a portion of his capital in his present enterprise. He is a man who gives his strict attention to his business, meddling very little with politics, otherwise than giving his decided support to the principles of the Republican party. He was one year persuaded to accept the office of Alderman, and frequently serves as School Director in his district.

Mr. Webster was married in Iowa, Nov. 13, 1862, to Miss Jerusha S. Reed, of Tabor, and they became the parents of four children, only three of

whom are living, namely: Ellen L. S., Charles E. and William. They are all at home with their parents, and are being trained and educated in a manner which shall make of them worthy members of the community. Mrs. Webster was born in Gustavus County, Ohio, in 1842, and is the daughter of Augustus and Serena (Hutchins) Reed, who were natives of Connecticut, and the father for many years was one of the prominent farmers of the Buckeye State. About 1853 he removed to Iowa, engaging in business at Tabor. Later, coming to Nebraska, he took up his residence in Weeping Water Precinct, and died about 1881. He was one of the earliest pioneers of Washington County, Iowa. Mrs. Reed is still living, making her home in Weeping Water with her son.

William H. Webster, the father of our subject, was born in Connecticut, and received a thorough education, being graduated from Yale College. Later he took up the study of medicine, completing his medical course in one of the New York hospitals. He commenced the regular practice of his profession at Batavia, N. Y., and during a period of eight years accumulated a fortune while still a young man. He possessed unbounded energy in the duties of his calling, and labored beyond his strength, in fact, working himself to death, departing hence while in his prime, about 1842. He had married Miss Victoria Bowen, of Fall River, Mass., and they became the parents of four children, the youngest of whom died after the death of the father. The mother subsequently came to the West, and spent her last years in Kansas with her daughter, dying about 1869.

HENRY SCHOMAKER. Among the practical and thrifty farmers of Avoca Precinct who have made a specialty of stock-raising, the subject of this sketch occupies a good position and is quite an extensive property holder, being the owner of a fine farm of 320 acres on sections 1 and 14. The greater part of the land is in productive condition, well watered, and with good buildings. The whole forms a pleasant picture of country life, and suggests the idea of plenty and comfort where it would seem that that rare article—happiness—might contentedly abide.

Mr. Schomaker may properly be numbered among the self-made men of Southern Nebraska, having come here comparatively without means, and commenced in a modest way to build up a home and a competence. His first purchase was 160 acres of land, to which he has added by degrees, and such has been his career both as a thorough farmer and a reliable citizen, that he occupies an enviable position socially and financially. He has been a resident of Avoca Precinct since the summer of 1871. In June of that year he crossed the water from the Fatherland with his mother and other members of the family, all of whom settled in this locality, where they now have comfortable homes. They are not ashamed to admit that they were as poor as "church mice" when they landed in the United States, and their career has been an admirable illustration of the result of perseverance, industry and honesty. There are now no more highly respected residents in the county than the family of Schomakers.

A native of the Duchy of Sleswick-Holstein, the subject of this sketch was born Sept. 7, 1851, and is the third child and second son of Peter and Anna C. (Lau) Schomaker, who are both now deceased; the father died in his native Germany in 1849, at the age of fifty-nine. He is remembered by his sons as a kind-hearted, honest and intelligent man, one whose lot in life it was to be poor in purse and who made his living by hard labor. The mother after the death of her husband came to America with her four younger children, namely: Henry (our subject), Christian, Margarette and Herman. They settled in Avoca Precinct, where the sons contributed to the support of the mother, and where they all lived together until her death, July 25, 1880; she was then fifty-nine years of age. Both parents were members of the German Lutheran Church.

Mr. Schomaker, our subject, landed in America about the time of reaching his majority, and later found a bride in Avoca Precinct, being married, Dec. 20, 1877, to Miss Minnie Carsten. This lady was born in Cass County, this State, Sept. 20, 1861, and is the daughter of Frederick and Sarah (Storm)

Yours Truly

W. H. Pickens

Dec. 8, 1869, and Albert A., Oct. 14, 1871. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wetenkamp are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject, politically, is a solid Republican.

JAMES SEARS. Among the men of note and public-spirited citizens of Tipton Precinct, this gentleman occupies a position in the front ranks. Although not an old resident, he has become widely and favorably known on account of his enterprise and intelligence. He is well educated and well informed, and in all respects a citizen calculated to assist in the social and moral advancement of his community. He owns and operates a well-regulated farm of 160 acres on section 36, and makes a specialty of live stock, shipping one or two carloads annually.

In noting the career of a man who has raised himself to a prominent and worthy position in life, it is the most natural thing in the world to glance backward at the place and people whence he sprang. Mr. Sears is of an excellent family; his parents were both natives of the Empire State, his father, James, Sr., born in Orange County, and the mother, in her girlhood Miss Hester Rutan, in Sullivan County. The paternal grandfather, also named James, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., and moved later to Chenango County, during the period of its earliest settlement. He cleared a farm, established a sawmill, accumulated a good property, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-six years. He traced his ancestry to Ireland. The Rutans were of German descent.

The father of our subject was reared to manhood on a farm in his native county, and upon starting out for himself in life took up his abode in Sullivan County, N. Y., where he engaged extensively in agriculture, and like his father before him, also operated a sawmill. He became prominent in the affairs of Sullivan County, represented his township in the Board of Supervisors many years, and after the organization of the Republican party was one of its most active members. He departed this life in March, 1888, at the old homestead, when ninety-six years old. The mother had preceded her aged partner only a few weeks, dying in February of that year, at the age of seventy-eight. She was a good woman in the highest sense of the term, and a conscientious member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

To the parents of our subject there were born ten children, namely: Margaretta, Abigail, Elizabeth, Isaac, Deborah, James, Mary, Alfred, Charles and William. Charles died when about thirty-six years old. James, of our sketch, was born at Phillipsport, Sullivan Co., N. Y., April 15, 1838, and remained a member of his father's household until twenty-six years old, assisting in the employments of the farm, and for two or three years worked on the Delaware & Hudson Canal. He was married, Sept. 7, 1865, to Miss Lucretia Crossman, a native of his own county, and a lady of fine education.

Mr. Sears soon after his marriage purchased 100 acres of partially improved land in Sullivan County, N. Y., upon which he operated seven years. There was a blue stone quarry in the county, which promised excellent results to any man who could work it understandingly, and of this Mr. Sears determined to become the possessor. He accordingly sold his farm and invested a portion of his capital in the quarry, which he began working, and shipping the product thereof to the various cities East. The young State of Nebraska, however, seemed to offer better inducements than even the blue stone quarry, and accordingly, selling out once more he crossed the Mississippi, and a few weeks later we find him settled on a farm in Otoe Precinct, Otoe County, this State, which he conducted until the spring of 1882, when he changed his residence to this county, purchasing the farm which he now occupies.

All the improvements which we behold to-day around the Sears homestead were effected by the present proprietor. The fences are all of his building and the forest and fruit trees of his own planting. The land is finely watered by a branch of the Nemaha. In addition to his cattle and horses Mr. Sears is considerably interested in full-blooded Poland-China swine. His farming operations are carried on in that systematic manner which is characteristic of the man.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sears there were born two daugh-

Carsten, the father a native of Mecklenburg, Germany, and the mother of Elsass. They emigrated to the United States about 1850, coming to Nebraska and settling in Otoe County, where the father died July 23, 1883, when ripe in years. He had been a good citizen and a successful farmer, and at his death left his wife and three children a good property. They are all living, the mother making her home with her son, Louis Carsten, in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County, and being now about fifty years of age.

Mrs. Schomaker was reared to womanhood in Cass County, and remained a member of the parental household until her marriage. She is now the mother of three children, viz: Frederick, Bertha and Eda. In politics Mr. Schomaker is a stanch Republican, and both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church.

WILLIAM WETENKAMP, who is well and favorably known throughout Plattsmouth Precinct and vicinity, is numbered among its most successful German farmers, possessing all the industry and perseverance of a substantial ancestary. A native of Hanover, Germany, he was born while it was under the rule of its own King, Dec. 29, 1833, and was there educated and reared to man's estate. His parents were Albert H. and Margaret (Schwers) Wetenkamp, and spent their entire lives upon their native soil. They were of pure German stock.

To the parents of our subject there were born eight children, seven of whom are in the United States. William emigrated to America in the spring of 1857, when a young man in the twenty-fourth year of his age, crossing the ocean on the sailing vessel "Republic," and after a voyage of twenty-seven and one-half days landed in New York City. Thence he proceeded to Wisconsin, settling near Manitowoc, where he lived two years, and engaged in milling. Then he came to Nebraska Territory, and commenced working by the month on a farm in Cass County. He was thus employed for two years, and then was given the post of overseer of a train of twenty-five wagons, and began freighting to Denver and the mountains, being thus employed a period of seven years.

The wild frontier experience of Mr. Wetenkamp is one which he will remember vividly all his life. The Indians were numerous and troublesome, and Mr. Wetenkamp and his men were often obliged to skirmish with them in order to protect their goods and animals. He withdrew from this contract with a reasonable amount of money. His homestead embraces 400 acres, which he has brought to a fine state of cultivation, erecting thereon substantial modern buildings, and gathering about him the comforts and conveniences required by the progressive agriculturist. He has besides this 240 acres of prairie land, and fifteen acres of valuable timber.

Mr. Wetenkamp came to this county without means. His career is an admirable illustration of what may be accomplished by perseverance and industry. It has taken years of labor and thousands of dollars to bring his farm to its present condition. The handsome brick residence now occupied by the family was put up in the summer of 1879, at a cost of $4,000, and among his other buildings is a brick structure for the purpose of packing meat, and which proves an admirable repository for this product. The corn cribs, cattle sheds and improved farm machinery, with the herds of cattle and swine, and the fat horses always associated with the thrifty German farmer, give to the homestead that air of comfort and plenty which is delightful to contemplate.

Our subject usually raises about twenty-five head of cattle anually, and feeds upon an average fifty head for market. He also keeps a herd of about 100 hogs, and feeds to his stock most of the grain raised upon his farm His labors and struggles have been shared by one of the most estimable of ladies, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary Long, and to whom he was married in this township, July 8, 1868. Mrs. Wetenkamp is the daughter of S. I. and Elizabeth Long, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Of her union with our subject there have been born three children, one of whom, Elmer W. died at the age of six years in 1880. The survivors are: Grant, born

ters and one son, namely: Bertha M., Olive L. and Elmer. Bertha is the wife of Joseph H. Clapp, a well-to-do farmer of Tipton Precinct, this county; they have two children, Leslie and an infant unnamed. The other daughter is at home with her parents, as is their son Elmer. Mr. and Mrs. Sears are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. S., politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, as have all the male members of the family so far as he has any record of them. He takes satisfaction in the thought that he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He frequently has been sent as a delegate to the various State and County Conventions, has served on the Petit and Grand Juries, and is a man of decided views, whose opinions are generally respected, as they are the outgrowth of his honest convictions.

WILLIAM H. PICKENS has for some years actively promoted the growth of Plattsmouth in his capacity of contractor and builder, he ranking among the first in that business in Cass County. He has been very successful in pursuit of his vocation since coming here, and has accumulated much property, from which he derives a good income.

Mr. Pickens is a worthy descendant of an honorable ancestry, some of whose representatives have been prominent in the public life of this country. He is a native of Ireland, although of Scotch parentage, and his birth took place in the city of Belfast, July 4, 1848. His parents, Arthur and Ann (Clark) Pickens, were natives of Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, respectively. His paternal grandfather, Andrew Pickens, was born in Berks County, Pa., as was also his great-grandfather, Gen. Andrew Pickens. The latter took an active part in the American Revolution, and was one of the youngest and bravest of the Generals under Washington. He distinguished himself in the battles of Cowpens, Eutaw Springs, Thickety Creek and Ft. Harrison. After the war he was elected to Congress from South Carolina, and served with distinction in that body. He was of French parentage, and went to the home of his fathers, loaded with years and honors, to die. His wife was a sister of Senator Carr, of South Carolina. The grandfather of our subject grew to manhood and married in his native State, and then crossed the water to Scotland and settled in Glasgow, where he worked at his trade of stonemason, and there died. His son Arthur, father of our subject, was reared in his native city, and in his youth learned the trade of weaver. Some years after marriage he moved to Belfast, Ireland, where he operated a linen factory until his death in 1849. His wife survived him but a few years, dying in Belfast in 1857. There were four children born of their marriage: Lucy married John Adams, and lives in Belfast; Margaret married R. C. Montgomery, and lives in Chicago; John, who was an engineer, was killed in a collision in California in March, 1888.

The other son, the subject of this notice, was one year old when he was deprived of a father's care, and was nine years old when the sad event of his mother's death left him an orphan. In March, 1858, he accompanied his brother and sister to this country, and as soon as he arrived went to live with Lyman Trumbull in Hyde Park, Ill. He made his home with that gentleman until he was fifteen, and then commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, serving three years, and acquiring a thorough, practical knowledge of his work in all its details, as he had a natural aptitude for handling tools. He subsequently did journeywork for a year, and then established himself as a contractor and builder, with one shop in Chicago and another in Hyde Park. He continued in business in those places until November, 1873, and on the thirteenth day of that month he enlisted for five years as a soldier in the regular army, becoming a member of Company E, 5th United States Cavalry. He thus had an opportunity to see the greater part of our western territory, and became quite familiar with the great plains, from British America on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and from the Mississippi on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west, as he was at different times stationed in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Dakota, Utah, Nevada and Texas; and he also saw something of the Pacific

Coast, as he was at one time stationed in California. He met with many stirring adventures, and one listens to him with pleasure as he recounts tales of his soldier life. He was with Gen. Crook in Dakota at the time of the terrible Custer massacre, and his regiment was at the same time under orders from Gen. Sheridan to march for the place where the massacre occurred, at the junction of the Big Horn and Little Big Horn Rivers. While they were encamped on Rosebud Creek the only survivor of Custer's command came into camp and announced the direful fate that had befallen the beloved and gallant commander and his men. Two days later our subject and his comrades were on the battlefield, where they took up the Indian trail to Yellowstone River. While on that expedition the soldiers had lived fourteen days on horse meat, without any salt for savor. In 1874 Mr. Pickens took part in the battle of Tonto Creek, Ariz., and after the battle was promoted to the rank of Corporal by order of Gen. Crook, for personal merit and bravery in action. In 1877 he was on the Wind River expedition, under Gen. Wesley Merritt, and in the month of July he received promotion to the office of Sergeant, and also served as Quartermaster-Sergeant and Sergeant-Major. While in the army he was with his regiment in all of its marches and engagements, and took part in more than fifty encounters with the Indians. At the expiration of his term of service he was discharged at Ft. McKenney, Wyo., and returned to Chicago in November of the same year. The December following found him in Omaha, and in July, 1879, he came to Plattsmouth from that city, and at once established himself in his business as contractor and builder. In 1879 he bought a lot in a desirable residence portion of the city, and in 1881 erected the neat and commodious dwelling in which he and his family make their home. In 1883 he bought more land, and built another house, and since then has erected three other residences in Vallery's Addition. He now owns five houses, several vacant lots, and ten acres of improved land with buildings, joining the city.

Mr. Pickens was married, Oct. 12, 1880, to Miss Emma A. DeSpain, and their pleasant home is gladdened by the presence of two children—William Edward and Janetta. Their son Arthur John died at the age of six months. Mrs. Pickens was born in McDonough County, Ill., a daughter of William J. DeSpain, who was born in Green County, Ky., March 19, 1812. His father, Peter DeSpain, whose birthplace is unknown, was of French ancestry. He was a Revolutionary soldier, serving under Washington, and after the war he settled in Kentucky, and was a pioneer of Green County, where he cleared a farm from the wilderness, and there his days were lengthened out far beyond Scriptural limits, one hundred years having passed before his vigorous constitution yielded to death. Mrs. Pickens' father grew to manhood in his native county, and there learned the trade of carriage and wagon maker. He went to Illinois when a young man, and located near Decatur, where he plied his trade. Later he was a resident of Sangamon and McDonough Counties. In 1855 he moved to Schuyler County, Mo., and buying a tract of wild land there, devoted most of his time to its improvement, living there until 1860. He next made his home in Iowa for four years, and then became identified with the business interests of Plattsmouth, erecting a shop here and following his trade for awhile. He was elected Police Judge in 1876, and was reelected in 1877, dying while still an incumbent of that office, Dec. 22, 1877, being the date of his death. He was an incorruptible Judge, and his sterling worth made him an invaluable citizen, whose death was a severe blow to the community.

The maiden name of William DeSpain's wife was Janetta Eaton, and she was born in Woodford County, Ky., Oct. 31, 1815. Her father, George H. Eaton, was born in the same county, and his father, Joseph Eaton, was a descendant of one of three brothers who came from England in the "Mayflower." He was one of the first settlers of Woodford County, Ky., where he improved a farm and spent his last years, dying at the age of eighty-seven years. The grandfather of Mrs. Pickens was reared and married in Kentucky, and in 1830 moved with a team to Illinois, and became a pioneer of Macon County. He settled five miles from Decatur, and three years later his death occurred in his new home. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Shannon, and she was a Pennsylvanian by

birth. Her father, Joseph Shannon, was a European, who, coming to America, settled in Pennsylvania, and during the war of the Revolution served in the Continental Army as teamster. He subsequently became a pioneer of Woodford County, Ky., and there died. Mrs. Pickens' mother was left a widow with ten children by the premature death of her husband, but she bravely toiled for their sakes, and kept them together until they were grown and able to care for themselves. She passed her last years peacefully in the homes of her children in Sangamon County. There were ten children born to Mrs. Pickens' parents, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: Augustus S., Mary F., Oscar H., Columbus, Amanda, Eliza, Albert, Emma, Nettie and Belle. Oscar served in the late war as a member of a Missouri regiment.

Mr. Pickens is a man of calm, clear intelligence, just and generous in his treatment of others, and his force and stability of character commend him to those with whom he associates as one to be relied upon in any and all cases. A fine portrait of Mr. Pickens is given on an accompanying page.

ISAAC N. WOLF, Assessor of Greenwood Precinct, is also numbered among its steady-going and well-to-do farmers, and represents a good property lying on sections 34, 11 and 9. A man beginning life at the foot of the ladder, he has made a good record, struggling amid the difficulties which fall to the common lot of man, and better than all, has gained the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. His snug home is suggestive of peace and comfort, without any pretensions to elegance, and it is quite possible that the inmates enjoy life's blessings in as large a degree as many others who are possessed of a greater amount of land and gold. Aside from his present office, Mr. Wolf has been quite prominent in public affairs, and is a man enjoying in a marked degree the good-will of those around him.

Mr. Wolf comes from excellent Pennsylvania stock, his parents, Martin and Elizabeth (Clouse) Wolf, being natives of the Keystone State. They removed, before their marriage, to Ashland County, Ohio, settling in Lake Township on a farm, where the subject of this sketch was born Aug. 7, 1839. Martin Wolf was a carpenter by trade, but was also fond of farming pursuits, which he followed almost exclusively the latter part of his life. From Ohio the family finally removed, in 1855, to Indiana, and thence a few years later they came to Nebraska, where the death of the father took place in Greenwood Precinct, in March, 1877, when he was seventy-five years old. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her daughter, Mary S. Wolf, in Greenwood Precinct. She is now aged eighty-three, one of the oldest ladies in the place. The parental household included nine children, all of whom are living, making their homes mostly in Nebraska. They are named respectively: George W., Jacob, John C., Elizabeth, Martin V., Isaac N. (our subject), Mary S., William S. and Eliza, deceased.

Mr. Wolf accompanied his parents in their removal to Indiana and Nebraska, and in Michigan made the acquaintance of Miss Margaret Ann Clouse, to whom he was married in Dover Township, Lenawee Co., Mich. Mrs. Wolf is the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Wolford) Clouse, who were natives respectively of New Jersey and Ohio. In the latter State Mrs. Wolf lived until a girl of twenty-one years of age, then removed with her parents to Michigan. Mr. Clouse was considerable of a traveler, delighting in going from one place to another and learning what he could of different sections of the country. The family were afterward residents of Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Mr. C. died at the home of our subject, in this State, Dec. 20, 1884, when eighty-two years old. The motherhad died some years before, aged forty-five.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wolf lived for a time at Clayton, Mich., where Mr. W. was in the employ of the Michigan Southern Railroad Company a period of three years. In the spring of 1869 he came to this county and homesteaded eighty acres of land in Greenwood Precinct. Their first dwelling was a box house, in which they lived in a style similar to the people around them until they could do better. The plodding industry of Mr. Wolf in time resulted in the cultivation

of the greater part of his land, of which he still retains possession. He has been a man more than ordinarily public-spirited and liberal, uniformly willing to assist by the best means in his power the projects calculated for the good of the community around him. He is a stanch Republican, politically, and is serving his third term as Assessor. In 1880 he was the Census Taker of Greenwood Precinct, and has frequently served on the Petit Jury. He has been active in the councils of his party in this section of the county, and frequently been sent as a delegate to its various conventions. Upon the organization of his school district he was chosen a Director, serving as such many years. He organized the second school in his precinct. In religious matters, both he and his estimable wife belong to the Free-Will Baptist Church. They have two children only, Mary E. and Nancy L., who continue under the home roof.

JOHN M. LLOYD is a practical farmer and stock-raiser of Liberty Precinct, and he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on a fine farm of 160 acres on section 34. It is well located and has on it an elegant residence, very commodious and comfortable, beautifully situated on a knoll overlooking a fine scope of country.

Our subject is a native of Lycoming County, Pa., his birth having occurred March 8, 1857. His father, Edward Lloyd, was a native and lifelong resident of the same State, his death occurring when our subject was a boy eleven years old. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Montgomery, is still living, and is a very intelligent, thoughtful woman of less than threescore years.

J. M. and his twin brother, Harrison W., a farmer in Liberty Precinct, are the youngest but one of the members of the family. His brother is a married man, having taken as a wife Risa Bingham, of Pennsylvania. He of whom we write was carefully reared by his mother, and was partly educated in his native State. He was a self-reliant lad, of more than ordinary push and intelligence, and when fifteen years of age came to Nebraska, making his home in Otoe County the first year. He was in the employ of the Government as a star route agent between Nebraska City and Ashland, Neb. He was later engaged as a cattle herder for some time, and finally took up his home in Liberty. He was subsequently married in Liberty Precinct at the home of his bride, Mrs. Maria R. Compton, *nee* Reed. She was born in Fountain County, Ind., Nov. 7, 1846, being a daughter of Hiram and Sarah A. (Lyon) Reed. Her father is now deceased, having died at Covington, Fountain Co., Ind., in December, 1883, at the age of sixty-four. Mrs. Reed is yet residing in Covington, and, although sixty-nine years old, is still hale and hearty. Hiram Reed was a native of Pennsylvania, and came of a good old Pennsylvanian family. He was a farmer, and when a young man went to Indiana to pursue his calling, and he was there married, his wife coming from Ohio, her native State. Mrs. Lloyd, of this notice, was reared in Fountain County, and received an excellent education, which well fitted her for the vocation of teacher, which she followed with success a short time before her marriage, in her native county, to John Compton, also a native of Fountain County, he having been born near Hillsboro in July, 1846. He was a son of Terry and Mary Compton, who are still living in Fountain County in the enjoyment of a serene old age, having retired from active life as farmers. Immediately after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Compton made a trip to this State and settled on the farm in Liberty Precinct, Mr. Compton having previously obtained it some years before. It was the year 1875 that they settled in their new home and began life as farmers with every prospect of future success. But two years later death invaded the little home and removed the husband. His marriage had been blessed to him and his wife by the birth of one child, Lulu, who died some months after her father's death.

Since Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd were married, Nov. 17, 1878, they have spent three years in Fountain County, Ind. After their return to this State they settled on the farm which had belonged to her first husband. Since it has come under our subject's management, by a judicious expenditure of money and labor he has made extensive improvements, and has greatly increased the value of the estate,

which may now justly be ranked among the model farms of Cass County.

Of the happy marriage of our subject and his wife five children have been born, as follows: Hiram Reed, Henry L., Elizabeth M., John M. and Grace.

Mr. Lloyd is a young man of high standing in the farming community of Cass County, his enterprise, independence and capacity for work making him a valued citizen. He is a close and intelligent observer of the political aspects of the day, and gives his hearty support to the Republican party.

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON is a popular, highly respected citizen, residing in Salt Creek Precinct, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of 400 acres on section 15. He is the son of Abraham and Nancy (Carney) Johnson. Both of his parents were natives of New York State. His father was a laboring man, and leaving his native State he moved westward and settled in Ohio, where he lived a consistent life, displaying a marked individuality and morality. He died in 1876, seventy-seven years old. The Carneys were among the celebrated Knickerbocker families of New York, so graphically described by the famed author, Washington Irving. The mother died at their home in Ohio in October, 1868, aged fifty years, leaving a family of six children, named: Margaret A., Mary, William A. (our subject), Georgiana, Eliza J. and Cornelius. After the death of the mother, the father contracted a second marriage, and was the father of one child, Sadie.

The subject of this sketch was born in Tompkins County, N. Y., in 1841. His earliest recollections of life extend back to the journey westward to Ohio, during which his father had a violent quarrel with a dishonest boatman. Their home was in the heavily timbered district of Ohio, and at an early age he was taught to swing an ax. At the age of fourteen our subject made his father an offer as follows: That if he would give him his time until he was twenty-one, he would give the father in return one-half of his earnings, to which the parent consented. He then worked out on a farm by the month for six years. He did not attend school six months altogether in his life, and the great store of practical knowledge which the gentleman possesses at this time is the direct result of the study and close observation of events as they transpired about him.

Our subject enlisted as a soldier in Company H, 80th Ohio Infantry. He accompanied his regiment to the seat of war in the South, and participated with them in many skirmishes and engagements. In looking over a list of the battles in which he took part, the names are found of Farmington, Ky.; Corinth, where, in 1862, he received a wound in the knee; Coldwater, Holly Springs, Tallahatchie, Memphis, Helena, siege of Vicksburg, Raymond and Jackson. In the latter engagement he was severely wounded in the left side. Here the rebels came up and captured him. One of them tapped him on his shoulder and said: "What do you think of Vallandigham? He is in our lines now, and is going to be Governor of the State of Ohio." He thought that if such feelings and sentiments were expressed by the rebels, he could no longer be a Democrat, and it was at Jackson, Miss., that he was converted to the Republican faith, which he has to this time steadfastly maintained.

Our subject pursued the following line of reasoning: Here is a man who has been tried for treason, given every advantage and technicality under the law of the land he has sought to betray, has been found guilty, and banished to the side that held his sympathy, yet in the face of all this he was taken up by the Democratic party, and put forward as one of its principal leaders. I can never swallow that dose, and reclining backward, the wound that was made by the rebel sharpshooter allowed the escape of the last drop of Democratic blood in his organism. From this battle-field he was taken to Libby Prison, where he remained until he was paroled, and he was finally exchanged at Columbus, Ohio, in October, 1863. He then rejoined his regiment at Stevenson, Ala., and took part in the battles of Mission Ridge and Huntsville, Ala. At Paint Rock River his right leg was broken while assisting in building a stockade. He was sent to the hospital at Chattanooga, Tenn., where he was examined, and then sent back to Knoxville marked

"discharged," and sent to the Louisville Hospital, thence to New Albany, Ind., from where he went to the soldier's home at Indianapolis. Desiring to obtain a furlough he applied to Gov. Morton, of Indiana, who at all times and in all things was the soldiers' friend, and he procured it for him.

At the expiration of the furlough our subject was appointed on the Secret Police by Gov. Morton, and rendered the State valuable service in that capacity, assisting in the detection and capture of several desperate characters, who were opposed to the Union cause. He was instrumental in ridding the city of Indianapolis of the notorious "Knights of the Golden Circle." From his earliest boyhood days he was a true patriot, and his heart was imbued with an intense love of his country. While a young man he was called upon to climb to the top of a liberty pole in West Bedford, Ohio, to arrange the rope for hoisting a flag. His father was strenuously opposed to his enlistment in the service, as he was a Democrat of the old school. After his enlistment members of the Democratic party tried to bribe him to desert and fly to Canada, but his honor as a man and a soldier would not permit him to so disgrace himself. He is now proud of the record he made in the army, and of the assistance he gave his country in her time of need, and he is certainly justified in all he feels.

While at home on his furlough our subject was married to Miss Rachel Loder, July 7, 1863. This lady is the daughter of James and Ann (Polick) Loder. She was born in Coshocton County, Ohio, where they made their home for the six years following the close of the war, when he removed to Hancock County, Ill., where he resided on a farm until 1881, when he moved to Nebraska and purchased eighty acres of land. He was prospered, and has at various times added to his original purchase, until he now owns 400 acres of choice, eligibly located farm land, which he devotes largely to raising cattle and hogs for the general market. He has now 280 head of cattle and 140 head of hogs. The buildings on his farm are of the most substantial and extensive character, conveniently located, and complete in all their appointments for the purposes for which they were designed. The farm is divided into fields of convenient size by substantial hedge and wire fences; an orchard of choice varieties of fruit and a large number of ornamental trees add to the beauty and value of his property. His home is nicely located, is neatly and tastefully arranged, and well furnished throughout, and his wife takes especial pride in maintaining her home as one of the nicest of the many in the precinct. They have become the parents of nine children, of whom the following are living: John Thomas, Richard, James, Louis and Minnie.

Mr. Johnson has been an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since he was fifteen years of age. He has been Superintendent of the Union Sunday-school in Salt Creek Precinct, Neb. He is a member of Greenwood Post, G. A. R., and also holds a membership in the Odd Fellows' Lodge at Ashland, and is a leading member of the Knights of Pythias. In politics he is now and forever a Republican. He is a progressive, wide-awake citizen, a hard worker, popular among his fellowmen, deserving and holding the respect of all who know him. He is an earnest and hearty supporter of every plan devised to further the best interests of the community in which he lives.

JOHN KRAEGER is one of those earnest, hard-working German-American citizens who have contributed so largely by their perseverance and skill to make the State of Nebraska the fruitful garden it is to-day. He resides on his fine farm of 320 acres located on section 2 of Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He is a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, where he was born April 5, 1854. There he lived with his parents, John and Eve Kraeger, attending school until he reached the age of fifteen years, when he began learning the trade of stonemason, which trade he followed for six years. His life from that time to the present has been passed in farming. In the fall of 1864 he took passage for America in a sailing-vessel from the port of Bremen, and after a voyage of thirty-one days landed at New York City.

After he had reached that city our subject went direct to Tazewell County, Ill., where he lived until 1878, in which year he came to Cass County, Neb.,

where he has since lived. He was married to Sophia Orth, Nov. 15, 1870, in Illinois. The lady was born in Germany, June 16, 1848, and is the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Orth. She came to America with her parents when she was five years old, and settled with them in Canada, where the parents still reside. In 1867 she came alone to Illinois. They have become the parents of nine children: Elizabeth was born Aug. 27, 1871; George, Jan. 12, 1873; Adam, June 8, 1875; John, Jan. 9, 1877; Annie, Jan. 9, 1879; Louisa, Nov. 8, 1882; Jacob, Dec. 28, 1884; Mary, Nov. 6, 1886, and Henry, in 1887.

Mr. Kraeger emigrated with his family to Cass County, Neb., in the spring of 1878, and settled on the farm where he now lives, to the improvement of which he has from that time to the present devoted his every energy. His buildings, provided for general farm purposes, barns, sheds, etc., are among the best in the precinct; his residence is large and tastefully designed and handsomely furnished. The grounds about the house are ornamented with evergreens and shrubbery. A thriving orchard of choice varieties of fruits, and both natural and planted groves, add value to the premises.

When our subject arrived in America he had no means with which to help himself. He contracted a debt of $20 to tide him over his necessities until he could settle down to work at something. He is truly a self-made man, and in gathering the fine property together which now surrounds him, he has shown an immense amount of energy and perseverance. In all things he has been ably assisted by his wife, who has at no time ever hesitated to assume any responsibility or enter upon the discharge of any duty, however hard or unpleasant it might be, that would forward the interests and welfare of husband and family, and now having attained the fulfillment of their hopes and desires, they are enjoying a full competency, which they have striven so long and hard to reach, and have been so richly rewarded.

The friends and neighbors of the subject of this sketch have frequently solicited him to accept official positions at their hands, which he has invariably refused, except the office of School Director, in which position he felt that he could accomplish the greatest amount of good, and the duties of which office he has filled in a highly acceptable manner. Himself and wife are valued and honored members of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican in politics, and is an earnest worker in behalf of that party. He is one of the leaders in the social life of the precinct.

ASA COLMAN, of Liberty Precinct, has been one of its solid institutions for many years, and occupies his father's old homestead, which comprises 220 acres of valuable land, pleasantly located on section 6. The elder Colman homesteaded this during the pioneer days of this county, and was numbered among its most valued citizens. The modern improvements, however, have been effected mostly by the present occupant. A stream of living water runs through the farm, adding greatly to its natural fertility, and aiding in producing some of the finest crops in Southern Nebraska.

Mr. Colman has been a resident of this county since November, 1858, having come here at that time with his father's family when a youth of nineteen years. He has since also continuously resided in Liberty Precinct on the old farm. He was born in Noble County, Ind., Oct. 10, 1839, and is the son of Hartwell and Elizabeth (Engle) Colman, who were natives respectively of New York and Ohio. Both the parents became residents of Noble County, Ind., in their youth; they were married in Ohio, and began life together on a farm in Noble County. Both the maternal and paternal grandparents of our subject were among the pioneer settlers of Noble County. The brothers and sisters of our subject were mostly born in that county. The family in the fall of 1851, leaving Indiana, moved across the Mississippi into Jones County, Iowa, settling on a tract of new land. The father effected considerable improvement, with the aid of his sons, then sold out once more and resolved to cast his lot with the pioneers of Nebraska. Coming to this county he selected land on section 6, Liberty Precinct, which he took up from the Government, and here with his estimable wife spent the remainder of

his days. He was born in 1800, and died in December, 1864, being sixty-four years of age. The wife and mother continued to live a few years at the homestead here, but finally returned to Indiana, and spent her last days at the home of her daughter in Tippecanoe County, where her death took place about 1878, after she had reached her threescore years. She was a good woman, and a member of the Methodist Church.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth upon the pioneer farm in Noble County, Ind., and accompanied his parents in their subsequent removals, first to Iowa and then to Nebraska. In due time he made the acquaintance of Miss Eliza Copple, of Rock Bluff Precinct, to whom he was married at her home there in January, 1865. Mrs. Colman was born in Barry County, Mo., Sept. 10, 1849, and came with her parents to Nebraska during the progress of the Civil War. They settled first in Rock Bluff Precinct, but later sold out and moved to Weeping Water, where the parents are now living, retired from active labor.

Mrs. Colman was reared under the home roof, and educated in the common schools. Of her marriage with our subject there were five children, as follows: Ida M. is the wife of Oliver Murdoch, and they live on a farm in Gosper County; Delmer S., Varrow H., Grace E. and Ray are at home with their parents. Mrs. Colman adheres to the religious faith of her excellent mother, being a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Colman, politically, is a sound Republican.

MRS. LOUISA MATHEWS, an accomplished, intelligent, self-reliant woman, of rare executive ability, is the owner of 240 acres of land on section 30, Stove Creek Precinct, where she has resided for a score of years, and which she has managed with unusual skill since the death of her husband, showing excellent judgment in all her business transactions, and a thorough knowledge of the duties devolving upon her. She was born in Freedom, Beaver Co., Pa., Nov. 10, 1841, and is of mingled Scotch and German descent, her paternal grandfather, William Graham, who was a farmer of Pennsylvania, having been of Scotch origin, though a native of the Keystone State. He was a strong Presbyterian, and adhered tenaciously to the faith of that church. His son Joseph, father of Mrs. Mathews, was born in Butler County, Pa., where he married Henrietta Ghost, a native of the same county. Her father, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was born in Germany, but emigrated to America and settled on a Pennsylvania farm. Mrs. Mathews' father was a gunmaker by trade, and erected a gun factory in Freedom, Pa., and carried on his business there on a small scale. In 1855 he sold his factory and moved to Iowa, becoming one of the pioneers of Scott County. He located twenty miles east of Davenport, taking up 160 acres of land, which he improved, and to which he has since added by purchase, until he now has one of the largest farms in Scott County, where he still resides at the advanced age of seventy-three years. His wife died in 1849, at the early age of thirty-five years. They were the parents of three children, namely: Louisa; Catherine, of Moline, Ill., and Susan, deceased.

Our subject received a good education in her native town, remaining there until fourteen years of age, when she removed with her father to Iowa, and remained under the parental roof until her marriage, Sept. 1, 1862, to Mr. J. M. Mathews. He was born in Washington County, Ohio, Aug. 8, 1833, and was a son of William and Mary Ann Mathews, early settlers of Ohio, born in 1808 and May 2, 1812, respectively. His father was a stonecutter by trade, and also carried on a small farm, continuing thus employed until his death, Dec. 12, 1863, at the age of fifty-five years. His mother is still living in Ohio. Of the children born to them two are still living, Charles W. and Alpha C., both in Ohio. J. M. Mathews, husband of our subject, was a diligent scholar, who, improving every opportunity for study, acquired a very good education in early life. When fourteen years of age he was put in sole charge of the farm, his father having work at his trade, and he remained thus engaged for four years. In 1851 he went to Scott County, Iowa, and worked on a farm until the time of his marriage with our subject. Two weeks later, filled with patriotic enthusiasm, and inspired by

the loyal courage of his bride, he enlisted in the defense of his country in the 20th Iowa Infantry, and was mustered into service at Clinton. In the fall of that year he was sent into Missouri, and afterward took an active part in the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., where he was shot in the breast, the ball coming out below his arm, and was obliged to spend the winter in the hospital, not being able to join his regiment again until the following March. Mrs. Mathews was sick at the time and was unable to care for him. He afterward participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the battle of New Orleans, subsequently joining Farragut's expedition to Mobile and Ft. Fisher, and at the close of the war was mustered out of the service at Clinton, Iowa, receiving an honorable discharge in July, 1865, having served two years and eleven months. After resuming his duties as a private citizen Mr. Mathews rented land for three years, and in the fall of 1868 he removed with his family to Cass County, Neb., and located on the present homestead owned by his widow, taking up only eighty acres at first. The land was entirely uncultivated, and he set out trees, planted an orchard, and put up a dwelling, 15x12 feet, at a cost of $200, the lumber for which he hauled from Nebraska City. He met with the usual luck of settlers in a new country, suffering at times from the wind or drouth, and during the grasshopper raid met with severe losses. By his energetic labors and perseverance, coupled with wisdom and thrift in management, he succeeded in evolving a fine farm from the raw prairie land, to which he afterward added 160 acres on section 31, which he bought of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. The farm is all improved, and surrounded by hedge or wire fence, and has a 10-acre orchard containing 600 trees of various kinds. It is all well watered, has a windmill, tanks, and various other improvements. The original house has given way to one of a more modern construction, and new barns and out-buildings have been erected. In all of these improvements Mr. Mathews took great pride, and since his death, which occurred Feb. 10, 1886, our subject has paid equally good attention to its management. In politics he was a good, honest Republican, firmly adhering to the principles of that party. He was a member of the United Brethren Church. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Mathews was blessed by the birth of eight children, namely: Charles W.; Ella B., wife of A. B. Lewton; Amelia M., wife of George Whisleman, of Stove Creek Precinct; Rosa E., Laura B., George W., Mamie A. and Jessie.

Our subject, though still living on her farm, expects soon to retire from active life and locate in the beautiful residence that she has built in Elmwood. She is a large-hearted woman, of genuine refinement, noted for her courteous and hospitable manners, and her love of the beautiful is indicated by her surroundings. She is a kind neighbor, sincere friend, and true Christian, exemplifying in her daily walk the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she is a member.

Mr. Mathews' uncle, Daniel Mathews, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years, and was the first white child born in Washington County, Ohio.

ROBERT McGILL, a pre-emptor of 1857, and a resident of Avoca Precinct for a period of thirty-one years, is now living with his son-in-law, William Case, on section 2, where they own together 160 acres of land. This constitutes one of the finest farms in this part of the county, with excellent improvements, more than ordinarily good farm buildings, and a fair assortment of live stock. The farm is watered by a living stream from Spring Creek, and yields to its owners annually a handsome income.

County Down, Ireland, was the native place of our subject, and he was born May 24, 1819. He has consequently attained nearly his threescore years and ten. The family is of Scotch ancestry, being among those who fled from their native land to the North of Ireland during the religious wars. His grandparents on both sides of the house were of pure Scotch blood. His father, Robert McGill, Sr., a well-to-do farmer of County Down, married Miss Mary McKnight, spent his entire life in his native Ireland, and attained to the advanced age of over eighty years. He was a lifelong Presbyterian, and

had been a prominent man in his community, occupying many positions of trust and responsibility.

The mother of our subject, after the death of her husband, came to America with her son Robert, in 1848, and died in Akron, Summit Co., Ohio, when over seventy years of age. Robert, Jr., attained to his majority in his native county, learning the trade of weaver, an industry which was very generally prosecuted in that region. He was married there to Miss Isabelle Young, who was also born and reared in County Down, and was of Irish ancestry. Mr. McGill preceded his wife and little daughter to America, they joining him in Summit County, Ohio, in 1849, when little Mary was four years old. Mr. McGill upon coming to the United States secured employment in a stove foundry at Akron, Ohio, where he continued until coming to the farther West, in the spring of 1857. In the meantime Mrs. Isabelle McGill, his wife, had died in Akron, Ohio, about 1854. Our subject was thus left with two young children, one of whom he took care of as best he could, and the other was taken into the home of a Mr. Walton, of Tallmadge Centre, Summit Co., Ohio, who gave her a college education. She was treated as their own child, and is now the wife of a gentleman formerly living in Summit County, but now a successful nurseryman of Washington Territory.

Miss Mary McGill remained with her father until her marriage with William Case, a native of Ohio, who later removed to Iowa, and finally to Nebraska with his father, Augustus Case, one of the earliest settlers of Rock Bluff Precinct, this county. Here William Case was reared to manhood, and is now the owner of eighty acres of land adjoining that of his father-in-law, our subject, which they have constructed into one farm, and which they operate with a mutual interest. Mr. Case is securing by homestead claim 160 acres in Lincoln County, he having been a soldier of the Union Army during the late war, belonging to the 1st Nebraska Cavalry. He was in several skirmishes with the Indians, and upon one occasion seriously injured by the falling of the horse upon him, and in consequence was confined in the hospital at Cottonwood Springs for some time. Both Mr. McGill and his son-in-law are stanch Republicans, politically, and Mr. Case is a gentleman highly esteemed in his community, holding some of the local offices, and otherwise identified with its interests.

To Mr. and Mrs. Case there have been born eight children, one of whom, a son, Bertie, died when a little over three years of age. Those surviving form a most interesting and intelligent group. The eldest daughter, Bessie, is an interesting young lady of twenty years; Robert is a promising youth of eighteen; Leora is aged sixteen; Fannie thirteen; Guy ten; Roy seven, and the baby, Maude.

EZRA MURPHY has one of the finest stock farms in Cass County, which he is managing with great skill and with satisfactory pecuniary results. It has a very fortunate location on section 7 of the fractional part of Liberty Precinct, and embraces 240 acres of land especially adapted to stock purposes, as it has good living water on two "eighties" and has excellent facilities for pasturage; and it is also well fitted for other purposes, Mr. Murphy also paying considerable attention to other branches of agriculture besides stock feeding.

Our subject is descended from one of the old pioneer families of Indiana, and is a native of that State, having been born in Madison Township, Washington County, July 1, 1852. His father, George Murphy, likewise a native of the Hoosier State, was born, reared and married in Washington County. He was the son of David Murphy, who was born and reared in Virginia. He was married in his native State to Mary Hinton, and in the vigor of early life they sought a home in the wilds of Indiana during Territorial days, going there about 1812, and as pioneers doing their share in developing it and promoting its growth. They settled in Washington County, and there spent the remainder of their wedded life, rounding it out to a lengthy period, both dying well advanced in years. They were typical pioneers, of hardy, resolute natures, with strong powers of endurance, and capable of any sacrifice that they might build up a comfortable home for their children, and they were also

true Christians. The father of our subject married Eliza Rutherford, a daughter of H. H. Rutherford, who had settled in Washington County with his parents in a very early day, having come from North Carolina. He married Catherine Clawhammer, also a native of North Carolina, whose parents were early settlers of Washington County. She and her husband spent many years together, and both died in Washington County, Mr. Rutherford at the age of eighty-two and his wife aged about seventy. George Murphy and wife began their wedded life on a farm in Madison Township, in the county of their nativity, and made their home on their homestead until their death in the prime of life, Mr. Murphy dying in 1861 at the age of forty-two, and the mother in 1871 when she was forty-five years old. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was in every respect a most exemplary woman. Mr. Murphy was a good man, whose conduct in the affairs of life commended him to the respect of his fellowmen, and he occupied a warm place in the hearts of those who knew him. He was a Jackson Democrat in his political beliefs, and held unswerving allegiance to his party.

Our subject is the youngest of the two sons and three daughters born to his parents. His brother Franklin died in infancy. Two of his sisters were married, Mattie, now deceased, who was the wife of Robert Maxedon, M. D., a practicing physician of Hardinsburg, Ind., and Mary, who is the wife of Henry Rawlins, a farmer near Hardinsburg. Ezra Murphy was reared on his father's farm in Madison Township, and there received the benefit of a substantial education. He lost his parents before he was very old, and he and his sister Emily have since lived under the same roof, and have never either of them been married. In 1880 they came together from Salem, in their native State, to Otoe County, this State, and after living there two years came to this county, and have resided on this farm since 1883. They have a cozy home, replete with all the most desirable comforts, and its hospitable board is often set for the entertainment of the stranger who happens under their roof or for the numerous friends that they have gathered about them by their kindly and pleasant social ways since taking up their residence here. Mr. Murphy is a man of steady habits and excellent principles, with a good fund of sound common sense and natural shrewdness. As a good citizen, he is, of course, interested in the political situations of his country, and his influence is used in favor of the Democratic party.

GUSTUS HENRY WIEDEMAN. Among the goodly land-holders of the county, and a gentleman respected for his sterling worth and integrity, is the subject of this sketch. He resides on his farm of 640 acres, being the whole of section 15, in Greenwood Precinct. He is a typical German-American citizen, and was born April 11, 1850, near Berlin, in Germany. At the age of three years he came with his father to America, and located in Niagara County, N. Y., where he lived until 1861, when he moved with his father to Des Moines County, Iowa. From the latter county he moved to Montgomery County, Iowa, where he lived for four years, then going back to Des Moines County, Iowa. In 1883 he came to Cass County, Neb., where he had bought his farm two years prior to his settling on it. He paid $20 per acre for the land; the improvements consisted of two frame shanties of but little value.

During the residence of our subject in Des Moines County he was married to Miss Mary Schearbaum, Feb. 24, 1876. This lady is a daughter of Henry Schearbaum, a farmer living in Des Moines County. Her father was a native of Germany, and came to America about the same time our subject did. Mr. Wiedeman is the second oldest in a family of seven children. His sister Clara is older, and Hannah, Charles, Elias F., Henry and Herman. Clara is the wife of Herman Gerbeling, a farmer of Des Moines County; Hannah is married and lives in the same county; Elias F. married Miss Julia Kampmyre, and follows the occupation of carpenter in Des Moines County; he was born in Niagara County, N. Y., in 1854. Charles was married to Miss Olive Davis, daughter of Benjamin Davis, and now lives on section 14, Greenwood Precinct; he was born in Niagara County,

N. Y., in 1858. Henry was born in Niagara County, and lives with his mother on section 15, this precinct. Herman was born in Des Moines County, Iowa, in 1862, and lives with his mother and brother Henry in this precinct.

The father of our subject, Herman, was born near Berlin, Germany, Aug. 20, 1812. He made his home in the mother country until 1853, when he with his family emigrated to America, where he located in New York State. The mother was born in 1816, in the same Province of which her husband was a resident. Both parents are descended from the oldest German families of the Province. Their friends and relatives have taken a prominent part in the life of their country, and the names of many can be found on the roll of honor which contains the names of her heroes, soldiers and statesmen. In America, where everyone stands on his own merit, and official distinctions and castes are unknown, where every peasant, so long as he is law-abiding, is a peer to any in the land, our subject can refer with gratification and pride to the long line of honored ancestors which has preceded him.

Our subject and his good wife are the parents of five children—Henry, John, Edward, Arthur and Walter. They are all at home with their parents. They possess the strong, rugged constitution which is characteristic of their German origin, and are of the same material of which the American citizen is made. They are attending the excellent schools of the neighborhood, and are availing themselves of every advantage to secure a good education. The father attended the public schools of New York State in his earlier years, and in addition he received a good education in German from his parents, who from their knowledge and experience were able to instruct him thoroughly.

When our subject purchased his land it was in a but little better than an absolutely wild state. The two frame shanties that were on the land at that time have given way to a fine, modern built residence. It is handsomely located and presents a nice outward appearance. The interior is fitted with many of the latest improvements calculated to add to the comfort of home. The grounds surrounding the house are ornamented with trees, flowers and shrubbery. The various out-buildings are large, well designed and substantially built, and the barns and cattle sheds are supplied with water by a system of iron piping from a tank filled by a modern wind engine. In addition to his general farming our subject prizes his fine herd of cattle very highly, and it is admitted by all that he has many fine specimens of the bovine tribe. They will not suffer in comparison with other herds that have been exhibited at the different expositions and highly praised by the judges of animals of that class. In addition to the pleasure this branch of the business affords him it proves a source of great profit. His herd is so extensive that he counts them by the hundred. The sheds required to shelter them are immense, and the largest corn cribs in the country contain a sufficient quantity of grain to supply their needs. Taken altogether, from the arrangement of his buildings to the division of his farm into its various fields, his is one of the best appointed and most completely equipped farms in the county. Everything is in such order that he manages the entire place with the least possible help and expense. He is one of those good German farmers of which the old country is so full, and which she has supplied to the New World.

In the person of his wife the subject of this sketch has an earnest, intelligent counselor, and his present successful life is due to a large extent to her valuable assistance and advice. They are proverbially hospitable and social. He has served on the juries of his county impartially and conscientiously. He is Republican in politics, but has never sought or held any public office of trust.

AMBROSE BICKERT is a prominent general farmer in Stove Creek Precinct, of which he was one of the very first settlers. He is in good circumstances, financially, owning a good farm on section 28, which he manages himself, besides attending to quite an extensive business as a carpenter and wagon-maker. He is a veteran of the late Civil War, and has an honorable military record.

Our subject is a German by birth, a native of

Hessen, Germany, born Nov. 20, 1835, to George J. and Elizabeth (Faust) Bickert, natives of the same Province. His father carried on farming quite extensively in the old country, and had an estate of some size there. His parents are now dead, his father dying in 1870, at the age of seventy years, and his mother in 1883, also aged about seventy years. They were connected with the Catholic Church, and led good Christian lives. Of their happy wedded life seven children were born, as follows: Joseph, in Germany; John and Theresa, deceased; Ambrose; Gertrude, also deceased; Moniga, in West Virginia, and Johanna, in Germany.

Our subject staid on the home farm in Germany until he was twenty-one years old, obtaining an excellent education in the meantime in the good schools of his birthplace, which he attended until he was fourteen. When he was twenty years old he began to learn the wagon-maker's trade, and worked at that until he was twenty-five. In the spring of 1860 he sought to better his fortunes in the United States, sailing from Bremen in the ship "Charles the Great," and landing in Baltimore forty-two days later. He made his way to Wheeling, W. Va., and thence on the Ohio River to Marietta, Ohio. He there obtained work in a chair factory, and was a resident of that town when the great Civil War broke out. On the first call for troops he dropped his work, and enlisted in Company F, 39th Ohio Infantry, and was mustered in at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was soon despatched to the seat of war with his regiment. He and his comrades did gallant service in the following battles: Lexington, Mo.; Island No. 10, under Gen. Pope; Madrid, Mo.; Ft. Pillow, Pittsburg Landing; Corinth, under Gen. Halleck, the regiment of which our subject was a member being the first in that battle that placed a flag on the rebel headquarters. He took part in other lesser engagements around Corinth; was at Iuka Springs, under Rosecrans, in the second battle of Corinth, at Pulaski; then his regiment was sent to join Sherman at Chattanooga. It was at the battles of Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw, Marietta, Ga., Chattahoochee River, Jonesboro and at Atlanta. The latter, which occurred on the 22d of July, was the hardest battle in which he fought. On that day our subject's regiment was surrounded three times by the enemy, but each time managed to fight its way out with desperate energy. On the 28th of July the right wing of the army, including the 39th Ohio, was ordered to the rear, and then sent back to Chattanooga, and thence to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he and his comrades were honorably discharged. Mr. Bickert then went to Marietta again, and worked there in a wagon-shop until the spring of 1865, when he came to Nebraska by boat, putting up a wagon-shop in Nebraska City, and was actively engaged at his trade until the spring of 1869. At that time he came to Cass County, and purchasing eighty acres of land on section 28, began to farm it, besides giving much attention to carpentering and wagon-making. He broke his land with oxen, planted six acres of groves, an orchard of 300 trees, a willow hedge, and made various other improvements. He built the first frame house in the precinct, having to draw the lumber for the purpose with oxen from Nebraska City. His land is well watered, Stove Creek having its rise on his farm, and it is well adapted to raising stock. He buys and feeds cattle, and has a fine herd of graded stock, and his hogs are among the finest in the neighborhood, as are also his horses, of which he has twelve of standard breeds. He has erected a large house and barns, of which a view is shown on another page, and has one of the finest places in this locality. So successful has he been that he has been enabled to purchase more land, 120 acres on section 28, 40 on section 29, and at another time 80 on section 33, and now has 200 acres of finely improved land.

Mr. Bickert was married in Marietta, Ohio, July 22, 1860, to Miss Magdalena, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Eisnach) Scheutelhurd. Her parents are natives of Germany, the father owning a farm in Hessen, where he lived and died, his death occurring in 1841, at the age of forty-seven years; the mother died there in 1859, at the age of sixty-four years. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom grew up—Barbara, Joseph, Mary A., Catherine and Magdalena. The latter, the wife of our subject, was born in Hessen, May 28, 1836, and in 1860 came to America on the same ship as our subject. Their pleasant wedded life has been blessed by the birth of nine children, as follows: Henry, John, George, Lizzie, Mary, Theresa, Will-

iam, Robert and Julian. Henry and John are engaged in farming in Colorado.

Mr. Bickert, as one of the pioneers of Stove Creek Precinct, takes a lively interest in its advancement, and in him it finds one of its most useful citizens. Besides doing much to develop its agricultural resources and to extend its business interests, he has taken an honorable part in its government, and is at present Supervisor. He is also one of the leading Democrats of Cass County, and has been a delegate to County and State Conventions several times. He is identified with the G. A. R. at Elmwood, Kenesaw Post No. 123. He has served on the Grand Jury two terms. He and his wife are zealous members of the Catholic Church, at Elmwood, and were active in securing the erection of the present house of worship.

HENRY HOWLAND. Among the pioneers of Cass County who have taken part in the upbuilding of Plattsmouth is the subject of this sketch. He is a well-to-do wagon manufacturer, and for more than thirty years has been identified with the industrial interests of this part of the county. He erected the first wagon-shop in this region, and for many years carried on his business in this city. He finally sold out at a good profit, and built for himself another shop on his estate adjoining the city, and is still actively engaged in his trade. He is well patronized, as his wagons are made of good materials and are found to be strong and durable, and he never fails to give satisfaction to his customers.

Mr. Howland was born near Centre Square, Montgomery Co., Pa., Aug. 6, 1826. coming of sturdy New England stock. His father, Isaac Howland, was a native of Rhode Island, and his grandfather, whose name is thought to have been Joseph, was, so far as known, a native of the same State. The father of our subject went to Philadelphia when quite young with an aunt, and he was there adopted by a man named Stover, who took him to his home in Montgomery County. After he was married he engaged in a wood-working establishment, making mast hoops and wagon bows, following that trade a number of years. He was a man of sober, honest habits, and by prudence and thrift saved a competency, upon which he retired in 1865. He died at his home in Montgomery County in October, 1876, leaving behind the precious legacy of an untarnished name. The maiden name of his wife was Ann Neavil. She was born in Montgomery County, and there died in 1861. She was a daughter of David Neavil, a soldier of Revolutionary fame. She and her husband were the parents of ten children, five of whom grew up, namely: Henry, William, Franklin, Joseph and Mary J.

Henry Howland attended school in his youth, and as soon as he was large enough to be useful he commenced to assist his father in the shop, and was thus employed until he was twenty-two. He then went to Philadelphia and found work in a fluid factory, laboring there the ensuing six years. In 1854 he started westward, via rail to Alton, Ill., then the terminus of the railway; from there he went down the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where he embarked on a stage for Glenwood, Iowa, eight days and eight nights being consumed before he reached his journey's end. He found Glenwood to be but a small place, with but two or three stores. His first work there was in a saw and grist mill in the village, and later he helped to construct a mill on the Missouri bottom. In the winter of 1856–57 he worked in a wagon-shop there. He shrewdly foresaw that in the Territory of Nebraska, which had already begun to attract the notice of men seeking land for cultivation, there would be a demand for wagons, and he came to Plattsmouth to locate and establish a manufactory. He made a claim at once to the land he now occupies, and when it came into the market entered it at the land-office at Nebraska City, paying the Government $1.25 an acre for it. He erected a small frame house, 13x15 feet, but has since replaced it by a more commodious dwelling, replete with all the comforts that could be desired. His land, comprising nearly 200 acres, the most of which is well wooded, is, owing to improvements and to its proximity to a flourishing and wealthy metropolis, now a very valuable estate. When our subject came here in 1857 the settlements in the Territory

of Nebraska were confined to the region adjacent to the Missouri River, and it was still far from its present advanced state, and a little further west deer and antelope were plentiful only a few miles away. In the month of May he erected the first wagon-shop, and became the pioneer in the manufacture of wagons. His building was of the most primitive style of architecture, consisting of posts set in the ground, and a board roof. That fall he erected a frame building, 16x20 feet, and continued to carry on business in it for twenty-three years, until he sold out and retired to his present manufactory, as before related.

Mr. Howland was married, in April, 1857, to Miss Catherine Kuntz. She was born in Northampton County, Pa., and is a daughter of Jacob Kuntz. Mr. and Mrs. Howland have four children living, namely: Jasper N., Fred G., William and Ann Belle.

Our subject is a man of strong understanding, with a well-informed mind, whose intelligence and unswerving integrity make him a most desirable citizen. His political views are identical with those of the Republican party, of which he is a strong supporter.

WILLIAM A. RHODEN, one of the younger members of the farming community of Rock Bluff Precinct, has a snug homestead of 120 acres, the land of which he purchased in the year 1880, before it had undergone the process of cultivation. His industry has been amply rewarded, he having been successful in his farming operations, and besides raising the products of the soil in their season, he has erected a good set of frame buildings, fenced his land, planted an apple orchard and the smaller fruit trees, and from time to time added the comforts and conveniences necessary to the well-being of the family, and essential to the complete home.

Our subject, a native of Missouri, was born Nov. 6, 1851, in Schuyler County, where his father lived a period of probably twenty-five years, and of which most of the children of the family were also natives. They were named respectively: Josephine, James Allen, Julia, Alexander, Dama, George, Don, Richard and Thomas. The parents left Missouri in the year 1865, coming to Nebraska Territory, and locating on section 17, in Rock Bluff Precinct, where there were added to the household circle Mary and Lily, the latter of whom died in infancy. Of this large family of thirteen children eleven are living. One son, Alexander, was shot by Indians in Idaho Territory, Nov. 23, 1877, while at work on a ranch. William A. Z. and Nancy (Arnold) Rhoden, the parents of our subject, were natives respectively of Indiana and Schuyler County, Mo. The father left his native State when a young man, stopping for a time at Galena, Ill., and later migrating to Schuyler County, Mo., where he was married. The paternal grandfather, James Rhoden, married Miss Elizabeth Lashbrook. He was a farmer by occupation. The great-grandfather was named William Rhoden. William A. Z. Rhoden departed this life Feb. 18, 1885, at his home in Rock Bluff Precinct. The mother is still living, making her home with her children in this county. William A., our subject, was married, Nov. 24, 1881, to Miss Josephine, daughter of Harvey and Agnes (Simmons) Carper, and they have three children—William, LeRoy and Jessie. Mr. Rhoden, politically, is a Democrat, and has served a number of times on the Election Board. Socially, he belongs to Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M., of Plattsmouth. He has many friends in this vicinity, and is numbered among the men who have a decided influence in building up their community socially, morally and financially.

FRANK FETZER. In the subject of this record we have a man who has ever been willing to put his shoulder to the wheel in the busy walks of life, and who, after performing his part in the strife, has now retired from active labor, and is enjoying the comforts of a pleasant home in the town of Louisville. He came to this place in 1876, and established a shop for blacksmithing and the general manufacture of road vehicles. He was actively engaged in the prosecution of this business until 1888, giving employment to a number of men and securing a compe-

tence. Such was the quality of his workmanship that he had no difficulty in disposing of it at remunerative prices and in the home market. He is a mechanic of no mean skill, and therefore well fitted to superintend the operations of such an establishment.

Mr. Fetzer is a native of Wisconsin, and was born in Manitowoc County, Dec. 22, 1854. He is the youngest of a family of six children, comprising five sons and one daughter, the offspring of Godfrey and Rosa Fetzer, who were both natives of Germany. The parents emigrated to America about 1849, and from New York City proceeded directly to the young State of Wisconsin, which had been admitted into the Union the previous year. The father secured a tract of land, and there both parents spent the remainder of their days, engaged in agricultural pursuits, the mother passing away in 1874, at the age of fifty-four years, and the father in 1886, in his seventy-third year.

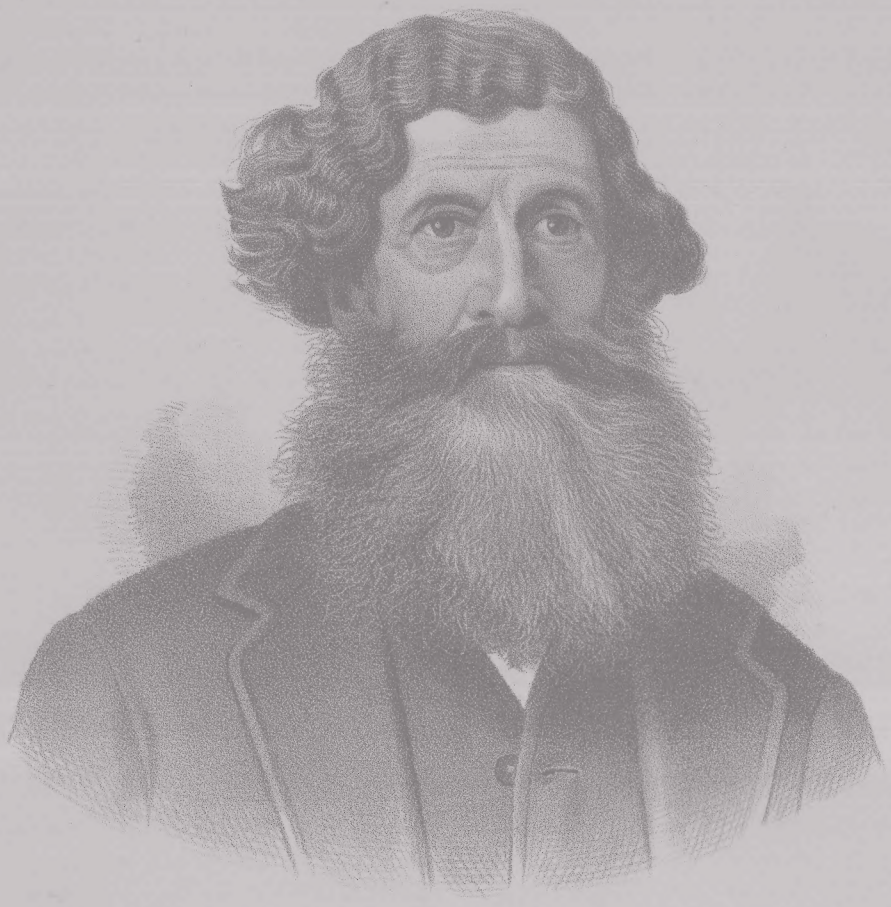
Our subject attended the district school until about fourteen years of age, and then began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, serving three years. Later he worked as a journeyman with his old employer, Mr. Charles Schumacher, but in the fall of 1874 resolved to seek a home in the farther West. He sojourned at Plattsmouth two and one-half years, then came to Louisville, and established himself in business as before stated. Dec. 22, 1881, witnessed the marriage of our subject with Miss Bertha Heitzhausen, who was born in Mayville, Wis., and is the daughter of Dietrich and Minnie Heitzhausen, who were natives of Germany. The mother lives in Louisville; the father is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fetzer began their wedded life together in Louisville, where they have since lived, and are now the parents of one child, a daughter, Celia M. Mr. Fetzer owns his residence and shop, the former making a neat and comfortable home, and the latter thoroughly equipped with all the implements necessary for the business, which is now carried on by Charles Siekjost. Besides this property he has a valuable timber tract of 320 acres in Perkins County, this State. He is a solid and reliable citizen, and has contributed his full quota to the industrial interests of his adopted town.

Mr. Fetzer cast his first Presidential vote for Tilden and is an uncompromising Democrat, a warm supporter of the late administration. He has been quite prominent in local affairs, officiating as Town Trustee and serving as a member of the City Council a period of seven years. He is an industrious worker at the time of general elections, never begrudging the time and money spent to carry out the principles of which he has been a supporter for a period of twelve years, when he entered upon the privileges and duties of citizenship.

ANDREW C. FRY, a respected resident of Plattsmouth, was among the gallant defenders of our country during the trying times of the late Rebellion, and is now peacefully pursuing agriculture in Cass County, Neb. He is a native of Franklin County, Pa., where his birth occurred June 2, 1838. His father, George Fry, was likewise born in the Keystone State, and was there reared and married, his wife dying when our subject was a mere babe, leaving eight children. After her death Mr. Fry moved to Allegheny County, Pa., and was there married again. He resided there until after the death of his second wife, then removed to Jefferson County, Iowa, where he died at the home of his son Jacob, in January, 1879. Of his second marriage one son was born.

When Andrew was a boy he went to Stark County, Ohio, to live with his brothers John and Jacob. He staid there two years, and in July, 1853, removed to Jefferson County, Iowa, where he made his home until 1873, excepting when he was in the South fighting for the defense of his country. He was married in that State, Aug. 2, 1860, to Miss Clara Davis, and of their union eleven children have been born, namely: Charles, Ella (now Mrs. Martin Ruby), George, Jennie, Cora, Edward, Clarence, Frank, Anna May, Walter and Harry. Walter is deceased.

In 1862 Mr. Fry felt it to be his sacred duty to cast in his lot with his noble fellow-citizens, and assist them in the defense of the Government under which he had been born and reared, and



Yours Fraternally
H. J. Davis

August 9 of that year he enlisted in Company B, 19th Iowa Infantry. From that time until his services were no longer required he was a brave and efficient soldier, taking an active part in many of the principal engagements. He was in the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., Dec. 7, 1862; was present at the siege of Vicksburg, and went through the fifty-five days of actual battle unscathed; he fought in the battle of Yazoo City, Miss., in July, 1863; thence his company was sent to Ft. Hudson to reinforce Gen. Banks, from there to Madisonville, where they had an engagement with the enemy; thence to Morganidy's Bend, where 300 of his regiment were taken prisoners; from there to Brownsville, Tex., where they had a slight encounter with the rebels. Our subject was then granted sixty days' furlough, and was once more reunited with his family. At the expiration of his leave of absence he hastened to rejoin his regiment in September, 1864, at New Orleans, and from there he was sent with his comrades to Florida. He there took part in the engagements that resulted in the capture of Fts. Morgan and Gaines, and of the Spanish Fort. This latter was the last battle fought by his regiment. Mr. Fry was honorably discharged Aug. 7, 1865, and returned home in sound health except from the effects of exposure.

On March 15, 1873, Mr. Fry came to Hastings, Neb., and in October of the same year his family came to Plattsmouth, where he joined them, and where they have ever since made their home. Mr. Fry is a sturdy, honest, upright man, a good citizen, a kind neighbor, a faithful husband and tender father, in every way worthy of respect and confidence. He is an earnest Republican, and a valued member of McConnie Post No. 45, G. A. R.

HENRY J. DAVIS, actively engaged in the management of his fine, productive farm on section 36, Liberty Precinct, is a good representative of the stalwart men who came here less than a quarter of a century ago, and have in the meantime witnessed the wonderful transformation of this section of the State from a wild, unbroken prairie, sparsely inhabited, to a fruitful farming region, with thriving villages and prosperous towns.

In the development of Cass County our subject has taken an intense interest and given material assistance. He is an intelligent, industrious man, of keen preceptive faculties, and has proved himself a most desirable citizen of his adopted town. His pleasant homestead, which consists of 240 acres of arable land, well watered and under good improvement, with its comfortable house and substantial farm buildings, compares favorably with any in the precinct, and is a credit to his executive ability, skill and good judgment. Mr. Davis gives much attention to the raising of stock, his cattle being principally Durhams. At the head of his large herd is the well-bred bull Jumbo, which comes of a high grade of that breed. Besides his homestead our subject also owns another good farm, principally grass land, lying on section 31 of the fractional township and precinct of Liberty.

Mr. Davis was born in Monongalia County, W. Va., Dec. 21, 1828, being of Welsh origin. His parents, William and Sarah (Pride) Davis, were natives of Virginia, and settled on a farm there, where the death of Mrs. Davis occurred when her son Henry was only four years of age. She was an estimable woman, and a devoted wife and mother. To her and her husband were born nine children. The father of our subject married for his second wife Mrs. Betsy McGill, who died on their Virginia homestead. Of their union one child was born.

Later in life Mr. Davis moved from Virginia to Ohio, and after a stay of two years in that State went to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he remained about a year. He then spent a few months in Boone County, that State, going thence to Des Moines, but did not establish himself in any part of the State, not being as pleased with that part of the country as with Ohio. Accordingly, accompanied by his son Henry J., Mr. Davis started for his old home in the Buckeye State, but was attacked by the cholera while on a steamboat on the Ohio River, and died near Cairo, Ill., in the spring of 1854, and was buried in Vanderburg County, Ind., being then sixty-three years of age. Our subject was at that time but a young man, and the sad scenes of that journey will never be forgotten by him. He was

the only member of the family privileged to care for his father in his last moments, and to perform the last sad rites at the grave.

Subsequently the subject of our sketch returned to Iowa, whence he came in 1857 to Nebraska, crossing the Missouri River August 13 of that year, and locating in Nebraska City. The ensuing year Mr. Davis pre-empted 160 acres of land in what is now Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County, selling it a few months afterward, but slightly improved. In 1872 he purchased his homestead property, where he has since lived.

Mr. Davis has been twice married. During his residence in Des Moines, Iowa, he was united to Miss Elizabeth Hughes, a native of Highland County, Ohio. She accompanied her husband to this State, her death occurring during their residence in Otoe County, July 4, 1859. She bore her husband two children, John and William, both of whom are deceased. The second marriage of our subject occurred in Nebraska City, May 28, 1861, when he was united to Miss Irena Barnhill, who was born in Wayne County, in the southern part of Illinois, April 14, 1837. She was reared in that State, and removed to Wyoming, Otoe County, with her parents in 1857, and remained under the parental roof until her marriage with our subject. Her parents, A. H. and Nancy (Walker) Barnhill, were natives respectively of North Carolina and Kentucky. After their marriage they lived several years in Illinois, and then coming to Nebraska, lived in Wyoming, Otoe County, for three years. They subsequently moved to Saunders County, where Mr. Barnhill died in the fall of 1885, having lived beyond the allotted threescore years and ten of man's life. Mrs. Barnhill survives her husband, and is now living in Saunders County, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years. She is a member of the Baptist Church, and a good Christian woman.

To our subject and his wife have been born seven children, of whom four are deceased, namely: Henry H., Admiral, Elizabeth and an unnamed infant. The three living are Mary Docia, Emmer Elsie and Ina A. They are bright, intelligent children, and are receiving good educational advantages. Mr. Davis is a true gentleman, possessing all the polish and the warm, generous heart, and the high mind characteristic of the Southerner. He and his family move in the highest social circles of their community. In their religious views they have the courage of their opinions, and believe that following the teachings of the Golden Rule, and living a moral, upright life on this earth, will fit them for anything that may come beyond the grave. In politics our subject is a Republican. The portrait of this enterprising citizen is given on an accompanying page, and is that of one of Cass County's best farmer residents.

ISRAEL WARD is a contented and happy farmer living on his original homestead of eighty acres on section 8, in Elmwood Precinct, where he arrived many years ago, after a tedious and wearisome overland journey in company with his wife and little son Albert, then a babe of four months. This gentleman was born in Eden Township, Licking Co., Ohio, Jan. 5, 1839. At the early age of seven years he lost his mother by death. He lived with his parents, for his father remarried, until he was twelve years old, alternately attending school and working upon the farm, when his father removed with the entire family to Ogle County, Ill., in 1851, where they lived the ensuing five years, when his father bought another farm in Marshall County, near Lacon, Ill., to which he removed. From here he removed in 1859 to Muscatine County, Iowa, where they resided three years, and in 1862 they settled in Keokuk County, Iowa, our subject accompanying the family on their various migrations. While residing in Muscatine County, Iowa, he met the lady who is at present his wife, Miss Louisa Ellen Eveland, a half-sister of Peter Eveland, Esq., at present an esteemed citizen of Elmwood Precinct, and whose biography is presented on another page of this book.

This lady is the youngest of a family of three children. Her sister Jeanette and brother Beal Dimmitt are older. She was born in Clermont County, Ohio, where she lived with her father, Joseph, and her stepmother until she was eight

years of age, when the entire family removed to Iowa, where, in the public schools of the neighborhood, she laid the foundation for the practical knowledge which distinguishes her. Her mother was Louisa Ellen Dimmitt, who died when her daughter was only two weeks old. Six years after the marriage of our subject and his wife, he found that he was afflicted with serious lung trouble and he determined to make his home in the West. His brother-in-law, Peter Eveland, having come to Nebraska and settled, and being so well pleased with the prospects about him, Mr. Ward decided that this was the place for him. So he started on his journey westward with a good wagon and team. During the trip he was so unfortunate as to lose one of his horses, which was a serious loss to him; but he repaired it and completed his journey, and he is to-day comfortably situated in his new home. Four children have been born to this couple: Albert was born in Iowa; Mary C., and Florence and an infant, deceased.

The father of our subject, William Ward, and his mother, Abigail Huston, were married in Licking County, Ohio, where the father was a farmer and one of the early settlers. He was a leading member of the community, and was allied with the Abolitionist party, taking a strong and active interest in its purposes. The mother was a native of Ohio. She died in 1846, aged twenty-nine years. Grandfather Ward was born in Pennsylvania. The great-grandfather, William, was a silk weaver, and was born in England. A family consisting of four children were born to the parents of our subject—Israel, Elizabeth, John and Howard. Elizabeth is the wife of John W. Torrey, and resides in Russell County, Kan.; John and Howard reside in Cass County, Neb.

Mr. Ward is a wide-awake and progressive farmer, and believes in enjoying life as it passes, as is shown by the improvements which he has completed and projected on his farm, which at present embraces necessaries and many of the comforts, often only found on farms that have been cultivated much longer than that of Mr. Ward. He values a good education for his children as being paramount to all other advantages; he therefore provides every facility for them to obtain the highest place, and they certainly deserve it. He is notably one of the happiest dispositioned men of the precinct. He claims that by treating his fellow-men well and honestly, and living soberly and uprightly, to be the prime source of his extreme contentment. His wife is a sister of Peter Eveland, a farmer of Elmwood Precinct, is an educated and refined lady, and a model housekeeper. Mr. Ward, with his wife and eldest daughter, Mary, who is by common consent admitted to be one of the handsomest young ladies in Elmwood Precinct, form an important factor in the social circles of the neighborhood. Our subject and his two brothers were among the earliest grain threshers in Elmwood Precinct, and none were considered to do their work any better. He was with Mr. Eveland on the buffalo hunt when the latter met with the misfortune referred to in his biography, which crippled him for life.

Our subject has always taken a lively interest in the public affairs of the precinct, especially in educational matters. He assisted in the organization of School District No. 61, and has discharged the duties of a Justice of the Peace in a highly acceptable manner. Both himself and wife are consistent members of the Congregational Church. In politics he is a straight Republican.

CAPT. EDWARD DONOVAN has a distinguished military record as an able and gallant officer in the Civil War, and later in the regular army in its campaigns on the northwestern frontier and in Texas. He is now a resident of Plattsmouth, where he is engaged as accountant with the Burlington & Missouri River Railway Company. He has a lovely home in this city, beautifully located on high ground, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. The house was built by him in Oreopolis, and moved to its present location. He has spent much time in beautifying the grounds, which are neatly and tastefully arranged, and he raises plenty of small fruit for himself and friends.

Our subject comes of an old and respected Irish family, and was himself born in Ireland, the city of

Dublin his birthplace, and June 7, 1833, the date of his birth. His father, the Rev. George Donovan, who was a learned and polished gentleman, was born in Ballymore, County Wexford, Ireland, and was a son of Richard Donovan, a native and lifelong resident of the same county. The father of our subject was reared in his native county, and was given the advantages of a liberal education. He was graduated from that famous institution of learning, Trinity College, Dublin, and was soon afterward ordained to the ministry, taking orders in the Church of England. He first preached at Camolin, County Wexford, and was then given a pastorate at Castle Knock, County Dublin, and later had charge of a church at Leixlip, County Kildare, eight miles from Dublin. And there his useful and honored life was brought to a close, and he now lies peacefully sleeping his last sleep in the quaint old churchyard of the church to whose members he used to minister the consolations of religion. His good wife lies by his side. She was a native of County Dublin, and her maiden name was Catherine McKenna. Eleven children were born to this worthy couple.

The son of whom we write was fourteen years old when his father died. Prior to that time he had always attended school, as his parents were anxious to give him a good education, but that sad event changed the course of his life, as the family were then scattered, and our subject was apprenticed to a druggist in the town of Carlow, County Carlow. He served five years, and then went to Dublin to attend lectures on pharmacy, and received a certificate as assistant apothecary. In the month of May, 1855, he left the shores of his native isle, and proceeding to Liverpool, secured a position as apothecary on board of an American-bound vessel, and five weeks later disembarked at New York City. The second day after his arrival he found employment in McKesson & Robin's wholesale drug-store, and remained with them six months. We next hear of him far away from there in a Southern city, he having gone to New Orleans, where he was engaged as a manufacturing chemist in G. N. Morrison's wholesale drug-store. Six months later he tried life in Chicago, and was with a firm of wholesale druggists for a time. He then entered into business on his own account, opening a drug-store at Evanston, a few miles from Chicago. He there met Dr. Evans, who was then booming the town of Oreopolis, in this county, and that gentleman persuaded him to accompany him to Nebraska in the fall of 1857. Oreopolis was situated one and one-half miles from Plattsmouth, and at one time had a much better class of buildings, and much brighter prospects of a prosperous future than this city, but in the mutations of time the situation has been reversed, and Plattsmouth has shot ahead of its ancient rival. Our subject manfully took whatever work came to hand, and one winter chopped wood. He lived in that town until 1861, when the Rebellion broke out, and he was among the first to volunteer for the defense of the institutions of his adopted country, and in the trying years that followed none of his comrades displayed more unflinching courage in the face of danger, more patient endurance, heroic daring, or faithful service than he. He was a member of Company A, 1st Nebraska Infantry, enlisting in April, 1861, and was mustered into the ranks at Omaha as a private. His regiment was ordered to Missouri, and thence to other places, where he took part in several important battles and minor engagements. He was present at Ft. Donelson and Shiloh when they surrendered, and at the siege and capture of Corinth and Cape Girardeau, and for a long time followed and fought the bushwackers and guerrillas in Arkansas and Missouri. He veteranized in the winter of 1863–64, and served until July, 1866. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant Jan. 2, 1862, and at the battle of Shiloh he commanded his company, the First Lieutenant and Captain not being present, and for gallant and meritorious conduct during that hotly contested battle he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, his commission bearing the date of June 1, 1862. He received his commission as Captain Oct. 11, 1865. After the war closed his regiment was sent to the northwestern frontier; here he was for a time Assistant Inspector General. While holding that office he had to travel from Ft. Sedgwick to Omaha and return each month, and thus had a stage ride of some 400 miles, and each two months he had to go to Dakota City, Neb., where he received his

discharge with his regiment in July, 1866, and then returned to Plattsmouth. He was engaged in the drug business in Omaha until 1867, when he obtained a commission as Second Lieutenant in the regular army, and was attached to the 41st Regiment, which was afterward consolidated with another, and became the 24th Regiment. In 1869 our subject was made Adjutant of the regiment, and served in that capacity three years, when he resigned the position, and subsequently he served with his command the greater part of the time in Texas until his resignation from the army in 1878 to accept his present position.

Capt. Donovan was married, in 1856, to Catherine Keife, a native of County Dublin. She was a woman of many lovable qualities, who held a warm place in the hearts of many friends, and her death in 1882 caused sadness in other households besides that of her own family. To her and her husband four children were born—Robert, Katie, George and Flora C. Katie married John M. O'Grady, and died in Plattsmouth at the age of twenty-two. Our subject and his family are all communicants of the Episcopal Church. The Captain combines the quick wit, the warm and generous heart, and the never-failing courtesy and tact, of the true Irish gentleman, and he is popular with all.

CHRISTOFF MEYER. The enterprising German citizen is to be found all over the United States, pushing his way into new sections, and, planting his stakes, usually abides, distinguishing himself for his thrift, industry and prudence, and so laboring as usually to obtain a competence. His children who come after him will proudly repeat the story of his life, and thus he has his reward.

The subject of this sketch, a true son of the Fatherland, is substantially located on a good farm on section 4 in Avoca Precinct, where he has now 158 acres of thoroughly cultivated land. His original purchase embraced 165 acres, a portion having been cut off by the Missouri Pacific Railroad, which runs across a corner of his farm. He settled here when the land was in its primitive condition, without a building upon it, and unfenced. The labor of years has resulted in one of the most finely improved farms in this section, with an imposing two-story stone dwelling, erected in 1880, and the out-buildings naturally arising to meet the requirements of the modern farmer who keeps track of the improvements of the day, and operates accordingly. None but he who has performed it can gain a correct idea of the labor involved in the construction of the well-regulated farm, and in addition to this there has been no small amount of hard cash expended in connection therewith. This, however, has proved a safe investment for capital, being out of the reach of the defaulting bank cashier.

The Atlantic Ocean separates Mr. Meyer from the home of his childhood, he being a native of the Empire of Germany, and born Dec. 23, 1824. He was reared under the paternal roof, and received an excellent education in his native tongue. At an early age he distinguished himself as a natural mechanic, being able to handle all kinds of tools with facility, and this gift has been the means of saving him hundreds of dollars in connection with his farming operations.

The parents of our subject were Charles and Lucy (Newe) Meyer, also natives of the Empire of Germany, and who spent their entire lives in their native land, dying at a ripe old age. Their family consisted of two sons and four daughters, of whom Christoff, our subject, was the only one coming to the United States. He was unmarried at this time, making the journey in the summer of 1854. Soon after landing upon American soil he proceeded to Washington County, Wis., settling among strangers and without means. His honest face and evidently correct habits soon procured him friends and employment, and he lived in Wisconsin until the spring of 1860. In the meantime he was married, Sept. 18, 1858, to Miss Ellen Halmas.

Mrs. Meyer, also a native of Prussia, was born April 24, 1841, and came to the United States with her parents when a young girl of thirteen years. They also located in the Badger State, living in Oconto County until after the marriage of their daughter Ellen. Later they removed to Chicago, Ill., where the father died in middle life. The

mother subsequently came to Nebraska, and died at the home of her son Nicholas, in this county. She was about seventy-four years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Halmas were the parents of five children, all of whom are living and located mostly in the United States.

To Mr. and Mrs. Meyer there have been born thirteen children, two of whom, Lucy and John, died at the ages of one and six years respectively. The survivors are Nicholas, Mathias, Mary, Margaretta, Susanna, Peter, Charles, Lizzie, August, Henry and Joseph. Mathias is married and living in this county; Mary, Mrs. Jergonson, is a resident of this county; Margaretta is the wife of J. Denne, and makes her home in Otoe County. Mr. Meyer, politically, is a stanch Democrat, and both he and his estimable wife are members of the German Catholic Church. They are people of standing and importance in their community, and are amply worthy of representation in the ALBUM of Cass County.

DR. JOSEPH E. HALL, a regular practicing physician and surgeon of good standing in Weeping Water, located at this place about 1881, and during his seven years' residence has built up a remarkably fine business. He bears an excellent reputation as a citizen and a practitioner, and enjoys in a large degree the confidence and esteem of the people of this vicinity. He is a gentleman of marked ability, a close student, and conscientious in the discharge of the duties of his profession.

Dr. Hall first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska June 17, 1881, and at once took up his location in Weeping Water, of which he has since been a resident, attending strictly to business. In 1887 he completed a fine residence on South Randolph street, which, with its surroundings, forms one of the attractive homes of the city. In its enterprises and improvements he has taken an active part since becoming a resident here, serving on the School Board three years, and has held the office of County Physician two years, also for two years that of surgeon of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. Socially, he is a K. of P., and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, holding various official capacities in his lodge at Weeping Water.

Dr. Hall was born in Alexandria, Ind., April 24, 1858, and lived there until he was a young man twenty years old. He had in the meantime received a good preliminary education, and now began the reading of medicine with Dr. J. W. Perry, of the same place, continuing with him one year, and spending the year following with Drs. Chittenden & Jones, of Anderson, Ind. Later he entered upon a course of lectures in the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, from which he was graduated with honors March 3, 1881. He still belongs to the Sydenham Society of that college, and is also prominently connected with the State Medical Society of Nebraska, and the Railroad Surgical Society of the State.

Dr. Hall, after being graduated, established himself at once in Weeping Water, where he has one of the finest equipped offices in the city, and a remarkably complete assortment of surgical instruments and appliances, together with a library and everything else needful for the successful prosecution of his practice.

Our subject, on the 4th of May, 1882, was united in marriage with Miss Rosetta J. Blake, of Alexandria, and they are now the parents of three children, two sons and a daughter, namely: Virgil, Ethel and Homer. Mrs. Hall was born March 27, 1858, in Markleville, Ind., and is the daughter of W. P. and Isabella (Williams) Blake, who are now living upon a farm in the vicinity of Alexandria. She was carefully trained and educated, and taught school a period of four years before her marriage. They have a snug home in the central part of town, and enjoy the society of many friends.

Jesse H. Hall, the father of our subject, was born in Highland County, Ohio, Nov. 22, 1822, and lived there until a lad of eight years. He then removed to Indiana with his parents, they settling in Madison County during its pioneer days. Upon reaching man's estate he was married to Miss Elizabeth Ellis, and they became the parents of thirteen children, eleven of whom lived to mature years, and six sons and two daughters are still living. Mr.

Hall was successful in his labors as an agriculturist, and carried on farming extensively in his adopted State during the latter years of his life. In early manhood he was engaged as a teacher a period of twelve years. He is a very intelligent man, one who keeps himself well posted upon current events, and is a stanch supporter of the Republican party, in whose principles he trained his sons, and of which our subject, the Doctor, is an equally ardent advocate. Both parents have been for many years connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and from their sterling worth and integrity of character stand high among the people of their community.

Joseph H. Hall, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Ohio, whence he removed to Indiana about 1830, where he spent his last days, dying at the old homestead in Madison County, in February of the year 1872, when sixty-six years old. Dr. Hall's wife is a member of the Baptist Church in Weeping Water, of which they are regular attendants, and to which they contribute a liberal support.

GEORGE OBERLE, a well-known and successful agriculturist of Tipton Precinct, has a well-regulated farm pleasantly located on section 30, and which embraces 250 acres of good land. Upon it are neat and substantial buildings, including a fine new residence, commodious and built in modern style of architecture, which has been but recently completed, and is the admiration of the country around. Our subject belongs to that nationality to which the Great West is largely indebted for its growth and development, and was born on the beautiful Rhine River, near the village of Ottenheim, March 9, 1840.

Mr. Oberle spent his boyhood and youth in his native Province, acquiring, in common with the young people of Germany, an excellent education in the public schools. Afterward he employed himself mostly at hunting and fishing, remaining on his native soil until 1867. In the meantime he entered into partnership with his brother and other men, they being engaged in building a stone wall on the River Rhine, to protect the land. In 1866 our subject entered the army during the war between Germany and Austria, and was under the enemy's fire in many a battle. After a service of six months he returned to his old business, but in the April of 1867 resolved to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic. Repairing to Havre, France, he made his way by steamer to Liverpool, and there embarked on the ocean vessel "Walda," landing in New York City after a voyage of eighteen days.

Our subject tarried a very little while in the metropolis, then proceeded westward to St. Clair County, in Southern Illinois, and in the vicinity of Belleville found employment as a farm laborer, and sojourned in that locality a period of five years. In the spring of 1872 he made his way west to Nebraska City, and the year following came to this county and homesteaded a tract of land in Tipton Precinct, which is included in his present farm. He commenced at first principles in the construction of a homestead, there having been no attempt, whatever, at improvement. His first business was to cultivate a portion of the soil, after which he commenced fencing his land, putting up buildings, planting trees in groves and orchards, and gradually gathered around himself the comforts and conveniences which have made his homestead a noticeable feature of his precinct. Later he added to his first purchase as follows: Fifty acres on section 29, eighty on section 30 and 130 on section 31. It has all been brought to a productive condition, and is amply watered by the Little Nemaha. Mr. Oberle gives considerable attention to stock-raising, producing excellent grades of horses, cattle and swine, having usually a herd of forty cattle, sixty hogs and ten head of horses.

Mr. Oberle was married, in Nebraska City, March 15, 1873, to Miss Mary Stolz, a native of the same Province as her husband, and born in April, 1847. Mrs. Oberle came to America in her girlhood with friends. She is the daughter of George Stolz, who was of German ancestry, and whose family consisted of four children. Three of these are living, located in the old country. The parents are deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Oberle there have been born

five children, namely: George, Jr.; Carl, who died when about six years old; Frederick, Rudolph and Emil. Mr. and Mrs. O. are Lutherans in religion, and our subject, politically, is a solid Republican. His parents were Deibold and Anna (Hauser) Oberle, who were natives of the same place as their son. They spent their entire lives in their native Germany, and the father was by occupation a fisher, hunter and trapper. He served for a time in the German Army, and after rounding up a ripe old age passed away in 1880. The mother survived her husband four years, dying in 1884. They were members of the Evangelical Protestant Church. Their family consisted of eight children, of whom our subject was the fourth child born. They were named respectively: Deibold, George, Carl, Frederick, Annie M., Kate, Christina (who died when about thirty years old) and Lena. Three sisters of these came to America.

ALBERT E. LEWIS is a prosperous young farmer who came to Nebraska in February, 1880, and settled on eighty acres of land on the southern half of the northwest half of section 31, Elmwood Precinct, to the improvement of which he has devoted his entire time and attention. Coming to Nebraska without any great financial means, in fact, a poor man, he has done exceedingly well, and the various improvements which he has planned and begun making bespeak a future replete with comfort and happiness, should his life be spared to realize a full fruition of all his hopes.

Mr. Lewis was married in the fall of 1880 to Miss Lydia E. Hite, the daughter of David and Mary (Curyea) Hite. Her father was a native of Ohio, and her mother of Virginia, and she was one of a family of nine children born to her parents: John M., now deceased; James Alva, Theodore J., Flora B., Charles F., Lydia E., Nellie M., Lenora M. and Alice M. Mr. Lewis is the youngest of three children. The other two were named Elizabeth and William R. He was born on the 28th of July, 1850, in LaSalle County, Ill. He evinced a great love for study and books at an early age, and never lost an opportunity of attending the schools near his home. The father of Mr. Lewis came to Illinois in 1838. He died in 1871, sixty-five years of age. The mother, Eliza A. (Holder) Lewis, died at the age of forty-one years.

Mr. Lewis is a man who aspires to attain the highest place among his fellows, and should he continue to live in the years to come as he has lived in years that have gone, there is no question but that the fondest aspirations of his heart will be fully realized in this direction. He has been in his present location eight years. During that time, by strict integrity of purpose, and a close attention to all the details of farm life he has been enabled to build a snug little home. Although small in extent, there are none showing a greater amount of happiness and home comfort, and giving a better promise of brighter days in the future. All the avenues leading to a snug competency are open to him, and we find him most zealously pursuing his way to reach that goal. In his wife he has a true and in fact a genuine helpmate, always ready and anxious to share every burden and every care, and bestow every joy and comfort of which she is capable. A lady of refinement and taste, her home shows evidence of her skill as a housewife. Together they are a most estimable couple, and deserve all the good things that can come to them. In politics Mr. L. acts with the Democratic party. For a sketch of the lady's ancestry see the history of David Hite, Esq. As to the ancestry of the gentleman's mother, refer to the sketch of William R. Lewis.

WILLIAM MARSHALL, manager of the boot and shoe house of Charles Marshall, in Weeping Water, has charge of one of the largest concerns of the kind in the city. The business was established by the father of our subject in September, 1872, and has been familiarly known as Marshall's Shoe Store ever since that time, although having been owned by different members of the same family. Its success is indicative of the good judgment and discretion which have characterized its management from the beginning.

The subject of this sketch was born in Yorkshire,

England, April 17, 1862, and came to America with his parents when a little lad ten years of age. After landing upon the soil of this continent they made their way directly westward to this county, settling in Weeping Water, where the father engaged in the boot and shoe trade, and where our subject was reared to manhood. Here also he completed a practical education, and spending much time during his youthful days in his father's store, became at an early age familiar with all the details of the business. He assumed the management in July, 1886, and is keeping up the reputation of the family and the house in the old-time manner.

Mr. Marshall was married, Nov. 19, 1885, to Miss Ella B. Savage, who was born in McDonough County, Ill., Dec. 16, 1863. James Savage, the father of Mrs. Marshall, was one of the solid farmers of that county, his property being located within the township limits of Macomb. He came to Nebraska about 1882, and purchased land in Hamilton County, where his death took place in July, 1884. Mrs. Savage is still living, and makes her home with her daughter Ella in Weeping Water. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall are the parents of one child, a son, Spencer J., who was born Sept. 4, 1886. Mr. M. belongs to the I. O. O. F., the K. of P. and the Modern Workmen of America.

John Marshall, the father of our subject, was born in Yorkshire, England, April 18, 1830, and lived there until 1872. He married Miss Charlotte Day, a native of Worcestershire, and they became the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters, who, with one exception, all came to America with him. Weeping Water at the time of his settlement here was a little town of 400 or 500 people, and he established his shoe store on the corner of Randolph and I streets, where it still remains. In due time there was a sign put out having upon it Marshall & Son, and later, as the father withdrew from the active business, and the sons took his place, it was changed to Marshall Bros. The first two brothers assuming charge of the business were John T. and William. Next the former withdrew and William and Arthur U. conducted the business. It is now the property of Charles Marshall, who makes his home in Syracuse, Neb.

John Marshall and his sons are equal to several full teams in their advocacy of the principles of the Republican party. They meddle very little with politics, but keep themselves thoroughly posted upon State and National events, and wield a silent influence which has its weight. They are first-class business men, attending strictly to the details of their trade, are prompt to meet their obligations, and in both the business and social circles of Cass County are marked A No. 1.

NICHOLAS HALMES, one of the most liberal and public-spirited citizens of Plattsmouth Precinct, is pleasantly located on a good farm occupying a portion of section 8, and may be properly ranked among the self-made men of Cass County. Of German birth and ancestry, he is a native of Prussia, where he was born Aug. 15, 1831. His parents were Martin and Mary (Newell) Halmes, the mother a native of the same Province as her son; they spent the latter part of their lives in Wisconsin and Nebraska. Both are now dead.

Martin Halmes, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, was born in the Province of Elza, France, where he married, and where Martin, Jr., was also born. The latter in 1814 joined the French Army, and the year following was taken prisoner by the Prussians into their country, and subsequently served in the ranks of the Prussian Army a period of three years. At the close of the war he married a Miss Newall, and was a resident of Prussia until the year 1853.

In the year above mentioned Martin Halmes, Jr., accompanied by his wife and five children, emigrated to America, and proceeding westward located in Wisconsin, where he followed farming until 1857. He then retired from active labor, and was making his plans to come to Nebraska and live with his son, our subject, when his death occurred in 1860, after having spent a few months in Chicago with his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Craig.

After the death of his father our subject brought his mother home, and she lived with him until her death, which occurred in the year 1878. Mr. Halmes came to Nebraska Territory in 1857, locating in

the vicinity of the present town of Weeping Water, pre-empting 160 acres of land, which he occupied until 1866. Then selling out he removed to his present home on sections 7 and 8. Here he purchased 200 acres, twenty acres of which had been broken, but further than this there was little improvement. He at once put up a stone house and began farming. He was prospered in his labors, and invested his surplus capital in additional land, being the possessor of 1,010 acres, all of which is in a productive condition.

For a man who landed upon the soil of Nebraska with a capital of $5 in his pocket, Mr. Halmes has certainly made a good record. A part of this he invested in a pair of boots, and then began working for the farmers around. The first $300 which he made he lost, being the victim of misplaced confidence. He secured unto himself a wife and helpmate in 1860, being married to Miss Henrietta Obernolte, of Plattsmouth. Of this union there were born seven children, namely: Mary, Nicholas, Peter, Lena, Rosa, George and Joseph. Mrs. Henrietta Halmes departed this life in 1880.

The present wife of our subject, to whom he was married in 1881, bears the name of Henrietta Plager. This lady, as was the former wife of our subject, is a member of the Lutheran Church, while Mr. H. belongs to the German Catholic. He is a man of decided ideas and votes independently, aiming to support the men whom he considers the most trustworthy and efficient for office.

ROBERT EMENS is a member of the firm of Gerardet, Boone & Emens, pioneer dry-goods, grocery and notion merchants of the city of Weeping Water. These gentlemen are young, active and enterprising, and have a bright and promising future before them.

Our subject was born in New Jersey, May 21, 1857, a son of Abraham Emens, who was born in the same State in 1830. The father was in business in Dayton until middle age, and there married Anna Van Arsdale, a most estimable woman, and a member of the Reformed Church. They are the parents of two children, Gertrude and our subject. Their daughter is now Mrs. F. E. Adams, of Pekin, Ill. When Mr. Emens was about forty years of age he abandoned his native State, and the home of his birth, with all its associations, to begin life again in the Prairie State, and settling in Pekin, Ill., established himself in the mercantile business, which he carried on for three years with good success. After that he turned his attention to farming, and he now owns a fine farm eight miles west of Pekin, where he and his wife make their home. He is a man of prominence in that locality, and has held several township and county offices. His father, Jonathan Emens, was a native of New Jersey, where he carried on farming and was also engaged in other business.

Robert Emens was twelve years old when his parents became residents of Illinois, and he completed his education in the excellent High School of Pekin. After leaving school he engaged with his father on the farm until he attained manhood, and he then started out in life for himself. He remained in Illinois until 1882, when he came to Weeping Water. For some years he acted as clerk for different merchants in this State, a part of the time for Mr. Gerardet, his present partner, who was then manager for Wessel & Kohn, of Nebraska City. After the big fire of 1887 our subject, with other members of the firm, opened a new store, the doors being first opened to the public Jan. 10, 1888, since which time they have done a good and promising business. Their establishment is well fitted up and neatly arranged, and every department is well stocked with goods, the best in the market, and at reasonable prices.

Mr. Emens was married to Miss Cora Boone, of Utica, Neb., Nov. 26, 1884. To this union have been born two children—Sterling, Jr., and Hazel. Mrs. Emens was born in Manito, Ill., in 1863, and is a daughter of Thomas and Harriet (Robinson) Boone. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and in later life he moved to Illinois, where for some years he was engaged in farming, and there his death occurred. His widow moved to Utica, Neb., where she lived until the marriage of her daughter Cora, and is now living here with her.

Our subject is a wide-awake man, of good business principles and exceptional habits, and his

sense of honor and honesty is held in such high respect by those with whom he has dealings that his word is as good as a bond. He avoids all politics, except so far as duty calls him to the polls, where he votes with the Republican party. He is prominent socially, and is a K. of P.

CHARLES H. WARNER, of Plattsmouth Precinct, came to this county without means in 1876, but is now the possessor of a good property embracing a fine farm of 150 acres, which he has brought to a good state of cultivation, and upon which he has erected neat and substantial frame buildings. He is a man highly esteemed in his community, a Republican in politics, and with his estimable wife a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church. He has been quite prominent in local affairs, serving as School Treasurer in his district two terms, and is at present a Director.

Mr. Warner is a self-made man in the strictest sense of the term, having been thrown upon his own resources when a mere child, and obliged to look out for himself. He was born in Woodford County, Ill., Dec. 25, 1853, and is the son of Calvin and Nancy A. (Clark) Warner, who were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The paternal grandfather, John S. Warner, was a native of Pennsylvania, and the great-grandfather of our subject a native of Germany. The latter emigrated to the United States at an early day, settling in Pennsylvania, where it is supposed he spent the remainder of his life.

John Clark, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was of Scotch ancestry, and possibly born in the "land of the thistle." It is known, however, that he was one of the earliest settlers of Wayne County, Ohio, where he spent his last days. Calvin Warner took up his abode in Woodford County, Ill., when his son Charles H. was a small boy. He was born in 1817, and departed this life at his home in Woodford County, Ill., May 15, 1862. Mrs. Nancy A. (Clark) Warner survived her husband a period of twenty years, and also passed from earth at her home in Woodford County, in 1882, at an advanced age. The parental household included five sons and two daughters. Six of these children are living.

Our subject was the fifth child of his parents, and was only seven years of age at the time of his father's death. He was then taken into the home of his uncle, Reuben Skinner, who married a sister of our subject's father. The boy lived with them until fourteen years old, then starting out for himself, made his way across the Mississippi to Nebraska Territory, and thence a short time later to Texas. He was a resident of the Lone Star State a period of five years, employing himself at whatever he could find to do, and then returned to his old haunts in Illinois. From there he came back to Nebraska in 1876.

Mr. Warner was married, Dec. 25, 1879, to Miss Barbara E., daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth (McCorkle) Wiles, of Plattsmouth Precinct. They commenced the journey of life together here, and are now the parents of three children—Altia G., Millie M. and Frederick M. The eldest of these is seven years of age, and the youngest two.

PETER PETERS. The name of this gentleman is entirely familiar among the leading farmers and stock-growers of Cass County, with whose agricultural interests he has been closely identified for many years. His history is not widely different from that of many of the prosperous men around him, he having crossed the Mississippi poor in purse and dependent upon his own resources. He now represents a fine property, and during his twenty-five years' residence in Cass County has continuously made his home in Avoca Precinct, and has built up a reputation second to none in the county as a skilled agriculturist and an upright business man. His farm of 160 acres is under a high state of cultivation and improved with substantial buildings, while his live stock is first-class, including horses, cattle and swine, he making a specialty of the two first mentioned.

Prior to becoming a resident of Nebraska Mr. Peters had sojourned in Lake County, Ill., for

some years. He had emigrated to the Prairie State from Missouri, where he located when coming a stranger to a strange land. He was born in the Duchy of Holstein, Germany, in 1833, and was the fifth child and fourth son of Teis and Sophia Peters, the latter of whom died when he was a small child, and he consequently knows very little of her family history. The parental household consisted of five sons and three daughters. Teis Peter, also a native of Holstein, was reared in the agricultural districts, and upon approaching man's estate was in the Government service of Denmark for some time, and during the progress of the Danish and Prussian War. He spent his entire life afterward in his native Holstein, where his death took place when he was about fifty-five years old.

Young Peters, in common with the youth of Germany, was placed in school at an early age, where he acquired the rudiments of a practical education in his native tongue, and being a bright and observant boy, he early in life began to lay his plans for the future. Not being satisfied with the prospects in the Fatherland, he before attaining his eighteenth year set out alone for the United States, embarking on a sailing-vessel from the port of Hamburg, and arriving sixteen weeks later, in 1850, in New York City. Thence he proceeded to Chicago, Ill., by water and rail, and soon found employment on a farm in Cook County. He remained there long enough to have his heart ensnared by Miss Magdalena Schomaker and they were married in Cook County, Aug. 16, 1858.

Mrs. Peters, like her husband, was a native of Holstein, and born Feb. 23, 1826. She was the youngest of half a dozen children, the offspring of Michael and Anna (Johaken) Schomaker, who are both now deceased. The father died in Germany when his daughter, Mrs. Peters, was a child five years of age. Later the mother emigrated to America with her little family, settling in this county. Her last days were spent at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Timm, in Avoca Precinct, where she died when nearly seventy-five years old. Both parents were Lutherans in religion.

Mrs. Peters was reared to womanhood in her native Empire, and was about eighteen years old when coming to this country with other members of the family. She has become thoroughly Americanized, and is a lady in every respect praiseworthy as a wife, mother and neighbor. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, all of whom are living: Sophia C. W. is the wife of Richard Francen, a farmer of Valley County, this State; T. J. William married Miss Sophia Buck, and they live on a farm in Avoca Precinct; Herman O. F. B. married Miss Anna Betts, and is conducting a saloon in Avoca; H. C. Louis married Miss Ettie Bozard, and resides at Cook Station in Otoe County; A. Amelia H. is the wife of Louis Lence, a farmer of Valley County; P. George A. remains at home assisting his father in the management of the farm; Emma C. C. and Alvina A. M. (twins) are also at home with their parents.

Mr. Peters upon becoming a naturalized citizen identified himself with the Democratic party, and cast his first Presidential vote for Douglas. He has held the various local offices and signalized himself as a member of the community, thoroughly interested in its progress and welfare. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, attending services at Avoca.

HENRY F. TAYLOR is one of the most prominent of the energetic and successful farmers and stock-raisers who have been instrumental in placing Cass County among the first counties of the State by the development of her wonderful resources, and he is now among the foremost in sustaining her material prosperity. He has a large and very valuable farm, lying partly on section 25, and partly on section 36, Liberty Precinct, his residence being on the former section. Everything about the farm shows the presence of the master mind and hand, and in all its appointments it is a model estate. Mr. Taylor came to Cass County in 1864, and after being employed for a year in breaking prairie and teaming logs, he made

his first purchase of 160 acres of land included in his present farm, and has ever since been actively engaged in improving and adding to it. His home farm comprises 500 acres, and the sum total of his land is over 1,000 acres. In 1876 he turned his attention to raising mules, and has since been extensively and profitably engaged in that branch of business, keeping three animals of choice breed for the purpose all of the time, and he can boast of supplying the county with as fine a lot of mules as there is in the State.

Mr. Taylor was born in Bedford County, Va., Sept. 11, 1837, and his father, Henry Taylor, was also a native of the Old Dominion, coming of Scotch parents, who were American-born. The father of our subject was reared in Bedford County, his place of birth, and was reared to the calling of farmer. He was married to Jane Agnew, a native of the same county as himself, and although her parents were American-born, they were undoubtedly of Scotch descent. After marriage Henry Taylor and wife lived in Bedford County until 1848, when, with their family, they took up their abode in Meigs County, Ohio. They settled on a farm in that county, and there some of their children were born. At the time of their settlement Meigs County, especially the part in which they located, was still in a wild state, and theirs was the pioneer task of aiding in its development by clearing a farm from the surrounding primeval forests, and in the home in Salem Township that they thus built up, with the attendant hardships and struggles of pioneer life, Henry Taylor and his wife died, he April 13, 1863, at the age of sixty-five, and she March 1, 1884, aged seventy-six. Their old farm is still in possession of their sons.

The subject of this sketch was the fourth child and third son of the family of ten sons and two daughters, nine of whom lived to maturity, six of whom are yet living, and five of these are now married. He was reared on the old homestead in Ohio, having been a boy of nine years when his parents left their Virginian home for the one in Ohio. He was a quick, self-reliant, helpful little lad, and he was obliged to assist his father in developing his farm, so that his school privileges were very meager, but he managed, nevertheless, to pick up enough of an education to make him a good business man, and make life a success. After he became of age he left Ohio, and started for the West in 1860, and arriving at St. Joseph, Mo., he and seven others formed a company to cross the plains to the Rocky Mountains in search of gold. He and his comrades crossed the Missouri River April 20, 1860, and after a long and weary journey over the plains reached their destination in Colorado Territory. Mr. Taylor worked at mining in Russell Gulch for one season, and in the vicinity of Pike's Peak the rest of the time, where he had an interest in the Lode claims. He met with fair success, but owing to Indian troubles springing up, he having considerable property in teams and wagons, considered that his chances of retaining them were very slim on the plains or in the mountains, where the redskins might seize them at any moment, so he disposed of them, and selling out all his interests in mines and claims, retraced his way back until he arrived in Nebraska, and, as we have seen, subsequently settled on his present farm.

That same year, 1864, our subject was married in Liberty Precinct, October 23, to Miss Barbara A. Lynn. She was born in Pennsylvania, Aug. 24, 1849, and is a daughter of Joshua and Sarah (Truax) Lynn, who are now living near Union, in this county. Mr. Lynn is a well-known, prosperous old settler of this county, he having crossed the Missouri River about 1857 or 1858, and has ever since made his home where he now lives on section 23. Mrs. Taylor was only a year old when her parents moved from her native State to Ohio, and later to Southern Illinois, where they lived five years. From there they moved to Fremont County, Iowa, and one year later to Nebraska, and began life on an unimproved farm, her parents then being very poor. Mrs. Taylor was trained to a thorough knowledge of domestic work, is a fine housekeeper, looks well to the ways of her household, and is a devoted wife and mother. To her and her husband twelve children have been born, two of whom, Thomas and Ida, are dead. Those living are: Emma J., the wife of Charles Morton, a farmer in Liberty Precinct; Eva L., wife of A. L. Becker, a farmer in Liberty Precinct; the others are all at home, and are receiving good educations in the public schools, their

names being as follows: William, Mary, Andrew, Louisa, Callahill. Luella, Minnie and Elsie B.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are among the active and energetic people of this county, have done their share toward its improvement, and have had no unimportant share in its present wonderful development. Mr. Taylor is a sound Republican, and takes an active interest in local politics.

ISAAC N. APPLEGATE is prominently identified with the local interests of Liberty Precinct, and is one of its leading farmers and stock-raisers. His farm on which he resides is undoubtedly as well improved and under as good a state of cultivation as the best in the neighborhood, and its broad, fertile acres yield him a fine annual income.

Our subject was born in Mason County, Ky., March 17, 1832, being a descendant of some of the brave, sturdy pioneers of that State. Richard Applegate, the grandfather of our subject, was a patriot of the Revolution, and also fought in the War of 1812. He was a native of Virginia, and a farmer by occupation. He was reared to a strong and vigorous manhood in the Old Dominion, and was there married to a lady whose maiden name is thought to have been Wall. They afterward moved to near Washington, Mason Co., Ky., and were very early settlers of that part of the State. They improved a farm in the wilderness, and after many long years they died of old age, and all that is mortal of their remains is reposing in the old family graveyard on the old homestead, which is still in possession of some of their descendants.

Their son Vincent, the father of our subject, was the youngest son of a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are deceased. He was reared to manhood in Mason County, and after he attained his majority he went to Ripley, Brown Co., Ohio, and was married to Ann Lemon. She was a native of Maryland, as were her parents, who had moved to Ohio when she was young. Her father, Hugh Lemon, and her mother spent their declining years in Brown County, where they died at an advanced age. After marriage Vincent Applegate returned to his native county in Kentucky, and lived there for some time. He subsequently went back to Ohio with his family, and settled in Brown County, and there he and his wife lived to build up a comfortable home and to rear a family of eight children. In November, 1869, the father closed his eyes to the scenes of earth, having rounded out a busy life of seventy-four years. His wife survived him until May 12, 1881, when she too passed away, having attained the venerable age of seventy-seven years. They were both upright, Christian people, the mother being a member of the Methodist Church.

Our subject was the fourth child and third son of those worthy people, and he was quite young when they took up their residence in Brown County, Ohio. He was there reared and educated, and after he became of age, attracted by the many inducements for settlement in the Great West, held forth to stalwart, energetic, self-reliant young men like himself, who wished to build up comfortable homes, he made his way to Iowa, and the next fourteen years of his life were spent there, three years in Fremont County and eleven years in Montgomery County. In the latter county he improved a farm, which he sold on coming to this State. In 1865 he visited Cass County and purchased his first land (160 acres, which he has given his son), but did not live on the place until 1868, or attempt any improvements until that time. His farm now comprises 320 acres of land, nearly all well watered, and admirably adapted in every way to raising stock, to which he pays special attention, with great success, and he has his farm well stocked with cattle of good grades. He has provided it with comfortable buildings.

During his residence in Iowa Mr. Applegate was married, Nov. 28, 1855, to Miss Margaret Carlisle. She was born in Highland County, Ohio, May 23, 1837. Her father, James Carlisle, was born in Virginia, of Virginian parentage; he was reared in his native State. He was married there, in Adams County, to Miss Abigail Wade, and they subsequently began their wedded life in Highland County, where he engaged in farming. In 1852 they moved to Iowa with a family of eight children, and settled permanently in Montgomery County, being among the early settlers of that part of Iowa. Mr. Car-

lisle pre-empted land, and with the assistance of his wife, built up a home from the wild prairie. They died on the homestead, the mother Aug. 13, 1869, at the age of sixty-six years, and the father in December, 1878, being then fourscore years old. Mrs. Applegate was in her girlhood when her parents moved to Iowa, and there she became of age. Since their marriage she and her husband have devoted their earnest efforts to making a comfortable, happy home. They have one child, LeRoy, who is at present engaged at his trade of blacksmith, at Nehawka, where he has a smithy, and is carrying on a flourishing business. He married Ida F. Warfield, and they have three children—Joy R., Clee and James C. Mrs. LeRoy Applegate was born in Rochester, Mo., Dec. 9, 1861, and is the daughter of Samuel and Emma (Elkin) Warfield, now residents of Broken Bow, Custer Co., Neb., where Mr. Warfield is conducting the tinner's trade. Our subject is gifted with much sagacity, foresight and practical tenacity of purpose. In his political views he is an independent Democrat.

CYRUS RODNEY ANDRUS, a homesteader of 1869, took up the southeast quarter of section 26, in Tipton Precinct, in the fall of that year, and has since given to it his best efforts in the construction of a farm. In noting his surroundings to-day the traveler is impressed with the fact that the labors of Mr. Andrus have met with ample reward. His land has been brought to a good state of cultivation, and improved with neat and substantial buildings, and the whole premises very nearly approach the modern idea of the complete country home. Mr. Andrus has now reached his fifty-first year, but is strong and robust, as the result of temperate living and correct habits, and would pass for a man many years younger.

The career which our subject marked out for himself in his early manhood and which he has endeavored to follow, has been such as to commend him to the good opinion of his fellow-citizens, who regard him with the highest confidence and esteem. He comes of an excellent old New England family, being the son of Thomas and Eliza (Beardsley) Andrus, the father a native of Rutland, Vt., and born in 1803, and the mother born in Hartford, Conn., in 1808. The paternal grandfather, also Cyrus Andrus, was a Vermont farmer in good circumstances, but finally left his native State and migrated to Pennsylvania, where he continued the pursuit of agriculture until his death, after he had arrived at the advanced age of eighty-six years. The great-grandfather of our subject was a man of property, being owner of the entire marble quarry at Green Mountain, Vt. On the mother's side Grandfather Isaac Beardsley was born in Connecticut, whence he migrated to Pennsylvania, engaged successfully in farming, and rested from his earthly labors at the age of eighty-four years.

Thomas Andrus, the father of our subject, leaving New England when a boy, settled with his parents near Seneca Lake, New York State, and was reared to manhood on a farm. At this period of his life he became interested in the lumber business, engaged in making shingles, and otherwise became identified with this industry in the Empire State. There also he was married to Miss Beardsley, and not long afterward they removed to Pennsylvania, joining the parents on both sides of the house. Mr. Andrus took up a tract of timber land in Bradford County, and before leaving the Keystone State had cleared three farms.

In the fall of 1867 Thomas Andrus decided to go beyond the Mississippi, and see something of the Great West. The end of his journey found him in Muscatine County, Iowa, where he settled and remained two years. Not quite satisfied with the prospect, he again changed his residence, coming in the fall of 1869 to this county, and homesteading eighty acres of land in Tipton Precinct. He was fairly prosperous in his labors of opening up a farm, and operated with his usual industry until advancing years admonished him it would be wise to retire. He, with his estimable partner, made his home with his son Cyrus, our subject, where he died Dec. 27, 1888, aged eighty-five years, seven months and sixteen days. Prior to coming to this State they had been for many years identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Andrus was a chief pillar, officiating as Class-

Leader, and holding other positions of trust. Since coming to Nebraska they have been connected with the United Brethren.

To the parents of our subject there were born eight children, namely: Jane and Mabel, who died when eighteen and forty-six years old; Marietta, a resident of Pennsylvania; Truman, living in Oregon; C. Rodney, our subject; Thomas J. and Hiram, deceased; and Susan, a resident of Nebraska. Truman and Thomas served as Union soldiers in the late Civil War, the former three years, and the latter nearly four. Thomas died from the effects of hardships and exposure in Pennsylvania.

The subject of this sketch was born near Canton, Bradford Co., Pa., March 17, 1838, and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons. He attended the brief winter season of the district school until seventeen years of age, and continued a member of the parental household until reaching his majority. At this period, desirous of starting out for himself, he purchased seventy-five acres of timber land in the vicinity of the old homestead, a part of which he cleared, made good improvements, and remained upon it until 1867. He had in the meantime visited the State of Iowa, and after that could not get rid of the idea that he was on the wrong side of the mountains. He accordingly, in 1867, disposed of his property in Pennsylvania, and returning to Muscatine County, Iowa, operated on rented land there two years. In the spring of 1869, deciding to push still further westward, he gathered together his family and personal effects, and started overland with two mule-teams for the young State of Nebraska. Mr. Andrus made the journey to Nebraska in better style than many of his compeers, having sent his household goods by rail, therefore to the family it was rather a pleasure trip than otherwise. They crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, and proceeding to the southwest corner of this county our subject pitched his tent in Tipton Precinct, and in February, 1869, homesteaded eighty acres of his present farm. Upon it there had been no attempt whatever at improvement, and he could not even see a human dwelling from his place. His first business was to put up a shelter for the family, and for this he was obliged to haul lumber from Plattsmouth, thirty-five miles away. There were then no paved streets or even a macadamized road, and the task of transporting building material over the country can better be imagined than described. The men of that time, however, were well equipped with resolution and perseverance, and Mr. Andrus was in nowise lacking in these qualities. It never occurred to him to look back after he had put his hand to the plow, and he surmounted this as well as the scores of other difficulties which presented themselves from time to time.

After effecting the most urgent arrangements for the comfort of his family our subject began the cultivation of his land, the planting of fruit and forest trees, the fencing of his fields, and the erection of additional buildings as he had need. He has now a flourishing apple orchard of 380 trees, and a fine grove. The land is plentifully watered by a running stream, and the fields are enclosed with hedge and wire fencing. Mr. A. in due time added to his real estate by the purchase first of eighty acres, his father's homestead, and later 160 acres of well-improved land besides. The farm is largely devoted to stock-raising, Mr. Andrus having good grades of cattle, horses and swine.

Our subject prior to leaving his native State provided himself with a wife and helpmate, Miss Anna Matson, their marriage taking place at the home of the bride in Bradford County, Pa., Feb. 1, 1860. Mrs. Andrus was born in May, 1841, in Ohio, and is the daughter of James and Mary (Kels) Matson, who were natives of Vermont, and are now in New Jersey. Of her union with our subject there were born, in 1861, twins, who died not long afterward. They have since had no children. They have, however, performed the part of parents to a boy known as John Andrus, who is now living on his homestead claim in Lincoln County, Neb. In that county also Mr. Andrus has a tract of 160 acres of timber claim.

The first Presidential vote cast by Mr. Andrus was for Abraham Lincoln. In view of this fact it is scarcely necessary to add that he is a Republican of the first water, and he has assisted in the election of every Republican President since that time. He has been active in the support of the principles of his party in this section, officiating as a delegate to the county conventions, and laboring as he has had

Asgil S. Will

Barbara E. Will

opportunity to further its interests. He has been, most of the time since coming here, a member of the School Board of his district, served as Justice of the Peace two years, and has represented his precinct in the County Board of Supervisors. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, attending services at Union. Mr. Andrus officiates as Class-Leader, and is Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday-school. In this brief summary of his life it will be seen that he has been a good and useful citizen, and one whose name will be held in remembrance long after he has been gathered to his fathers.

ASGIL S. WILL. There is no pleasanter picture to be found on the face of the globe than a well-regulated country estate, with fields of green and gold, with well-fed cattle, horses and swine, substantial farm buildings, groves of forest trees and orchards of fruit trees, and the air of plenty and comfort which surrounds the ideal homestead. These thoughts were suggested in a most forcible manner as the biographer strolled over a portion of the farm belonging to the subject of this sketch. He found him comfortably located on section 1, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and the owner of 400 acres of land, of which he became the possessor in February, 1883.

During the early settlement of Nebraska, and before making his present purchase, Mr. Will had for some years operated on rented land, and thus acquired the capital with which to secure his first quarter-section, which lay in Rock Bluff Precinct. In the spring of 1886 he added to his real estate, and by subsequent purchase has become the owner of 400 broad acres, which, under his wise management, makes an estate of great value. The improvements are first-class, the dwelling being convenient and substantial, and the barn and other out-buildings suitably arranged for the storing of grain and the shelter of stock. Of the latter Mr. Will keeps about 200 head of cattle alone; he is, in fact, one of the largest stock-feeders in this locality. By close attention to business this industry has been to him the source of a fine income. The Will homestead, with its appurtenances, is one of the distinctive features of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and reflects great credit upon the perseverance and industry of him by whom it was inaugurated and is being perpetuated.

A native of the Old Dominion, our subject was born in Highland County, April 23, 1848, and is the son of Washington W. and Elizabeth (Arbogast) Will, the former of whom died about 1877. They also were natives of Virginia, and traced their ancestry to England. The paternal grandfather settled in Virginia during its early days, and there spent the remainder of his life. On the mother's side of the house the family were among the pioneers of Highland County. The parental family included seven children, six of whom are living. Of these Asgil S., our subject, was the eldest born son. Susan is the wife of Josiah Palmer, of Highland County, Va.; Swope H. came to the West about 1883, and lives in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county; Virginia married J. A. Harold, and they continue residents of West Virginia; Molly, the wife of Isaac Eckard, also lives there; William came to Nebraska about 1887. The mother is still living, being now nearly seventy years of age, and continues a resident of her native State. She is a good woman in the broadest sense of the term, and is held by her children and neighbors in the highest regard.

Mr. Will was reared to man's estate in his native county, where he was early trained to habits of industry, and received but a limited education. He, however, availed himself of every opportunity to gain useful knowledge, and there are few men possessed of more practical information, and with whom it is more pleasant or profitable to converse. He found his bride in his native county, being married, Jan. 16, 1870, to Miss Barbara, daughter of Miles and Catharine (Waybright) Harold, who were also Virginians by birth, and who are now living in that State.

Mr. and Mrs. Will commenced their wedded life together in Highland County, Va., and there became the parents of three children. Their household finally numbered seven, four sons and three daughters. These were named respectively: Fred-

erick S., Jasper N., Blanche, Nora B., Thomas, Minnie and Grover. Mr. Will cast his first Presidential vote for Horace Greeley in 1872, and has since continued a strong supporter of Democratic principles. He is at present serving as a School Director in his district, and lends a helping hand to those projects designed for the general welfare of the community. A man prompt to meet his obligations, and one scorning a mean action, he is a typical Virginian, with decided ideas, and one who, while having a thorough respect for the old usages, avails himself also of the new methods, and takes advantage of the age of progress, reducing to practice the theories which commend themselves to his judgment and understanding. In the management of his farm and business interests he displays the practical good judgment which is invariably crowned with success, and thus we find him surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Portraits of our subject and his estimable wife appear on adjoining pages, and elsewhere in this volume will also be found a view of his fine residence, which is a feature of the precinct.

JOSEPH T. MILLS, a prosperous farmer and leading citizen, resides on section 8, Elmwood Precinct. He was born July 19, 1838, in the town of Argyle, Washington Co., N. Y., where he lived with his parents until reaching the age of twelve years, when the family removed to Peoria County, Ill., where his mother died in 1880, aged seventy years. He was the eldest son in a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, born to his parents. His father now resides on section 4, in Elmwood Precinct, seventy-seven years old. The early years of our subject were spent in the ordinary farm duties of the time, and for many winters he drove oxen, hauling saw-logs and other similar work, in which he became an expert, having driven as high as nine teams of oxen at once. He pursued this life until the Civil War opened, and he at the age of twenty-four enlisted, Aug. 11, 1862, in Company E, 77th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered into the service at Peoria. From Peoria the regiment was sent South, and was attached to the 1st Brigade, 4th Division, 13th Army Corps. They first encountered the rebels in the swamps of the Yazoo River, before the battles of Vicksburg. They also participated in the engagement at Arkansas Post.

The regiment of which our subject was a member was engaged in digging the canal that was designed by Gen. Grant to turn the floods of the Mississippi River, and leave Vicksburg an inland town. They took an active part in the siege of that city, and had a fierce and bloody encounter with the rebels at Champion Hills. In 1863 they were in the Louisiana campaign; in the autumn of the same year were in the Matagorda Bay expedition. In the spring of 1864 he was in the Red River campaign. In the desperate battle at Sabine Cross Roads or Mansfield, he and many other comrades were taken prisoners by the rebels and taken to Camp Ford, as the prison at Tyler, Tex., was known. At this place they suffered everything but death. The second night after arrival they had only raw cornmeal and salt meat to eat, and no water to drink. After suffering similar hardships for a long time, Lieut. Henry L. Bushnell and our subject planned to escape, and on Feb. 12, 1865, they were successful in getting away, and they eluded their pursuers until they reached Louisiana, when they were recaptured and placed in the bull-pen at Shrevesport, La. The adventures and experiences had by the comrades were at once hazardous and romantic. Being pursued, and right in the rear of the rebel army, making their way slowly onward, suffering every hardship and hunger, cold and exposure, and their final recapture, would furnish an inexhaustible theme for the pen of the novelist.

In April, 1865, they were removed from Shrevesport to Tyler, Tex., and confined in their first prison. For many weeks and months he, with his comrades, eked out a miserable existence in this Southern hell. While there the last time he became acquainted with John T. Roberts, of Lieut. Earl's United States Secret Service, who had been taken prisoner while out on a scouting expedition up the Mississippi River, and taken to Shrevesport, La. Here also he met Confederate Maj. Robin-

son, who proved to be a loyal man at heart, although forced to serve in the Confederate Army. Upon conversation they found they were both born near the same place in New York. The Major gave our subject a blanket and woolen shirt, which he needed very badly. While traveling in New York State a year or two ago he was happily surprised to meet the Major, and they passed many hours recalling the life in Tyler. The soldier Roberts, above referred to, did not dare reveal his identity, either to the prisoners or the Confederates. Had he done so he would have been tried and executed as a spy. He passed himself off as being a member of the 2d New York Cavalry.

Our subject was the only man who gained his confidence to such a degree that he told him his real character and the branch of the service to which he belonged, and when captured was out on an expedition as special spy. Roberts was an interesting character, and it would have been pleasant to have continued the friendship formed under such trying circumstances, but Mr. Mills has lost track of him since he parted with him at New Orleans, at the close of the war. "Roberts of Natchez," as he was usually called, was a Southern born man, but a loyal Union citizen. He was offered a commission as Lieutenant Colonel if he would enter the Confederate service, but he hated the rebels and their cause, and to all their overtures he replied: "The stars and stripes shall be my winding sheet." They tried to make their escape in many ways. A second attempt was unsuccessful; they were quickly discovered and brought back to the prison. While in that prison our subject saw deeds of cruelty that would make one's blood run cold. Although they were often defeated in their attempts to get away they were determined to try again, and were always on the watch for something to turn up that would be to their advantage, and it was not long until the opportunity came. One day twenty prisoners were out in the woods for the purpose of gathering brush for fuel. Roberts and our subject met a disabled prisoner from the 6th Kansas Cavalry. Arrangements were made at once to have him go back to prison in order to make the number twenty, and let Roberts escape, and Roberts was to wait until Mills could make his escape and meet him. Like a flash this plan suggested itself: Twenty more of the boys would be let out in the afternoon to gather brush, and it was his plan to jump over the stockade while the guards were not looking. In this hazardous undertaking he was singularly successful, and the same afternoon he joined Roberts at a ravine west of the graveyard, as previously agreed upon.

Mr. Mills and his comrade Roberts now being out of the stockade, laid their course toward the Sabine River. They had no arms or means of defense but a dirk knife. They put asafetida on their feet so the hounds might not trace them. At length, after enduring many hardships and privations, they reached the river. They ingeniously constructed a raft from sassafras poles that had been used in a trap to catch wild hogs. Mounting their raft away they went down the river, until finally the raft, began to sink, the wood having absorbed so much water, and they were obliged to abandon it. Scouting along the river bank they finally discovered a flat-bottom boat, which they appropriated to their use, and continued their journey down the river for a distance of 400 miles. It would require a volume to describe this journey with all its incidents, narrow escapes and dangers. They traveled at night and camped in the daytime, when they would conceal themselves and their boat. At one time they were lost in one of the numerous bayous.

For the first time in their journey they were not able to agree—Roberts wanted to leave the boat and Mills wanted to keep it. Roberts was of a very nervous disposition, and he broke down entirely. Being lost in a dismal place and at the point of starvation, and at the constant risk of being recaptured, were things that would test the bravest heart. Roberts swore, prayed and cried alternately. Mr. Mills finally succeeded in persuading him to stick to the boat, and carefully watching the current of the water, they were, in the course of an hour afterward, in the main channel of the Sabine River. Their objective point was the United States gunboats, which they knew were on the coast in the Gulf of Mexico. They had but little food for several days, and were now growing desperate. The small amount of parched

cornmeal and sugar Mr. Mills had received from the boys, which he had stored away in his haversack while in the prison, was exhausted. Roberts declared he would sooner starve than be caught in attempting to procure food, but a hungry man will undertake almost anything to relieve his sufferings. One night about 12 o'clock they came to a large plantation. Roberts at first thought it would be advisable to kill a mule with their knife, but finally they came to a place where a lot of hogs were confined. He got a piece of a rail and raised it to strike a porker on the head, but the blow took effect on a beam overhead. This aroused the hogs of course, so he came down to the river again, as he had left it, without any food.

There was a fine cypress canoe belonging to the plantation, which they decided to take in exchange for their old friend, the flat-bottom boat. After a little consultation they formed the following plan: Mills should go up again to the plantation and make an effort to get some corn out of the crib, and if he was detected he should run back to the canoe, get into it and float down with the current. He was to lie flat on the bottom of the boat so he could not be hurt should he be fired at. This was a good plan, and its fulfillment undoubtedly saved his life. He approached the corn-crib very carefully, as he thought, but not so still but that he awakened a pack of hounds, who came rushing at him. He, thinking discretion the better part of valor, made for the canoe with all the speed of which he was capable. By the time he reached the boat twenty of the dogs were on the bank ready to attack him, he having escaped them by a very small margin of safety. Entering the boat with Roberts they resumed their journey down the stream. Their search for food in this instance proved unavailing.

As morning was approaching they turned their boat into a bayou for the day's rest, and both being exhausted they fell soundly asleep. Our subject awakening from a frightful dream heard strange noises. Climbing to the top of a burr-oak tree he could see a large plantation in the distance. The noise which awoke him were the yells of a colored woman who was being terribly whipped. He aroused Roberts and told him of their dangerous situation. Without another word they got into their boat and moved down the river, seeking a more secluded place, which they found, and where they landed and concealed their boat. They had just got the boat hidden and themselves into shelter, when three white men, armed with guns, rowed down the river, evidently looking for our refugees. They apparently belonged to the plantation where the hounds had made the racket the night before. This was one of the many providential escapes and deliverances which occurred during this eventful journey. For two days more they had nothing to nourish them but sweet-briar root. Every night they would pass from two to four rebel boats. In such instances they rowed alongside of the rebels, so the men on board those boats could not see our wanderers, who had procured and wore the rebel uniform. If they had rowed on the opposite side of the stream they would have been seen and detected. During all the journey they spoke only to negroes, and when they got food or other supplies from them they swore them into eternal silence.

Mr. Mills says he will never forget one full-blooded African he met. One night, driven by hunger, they stopped at a large plantation and went up to arouse one of the negroes, and if possible procure something to eat. Of course this was a great risk. He succeeded in arousing a colored man and making him swear that he would never tell on him, and that he would support Abe Lincoln's government, and much more on the same line, to which the colored man eagerly assented, and faithfully gathered up all the crumbs and food left from the previous evening meal, and a quantity of corn meal, which he gave Mr. Mills. The old darkey was loyal to the heart's core, and he pleaded that he might go with our subject, promising him that he would assist him all he could, and when the war ended he would live with him all his life. They did not take him with them, but sped on their journey down the river.

The rebels were stationed close to Sabine Lake, near which the refugees must pass. There they sunk their boat and concealed themselves in the rushes, having no weapons but oyster shells to protect themselves from the alligators, which

abounded in the water. Resuming their journey at nightfall they repeated the experience the following day. On a large beech tree they cut their names; our subject says he would give $50 for a small piece of that tree if he could get it now. They pushed their way onward, and soon found themselves at the delta of the Sabine, which they found to coincide exactly with the information they had received from the colored man who was so anxious to accompany them. The next problem that presented itself for solution was to pass the rebel fort without being discoverd. After having suffered so much they were now confronted by one of the gravest difficulties. At the hazard of their lives they rowed past the piling along the side of the fort. It seemed as though their hearts were in their throats, and that they would never get past it, although they pulled at the oars like madmen.

Having successfully passed the fort a new and hitherto unthought-of difficulty presented itself. They had no water to drink; the body of water on which they were was brackish, made so by the salt waters from the Gulf, so that they were enduring not only the pangs of hunger but of thirst also. They passed the wrecks of the steamers "Sachem" and "Clifton," that were wrecked by the rebels, the crews of which they had seen while imprisoned at Tyler, Tex., the place they were now fleeing from. After suffering everything but death in their perilous journey of sixteen days and nights, they at last beheld the United States man of war, named "Owasco," commanded by Capt. Pennington, lying some four or five miles out to sea. The wind blew a gale and the waves rolled fearfully, yet not to be deterred by these, they started directly toward the ships. As the waves would raise them to the crest they signalled the ships, a lifeboat was lowered from one, uniformed men and officers starting out to meet them.

By this time our subject and his companion were so seasick and exhausted from their privations that they could not lift an oar. They were clothed in Confederate gray, and when they met the rescuing vessel the Captain greeted them thus: "Hello, Johnnies!" Roberts said: "Damn you, we are not Johnnies." Captain: "Well, who the devil are you then?" Roberts: "We're live Yankees from Tyler, Tex." Captain: "Do you know the officers of the "Sachem" and "Clifton?" They replied that they did. Our subject was so sick and weak he could scarcely climb the ladders lowered to the boats. He was so emaciated he could have easily spanned his waist. Upon stepping on board the vessel the reaction from the long-continued suspense was so great that Mr. Mills trembled violently, the first time in his life he had ever experienced anything of the kind. The ship on which they were received was the man of war "Owasco," commanded by Capt. Pennington.

Our subject says his conception of heaven is no sweeter than the feelings he experienced when he found himself on board the "Owasco," after passing through the many perils and dangers in his journey from Tyler to freedom. The officers and soldiers on board the vessel vied with each other in showing deeds of kindness. Their clothing, which they had worn so long, was infested with vermin. It was taken away, and after a luxurious bath, and passing through the barber's chair, where they were shaved and had their hair cut, Mr. Mills and Mr. Roberts were provided with nice flannel shirts and officers' clothing. They were daily tendered princely receptions, and were allowed the freedom of the boat. After living this life for sixteen days, the United States mail steamer "Augusta Dinsmore" took them on board, and landed them in New Orleans, where they met the members of their old company who had been with them in Tyler, who had been exchanged and had arrived in New Orleans six days before our subject and his companion. Here our two companions in misery, Mr. Mills and Mr. Roberts, were obliged to separate, and they have never met since that time. Mr. Mills was mustered out of service and honorably discharged at Springfield, Ill., in June, 1865. Upon his arrival at New Orleans he had written to his home at Peoria advising of his safe return, the receipt of which was like a message from the dead, and many sad hearts were made happy.

Mr. Mills was married, in 1867, to Miss Frances Morris, a native of Indiana. After their marriage they made their home for one year in Henderson

County, Ill., where they rented a farm. Like many other old soldiers he came to the growing State of Nebraska, in 1868, and settled in Elmwood Precinct. Their experiences were common with all other early settlers in this State; their hardships were no greater and no less. They have an interesting family of five children—Lizzie, Hattie, James M., Joseph T. and Mabel. In 1869 Mr. Mills sold his homestead to Mr. Towle, and the same year purchased his present farm on section 8, where he has prospered and done well. Both himself and wife have worked hard and long, and in consequence they find themselves surrounded with comforts and a competency that will carry them through to the end.

The father of our subject, James Mills, as well as his mother, were natives of Washington County, N. Y. Grandfather Mills served in the American Army during the War of 1812. The ancestors of both parents came to New York from Ireland and Scotland.

Our subject has just purchased another tract of eighty acres of land, making him the owner of 280 acres in all. His farm is very valuable on account of its favorable location, as well as the many improvements thereon. He has planted a fine orchard, large quantities of shrubbery and ornamental trees, has two fish ponds well stocked with carp. His residence is large and roomy, his barns and cattle sheds are first class, and taken altogether, it shows that the gentleman is well informed and abreast of the times in the science of agriculture. He is a member of the G. A. R., and a strong Republican.

JOHN WOLPERT. In the record following we have that of a man who has seen much of pioneer life, and has performed his part in the development of a section of land in this county. Self-made in the strictest sense of the word, he from the beginning was dependent upon his own resources, acquiring early in life the habit of industry and perseverance, which served him so well in later years. He came to this county in the summer of 1871, and for a time worked around among the farmers, gaining among them a reputation for honesty and industry, which made friends for him wherever he went. In the spring of 1874 he settled upon the land which he now owns, and which, under his good management, soon began to assume the proportions of a comfortable homestead.

A native of the Province of Baden, Germany, our subject was born Jan. 15, 1831, and is the son of Sebastian and Margaret (Kuhngamberger) Wolpert, who were also of German birth and ancestry. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parental household was completed by the birth of six children, of whom the following survive, namely: Michael F., a resident of Detroit, Mich.; John, our subject, and Sebastian, Jr., of LaSalle County, Ill. The parents are deceased.

Mr. Wolpert continued in the Fatherland until reaching man's estate, receiving a good practical education in the public schools of his native Province. March 23, 1852, he took passage at Havre on a sailing-vessel bound for the United States, and after an ocean voyage of thirty-two days landed safely in the city of New York. He was accompanied by neighbors, and after a very brief sojourn in the great metropolis, set out for Southern Ohio, and for two months was employed at gardening in the vicinity of Cincinnati. Later he migrated to Indiana, and spent about one year in the city of Indianapolis and vicinity. During his migrations he was by degrees learning to speak and read in the English language, and made very good headway. Finally returning to Ohio, he went up into the northeastern part of the State, and for a short time worked on a farm near Sandusky City. We next find him in Chicago, Ill. He there employed himself at whatever he could find to do, and later sojourned in various parts of the Prairie State, whence he finally came to Nebraska.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Wolpert has traveled over a considerable portion of the West, and in his migrations he kept his eyes open to what was going on around him, gaining a good idea of the people of the United States, and the manner in which they carried on business. After becoming a resident of Nebraska, and ready to establish a fireside of his own, he was united in marriage with Miss Annie Exmaker, the wedding taking place in Cass County,

Feb. 10, 1874. Mrs. Wolpert, like her husband, was a native of Germany, and a lady possessing all the womanly virtues, being a faithful and devoted wife, a true and careful mother. There were born of this union three children, namely: Joseph, Nov. 21, 1874; Maggie, March 22, 1878; and Katie, April 17, 1880. Mrs. Annie Wolpert departed this life at the homestead in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, Dec. 14, 1884, leaving a most affectionate family to mourn their loss. They have sadly missed her since she passed away, and her name will ever be held in the tenderest remembrance.

The farm of Mr. Wolpert was a raw prairie when he first took possession, without buildings or other improvements. In his career have been finely illustrated the thrift and prudence inherited from his ancestry. To the German nationality, Nebraska, as well as other Western States, is largely indebted for the development of her resources, and the subject of this sketch has in nowise been behind his countrymen in contributing his quota to the best interests of his adopted country, as a representative of her thrift and intelligence. Mr. W. cast his first Presidential vote for Fillmore, and is an unwavering supporter of Democratic principles. In religious matters he belongs to the German Catholic Church.

JOHN G. HANSEN. The large and well-cultivated landed possessions of the subject of this sketch are finely located on section 11 in Avoca Precinct, to which the proprietor came and selected his claim when there was not a white man within sight. He was in fact the very first settler in this part of the county, and has been a resident of Cass and Otoe Counties since 1854—a period of thirty-four years. He pre-empted his present homestead of 160 acres in the fall of 1857, and for thirty years has given his time and attention to its cultivation and improvement. It is one of the finest bodies of land along the southern line of the county, amply watered by a branch of the Weeping Water. The home farm of our subject by no means comprises the extent of his possessions, for he is one of the largest land-owners in Cass County, his property probably embracing an area of nearly 800 acres. The most of this is very fertile, and largely devoted to stock-raising. At the homestead proper is a substantial stone residence, flanked by the other farm buildings indispensable to the modern agriculturist, together with the other surroundings of modern country life.

A native of the Duchy of Holstein, Germany, our subject was born Sept. 18, 1828, of parents who were of pure German ancestry. His father, Peter Hansen, was a highly educated gentleman, and for years a teacher in the public schools of the Fatherland. Later he turned his attention to farming, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, passing away in 1846, when fifty-two years old. He had married in early manhood Miss Catherine Huesman, who is still living, and has now reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. She continues a resident of her native Holstein, and for some time has been afflicted with blindness. The household circle included nine children, four of whom are living, and residing mostly in Germany and the United States.

Mr. Hansen began his early education in the schools of his native land, and when reaching man's estate joined the army, and participated in the Revolution of 1848. Later he was a soldier of the regular army of Denmark, and during those years of his military service saw considerable active fighting. He was still unmarried when in April, 1853, resolving to seek his fortunes on another continent, he took passage at Hamburg on the sailing-vessel "John Hermann," Capt. Hickman commanding. He had an unusually smooth voyage of six weeks and three days, and landed upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he proceeded to Davenport, Iowa, where he employed himself as a farm laborer. He had been thrown upon his own resources early in life, and came to this country a poor man. After reaching Iowa he labored with genuine German thrift, prudence and industry, and in due time found himself in a condition to operate as his own man.

Mr. Hansen decided to commence farming for himself on the soil of Nebraska, and coming to this county, July 3, 1854, began operating on land which he pre-empted. He kept bachelor's hall

until the summer of 1861, but on the 17th of June of that year secured unto himself a wife and helpmate in the person of Miss Wilhelmina Obernolte. This lady was born in the town of Detmold, Germany, Nov. 8, 1843, and is the daughter of Christ and Henrietta (Kahee) Obernolte, who came to America with their family in May, 1859, locating first in Cook County, Ill. Later they sought the farther West, and settled at Plattsmouth, this State, in 1860, where the father died the year following, aged sixty-eight years and nine months.

The father of Mrs. Hansen was a bricklayer and stonemason by trade, at which he was employed from early manhood until his decease. The mother survived her husband many years, spending her last days with her daughter, and passing away Sept. 7, 1887, when nearly sixty-nine years old. Both parents were members of the Lutheran Church. Mrs. Hansen was a maiden of sixteen years when she came to the United States, and she remained under the home roof until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born nine children, one of whom died in infancy; Peter C. married Miss Maggie Burdis, and is farming in Cass County, Neb.; Emma C. is the wife of Henry Obernolte, and they live on a farm in Sibley County, Minn.; Simon, E. George, Helena A., Augustus F., Charles W. and Anna M. H. are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are Lutherans in religion, and our subject, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. In the construction of one of the finest farms of Cass County he has thus contributed to its general development and progress, and should by no means be left unrecorded in a work of this kind.

ELAM K. PARMELE, proprietor of a livery, feed and sale stable at Elmwood, is one of the oldest settlers of Nebraska, coming here in 1857, and he has spent all but four years in this State since that time. He may be denominated a pioneer of this town, to whose upbuilding he is contributing much by his enterprise. He has quite an extensive livery establishment here, and is doing a thriving business.

Our subject is a native of New York, born near Buffalo, March 1, 1833, and his early years were passed in the place of his birth, gleaning an education in the public schools. His parents, Quortus and Martha (Kincaid) Parmele, were natives of Pennsylvania, of English and Scotch descent respectively. The paternal grandfather was a farmer in Pennsylvania. The father of our subject studied medicine, and was graduated from some school, from which he received a diploma. He was a finished scholar, and subsequently adopted the profession of teacher. He was also a talented musician, one of the finest singers in New York State, and at one time taught singing school. He afterward entered the mercantile business, having a dry-goods store in Rochester, N. Y. His establishment was burned at the time of the Rochester fire, and he did not resume business in that city. In 1847 he moved to Chicago with his family, going from Buffalo on a sailing-vessel, the "Sandusky," by the lakes. In that city he was employed two years keeping books. At the end of that time he took up his residence in Mackinaw Township, Tazewell Co., Ill. His death occurred in that town in 1853. He was a man of good parts, of a vigorous mentality, and was in his day a man of prominence in his community. He was gifted with oratorical powers, and was a noted stump speaker in his native State, being a leader in the Whig party. To him and his wife were born eight children, as follows: Lydia, who died in Illinois; Calvin H., a banker in Plattsmouth; Ellen, now Mrs. Hutchinson, of Lincoln; Elam K.; Sarah, who died in Plattsmouth; Coraline and Martha; Allie lives in Weeping Water.

Elam K was fourteen years old when his parents moved to Chicago, and he attended the public schools in that city until the removal of the family to Tazewell County, two years later. When nineteen years of age he began life for himself, securing work in a foundry, and was in the employment of Mr. D. W. Wizner, driving a four-horse team for three years. He then went to Oskaloosa, Iowa, in the interests of a lightning rod agency, and was thus engaged for the ensuing five years.

While in the employ of Mr. Wizner, who operated a sawmill, our subject drew the first load of timber to Bloomington that went into the Illinois Central Railway depot at Bloomington, Ill.

In 1857 he came to Plattsmouth, finding it but an insignificant place, amid wild surroundings, with a few rough houses, and the one store kept in a log house. He went into partnership with his brother in the livery business. They remained together one year, and then his brother disposed of his share to him, and our subject continued business alone, doing a prosperous business. In 1861 he went back to Marion County, Iowa, and established himself in the same business in the town of Knoxville, putting up a livery barn. He had it well fitted up with a good supply of horses, and was doing well, when a fire occurred in 1864, and everything was destroyed, barn, teams and all. This was a severe loss, and nearly ruined him financially, but with characteristic pluck, he was soon up and at it, setting up another stable, and gradually picked up his old trade. In the spring of 1865 he returned to Nebraska, driving across the country, and again opened a livery stable in Plattsmouth. He continued there until 1879, when he sold out, and moving to Saunders County, purchased 120 acres of wild land, a part of it improved, near Ashland. He there engaged in farming and stock-raising. But that venture did not prove successful, so at the end of two years he disposed of his property, and once more took up his residence in Cass County. He bought a farm of eighty acres in Elmwood, which was well improved, and had a large orchard. He managed it for two years, and did well financially. In 1874 he traded it for a livery stable in Greenwood. He went into partnership with another gentleman, but their connection proved disastrous, and in 1876 Mr. Parmele sold out, and in the month of April came to Elmwood to reside and do business. He soon erected his present commodious barn, 36x80 feet, with a windmill attachment to the well, sixty-three feet in height, and all the other appointments of a first-class livery stable, and he is doing an extensive business. He has erected one of the finest houses in the town, the one in which he resides, pleasantly located; it is well built and well furnished, and is provided with the modern conveniences.

To the lady who presides over this beautiful home our subject was married in Iowa in 1858. She was at that time Miss Emily Marks, a native of McConnellsville, Ohio. She is a woman of fine tact and education, and pleasing disposition. To them two children have been born: Matt, who died in Plattsmouth at the age of two months; and Paortus, who was born in Cass County, March 19, 1870, and is at home with his parents.

Mr. Parmele is well endowed mentally and physically, and his frank, obliging manners have drawn to him many warm friends, and he and his estimable wife move in the best society in this community. She is a sincere member of the Christian Church, and he contributes very liberally toward its support. He has a good capacity for business, and conducts it by strictly honorable methods. He is a straight-out Republican, and is influential with his party, acting as delegate occasionally at County or State Conventions. He has served on the Grand and Petit Juries in the court at Omaha, under Judge Dundey. Mr. Parmele is identified with the I. O. O. F., having joined the order at Knoxville, Iowa, during the war.

FREDERICK SCHOMAKER. One of the finest farms of Avoca Precinct is located on sections 1 and 12, and is well known as the property of Mr. H. H. Timm, uncle of our subject. The latter is one of the most successful stock-raisers in the county, and owns 160 acres of good land in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County, which he purchased in the spring of 1881. He came to the young State of Nebraska in May, 1867, and has since made his home with his uncle, Mr. H. H. Timm, a prominent citizen of Avoca, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Schomaker came to this country a poor boy, "worse off than nothing" as he expresses it, having had to borrow money to pay his passage across the Atlantic. This debt was liquidated long ago, and his steady perseverance and industry have constituted him one of the prominent property-holders in this part of the country. He was born in Holstein, Germany, Jan. 31, 1849, and is the eldest son and second child of Peter and Anna (Lau) Schomaker, who are both now deceased. The father died in his native Holstein, in 1869, at the age of

fifty-two years. The mother after the death of her husband came to the United States with her four younger children, and they located on section 1 in Avoca Precinct, where the mother died July 25, 1880, at the age of fifty-nine years. They were good, honest people, although it was their lot in life not to be able to accumulate much of this world's goods. The father during his early manhood served as a soldier in the standing army of Denmark, and received the education common to the youth of Germany, being placed in school at an early age and pursuing his studies until master of them. He is remembered by his children as a kind and indulgent parent, and a man generally respected by his neighbors.

Mr. Schomaker, our subject, received a very good education in his native Germany, and was a youth of eighteen years when coming to the United States. He took up his residence with Mr. and Mrs. Timm, with whom he resided and married their adopted daughter, Miss Christina Baumgartner. This lady was born at the homestead where she still lives, Jan. 22, 1860, and was the only child of her mother, who died when little Christina was but two years old. That excellent lady, Mrs. Timm, proved to her a true mother, and she was reared to become a good and intelligent woman. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children—Katy M. and Edwin H. Mr. and Mrs. Schomaker are Lutherans in religion, and politically, Mr. S. uniformly supports the principles of the Republican party.

JACOB SCHLANKER is a fine representative of the farming community of Cass County, who has been instrumental in advancing her agricultural interests, owning and managing a large farm on sections 34 and 35, Stove Creek Precinct, with a substantial home on the former section, and neat barns, other out-buildings, stock-yards, etc., on the other section, across the street from his house. He was a pioneer of this precinct, and one of the first settlers on the prairie where he still lives, and in him this community has found one of its most trustworthy public officials.

Our subject is derived from good German and French stock. His father, Jerard Schlanker, was born in the vicinity of the beautiful, famous Rhine River, in one of the German Provinces. His mother was a native of Holland, but was married in Germany. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Mathias Schlanker, was born in France, and when he became of suitable age he entered the French Army and fought under the illustrious Napoleon during the memorable Russian campaign. He was a blacksmith, and after leaving the army he followed that trade, and became well-to-do. The father of our subject was also a blacksmith, as well as a farmer, and did very well at both callings. He likewise did military service, but with the Prussians, serving in the army seven years. On account of religious beliefs, he determined to emigrate to America, where he could have more freedom, and exercise his reason as he chose. Accordingly, in 1848, with that end in view, he embarked with his family at Amsterdam for Liverpool, where they boarded an American-bound sailing-vessel, and a few weeks later landed in New York. He and his family proceeded to Iowa, going by way of Chicago to Freeport, thence on to Clayton County, Iowa, where he located near Clayton Centre, above Dubuque. Mr. Schlanker bought wild land, he being a pioneer there, cleared it and improved a very good farm with the necessary buildings, etc. He also set up a smithy, and was actively engaged at his trade for a number of years. In 1864 he sold out all his property in that place, and moved to Dubuque, where he lived in retirement until his death, at the advanced age of eighty years, he having accumulated sufficient money to enable him to spend his declining years in ease. His wife died in Clayton County, Iowa, in 1853. He was a man of liberal and progressive views, and was tolerant of others' opinions while holding tenaciously to his own convictions. He and his estimable wife lived respected and died regretted, as they were people of great worth. They were the parents of the following children: Peter and Catherine (deceased), Annie, Agnes, Paul, Verona and August B. (deceased), Jacob. August was a veteran of the Mexican War, in which he served until its close, and during the late Rebellion he offered his services again to his adopted country, enlisting in Dubuque in 1863, and

was a faithful soldier until its close. After retiring from the army he settled in New Orleans, where he engaged in the butcher business until his death of yellow fever in 1868.

The subject of whom we write was born in Germany, Nov. 15, 1848, and when quite small came with his parents to this country. He grew up in Iowa, attending the common schools and assisting his father in his work. He staid at home until nearly sixteen years of age, and in the spring of 1864, ambitious to become a soldier and assist in the defense of the stars and stripes, he enlisted, but was not accepted by the military authorities, on account of his youthful appearance, presumably. He then started for the West, determining to try life on the plains. He went down the Mississippi to Hannibal, thence by rail to St. Joseph, where he took the steamer for Council Bluffs. After a stay of two weeks in that town, where he worked in a warehouse, in the month of June he crossed the plains on a freighting expedition to Denver, thence to Empire City. He thus made several trips back and forth for the next two years. After that he began working on a farm on Wilson Creek, and was employed there four years. In 1867 he filed a preemption claim on eighty acres of his present farm. He followed threshing and other farm work, and a year later paid for his land. By persistent and energetic toil he has since wrought a wondrous change, in which the wild prairie land has been converted into an exceedingly productive and valuable farm, equal to any in the neighborhood. He broke all the land himself, set out a grove of cottonwood trees, orchards, etc., and has his land under fine tillage; has his farm amply provided with good barns and other necessary out-buildings, with windmills, tanks, and all the conveniences for conducting agriculture successfully. Notwithstanding the serious drawbacks in the shape of grasshoppers, drought, etc., that the early settlers had to contend with, he has been more than ordinarily successful, and has added much to his original homestead, so that his estate now comprises 320 acres of well-watered, well-fenced, and well-improved land. In 1878 he bought his second 80-acre tract of land, adjacent to his first purchase, and in 1880 bought another eighty joining that, and in 1886 he bought his fourth 80-acre tract. The lumber for his house and other buildings was brought from Nebraska City. Mr. Schlanker devotes his attention largely to raising horses, graded Clydes and Normans, of which he now has seventeen head, and Poland-China hogs, of which he has quite a herd.

Mr. Schlanker and Miss Sarah Radcliff were united in marriage in Nebraska City, March 16, 1870. She was a native of New York, and to her skill and management he is greatly indebted for his comfortable home, and for the material prosperity that he enjoys. Ten children have blessed their union, namely: James, Venora, Viola; William (deceased); Hattie, William, Clarence; Hugh (deceased); Roy and Mary Ettie.

Mr. Schlanker is eminently public-spirited, and liberally contributes to various improvements in the precinct, and does all that in him lies to benefit the community. His wisdom and advice have been sought in the guidance of public affairs, and he has served three years as Supervisor, and eight years as School Treasurer, and in 1868 was a member of the Petit Jury. In him the I. O. O. F. of Elmwood has a valued member, and the Republican party one of its strongest allies in this vicinity.

DAVID WOODARD, one of the earliest pioneers of Cass County, is to-day a prominent and representative citizen of Weeping Water. He conducts one of the most popular livery stables along the southern line of Cass County, and within its precincts numbers hosts of friends. He has held the office of Constable for a period of nine years, being still its incumbent, and for the last year (1888) has officiated as Deputy Sheriff. He bears the honor of being the first man to establish a livery stable in Weeping Water.

Mr. Woodard was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., Jan. 29, 1840, and lived there until a youth of fourteen years. The next five years were spent in Connecticut. Subsequently he emigrated to Stark County, Ill., where he sojourned a period of seven years, and from the Prairie State came to Nebraska in the spring of 1869. Selecting eighty acres of new land on section 13 in Centre Precinct, he

operated there successfully as a farmer, and effected vast improvements in the condition of the property, putting out orchards and trees of the smaller fruits, planting hedge, erecting the necessary buildings, and bringing the land to a good state of cultivation.

In the fall of 1874 Mr. Woodard sold his farm property, and thereafter was a resident of Plattsmouth a short time. Near the close of the year, however, he came to Weeping Water, and until 1876 was connected with the mercantile house of Reed Bros. We next find him operating as "mine host" of a hotel, the Weeping Water House, the first institution of its kind in the place, and not long afterward he established the livery stable which to-day is the leading institution of its kind in this section. He withdrew from the hotel business in 1878, and turned his entire attention to that in which he is now engaged. He keeps first-class road horses, with a tasteful assortment of vehicles, and receives the patronage of the best people of Weeping Water and vicinity. In the spring of 1885 he completed a fine residence south of the creek, which, with its surroundings, forms a most beautiful home.

Mr. Woodard was the Constable of Louisville two years. He cast his first Presidential vote for Lincoln, and uniformly supports the principles of the Republican party. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., and is a member of the Masonic fraternity, also the K. of P. He has been prominent as an office-holder in his lodges, and takes a warm interest in the principles of the orders. He is a man genial and companionable, prompt in his business obligations, and in fact one of the representative men of the flourishing little city of Weeping Water.

Mr. Woodard was married in early life to Miss Oretta Rhodes, of Toulon, Ill., who died while still a young woman, leaving two little daughters, Eva and Ella. The younger makes her home with her father, and the elder is the wife of Daniel Rockwell, of Centre Precinct. Mr. Woodard, about 1876, contracted a second marriage, with Mrs. Mary E. Dunn, who was born in New York, Dec. 14, 1839. She came to Nebraska with her children about 1870. Her parents are deceased. Of this marriage there are no children. Mr. Woodard has given to his two daughters a good education.

Martin Woodard, the father of our subject, is supposed to have been a native of New York State. He married Miss Lydia Shaw, and they became the parents of three children, who lived to mature years. The father died when his son David was a little lad of seven years, and as he remembers him he carried on farming and shoemaking combined in Saratoga County, N. Y. He spent his last years at the farm, where the mother remained until her second marriage, to Joseph Flansburgh. They are now living in Plattsmouth, Neb. Silvenous A., a brother of our subject, accompanied him West, and located on a farm on section 22 in Elmwood Precinct. He died about 1878. His sister Hannah, Mrs. Rockwell, is a resident of Louisville, this county, where her husband is engaged as an attorney-at-law.

ALFRED HAWKINS, of Tipton Precinct, and a gentleman numbered among its most useful and prominent men, owns and operates a snug farm on section 32. He believes thoroughly in the theory of Horace Greeley that a small farm well cultivated is more desirable than a larger extent of land partially neglected. He has neat and substantial buildings, and all the adjuncts of a good home. A soldier of the Union Army during the progress of the Civil War, he came out of the struggle with his health greatly impaired, and from the effects of which he never expects to recover. As a pioneer settler of his precinct, he is accorded that tacit respect naturally given to those who looked upon Nebraska in its pioneer days, and who, in the building up of a good homestead, have contributed so much to its general prosperity.

Our subject is the son of William and Elnora (Hill) Hawkins, who were both natives of Washington County, Pa., the father being born in 1813, and the mother in 1816. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Hawkins, also a native of Washington County, was of Holland-Dutch descent, and a farmer in good circumstances. He left his native

State for Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1835, and there spent the remainder of his days. On the mother's side Grandfather James Hill was born in Ireland, and crossed the Atlantic at an early day, settling in Washington County, Pa., in time to take a hand in the Colonial and Indian Wars and in the War of 1812. He died when ripe in years in Washington County.

The father of our subject settled in Columbiana County, Ohio, at an early day, and, purchasing a tract of timber land, felled the trees and improved a good farm. In 1848 he changed his residence to Shelby County, settling in the vicinity of the present flourishing town of Sidney, where he prosecuted agriculture until his death, March 14, 1854. The mother continued at the old homestead until the fall of 1865, then, coming to Nebraska, settled with her family near Peru, in Nemaha County, where she at present resides, surrounded with all the comforts of life. She is a member in good standing of the Protestant Methodist Church.

The parental household of our subject included six children, Alfred being the eldest. The second son, Freeman by name, died when about twenty-two years old; Lyman, Madison and Mary A. are all residents of this State. Freeman, during the late war enlisted in the 20th Ohio Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and died at Shiloh, and was buried there. Lyman was a member of the Home Guards in Shelby County.

Alfred Hawkins, our subject, was born in the vicinity of Georgetown, Columbiana Co., Ohio, Nov. 12, 1837, and was a lad of eleven years when his parents removed to Shelby County. He completed his education in the schools of that county and was a youth of seventeen years at the time of his father's death. Being the eldest of the family, he necessarily was obliged to take upon himself many responsibilities. He assisted his mother in keeping the family together, and remained with her until the spring of 1860. Then, desiring to see something of the farther West, he journeyed to Gentry County, Mo., where he worked for a time on a farm, but there being more laborers than work to perform, he proceeded on his way westward, and landed in Nemaha County, this State, in June of that year. Here he found employment in the vicinity of Peru, cradling in the harvest field at $1 per day. He sojourned there until December, 1861. Next we find him experimenting as a soldier in the New Mexico Brigade, which was consolidated at Ft. Leavenworth with the 8th Kansas Infantry and sent to Ft. Riley. A month later they were ordered back to Ft. Leavenworth, and then south to Corinth, Miss. They afterward saw the smoke of the battles of Holly Springs, Iuka and Florence, Ala., and then entered upon a forced march to Louisville in order to head off the rebel General, Bragg, in which expedition they succeeded. Later they participated in the engagements at Perryville and Nashville. Mr. Hawkins was finally detailed to one of the pioneer corps, becoming a member of Company K, in the 2d Battalion, which followed Gen. Bragg to Stone River. Near the close of the war he joined his old regiment at Atlanta, participating in the siege of the city, then followed Hood to Nashville, and took part later in the battles at Franklin and Spring Hill.

Up to this time Mr. Hawkins had not been in an ambulance or hospital, but now succumbed to the hardships and privations which he had endured. He was sent to the hospital at Nashville, afterward transferred to Louisville, and finally to Jeffersonville, Ind. Upon recovering he rejoined his regiment at Huntsville, Ala., and not long afterward, in January, 1865, received his honorable discharge at Louisville, Ky.

Upon retiring from the army our subject returned to his old haunts in Shelby County, Ohio, and thence, in the spring of 1865, returned to the West. He first worked on a farm in Nemaha County, this State, but in the fall of 1866 purchased land in that county, which he operated until the spring of 1869. Then, selling out, he took up his abode at his present home in Tipton Precinct. It was then a tract of uncultivated land, and his first shelter was a dugout, which he occupied for five years. After getting in the crops of the first season here, he commenced making fences and planting trees. The lapse of a few years has effected a remarkable change in the condition of his property. The present residence was erected in the spring of 1874. Adjacent to it is a spring of

living water, an excellent orchard of 150 bearing apple trees, and a grove of three acres of forest trees. The fields are mostly enclosed with wire fencing. Mr. Hawkins makes a specialty of cattle and swine, and has a number of fine horses.

Upon coming to Nebraska, like many of the men around him, Mr. Hawkins had many difficulties to contend with, the most serious being the state of his health, as he was scarcely able to walk. His career is a fine illustration of the result of determination and perseverance. To the lady who has been his faithful partner and companion for a period of fourteen years, and who in her girlhood was Miss Ruth Marrs, our subject was married, in Whitley County, Ind., March 11, 1874. Mrs. Hawkins was born March 11, 1829, in Champaign County, Ohio, and is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Johnson) Marrs, who were natives respectively of Kentucky and Virginia. They emigrated to Indiana at an early day, and there spent the remainder of their lives. Of this union there are no children. Mr. Hawkins, politically, is a sound Republican, and has been quite prominent in local affairs, serving as a Road Supervisor and Constable, and holding other positions of trust. He is also a member of the G. A. R., belonging to Masfield Post, at Palmyra. He is a charter member of the United Brethren Church, to which his excellent wife also belongs, and has officiated as Superintendent of the Sunday-school a number of years. His choice, however, would be with the Methodists, but there being no society of this denomination convenient he has been willing to cast his lot with the United Brethren.

WILLIAM J. MONROE. The livery, feed and sale stable interests of Weeping Water are creditably represented by the subject of this sketch, who operates the largest business of the kind in the central portion of Cass County. His arrival in Nebraska dates from March, 1869, when he came from Omaha to Centre Precinct, this county, and purchased 160 acres of new land, comprising the southwest quarter of section 25. Upon this not a furrow had been turned; neither were there any other signs of improvement. His first business was to put up a dwelling, and then he began breaking the sod, setting out trees, and adding from time to time the other buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience. Upon this farm he lived and labored a period of eleven years, during which time he brought the land to a high state of cultivation, and constructed a homestead which bore the reputation of being one of the most valuable for its age in that section of country.

In March, 1880, Mr. Monroe sold this farm and purchased another nearer town, in Weeping Water Precinct, upon which he lived four years. In the meantime he proceeded as he had done before, making improvements, and brought this property up to the status of the first. This he traded in 1884 for his present business—a change which he has had no reason to regret. His livery stock consists of a goodly number of driving horses and several "boarders." He has one very fine English full-bred coach horse, a registered animal, "Buckshales," No. 1438 (Hackney Stud Book), imported from England in July last. He is a magnificent animal, of perfect symmetry, and possessing some of the finest points of his race. Mr. Monroe is a good judge of horseflesh, understands fully the care and keeping of equines, and takes pride in having the best establishment of its kind in this part of the county. It is hardly necessary to state that he enjoys the patronage of its best people.

Mr. Monroe was born fifty-one years ago, Oct. 1, 1837, in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and when six years old went with his parents to Lagrange County, Ind., where he lived until coming to Nebraska. He was given a practical education, completing his studies in Lagrange Collegiate Institute, after which he occupied himself in farming until embarking in his present enterprise. He is a prominent man in his community, and has held the various local offices, although making no pretenses to be a politician. He keeps himself well posted, however, upon current events, and uniformly votes the Republican ticket. Socially, he belongs to the K. of P.

While a resident of Indiana Mr. Monroe was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Fuller, Oct. 6, 1860, the wedding taking place in Lagrange. Mrs. Monroe was born June 10, 1840, in Gilead,

Mich., and is the daughter of E. W. and Katurah (Sanders) Fuller, the father a native of Genesee County, N. Y., and the mother of Virginia. They settled first in Branch County, Mich., then removed to Lagrange County, Ind., where Mr. Fuller is still living. The wife and mother died many years ago, about 1849. To Mr. and Mrs. Monroe there have been born three children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Helen M., is the wife of E. A. Sackett, who is engaged in the hardware trade in Weeping Water; they have one child. The younger daughters, Hattie E. and Jessie W., are at home with their parents. They all have been carefully trained and educated, and hold a good position in the social circles of their community.

James Monroe, the father of our subject, was born in Paulet, Rutland Co., Vt., Jan. 28, 1808, where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. Upon leaving New England he emigrated to Chautauqua County, N. Y., where he married Miss Harriet Joyce. The young people settled in the wilderness on a tract of timber land, from which the father felled the trees, prepared the soil for cultivation and built up a good homestead. There their two children were born: William J., our subject, and his sister Hattie, who died when a young child.

James Monroe, about 1844, changed his residence from the Empire State to Lagrange County, Ind., and only lived five years thereafter, his death taking place at the farm, July 14, 1849. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, an old-line Whig in politics, and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Possessed of great perseverance and industry, he improved two farms, and wherever he lived was regarded as one of those solid and reliable men whose word is as good as their bond.

WILLIAM P. BAILEY, a substantial English-born citizen, now of Plattsmouth Precinct, occupies a good position among the agriculturists of this county, to which he came in September of 1879, and purchased 280 acres of land on sections 3 and 4, Plattsmouth Precinct. Upon it there was a small house, and an embryo orchard planted by some discouraged settler, who had abandoned his enterprise and moved to another locality. Mr. Bailey thus from this small beginning commenced to build up a homestead, and his present surroundings would indicate that his labors have been amply rewarded. He has now a substantial residence, with stables, corn-cribs and the other necessary out-buildings—in fact, is surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of farm life.

The infant years of the life of our subject were spent in Yorkshire, England, where his birth took place June 25, 1815, under the modest roof of his parents, Abraham and Sarah (Powell) Bailey. They were of excellent English stock, and the father was a cabinet-maker by occupation. The latter, not being satisfied with his condition and prospects, decided to emigrate to the United States, and accordingly set sail for the land of promise in the year 1818. Landing in New York City, the father began work at his trade, and conducted the business of cabinet-making about two years, when his death took place at Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 20, 1820, leaving his wife and one child, William P. The mother was subsequently married to Ahasuerus Van Slyck, and spent the remainder of her life in Schenectady, dying Feb. 12, 1865.

Our subject was reared in Schenectady, N. Y., receiving his education in its common schools, and upon approaching manhood learned the carpenter's trade, at which he was engaged until 1879. There also he was married to Miss Angelica Van Slyck, Sept. 25, 1839. They became the parents of eleven children, eight of whom survive, namely: Sarah, now Mrs. A. Howland; Jane, Mrs. D. Haltz; William P., Jr.; Nicholas; Angelica, Mrs. Irwin Howland; John D.; Harriet N., Mrs. Horace G. Garrison, and Charles H. The deceased are Jane, Abraham and Henry.

Nicholas and Jane (Smith) Van Slyck, the parents of Mrs. Bailey, were natives of New York and England respectively, and were married in the Empire State, where their eight children were born and reared. Of these Mrs. B. was the eldest daughter, and but three are now living. Mr. Van Slyck died in his native State of New York, Nov. 12, 1864. The mother had emigrated to the United States with her parents when a little girl ten years of age,

and her father died soon afterward. She is now deceased, having died in 1863.

Mr. Bailey is a quiet and unobtrusive citizen, pursuing the even tenor of his way, confining his attention mostly to his farming pursuits. In politics he is a lifelong Democrat of pronounced ideas.

AMMI B. TODD, a retired farmer, is a prominent citizen of Cass County, and has borne an honorable part in its public life. He is a son of one of Cass County's pioneers, and, coming here when a boy of fifteen, the remaining years of his youth were passed here, and he has thus witnessed almost the entire growth of the township and county, and it has been his privilege to aid in their development. He was born in the town of Chautauqua, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., April 9, 1842, to Thomas Jefferson and Mary (Smith) Todd, natives of Herkimer County, N. Y. His paternal grandfather, the Rev. Caleb Todd, a native of Vermont, was a pioneer of Herkimer County. He moved from there to Chautauqua County in 1818, with a colony, the removal being made with teams through the wilderness, where they had to cut down trees in some places to make a road. He bought a tract of land of the Holland Patent, which was heavily timbered. He cleared a fine farm of 300 acres, beautifully located on the banks of Chautauqua Lake, opposite Fair Point, and he resided there until his death.

The father of our subject was fifteen years old when his parents moved to Chautauqua County, and he there grew to manhood. He learned the trade of cabinet-maker, and continued to reside in Chautauqua County until 1845. During that time he had studied medicine, and in that year he moved to Ohio, and practiced his profession in Geauga and Monroe Counties for awhile. He then moved to Owen County, Ind., and turned his attention to farming, buying a farm six miles from Spencer. He was thus prosperously engaged there until 1857, when he came to the Territory of Nebraska, starting in April with two wagons, two pair of oxen, and one pair of horses and a carriage. He was accompanied by his wife and four children. They traversed the State of Illinois, crossed the Mississippi River at Ft. Madison, and thence across the State of Iowa, crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, and thus arrived at their destination. Mr. Todd bought a claim to some Government land in the precinct, four miles from the city, paying $1.25 an acre for it. He built a dugout, which the family occupied until the fall, and he then erected a small frame house. The surrounding country was in a wild state, settlements being few and far between, and but little attempt had been made to cultivate the land. The Indians had been removed from here, but were frequent callers as they passed through the country. Deer, prairie chickens and other wild game, were plentiful a little farther west. He improved a valuable farm, and continued to manage it until 1879, when he moved into the town, and lived in retirement until his death, Aug. 11, 1880.

The subject of this sketch was six years of age when his parents moved to Indiana, and he attended school there as opportunity offered, and assisted his father on the farm. After coming to Nebraska he attended school two terms here, and then completed his education by attending the Waubansey School, in Mills County, Iowa, one term. After he had grown to manhood he took charge of his father's farm until his marriage. He subsequently engaged in farming until 1882. He then rented his farm and came to Plattsmouth, and has resided here since.

Mr. Todd was united in marriage to Mrs. Margaret Thomas (*nee* White), in 1872. She was born in Ohio, and, her parents dying when she was very young, she was adopted by the Rev. Mr. White. She was married to W. L. Thomas, and came to Nebraska in 1861. They resided in Plattsmouth for a time, and then removed to a farm in the precinct, where he died in 1869. Two children were born of that marriage, Lelia and Harry. The happy married life of our subject and his wife was terminated in February, 1888, by her death. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was faithful to all that belongs to true Christian womanhood, leaving behind her a sweet and pleasant memory.

Mr. Todd is held in high estimation by his fel-

Yours Truly
J. F. Stull

low-citizens, and in him they find one who is always ready to co-operate with them to advance the interests of the city or county. He was elected County Commissioner in 1882, and was re-elected to that important office in 1885, and again in 1888. While acting in that capacity he paid close attention to the duties devolving upon him, discharging them in such a manner as to give general satisfaction, and his official career is without a stain. He is a leading Republican in Cass County, and he has been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has since been a stanch supporter of the party.

JOHN FREDERICK STULL. (This name was always spelled in the German language by his ancestors, Stoll. His father also spelled it Stoll, but John F., our subject, changed the spelling to Stull, after he became old enough to do business for himself. When he writes in German he spells it Stoll, in English, Stull—hence this explanation). Mr. Stull was a pioneer of Nebraska, and to him and men of like decision, courage and practical energy, Cass County, of which he was an early settler, is greatly indebted for its high rank among its sister counties in regard to commerce, agriculture, and the various interests that go to make up a prosperous and wealthy community. He is prominently identified with the farming and stock-raising interests of Plattsmouth Township, where he has a large and valuable farm and a pleasant, commodious home.

Mr. Stull was born in Germany, May 13, 1831, and in October, 1834, he came with his parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Degen) Stoll, to the United States. They were likewise natives of Germany, as had been their ancestors as far back as known. They located in Pike County, Ohio, where the mother, a woman of genuine worth, passed away from the scenes of earth Oct. 20, 1840. After her death our subject and his father kept house alone for two years, when the father married Magdalena Spohn. Two years later John Frederick and five brothers and sisters went out in the world to earn their own living among strangers. Our subject at that time began to learn the trade of blacksmith at Piketon, Ohio, with Louis Rogers and Horatio Adams, serving an apprenticeship of two and one-half years. He subsequently opened a shop for himself two miles out of town, and continued in business for himself there for two years. In 1849 he went to Kentucky, but after a stay of two years there he returned to Ohio, and lived in Columbus for a time. From there he went to Illinois and worked awhile at his trade, and then he sought Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the fall of 1855, finding it only a small town, with but few houses. He met there a Mr. Sayers, agent for the Western Stage Company, whom he had known in Ohio, and that gentleman wanted to employ him to shoe horses for the company, he having previously worked for that company in Ohio.

Mr. Stull was thus engaged for a short time, and then took a trip into Nebraska, on a sort of exploring expedition, going as far west as Salt Creek, thence south about 100 miles, where he embarked on the Missouri River and came to Plattsmouth, arriving here Feb. 28, 1856, at which time there were but three shanties in the place. Here he was offered twelve lots in the business part of the town if he would put up a smithy, the contract being that he keep the shop open for business one year before receiving the deeds. He was also offered eight lots in Omaha, and four lots in Council Bluffs, with a shop and stock, if he would locate in either of these places. But he liked this point so much better than other parts of the Territory that he decided in favor of Plattsmouth, on account of the quality of the land, and erected the first blacksmith-shop in the county. The City Board of Plattsmouth was in Glenwood, Iowa, and at the end of the year, when he was to get his deeds for his lots, they had so risen in value as to be worth from $500 to $1,000, so that he got but one lot. He sold out his shop and claim for $1,500 one month before the year expired, and took up a pre-emption claim of 320 acres on the land where he has made his home ever since, and became the first actual settler on the Platte River bottom. He built a frame house, arranging the planks perpendicularly, and then a wall of sod two feet thick and planks outside of that,

building in that fashion as a means of defense against the Indians, putting holes through the thick walls so that he might shoot at them if he were attacked. In the same summer (that of 1857) the Indians threatened to kill all the white settlers at Plattsmouth, and the women and children were shipped across the river to Glenwood, Iowa. But Mrs. Stull, with dauntless heroism, resolutely refused to accompany them, saying that she would not leave her husband, and if he died she would die too. Therefore they braved together the horrors of living in a region where life was made uncertain on account of the treacherous redskins, and bravely staid on in their gunboat, styled house.

A Frenchman at St. Mary's, Peter A. Sarpy, for whom Sarpy County was named, who was an agent employed by the Government, scared the Indians out of their first threatened raid by showing them some mowers which had been shipped up the river, and told them they were cannon that the Government had forwarded with orders to kill the "red devils" if they did not behave themselves, and the Indians were thus quieted for a time. They were very troublesome in other ways, however, as they would beg or steal everything they saw. Mr. and Mrs. Stull passed through those trying days with better success than some of their fellow pioneers, and with the growth of the county, which they have witnessed and aided, their prosperity is deservedly insured, and they are now numbered among the substantial and well-to-do citizens of this township, where they have made their home for so many years. Mr. Stull has a fine farm comprising 400 acres, with all the necessary improvements, and he raises all the stock that the farm will carry, feeding all his grain.

In 1866 Mr. Stull, having incurred many expenses through the long illness of his wife and the resultant doctor's bills, took a trip across the plains as a teamster with others, in order to make money more rapidly than he could at home, he having his own team. They journeyed through the heart of the country where the Indians were the most troublesome, and while on the frontier were pursued many times, quite often having slight encounters with the savages. On their return the towns and settlements were burned and the inhabitants killed in their rear, our subject and his companions being only a day ahead of the Indians, who were on the warpath. On his return from the trip across the plains a Mr. Davis accompanied him from the northwestern part of Nebraska, near Cottonwood, to Salt Creek. That gentleman had some $80,000 in gold and bonds in a belt, and he asked Mr. Stull to let him travel with him in his wagon, as he did not want his men to know that he had so much money with him for fear they would kill him for it. He and Mr. Stull took out the thimbles of wagons that the Indians had burned, and filled them with gold and bonds, and thus concealed them. Mr. Stull remembers very clearly about the murder of the Johnsons and a Mr. Kelly in 1857, and he is under the impression that they were killed for their money by a mob of about nine men, who were very likely citizens of this county, and that they threw their bodies into the Missouri River. He speaks of this, as it has been previously written that "we, the citizens of Cass County, put the murderers across the river," while, in fact, it was only a mob who did the whole work, beyond a doubt.

In 1857 Mr. Stull broke and cleared forty acres of land on his 320-acre claim at a cost of $5.50 an acre for breaking, and he erected a small house thereon, at a cost, for the lumber, of $85 a thousand feet. He also planted a large orchard on it and made other improvements, but the man who had pre-empted the land for him sold it to a speculator, and our subject had to leave and begin life anew, having lost all that he had previously saved, amounting to $3,000. However, he did not lose his pluck and ambition, but by honest endeavor, incessant and well-directed toil, aided and encouraged by a good wife, he retrieved his fallen fortunes.

Mr. and Mrs. Stull were united in marriage Dec. 25, 1856. She was formerly Agatha Hengstler, and was born in Baden, Germany, on the 17th of January, 1836. They have six children living, namely: John J., John F., C. Laurence, Amelia, Henry and Agatha. Mr. Stull and his wife are deservedly held in high esteem by the many true friends that they have gathered about them in their many years' residence here, not only as early settlers of this township, in whose upbuilding they have had a hand, but on account of their many good qualities of head and heart. They were reared in the Lutheran

belief, but as there is no church of that denomination here they have united with the Presbyterian Church, and are faithful and zealous workers in the cause of Christianity. Mr. Stull is a wide-awake, intelligent, well-informed man, and is deeply interested in any scheme for the advancement of his adopted township. Especially is this true concerning educational matters, and for twenty-eight years he has been identified with the local School Board in various official capacities, and he has done all that lies in his power for the education of the young. In politics he is a Democrat.

The portrait of this pioneer settler of Cass County, and well-known and highly respected citizen, appears on an adjoining page.

RICHARD DOUGLAS JONES, one of the thrifty and intelligent farmers of Cass County, is living pleasantly on his farm on section 18, Liberty Precinct. He owns 160 acres of land, which is admirably tilled, is under good improvement, and is well stocked. Our subject is in prosperous circumstances, owing not only to his own skill as a farmer and to his wise and judicious management of his property, but also to the fact that during his wedded life of forty years he has been ably assisted by a good and true wife in the building of the cozy and substantial home in which they are spending their declining years, surrounded by every comfort that heart could wish. Mr. Jones has been identified with the agricultural interests of Nebraska since 1867, and for two years and a half was a resident of Custer County, where he owned 320 acres of fine farming land.

Mr. Jones is a native of Tennessee, born in White County, March 4, 1825, coming of Southern parentage. His father, Ebenezer Jones, was of Welsh descent, and was a native of North Carolina. He was reared to a farmer's life in his native State, and was married there to Elizabeth Cass, a native of that State, who came of similar parentage as her husband. They subsequently moved to Tennessee in pioneer days, and settled on a tract of land in the unbroken forests of White County, not far from the Cumberland River. They built up a good home, and improved a fine farm, from which they derived a comfortable income. They spent most of their wedded life amid the scenes where they had been pioneers, but after they became quite old they moved over into Warren County, the same State, and lived with their son, E. Jones, Jr., until their long pilgrimage of nearly fourscore years on this weary earth was over. They were people of rugged and stalwart virtues and strong natures, and their simple, unostentatious lives were above reproach. They were Cumberland Presbyterians, and were charter members of the first church of that denomination established on the Cumberland River, and as its members were dissenters from the old-school Presbyterians, they called their church by the name of the river near whose waters it stood, and the name is still retained to designate a branch of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Jones was particularly active in the organization of that church, being one of the four who planned it, and he was for years one of its Elders, and was otherwise prominent in religious circles in his community.

Our subject was the youngest of the seventeen children, thirteen sons and four daughters, born to his parents. It is rather a remarkable circumstance that the parents lived to see every child of this large family grow to maturity, marry and settle in life. There are only three of the family now living: John, who resides in Arkansas, at the age of eighty years; Andy, who lives in Warren County, Tenn., and is sixty-seven years old, and our subject. The latter was reared and educated in Tennessee, and was married in his native county to Miss Elizabeth Weaver, the date of their wedding being Feb. 7, 1849. Mrs. Jones was born Nov. 9, 1831, in White County, Tenn., to William and Fanny (Hampton) Weaver. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and he and his wife died on their homestead in Tennessee. Mrs. Jones was reared in the home of her birth, and she was one of a family of six children, two sons and four daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Jones removed from their native State in 1851, and as their parents had done before them, became pioneers in a new State, settling in Iowa, and in Polk County, that State, Mr. Jones was actively engaged in farming. In 1867 he sought "greener fields and pastures new" in Ne-

braska, and two years and a half later pitched his tent in Cass County. When he first purchased this place it was but slightly improved, and although Mr. Jones was not among the first settlers, he may be classed among its pioneers for the work that he has performed in developing his farm, and so adding to the large agricultural interests of the county. Since coming here he has put up a first-class set of farm buildings, and in 1870 built his present residence, a neat and substantial brick house. He is a man of more than ordinary sociability, geniality and tact, and has inspired a warm friendship in the hearts of many in this community, as he treats everyone with that degree of respect that makes them feel proud of his company. He and his wife, who is held in equal esteem by their mutual friends, are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of Union, of which he is an Elder, and they ever hold firmly to the faith of their fathers. Mr. Jones is strongly in sympathy with the Democratic party in his political sentiments.

WILLIAM P. C. CRITCHFIELD, an agriculturist of energy, ability and enterprise, residing on section 24, Centre Precinct, operates a fine farm, which shows for itself the amount of time, judicious labor and skill, which have been used in bringing it to its present condition. Our subject was born in Holmes County, Ohio, Nov. 15, 1857. His parents, Lewis H. and Harriet (Shreve) Critchfield, were also natives of the same State. (For further parental history, see sketch of Mrs. Harriet Critchfield).

William was reared in his native town and received a good common-school education. Being brought up on a farm, where he assisted his father, he early became acquainted with the duties and details connected with the tilling of the soil, and concluded to make farming his life occupation. He remained at home until the spring of 1881, when he came to Nebraska with his family, and settled on the farm in Centre Precinct where he has since lived. The land was at that time uncultivated prairie, with scarcely any improvements. But Mr. Critchfield at once went to work with a will to evolve a farm from the raw land, and in all his undertakings he has met with success. He is a worthy representative of the sturdy yeomanry of this section of the country, who, commencing life with no heritage save that of strong hands and willing hearts, have won for themselves substantial positions and fair competences.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Jessie Price, of Valparaiso, Ind., was celebrated Sept. 10, 1878. She is a native of the Hoosier State, born in Porter County, Oct. 16, 1856. Her early days were spent in her native town, where she received a good education, and was initiated by her excellent mother into the mysteries of housekeeping, so that, since marriage, she has been able to be a true helpmate to her husband and to aid him by her thrift and good management in his varied duties of developing a farm from the wild prairie. Of her marriage with our subject four children have been born, namely: Edith, Otto, Maud and Day. Mrs. Critchfield's father, James A. Price, is Deputy Recorder of Cook County, Ill., and lives in Chicago. He married Miss Eunice House, by whom he had one child, Mrs. Critchfield. The latter's mother died when she was three years of age.

Our subject is a man of much force of character, is well thought of in his neighborhood, and, making many friends, retains them all by his frank and cordial manners. Socially, he is a member of the Royal Arcanum.

JOHN DOMINGO is an enterprising, industrious farmer, of good business capacity and great intelligence, who resides on section 25, township 11, range 11, Centre Precinct. He was born in Denmark, May 5, 1854, and was there reared and educated. His parents, Jorgen (in English called John) and Ellen (Christenson) Domingo, spent their entire lives in Denmark, his father dying there in 1861, and his mother in 1872. They were industrious, well-educated people, holding an important position among the citizens of their town. Of their union four children were born, three of whom are now living, one of them on the

home farm in Denmark, and two of them in this State (see sketch of Jacob Domingo.) Mr. Domingo owned his farm in Denmark, he having lived and died on the same one on which he was born. He was a prudent, thrifty farmer, who gave his sons good educations and some money to start life with.

Our subject was educated in his native country, aud at the age of eighteen years emigrated to this country alone. He at first located in Bloomington, Ill., staying there until 1881, and the same year bought the farm of 160 acres where he now resides. It was then under cultivation, and some buildings had been erected. With characteristic energy our subject set to work to build for himself a home, and in the few years that have since elapsed he has effected a vast improvement in his property. He has fenced his entire farm, and has a good bearing orchard, and has quite a large grove of fine forest trees. He has erected a good set of farm buildings, having just completed an elegant frame house, 26x26 feet, two stories high, which is a model of convenience and taste, and would be an ornament to any village or city. The pasturage on his farm is all tame grass, being especially adapted to stock-raising, to which he pays much attention. His herd of Short-horns, 100 in number, is of great value and very fine. He also raises a large number of horses and hogs, finding stock-raising of all kinds to be a lucrative business.

Mr. Domingo was married, June 7, 1881, to Miss Lottie Wiuff, who was also a native of Denmark, born June 7, 1864, and who came to America in 1880. Her parents, Jesse and Metta Maria (Anderson) Wiuff, natives of Denmark, are now living in Humboldt, Iowa. They have had eight children, five of whom grew to maturity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wiuff are members of the Lutheran Church. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed by the birth of three children, namely: Ellen, born April 28, 1882; Jesse, Sept. 13, 1883; Laura, June 7, 1886, her birth having occurred on the anniversary of her mother's birth and wedding.

Mr. Domingo is a man of sterling worth and ability, and is highly respected by his fellow-citizens. By his industry and thrift the small sum of money that he had when he came here has been gradually increased, and by using it advantageously he has now a good income, a fine homestead, and is as pleasantly situated as any man could desire. Our subject uniformly casts his vote with the Republican party, but has all the business he can attend to without desiring to take upon himself the responsibilities of office. Both Mr. and Mrs. Domingo are members of the Lutheran Church, and contribute generously toward its support.

FRANCIS G. KENDALL. Numbered among the practical and progressive agriculturists of Cass County is the subject of this brief biographical history, who is prosperously engaged in his independent calling on section 12, Liberty Precinct, where he owns 160 acres of well-improved land, which he entered in 1857 from the United States Government under the pre-emption law.

Our subject was born Sept. 10, 1835, in Erie, Erie Co., Pa., where his paternal grandfather, Frank G. Kendall, was an early settler and spent his last years. Robert Kendall, father of our subject, was married in Erie, Pa., to Miss Anna McNair, whose father, Col. David McNair, was originally from near Pittsburgh, and was one of the original settlers of Erie County, and platted the city of Erie, where he built the first distillery and brewery in the county. He took an active part in the sieges of the War of 1812, and spent his declining years in Erie, where he had prominently identified himself with all its interests. Robert Kendall and his wife remained in Erie County until their removal, with their family, to Monmouth, Ill. There they acquired considerable property, and lived until well advanced in years. Both were active members of the United Presbyterian Church, and donated liberally toward its support and to the college of that denomination in that place. They had six children, three of whom are now living: David M., the eldest son, lives at Monmouth, Warren Co., Ill.; Francis G.; Margaret, wife of Amos Buford, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Monmouth Township, Warren Co., Ill.; William E. died at the age of twenty-one years; James died at the age of ten years. Clark A. was a graduate of Monmouth College, and

a noble and promising youth; he lost his life in the battle of Ft. Donelson. He was a member of Company F, 17th Illinois Infantry, a brave and ambitious soldier, and a favorite among his comrades, by whom his early death was lamented.

Francis G. of our sketch received a good education in his native town, remaining there until the removal of his parents to Illinois, in March, 1853. In 1857, desiring to try his fortune in some other part of the country, Mr. Kendall came to Cass County, bringing with him a sawmill, which he had bought in Chicago and shipped to Muscatine, Iowa, and thence here in wagons, and set it up in Liberty Precinct. It was the first mill of the kind in the precinct, and he operated it for two years, then sold it. He subsequently visited Colorado, and spent a few months prospecting among the mines of the Rockies, but returned to Nebraska, and in June, 1861, enlisted in defense of his country at Plattsmouth, joining Company A, commanded by Capt. Livingston, 1st Nebraska Infantry, the regiment under command of Col. John M. Thayer. The regiment was ordered to the front, and Mr. Kendall was with it in the battles of Ft. Donelson, Pittsburg Landing and many other minor engagements, being once thrown from his horse and severely injured. He was then sent home on a sick furlough, but afterward returned to the ranks, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal at Omaha, having served with honor three years and three months. He afterward secured a position as Captain of the Guards at the Government corrall at St. Louis, Mo., which was a depot of supplies for receiving and branding horses.

After the war closed Mr. Kendall went to Monmouth, Ill., and spent a year, then returned to his farm in this State, which he has since occupied. He has worked hard, and made all the necessary improvements to place his homestead among the finest in the locality. It is well watered, very productive, and stocked with horses and cattle of good grades. A stream of running water heads about 100 rods from his house from springs on his farm, and meanders through his farm, crosses his feed lot, and gives an ample supply of water the year around for stock purposes.

Mr. Kendall has been twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Rachel Allison, was a native of Washington County, Pa. Of that marriage three children were born—Birdie, deceased; Robert C. and Mary. The second marriage of our subject took place in Nebraska City, where he was united to Mrs. Virginia Ballinger, *nee* Jones. She was born in Missouri, May 28, 1843, and is a daughter of John C. and Maria (Brinker) Jones. Her father, who is now living in Arkansas, was born more than fourscore years ago in White County, Tenn. When a young man he moved to Missouri, where he was married. His wife was a native of St. Louis, where he was a merchant for a time. In 1845 Mr. and Mrs. Jones moved with their small family to Des Moines, Iowa, where he became one of the pioneer dry-goods merchants, and for many years carried on the mercantile business on what is now one of the busiest thoroughfares of that city. Mrs. Jones' death occurred during their residence there in 1853. Mrs. Kendall, the wife of our subject, was only two years of age when her parents moved to Des Moines, where she was reared and educated. She presides with hospitality over the household of her husband, and they lead a pleasant and social life. Mr. Kendall was a brave, gallant soldier, who served his country well in time of war, and now, in time of peace, does his duty equally well as an intelligent, patriotic citizen. In politics he is an active Republican, and stands firmly for the principles of the party.

MRS. SINA WILBERN is a lady of worth and refinement, holding a prominent place in the social life of Salt Creek. She is the widow of Robert Wilbern, who settled on the site of her present homestead in 1872. This lady was born Dec. 24, 1824, in Gallatin County, Ill., on the banks of the Ohio River, near Shawneetown. Her father was Robert Henderson, and her mother was Cassandra (Taylor) Henderson. Her father was born in Brandenburg, Ky., and went to Illinois with his parents when he was seventeen years old, in the early Territorial days of that now proud State. The Henderson family were among

the first settlers in Kentucky, originally settling among the Shawnee Indians. Her father died in Kentucky, in 1828, aged twenty-eight years. Her mother died near East St. Louis, Ill.; when about seventy-five years old. She was a native of Virginia, and was born in 1807.

The mother of the subject of our sketch bore two children by her first marriage, Sina and Maria. She was married the second time, and became the mother of six children, four boys and two girls, all of whom are living. Mrs. Wilbern attended the public schools of Union County, near Morganfield, and was in a Catholic convent at Morganfield for the period of three years. She removed with her parents to Sangamon County, Ill., in 1840, and there became acquainted with Robert Wilbern, whom she afterward married. This gentleman was born in Kentucky, and was four years old when his parents went with their family to Illinois in 1818, and settled in Sangamon County. Mrs. Wilbern and her husband were married in 1842, and resided in Sangamon County, Ill., until they came to Nebraska, and settled on their present homestead in 1873. They were the parents of eight children, named: Robert, Thomas J., Elizabeth, Jennie, Charles, Eddie, Lottie and John W. Charles and Lottie are dead; Robert resides in Decatur County, Kan., where he is a farmer; he is married to Miss Doom, and is the father of five children—Myrtle, Robert, Gordon, Mollie and an infant unnamed. Our subject's son Thomas J. married Miss Lena Chapin (see sketch elsewhere in this volume); Elizabeth is now the wife of W. J. Maston, a merchant living in Oxford, Harlan Co., Neb., and is the mother of three children—Sina, Robert and Addie; Jennie is now the wife of N. B. Hamilton, an enterprising hardware merchant, and resides in Emporia, Kan., and is the mother of one child, Lottie; John W. is at home and manages his mother's interests on the home farm; Addie is the wife of F. C. Baldwin, and resides in Salt Creek Precinct.

Mr. Wilbern was during his life an earnest and conscientious member of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Wilbern is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Greenwood. She is widely and favorably known as a lady of large heart and generous impulses, ever ready to assist in a substantial manner any who come to her in need. Her life is a bright and shining example of Christian devotion, which is not without its effect for good on the people among whom she lives.

WILLIAM ROSE. Imagine that you see a tailor by trade, poor in purse, dressed up in a style suggestive of his calling and circumstances, starting out from the city of St. Joseph, Mo., with a diminutive road wagon loaded up with a small outfit of household supplies, among which is a pleasant looking little woman. To this wagon is attached a yoke of ancient and very small oxen, worth about $4.50 each, and the owner working about as hard as they in order to continue them in their slow locomotion and hasten them if possible. They started out over a new and lonesome looking country toward the West, and in this manner pursued their way for some days. They finally "squatted" on a piece of land lying along the banks of the Weeping Water River, in what is now Avoca Precinct, this county. The above furnishes the outline of the first appearance of the subject of this sketch in Cass County. It is hardly necessary to state that under these circumstances he was, as he says, the "greenest kind of a farmer." His later life has exhibited in a remarkable manner the large amount of energy and perseverance with which he was endowed by a kindly Providence. He is now called "a big-hearted and successful farmer and stock-raiser," and few men are more popular in his precinct. He still retains the land where he first settled, although he has added to its boundaries, and his labors have resulted in the construction of one of the most valuable farms in this region, and lying on section 13.

The first arrival of Mr. Rose in this county dates from the fall of 1857, when he pre-empted his land, but did not settle on it until 1861, being employed in the meantime as a tailor. In the year last mentioned, he, with his little family, took possession of a plank house, when his neighbors were few and far between, and the face of the country gave little indication of the presence of the white man. His

subsequent record is that of hundreds of other pioneers of Cass County, whose experiences are detailed over and over throughout this volume. His possessions now embrace 480 broad acres, the greater part under a high state of cultivation, and embracing very little waste land. He has erected convenient and substantial buildings, and at the same time made for himself a record as an agriculturist and a citizen second to none in the county.

In view of the facts above noted it will not be surprising to learn that Mr. Rose is a native of Germany, born in the Duchy of Brunswick, Sept. 15, 1832. He is of unadulterated German stock, and of a good family, being the son of Henry Rose, who was a skilled mechanic, and who, with his estimable wife, in her maiden days Miss Christina M. Muche, spent his entire life in his native land, both passing away in middle life. They were the parents of two children.

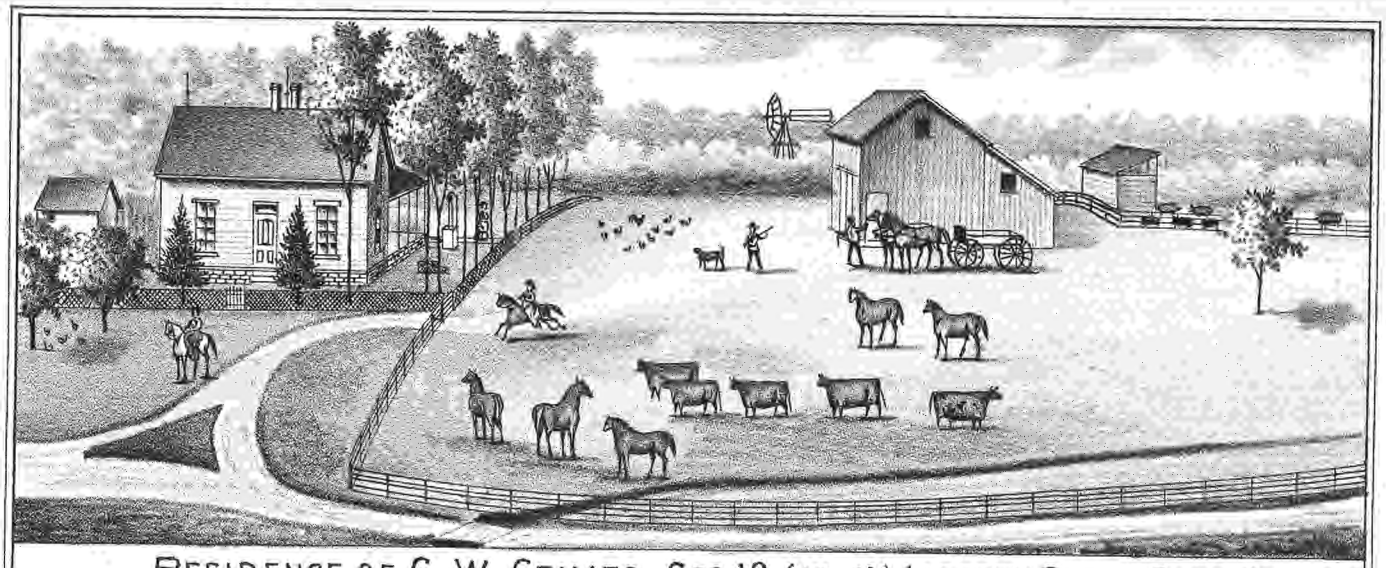
The subject of this sketch acquired a good education in the German language, learned the trade of tailor, and when a youth of eighteen years left home, and journeying to London, England, sojourned in that city three and one-half years. Upon leaving England, in August, 1854, he set sail for the United States, landing in New York City, and worked there and at other places in the East for some years. We find him in Missouri about 1857, and later he established a shop in Elmwood, Kan., which he conducted until September, 1861. Then selling out he resolved to cast his lot among the pioneers of Nebraska. He had prior to this secured his land in this county, upon which he settled in the fall of 1861.

Commencing with scarcely any knowledge of agriculture, Mr. Rose had more than the ordinary amount of difficulties to contend with in a new settlement. He, however, after a few seasons had learned much from experience, which, after all, is the most practical and useful teacher a man can have. What he lacked in the practical knowledge of farming he made up in industry and persistence, and his labors in due time met with their legitimate reward.

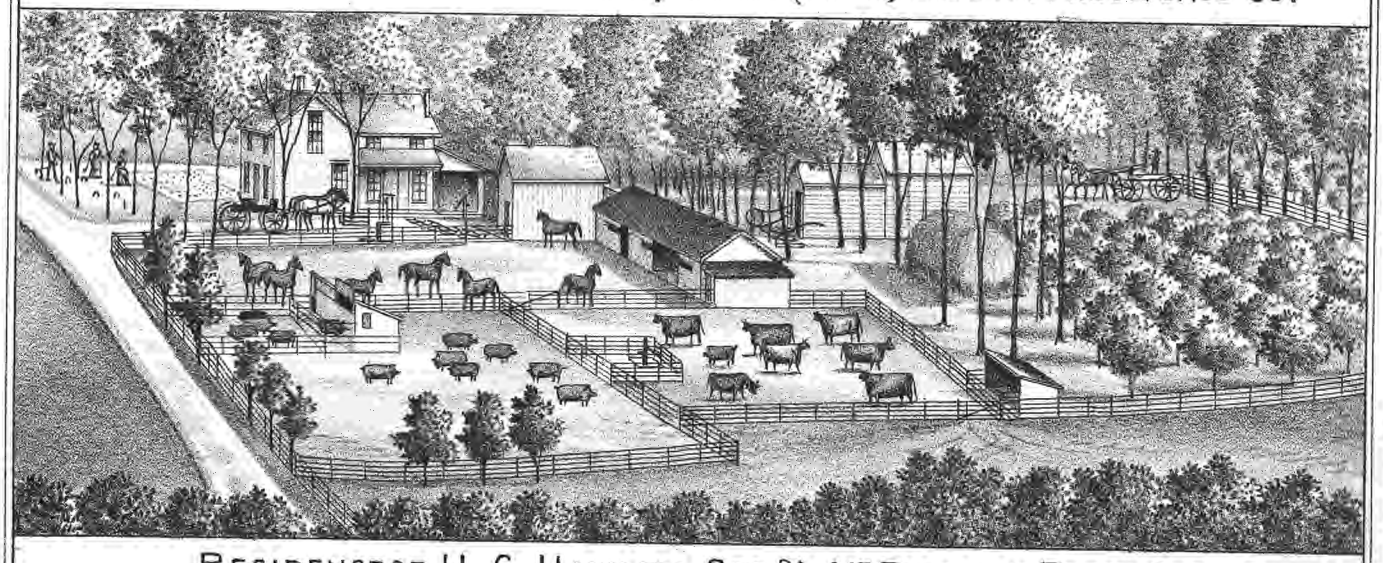
During his sojourn in St. Joseph, Mo., our subject was united in marriage with Miss Kersten Peterson, the wedding taking place Sept. 27, 1859. Mrs. Rose was born in Norway, June 16, 1834, and came to this country in her girlhood with her mother, her father having died in his native Scandinavia. She was then a young girl of fourteen years, and the family located in the vicinity of St. Joseph, where they made their living by farming, and where the mother remained until her death. Their family consisted of three children, who are now in Norway and the United States.

We have already gained an idea of the manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Rose commenced the journey of life together. They have labored side by side in the accumulation of their property and the building up of their homestead, the wife and mother performing her duties in her sphere as faithfully and conscientiously as has her husband in his. They became the parents of six children, three of whom are deceased—Ida M., Ellen K. and an infant unnamed. The survivors are: Anna H., the wife of Elsworth Norris, a farmer of Avoca Precinct; William A., unmarried, and operating a farm not far from the homestead, and Fred P., who remains with his parents. Mr. Rose, politically, is a sound Republican, and both he and his wife are Lutheran in religion. Mr. R. is a man of intelligence and ability, and is prominent in local affairs.

WILLIAM W. DAVIS. This enterprising and public-spirited citizen is a farmer and stock-raiser on the northwest quarter of section 14, Weeping Water Precinct. He is the eldest in a family of ten children. He was born in Mercer County, Pa., April 2, 1830, and lived at home until he was twenty-eight years old. He attended the common schools of the neighborhood, but his other sources for education were quite limited, for when ten years of age he began working on his father's farm, among the roots and stumps of Pennsylvania. His grandmother helped to start the plow, and from that time on he almost ran his father's farm without other assistance. When twenty-three years of age, in 1853, his father moved to Tama County, Iowa, where he took up a large tract of land. Our subject took charge of it, broke the virgin soil, using three yoke of cattle, set out the grove and orchard, and



RESIDENCE OF G. W. GRIMES, SEC. 19. (10.-14.) LIBERTY PRECT. CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF H. G. HAWLEY, SEC. 31. MT. PLEASANT PRECT. CASS CO.

RESIDENCE OF AMBROSE BICKERT, SEC. 28. STOVE CREEK PRECT, CASS CO.

built the fences, houses and stables; he persevered in this work until 160 acres were brought under a high state of cultivation, remaining here until his twenty-eighth year. In 1858 he went to Toledo, in the same county, where he started a dry-goods store, which he operated for four years and was eminently successful; he was in partnership with his cousin, who got away with most of the assets, and left our subject at the foot of the ladder ready to begin again.

In 1862 our subject bought 120 acres of land in Tama County, which he improved and operated until 1873, when he sold it and determined to try his luck in Nebraska. He came overland with three teams, crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, coming on to Weeping Water, where he left his stock and went to Red Cloud, Kan.; not liking it there he came back to Weeping Water, and bought 160 acres in Avoca Precinct, improved it, and made it his home until the spring of 1878, when he sold it and moved to his present home, on 160 acres of section 14. Only seventy acres of this was under plow when he purchased it. He has made all other improvements, set out fifteen acres of grove and an orchard of 600 trees, planted hedge and built wire fences to divide the farm into convenient fields. He hauled all the lumber from Nebraska City to build the various houses and barns and other improvements necessary to the successful and profitable operation of the farm, which he devotes to general farming, raising cattle, and dairy purposes. The Short-horn breed of cattle are his favorites, of which he has a fine herd of high-grade animals, and which certainly reflect high credit on the proprietor, showing care and strict attention as well as a thorough knowledge of the business. The herd is headed by two thoroughbreds. He has six handsome horses, Hambletonians.

The father of this gentleman, John Davis, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa. The mother was Mary Tice, born in Canada. Grandfather Davis was in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, was a farmer in easy circumstances, and was of German descent. Grandfather Frederick Tice was born in Canada, of German parentage, was in the British Army, and during the War of 1812 he deserted and joined the Americans. He had a large amount of property in Canada, but never dared return to claim it. The father and mother were married in Mercer County, Pa. The father was a brickmason and stone-cutter. He also owned a farm, and lived in Mercer County until the fall of 1853, when he disposed of his property and removed to Iowa, where he bought more than a section of land in Tama County. He was one of the pioneers in that section, being the fourth man to settle in the county. Here he turned all his attention to improving his property until he died. He enlisted in the 28th Iowa Regiment, but was objected to on account of physical disability. He died in 1879, sixty-seven years of age. The mother died in Weeping Water in 1885, seventy-three years old. He was the eldest in a family of ten children, many of whom are dead, and the remainder are widely scattered. Mary, John H., Frederick T., Jesse and Frank are in Weeping Water; Sarah A., in California, while Elizabeth, Richard and an infant unnamed are dead. The brothers, J. H. and Jesse, served creditably in the late Civil War, in the 28th Iowa Infantry. They were mustered into the service at Iowa City in 1861, and served until the close of the war, when they were honorably discharged. J. H. was severely wounded, being shot through the thigh, but has recovered.

Our subject and Miss Jennie Parker, daughter of Harrison and Lucia (Strickland) Parker, were married in Tama County, Iowa, Feb. 28, 1856. The lady's father was a native of Mentor, Lake Co., Ohio. Her mother was born near Boston, Mass. Grandfather Strickland was a native of England. Grandfather Parker was born in Virginia. The lady's father and mother were married in Massachusetts, and went to Mentor, Ohio, where he farmed and traded with the Indians. They removed from there to Constantine, St. Joseph Co., Mich., where they bought and improved land. The father sailed on the lake during the summer season, trading with the Indians. In the spring of 1855 they removed to Iowa, where he farmed 160 acres of land, and in 1860 he went to Nodaway County, Mo., also farming there, where he died in 1872, fifty-eight years old. The mother is still living in Avoca, and is seventy-three years of age.

The wife of our subject is the fourth child in a

family of twelve; she was born in Mentor, Lake Co., Ohio, Sept. 15, 1841. This couple have a family of nine children: Ida, now married to Mr. L. McDermid, residing in Weeping Water, has four children—Glennie, Verie, Elmer and Jennie. The remaining children of the family of our subject are Allen and Alfred (twins), who died when eight months old; Frederick died aged ten months; William died at six months; Jessie, Lottie, Stewart and Elsie are at home. The gentleman has occupied various positions of trust and confidence reposed in him by his neighbors, served on the School Board six years, was Supervisor of Roads for ten years, is an esteemed member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Weeping Water, and has served as Trustee of that society. In politics he is a strong Republican.

EDWARD POST, the third homesteader of Tipton Precinct, and one of its first actual settlers, has been a man of note in his community, a man second to none in assisting Cass County to its development and prosperity. An old army veteran, he saw hard times in the late war, from which he came out so seriously crippled as to be unable to accomplish much manually, but Providence endowed him with a large and generous spirit, and his influence has been felt amid the various causes and enterprises which have received the commendation and encouragement of good men. Inasmuch as the pen has been designated as mightier than the sword, so the influence of a single man in a community may enter very largely into its development, and in establishing its standard of morality. The record of Mr. Post has been one of which his descendants can never be ashamed. He is at present living in a pleasant home, surrounded by all the comforts of life, his companion an amiable and intelligent lady, and his friends surrounding him by the score. His farm property lies on section 10, and comprises 160 acres of good land with modern improvements.

Mr. Post comes of good ancestry, who settled in New England during the Colonial days. His father, Martin Post, was born in Hebron, Conn., March 20, 1805, and married Miss Abigail Hendrick, also a native of that State. The paternal grandfather, Daniel Post, also born in Connecticut, was reared to farming pursuits, and finally emigrated, about 1808, to Chenango County, N. Y. He purchased land from the Government, from which he constructed a good farm, and there spent the remainder of his days.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, in company with four brothers, came over from England prior to the Revolutionary War, in which they all served as soldiers. They enlisted from Connecticut, and after the war became scattered, one remaining in Connecticut, another settling in Vermont, a third locating in New Jersey, and the two others were lost track of. Edward, our subject, is a descendant of the one who settled and remained in the Nutmeg State. On the mother's side grandfather Joel Hendrick, a genuine Connecticut farmer, finally left New England, and also, like the Posts, took up his residence in Chenango County, N. Y. He served in the War of 1812 as a commissioned officer.

Martin Post, the father of our subject, was but three years of age when, with his parents, he took up his residence in Chenango County, N. Y. At an early age he developed much skill as a natural mechanic, and his mind was given to scientific researches. He was a lover of books, and employed his leisure hours among them. Upon approaching manhood he started out for himself and engaged to work by the month for Mr. Hendrick, who in due time became his father-in-law. At the age of twenty-one years he was married, and purchased land in Chenango County, from which he cleared a portion of the heavy forest, and put up one after another three sawmills, two having been burned.

The father of our subject in 1850 disposed of his interests in the Empire State, and rented land one year in the same State. After the death of his father he purchased the interest of the heirs in the old homestead, and carried on farming there until 1874. Then selling out and retiring from active labor, he made his home with his children until his death, which occurred at Afton, N. Y., April 17, 1877, when he was seventy-two years old. The mother had died July 3, 1871. Both were active

members of the Baptist Church at West Bainbridge, N. Y.

To Martin and Abigail Post there were born eight children, namely: Celestia; Edward, our subject; Lucina; Fidelia; Ellen, who died in 1842; Lydia, Eliza J. and Hubert. Edward was born near Bainbridge, in Oxford Township, Chenango Co., N. Y., Feb. 8, 1833. His childhood and youth were spent at the old homestead, and he was at an early age trained to habits of industry and economy. He assisted his father on the farm and in the sawmill, and attended the first school established in the district. He remained a member of the parental household until reaching his majority, then began farming on his own account.

In the fall of 1854 our subject migrated to the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Mich., and purchased in Allegan County eighty acres of land, which he cleared, and upon which he effected some improvements. There also he found his wife, being married, Aug. 10, 1856, in Michigan, to Miss Marilla Hanor. Mrs. Post was born in Oakland, Mich., Aug. 20, 1835, and departed this life at her home in Michigan, Nov. 18, 1865, after having been the companion of her husband a period of nine years.

Mr. Post continued on his Michigan farm until the spring of 1861. In the meantime he purchased other land, which he improved and sold, and thus built up three different farms, selling all. The second year of the war he enlisted as a Union soldier in Company E, 114th New York Infantry, being mustered in at Norwich, his regiment assigned to the Army of the Gulf. They were first sent to Baltimore, and later joined Gen. Banks' expedition in the Southwest, doing duty along the railroads in Texas, and Mr. Post frequently assigned to detached service. He was often given responsible positions under the Government.

In the spring of 1863 this division of the army was sent to Southwestern Louisiana, and met the enemy in some of the most important engagements of the war. On the 14th of June, 1863, Mr. Post was wounded in the right thigh by a minie ball, and in the left arm by a double buckshot. This laid him up for several months, and when convalescent he returned to camp. In the spring of 1864 he joined the Red River expedition, meeting parties of the Confederates nearly every day, skirmishing along the line until the serious engagement at Sabine Cross Roads, when they fell back to Pleasant Hill on account of being out of provisions. Afterward they took boats to New Orleans, expecting to join the Army of the Potomac, but at Ft. Monroe were ordered to Washington for the defense of the capital. They arrived there in time, remaining as long as it seemed necessary, then repaired to the valley of the Shenandoah, joining the command of Gen. Sheridan. Later followed the battle of Winchester, Sept. 19, 1864, when Mr. Post was shot in the right ankle, entirely shattering it. He was placed in the hospital, and the entire limb swelled to the size of a barrel. It was four days before the ball was extracted, and then it was found wedged into the bone so tightly it was almost impossible to withdraw it. He remained in the hospital at Winchester until the close of the war, being then unable to bear his weight on his foot. He received his honorable discharge at Chestnut Hill Hospital, Pa., April 4, 1865, and returned home.

Mrs. Marilla Post departed this life at her home Nov. 18, 1865. A few months later the family was broken up, and Mr. Post, removing to St. Clair County, Ill., engaged as clerk in a general store nearly two years. Then returning to Michigan he sold his farm of 120 acres. He then went back to New York State, and in the fall of 1867, turning his steps southwestward, he established himself in Macon City, Mo., where he spent that winter. In the spring of 1868 he came to Nebraska overland on horseback, landing in Nebraska City on the 1st of June. Later he returned to Macon City to cast his Presidential vote for Gen. Grant, and this done, bent his steps toward Tipton Precinct, this county.

Mr. Post on the 6th of June, 1869, homesteaded eighty acres of land, which is included in his present homestead. He hired a breaking team, and after paying for his papers and breaking his land, he had left $5 in money. He now went back to Nebraska City, where he lived until his money was gone, and when hardly able to walk went to work for a Mr. Pendleton near there, remaining with him during the harvest season. Later he secured a job at husking corn on Cascade Creek, at five cents per bushel. In the spring of 1869 he

went out to his homestead, purchased a "plug" team, commenced breaking more land, and planted his first crops on his own property. He had in the meantime sheltered himself in a dugout, but in the fall put up a house and set out trees. He took out the remaining papers for his homestead in Tipton, and purchased eighty acres of land adjoining, of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. He was fairly prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil until 1874, when the grasshoppers came along and destroyed his crops. The season of 1877 he rented his place for a term of five years, the consideration being $100 per year.

This furnished our subject with money to buy land, and he took up his residence in Anderson County, where he purchased 160 acres and farmed there five years. Later he returned to the farm in Tipton Precinct, and turned his attention to stock raising. He gathered together a herd of good cattle, Polled-Angus mostly, and also swine, with blooded English horses, of which latter he now has ten head. He has by his own industry effected all the improvements which we find upon his place to-day, including substantial buildings, a grove of three acres of forest trees, an orchard of 100 apple trees, with good out-buildings, windmill, water tanks, and the necessary machinery for carrying on agriculture successfully.

Mr. Post was married the second time, in Elmwood Precinct, this county, Aug. 8, 1870, to Miss Jane Brittain, who was born Aug. 8, 1833, in Trumbull County, Ohio. Mrs. Post received careful home training in her youth, and a good education, developing into a school teacher, which profession she followed before her marriage. Of this union there have been born three children, namely: Merrett M., who died when fourteen months old; Lulu, also deceased, and Francis, who was born Sept. 2, 1875, and is at home attending school. The two children of Mr. Post by his first marriage were Judson and Ardilla. The former is farming in Hitchcock County, Dak.; Ardilla is the wife of Albert A. Hardy, and lives in the vicinity of Victoria, this State.

Mr. Post was the first Justice of the Peace in Tipton Precinct, and officiated at the first marriage taking place here. He was also the first Postmaster at Sunlight, holding the position four years. He has occupied other positions of trust and responsibility, and has made the record of an honest man and a good citizen. Socially, he belongs to Kenesaw Post No. 123, G. A. R. at Elmwood. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Congregational Church at Eagle, in which Mr. P. has officiated as Deacon for the last three years. To this, as to other laudable enterprises, he has contributed liberally, and in politics, it is hardly necessary to add is a straight Republican.

JOHN W. WILBERN. This gentleman is, perhaps, one of the youngest of the many energetic citizens represented in the pages of this volume. He was born in Christian County, Ill., April 14, 1862, forty miles from Springfield, the State capital. His educational advantages were excellent, and he improved them to the fullest extent and when a boy of twelve years he came to Nebraska, coming to Salt Creek for the first time with his father, who then purchased a tract of 160 acres of land in Salt Creek Precinct from Curtis Sheffer.

After the return of our subject with his father to Illinois, he was general chore boy at his father's side in making the preparations for their removal from Springfield to Greenwood. Finally all work was completed, and the journey was begun, with five wagons loaded with goods, and seventeen loose horses in the procession; they brought no cattle with them. It was a trip he will never forget. He bore his part of the work, and care incident to the management of that amount of property, without a complaint. After they arrived in Nebraska, for many long weary days John followed cattle herding until the death of his father, when he took charge of the homestead, and for years after cultivated the same fields. During his earliest years in Nebraska he was given the opportunity of attending the country schools and the graded school at Greenwood. He early acquired a taste for reading and study, and in addition to the advantages for ob-

taining a school education that were afforded him, he has made a close study ever since of the papers and many good books which are now within the reach of everyone.

We now find him in charge of 200 acres of land, 160 of which belongs to his mother, with whom he lives. He takes rank as one of the most prosperous young men of Salt Creek Precinct, and it is safe to prophesy that he has a brilliant and successful business career before him. He is well and favorably known as being a hard-working, temperate, energetic young man. The mother with whom he lives is a lady of great worth and refinement. She takes the greatest comfort in the company of her son, and finds in him the most intense devotion to her interests and welfare, and there is no doubt but that the gentleman will, in the years to come, receive at the hands of his fellowmen a continuation of the esteem which he now holds, and that he will fill his place in life with honor and credit to himself and benefit to the people about him, and that he will at the end of life be able to say, "I have finished the work and I hope the world is better for my having lived in it." In politics he is a Democrat.

FRANCIS H. WILLIAMS has been identified with the farming and industrial interests of Stove Creek Precinct since 1875, formerly owning an extensive farm here, which he managed, while at the same time engaged in the manufacture of wagons. He is now in the evening of life, mostly retired from its cares, being an invalid, although he still makes his home on what has remained of his farm after providing for each of his children. By a life of well-directed toil, and by the excellent management of his affairs, he now has an ample income, and is classed among the substantial, well-to-do men of this precinct.

Our subject was born in Monmouthshire, Wales, June 27, 1810. His parents, Thomas and Ann (Roberts) Williams, were natives of the same county, and were there married. The father was a master blacksmith, having a shop of his own, besides a house and lot. He did well in business, and at the time of his death, in 1830, at the age of sixty years, he had accumulated a competency. His wife died in Wales in 1858, at the age of seventy years. They were devoted members of the Episcopal Church, and for their good and virtuous lives and many acts of kindness were held in respect and affection by their neighbors. Unto them were born ten children, four of whom grew to maturity, but three of them are dead—Morgan, Thomas and James, the two latter twins.

Their son Francis H., of whom we write, remained an inmate of the home of his birth until he was sixteen years old, and was then apprenticed to gain a knowledge of the wagon-maker's trade, being bound under the Government for seven years, his father being his bondsman. Our subject served his time, and became a first-class wagon-maker, and then worked at his trade in different places, finally putting up a shop in his native shire, and erected a house. Besides carrying on the manufacture of wagons he also did cabinet work and made furniture. He continued in that business in Wales until 1850, when he determined to try his fortunes in America, and sailing from Newport to Bristol on a packet, there embarked on the ship "Mary Ann Peters," and after a voyage of eight weeks, in which severe storms were encountered, he landed safely in New York. He went to Utica, N. Y., and worked at building there for a year and a half. After that he followed the same vocation in Racine, Wis. He established his home there, but was often engaged in Chicago a part of the time, in the employ of the Chicago & Galena Railway Company, building bridges, and he worked on the bridge of that company that spans Rock River at Rockford, Ill. A year later Mr. Williams removed to Allamakee County, Iowa, of which he became a pioneer, purchasing 140 acres of wild land from the Government. It was partly timbered and partly prairie land, and with infinite toil he converted it into a well-improved farm, with a good set of buildings, and there lived in his comfortable home until the spring of 1865, when he sold out, having decided that Nebraska possessed superior advantages and attractions, and wishing to avail himself of them. He and his family came by rail to Plattsmouth, and he was soon settled on his present place, having about 320 acres of arable land

on the Burlington & Missouri River Railway. There were no improvements on it, and not a stick of timber where he now has fine groves of forest trees and a good orchard, all of which he planted himself, or had them put out under his supervision. He built a large house, ample barns, and other necessary buildings, and before his retirement in 1882, had as fine a place as any in the vicinity. His farm is well supplied with running water, and is admirably adapted to both raising grain and stock. He has now given all but 120 acres to his sons and daughters.

Mr. Williams was married, in Monmouthshire, Wales, Sept. 29, 1833, to Miss Ann Harris, daughter of William and Margaret (Lewis) Harris, natives of Wales. Her father was extensively engaged in farming in his native land until his death, in 1826, at the age of eighty-four years. He was a member of the Episcopalian Church, and his wife, who died in 1858, at the age of seventy-five, belonged to the Baptist Church. They were the parents of five children, namely: William is a resident of Wales; John, Henry, Ann, and Margaret, deceased. Ann, the wife of our subject, was born in Monmouthshire, Wales, March 7, 1810. To her and her husband seven children have been born, as follows: Margaret, Ann E., Emma C., Louisa P., William H., Mathew B. and Sarah J. Margaret married Thomas W. David, who is at present farming in Allamakee County, Iowa; Ann E. married H. Harris, a farmer of Allamakee County, and they have one child, Ida S; Emma married S. Oxley, a farmer in Winneshiek County, Iowa, and they have four children, namely: Ida N., Ernest S., Alden and Nellie. Louisa married Silas Greenslate, a merchant of Elmwood, and they have five children, namely: Delbert, Bertha, Ellis, Fern and Dean. William, who is farming in Colorado, is married and has one daughter, Maud; Mathew, a farmer in Stove Creek Precinct, is married and has two children, Silas B. and Lottie M; Sarah married James Turk, a farmer in Stove Creek Precinct, and they have one child, Alden.

Our subject and his wife are regarded with feelings of sincere respect and veneration by the whole community, where all are their friends. To them it has been given to pass more than fifty years of their life in happy wedlock, mutually sustaining and sympathizing with each other in the joys and sorrows that come to all. On the occasion of the golden wedding that marked the anniversary of that other marriage ceremony, performed so long ago and so far away, amid the beautiful scenes of their native land, their children and friends in commemoration of that event gave them each a gold-headed cane, gold-mounted glasses, and other presents. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are sincere Christians, and he is a member of the United Brethren Church, and she of the Christian Church at Elmwood. In his political sentiments he is a firm adherent of the Republican party. They are very pleasant, hospitable people, making the stranger feel at home within their gates.

ALLEN CRABTREE. This gentleman is numbered among the younger members of the farming community of Tipton Precinct, where he settled in the spring of 1880. He owns and operates 110 acres of land lying on sections 30 and 31, and while being acknowledged as a thorough and skillful agriculturist is at the same time a man popular among his neighbors, possessed of sound sense and good judgment, correct in his business transactions, and thus occupies an honored position in his community. He has for his wife and helpmate a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, educated and refined, and who is the encourager of her husband in all his worthy efforts. With these elements there has been built up a home pleasant both within and without, and one which is the frequent resort of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Our subject was born in Portsmouth, Jackson Co., Ohio, in August, 1849, and four years later his parents removed from his native State to Polk County, Mo. The journey was made in pioneer fashion, mostly by water. Allen G. lived in that State until the fall of 1854, then accompanied his parents northwest into Nebraska, crossing the Missouri River at Kenosha, and taking shelter their first night in the Territory at that point. Mr. Crabtree distinctly remembers the first night spent in

Nebraska and many other incidents connected with the journey and the after settlement of the family. The country around them was wild and new, and they experienced the hardships and privations common to the lot of the pioneer.

Mr. Crabtree grew to manhood at his father's homestead in Rock Bluff Precinct, Cass County, making himself useful at an early age in the cultivation of the soil and the development of the homestead. His educational advantages were exceedingly limited, and he started out in early life to make his own way in the world, leaving home at the age of fourteen years. He first joined a train of freight wagons going across the plains to Denver, Col., making two trips. Later he returned home and lived on the farm until reaching his majority. For the next four years he was engaged in teaming and herding in Lancaster County, having charge of 600 head of cattle from the spring of 1876 until 1879.

Mr. Crabtree made his first purchase of land in the fall of 1878. He rented this a year, moving upon it in the spring of 1880. There were then no buildings, and his first business was to secure shelter for his family. He was obliged to haul lumber from Lincoln fourteen miles away, and after putting up his house he commenced fencing his land and planting trees. He has now a fine grove and an apple orchard, besides trees of the smaller fruits, and his land is well watered by a branch of the Nemaha. He keeps good grades of cattle, horses and swine, making quite a specialty of the breeding of stock.

Our subject was married in Elmwood, Dec. 25, 1879, to Miss Eliza, daughter of Henry and Anna (Herter) Umland. The father of Mrs. Crabtree is a prominent citizen of this county, and a sketch of him will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Crabtree was born in Mascoutah, St. Clair Co., Ill., Nov. 16, 1857, and when twenty years of age came with her parents to Nebraska. She is now the mother of four children—Ettie N., Henry R., Clara M. and William A. The eldest of these is eight years of age, and the youngest three. They are pursuing their studies.

Mr. Crabtree, politically, uniformly votes the Democratic ticket, and has been quite prominent with his party in this section, being sent as a delegate to the various conventions and otherwise laboring for the principles in which he believes. He has been a member of the School Board in his district for a period of six years, and socially, belongs to the K. of P.

Our subject comes of a good family, being the son of Abel and Elizabeth (Clemons) Crabtree, who were both natives of Ohio, and the father was born in Jackson County. The paternal grandfather, James Crabtree, was also a native of the Buckeye State, and carried on the business of farming and milling combined, being the owner of mill property. The maternal grandfather, familiarly known as "Capt. John Clemons," was born in Ohio in 1812, the same year in which it was admitted into the Union as a State. He served valiantly in the Mexican War, wherein he obtained his commission of Captain. When quite well advanced in years he emigrated to the West, being among the pioneer settlers of Cass County, Neb., and one of the first white men to locate on the Missouri River. He employed himself in freighting across the plains a number of years, and accumulated a good property. He spent his last years in Rock Bluff Precinct, dying in July, 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years. His good wife survived him until 1882, and passed away at the same age.

William Clemons, the maternal great-grandfather of our subject, was of English descent but American born. He also came to Nebraska, and died in Rock Bluff Precinct. Abel Crabtree, the father of our subject, was a collier by trade and also carried on farming. In the fall of 1853, removing from Ohio he took up his abode in Holt County, Mo., but the year following came to Nebraska and took up a claim in Rock Bluff Precinct, this county. His land lay along the banks of Rock Creek, and after making some improvements he sold out and secured land in another part of the same precinct, upon which he farmed successfully, and to which he added until he became the owner of a quarter-section. He is still living at the old homestead, being now sixty-eight years old. The mother died July 31, 1886, aged sixty-two. Both parents were members in good standing of the Christian Church, and

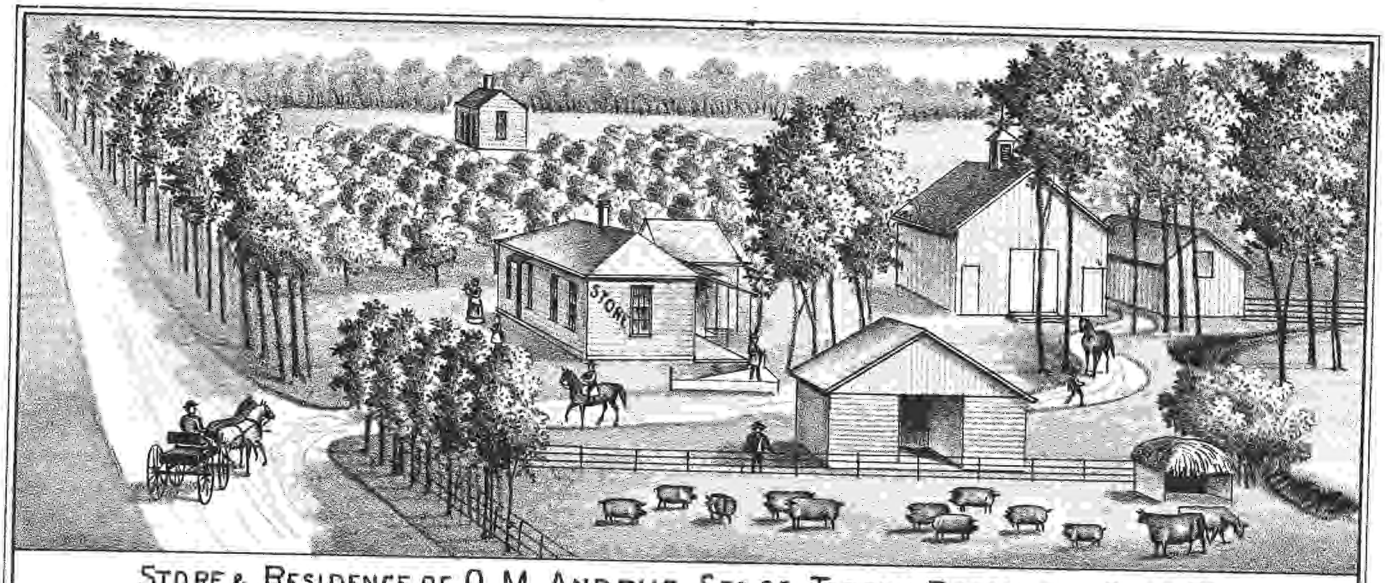
were people careful and conscientious in their lives and highly respected in their community.

The seven children of the household were named respectively: Allen, Noah, Ross, Travis, Elsie, Silas, and Abel, who died when one year old. Those living are located in Cass and Lancaster Counties, Neb.

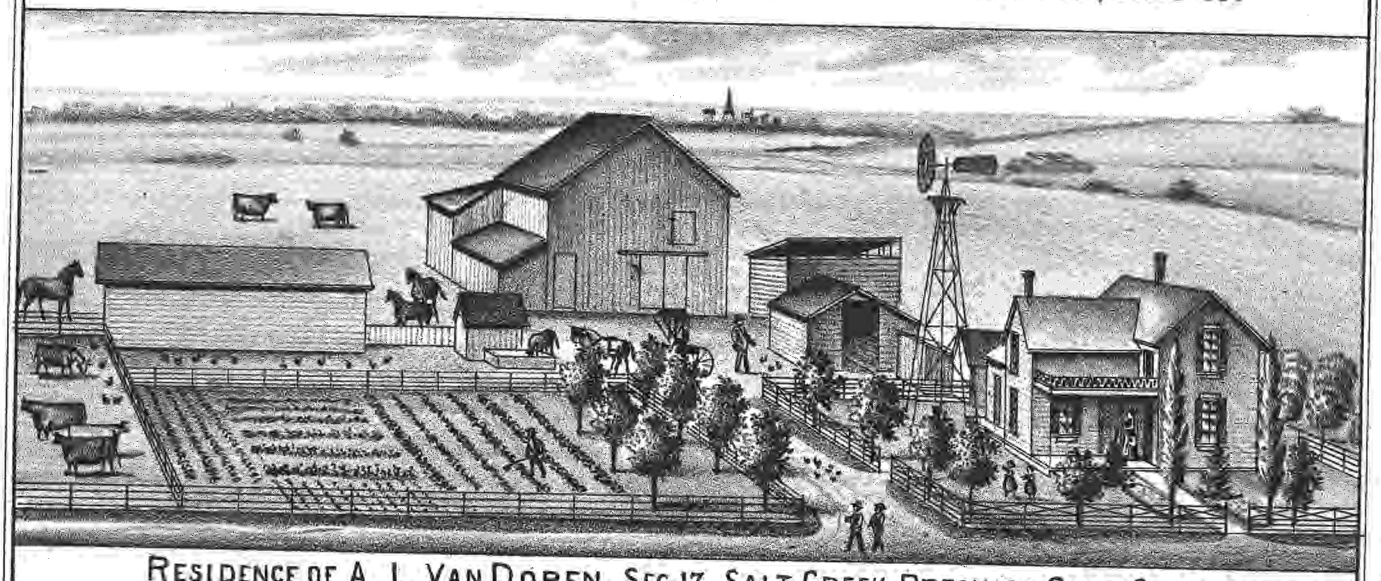
MRS. FRANCES JANE SMITH, widow of Francis Smith, is a representative of the noble, self-sacrificing pioneer women of Cass County who have contributed their share toward its upbuilding. She is a woman of marked decision of character, and of superior capacity, who has shown by her able management of her property great sagacity and far-reaching foresight, so that she is now in comfortable circumstances, and has retired from active labor, renting her farm on section 34, Stove Creek Precinct.

The parents of our subject, Robert and Mary (Chesman) Clark, were born in Durham, England. Her grandfather, Thomas Chesman, was a farmer in England, and lived to the advanced age of eighty-seven years. The father of our subject was a miner during his youth, and when he was twenty-one he enlisted in the English Army, and served twenty years, and during that length of time witnessed and took part in many famous battles, was present at the battle of Waterloo, and saw much of Europe, was all through France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, etc. He finally retired from the service on account of ill-health, his sister buying him off. He was married, and began mining, becoming overseer in some mines, which position he held until his death in 1851, at the age of fifty-six years. He was a man of much stability of character, one in whom his fellow-citizens placed implicit confidence, and he was devoted to his employers' interests, and at the same time was kind and considerate to the men under his charge. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His widow survived him a few years, dying in 1861, at the age of sixty-three. She was a woman of much worth, and her memory is cherished by her children, of whom she had seven, as follows: Elizabeth, in Illinois; Thomas, in England; Jane Frances; Mary and Sarah, both in England; Robert and George, deceased.

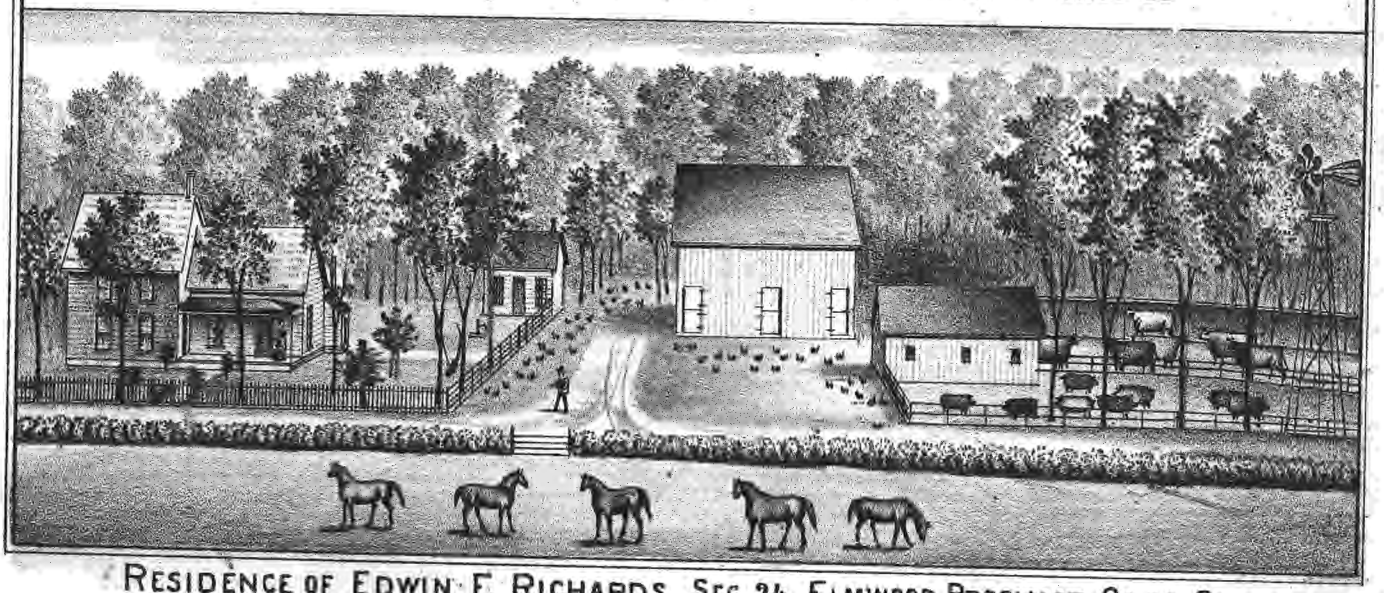
Our subject was born June 20, 1823, in Newcastle, Durham, England. March 20, 1842, she was married in the town of Atchester, England, to Mr. Francis Smith, son of Adam and Margaret (Brown) Smith. He was the second child of the family, and was born in the town of Newcastle, Sept. 8, 1818. When a boy of seven years he was obliged to go into the mines to work to assist in the support of his family, but he managed to glean an education in the night schools, at which he was a faithful attendant. His steadiness and good habits made a favorable impression on his employers, and they raised him to the position of overseer of the mines, and he continued in that office until 1852, when he and his family emigrated to America, setting sail from Liverpool on the ship "Columbus." After a long and stormy voyage of six weeks and two days, they landed in New York, and proceeded to Detroit, Mich. Mr. Smith obtained a position as copyist in a lawyer's office, and they resided in that city eight months. We next hear of the family in Kingston, Ill., where Mr. Smith secured the position of overseer in the coal mines. A year later the ague drove them away from there to Peoria, in the same State. They lived there one year, and Mr. Smith worked in the mines as carpenter. In 1857 he was almost crippled by the fall of some rocks, and was never very strong after that. He then moved to Marshall County, bought a small piece of land, and mined drift coal, staying there until 1870. He then concluded to invest his money in land in Nebraska, that he might enjoy the benefit of its salubrious climate and other natural advantages. He and his wife and children came all the way with a team, bringing their belongings that they considered indispensable with them. They crossed the Missouri at Plattsmouth, and in Stove Creek Precinct Mr. Smith took up an 80-acre tract of land under the provisions of the Homestead Act, and with the able assistance of his wife he began its improvement. He had to hire the land broken, as his health was so poor, and upon Mrs. Smith devolved the task of setting out the trees of the grove and orchard, and planting the small fruits, of which



STORE & RESIDENCE OF O. M. ANDRUS, SEC. 35. TIPTON PRECINCT, CASS CO.



RESIDENCE OF A. L. VAN DOREN, SEC. 17. SALT CREEK PRECINCT CASS CO



RESIDENCE OF EDWIN F. RICHARDS, SEC. 24. ELMWOOD PRECINCT, CASS CO

there is an abundant supply, and she also had to look after the payments on the homestead, and to prove up on it in 1877, after her husband's death. They managed to hold on to their claim through the grasshopper raids, in which many were ruined and had to abandon their land. The farm is now provided with good and comfortable buildings, is neatly fenced with hedge and wire, and is well watered by the waters of Wolf Creek, and is one of the most substantial and attractive places in the neighborhood. Mrs. Smith managed it with marked success some years after her husband's death, and is now living in the enjoyment of an income ample for all her wants, having rented her farm.

As before mentioned, Mr. Smith had been quite out of health for several years, and Feb. 8, 1876, death came to his release. This precinct then lost one of its most useful and honored citizens, one whose probity of character, sound business principles and clear head, gave him weight and influence with his fellowmen. He took an honorable part in public affairs, held the office of Justice of the Peace, and was a stanch ally of the Republican party. Of his marriage with our subject ten children were born, three of whom lived to maturity: of these, Sarah J. is now Mrs. William James; her husband is a farmer in Stove Creek Precinct. Francis W. and Henry R. are dead.

In the many sorrows that have come to our subject in the death of husband and children, she has been sustained in the darkest hour by her strong religious faith, she being a devoted member of the Baptist Church, and is serenely awaiting reunion with her loved ones on the other shore. She is active in the interests of church and society, and her kindness and benevolence are too well known to need any further mention here.

PETER EVELAND is the name of a man well and favorably known through Elmwood Precinct and through Cass County. He was born March 11, 1846, in Moscow Township, Muscatine Co., Iowa, where he was brought up on the farm. The duties required of him in his farm life were so onerous as to require all his time to such an extent that his opportunity for acquiring a scholastic education was very limited in extent, but by diligent application to study at his own fireside, and a close observation of events as they transpired about him, he has been able to overcome the effect of his earlier disadvantages, and is now one of the best informed and leading men of the county.

The father of the subject of our sketch was married twice. Two children were born to him as the result of the first marriage: Jeanette Hopkinson, living in Muscatine, Iowa, and Louisa Ward, who now lives in Elmwood Precinct. Fourteen children were born to the couple as the result of the second marriage, seven of whom reached the age of maturity. Among them was our subject, his sisters, Martha and Sarah N., and his brother Herman were older; and his sister Hester M., Katuraha, and brother, Frank P., were younger. He lived at home with his parents on the farm until he was sixteen years old, when he enlisted in Company E, 18th Iowa Infantry, July 20, 1862. He first went into camp at Clinton, Iowa, where the regiment was instructed in various military tactics, and whence they were sent to Sedalia, Mo., in 1862. From there they were ordered to Springfield, where he saw blood shed for the first time in his life. For a season after this the time of the regiment of which he was a member was quite busily employed, occupying among other places the towns of Fayetteville and Van Buren, Ark., Prairie Dean, Poison Springs and Jenkins' Ferry. At Ft. Smith, Ark., he was promoted to the post of Corporal. They went into winter quarters at that fort. In July of 1865 our subject was at Ft. Smith, at which place they were at the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged from service at the age of nineteen years—undoubtedly the youngest soldier serving in the ranks of the Union Army.

After his discharge from the army in August, 1865, our subject returned to Muscatine, Iowa, after having served for three years in one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever known, and resumed his home occupation. In the fall of 1866 he was married to Miss Sarah A. Metteer, the daughter of Robert and Chloe Metteer. The lady

was born in Pennsylvania, going to Muscatine with her parents in 1863, where she met our subject after the close of the war. She was one of a family of six children. Her father and her brother reside in Plattsmouth, and one brother resides in Weeping Water Precinct.

In 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Eveland, just one year after their marriage, came to this precinct, settling on a farm on section 20, which he proceeded to improve for their home. In 1888 he built a full two-story residence, complete in all its appointments, an ideal home, by planting groves and setting out an orchard of choice varieties of fruit. He was here during the time when the grasshoppers devastated the crops of the country, which rendered him poor. In the years 1870–71 he worked on the railroad as a builder. During this time he had a leg broken by the caving in of an earth bank, but from which injury he fully recovered. In 1874 he went out on the plains on a buffalo hunt along the Republican River. Mr. Ward, his brother-in-law, was with him. His gun was accidentally discharged, and the charge took effect in his right arm, injuring the muscles so much as to make his right hand almost useless for all time to come.

In Colonial days four Eveland brothers came to New Jersey from Scotland and took part in the Indian Wars of that time. From one of them our subject descends. His mother was descended from an early English family, a resident of Virginia; the father removed with his family to Ohio, thence to Iowa, and settled in Muscatine County, where he lived and farmed until the time of his death in September, 1884, when he was seventy-four years old. The mother still lives in Iowa, and is now seventy-three years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Eveland have a family of eight children: Laura F., born in Iowa, died in Nebraska at the age of nineteen months; Melinda N.; an infant boy unnamed, deceased; Leonora M., Davonia D., Chloe Myra, Blanch E. and Gertie. The children living at home with their parents are exceptionally bright and intelligent, and are a source of great pride and comfort to their parents. The home farm of Mr. E. embraces a tract of 240 acres—the eighty acres on section 20 is the original homestead on which he settled on his arrival in this State—and 160 acres on section 17; it is finely located, and supplied with an abundance of good water, and possesses many natural advantages. All these broad acres are brought to the highest state of cultivation under the skillful direction of our subject. In addition to the system of general farming which he follows, our subject takes a special interest in the development of thoroughbred Clydesdale horses. The great pride which he takes in this branch of his business is certainly pardonable, and an examination of the stable of these fine animals owned by him reveals to the observer indisputable evidence of the good judgment exercised by their owner in raising them.

Although our subject takes a special pride in his horses, it is not to the neglect of other animals—cattle and hogs—of which he has a large number, the best of their class obtainable. His experience pertaining to agriculture and horticulture has been so varied and broad that his judgment in these matters is deferred to, and accepted by his neighbors as being correct, and those who follow his advice seldom fail to attain the end desired. With his wife and his most estimable daughter, Melinda N., he occupies and fills to perfection a high place in the social circles of the county. There is no social circle that is considered complete without the presence of some member of this family. They are so hospitable in their own home that a stranger visiting them is made to feel that the home is his and the family are the visitors. They have the welfare and interests of the neighborhood so close at heart that there is no religious, social, educational or political matter undertaken but what some one or more of the family takes an active and important part.

Mr. Eveland is ever ready to engage in the discussion of any question which may interest the people, and it is an hour well spent to listen to him recall the many incidents and anecdotes and thrilling experiences which came to the early pioneers of the State, and he has a large fund of such to draw upon and all are based upon facts. He recalls the time when he played base ball with Gov. Butler, Mr. Gillespie and others, afterward leading citizens of the State, one day in Lincoln, where they were attending a sale of town lots. He is

gifted with a constitution of iron; it is simply wonderful to those who know him, how he has been able to accumulate so large a fortune, and discharge such a vast amount of labor, both physical and mental, as was necessary to attain the position he now holds. He is in truth and in fact a self-made man. Other men of less energy and determination would have given up in despair after having met with such an accident as crippled him for life; but our subject, however, improved the time that others would have lost by adding to his storehouse of knowledge.

In looking back over his ancestry we find him descended from the best old Scotch and English stock, seeing no stain upon their names, but to the contrary, possessed of that stern sense of right which we see exemplified in the person of our subject. There is no man of any rank who possesses a brighter and more brilliant army record than our subject. Coming home from the bloody fraternal war when only nineteen years of age, having served his country faithfully and well, passing unflinchingly through many terrible engagements, and encountering the many dangers which are incidental to a soldier's life, we find him settling down, enjoying the peace and quietude which he has so richly earned. In viewing the character of the man we do not lose sight of the brave woman who has stood unswervingly by his side and lent him strength by her presence and counsels. Coming to the West, away from home and friends, settling down on a homestead with no near neighbors, and with but very few of the necessaries of life and none of the comforts, seconding her husband's efforts in every possible direction, she deserves the full complement of praise; sharing with him every struggle, bearing more than her share of every burden, and directing and guiding her children in the ways of uprightness and virtue, she has proved to be a helpmate to her husband in every sense of the word, and has richly earned the years of rest and content which she is now able to enjoy.

Our subject has served the people in various public capacities, all with honor and credit to himself and benefit to his constituents. He helped organize the school at Bushberry, District No. 44. He is now a member of the South Calahan District No. 89; he has served as school officer in various districts for the last seventeen years, was Assessor for two terms, and has been Justice of the Peace. He has repeatedly been a delegate to the different County, State and Congressional Conventions of the Republican party, and as a delegate voted for the nomination of Govs. Dawes and Thayer. He is a prominent member of Kenesaw Post No. 128, G. A. R., at Elmwood, where he has served as Chaplain since the date of its organization. Both himself and wife are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Calahan Corners; he is a charter member of the society, has served on the Building Committee, and is Trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Wabash.

PETER VOLK. Among the well-regulated farms of Eight Mile Grove Precinct that of the subject of this biography is particularly noticeable, as having been subjected to that careful cultivation which has made the land valuable and productive. It is embellished with neat and substantial buildings, the fields are enclosed with good fences, the live stock and machinery are creditable to the proprietor, and the whole premises, with its appurtenances, forms a lasting monument to the industry and perseverance of Mr. Volk, aided by his estimable wife. This lady has in her sphere probably performed her part as effectually as has her husband. The farm lies on section 28, and has about it the air of comfort and plenty which is pleasing to contemplate.

A native of Tazewell County, Ill., Mr. Volk was born Feb. 26, 1847, and lived there until reaching manhood. His parents, Nicholas and Maggie (Urich) Volk, were born in Germany, where the father lived until a man of twenty-five years. He then emigrated to America, and was afterward married. The mother was a child of two years when she was brought by her parents to the United States, they settling in Tazewell County, Ill., where she formed the acquaintance of and married Nicholas Volk.

To the parents of our subject there were born

thirteen children, of whom the following survive, namely: Peter; Mary, the wife of Charles Hennings; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Tritsch; Jacob, all residents of this county; Eve, Mrs. Martin L. Freidrich, of this precinct; Bals, in this precinct; Nicholas, of this county; Lizzie, John, George and Philip, in Tazewell County, Ill. Caroline died when about twenty-three years old. The parents still continue residents of the Prairie State, and are well advanced in years. They settled in Tazewell County during its pioneer days, where the father battled with the elements of a new soil and built up a good homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Volk in their declining years are surrounded by all the comforts of life. Mr. Volk is the owner of a valuable farm, and has been quite prominent in the affairs of his township. He is numbered among the solid men of Tazewell County.

The subject of this sketch received a limited education, not having the advantages of many of the young men of to-day. He, however, has been one who has kept his eyes open to what was going on around him, and, by his natural sagacity and industry, has accomplished what perhaps a college education would not have enabled him to do. He left his boyhood home in the spring of 1872, coming to this county, where he sojourned two years, and employed himself as a farm laborer. In the meantime he purchased 160 acres of land, for the consideration of $16 per acre, and which now forms his homestead. In 1874 he returned to Illinois, remaining there about a year, then came back to Nebraska, and here has since been content to remain.

Mr. Volk settled upon his present land when it could by no means be called a farm, as there were no fences or buildings, in fact there had been no attempt whatever at its improvement or cultivation. He thus began at first principles in the construction of his homestead, and has been amply rewarded for his labors. He battled with the usual difficulties of pioneer life in Nebraska, and occupies a position in the front ranks of the successful men around him. After deciding to become a resident of this county he was married, Jan. 1, 1873, in Cass County, to Miss Elizabeth Nolting. They commenced the journey of life together on the new farm in a manner corresponding with their means and station, and labored hand in hand to rear their children, and provide for them the necessities of life, and as much beyond as they could. The household circle in due time included three daughters and four sons, six of whom are living. The eldest, Maggie, was born Nov. 25, 1873; Bals, May 9, 1875; George, Feb. 12, 1876; Henry, Nov. 12, 1877; Lizzie, born Aug. 9, 1882, and died Sept. 9, 1883; Edwin was born Oct. 29, 1884, and Mary July 4, 1887.

The wife of our subject was born in Jefferson County, Wis., Feb. 16, 1852, and was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Nolting, who were natives of Germany. They emigrated to America in 1852, and settled at once in Jefferson County, Wis. The father carried on farming, and died about 1882, in Cass County. The mother passed away in 1855, in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Volk were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, and have been members of this body a number of years. Mr. V., politically, affiliates with the Democratic party. He is a man in whom his neighbors have confidence, and is serving his second year as Road Supervisor of District No. 12.

Mrs. Volk was one of the two children of her father's first marriage. Her sister Rachel is the wife of Leonard Bourne, of Cass County. Mr. Nolting by his second marriage became the father of several children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Minnie, is the wife of Adam Kaffenber, of this precinct; Henry Yasper is farming in this county; Bertha, August and Frederick live at home with their mother. Mr. Nolting came to this county about 1866, while Nebraska was a Territory, and settled among the pioneers of Plattsmouth Precinct, where he died in 1882.

LEWIS H. YOUNG, an energetic and thriving farmer, and one of the pioneers of Cass County, residing on section 24 of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, was born Dec. 24, 1852, in Smith County, Va.; in the spring of 1867, in company with his parents, he came to Cass County, Neb. From his early boyhood our subject has been

reared on a farm, amid the scenes of pioneer life, and has observed this country develop from a raw, wild and primitive condition, into the splendid garden of the West that it now is. Valuable farms have grown as if by magic, school-houses and churches thickly dotting the country as an evidence of the advance of civilization, and it is a matter of pride with him that he has taken no unimportant part in producing this magnificent change.

Having assisted his father in his pioneer labors in Ohio, as well as in Nebraska, he has a full conception of the life of a pioneer. He was married to Sarah Shryder April 9, 1873. This lady was born in Peoria County, Ill., Dec. 9, 1854. She is the daughter of George F. and Margaret (Parr) Shryder. Her father was a native of New York State. Her parents came to Nebraska, bringing her with them, in 1856, settling here among the very first families that made this State their home. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are living: Sarah, the wife of our subject; Ida, the wife of R. A. Young; and George L. Both parents are members of the United Presbyterian Church, are widely and favorably known, and enjoy the esteem and confidence of all their neighbors.

Our subject is the son of Lewis M. and Levniah Young. The father is a native of Virginia, and of Scotch descent. The mother died March 18, 1873, leaving behind a wealth of love and affection, and many friends who sincerely mourned their loss. The father is now living at an advanced age in Keya Paha County, Neb., where he went in 1885. A family of seven children was born to the parents of our subject, six of whom are living: Mary, the wife of Asher Tanner; George W.; Robert A. resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Lewis H.; Sophia, the wife of G. W. Carroll, resides in Keya Paha County; Julia A., the wife of Charles Troop, residing in Rock Bluff Precinct; Vicey J. is deceased. There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Young two children: Johnnie was born March 26, 1874; and Christmas C. was born Dec. 25, 1876. They are very bright and intelligent children.

Mr. Young owns a splendid farm of 160 acres of land, having made all the many valuable improvements thereon himself, and when he looks over his broad and well-tilled acres it is with the consciousness that their present condition is the direct result of his energy and application. His dwelling is neatly furnished, and his good wife is supplied with all the labor-saving appliances that will in any way lessen her household cares. The accommodations that he has provided for the protection of his stock, and the care of the crops raised, are conveniently arranged and sufficiently extensive to meet his present requirements.

In politics our subject is an earnest worker in the ranks of the Republican party. He has never held any office of public trust, feeling that he was better content to pursue the even tenor of his way in improving his farm and home, feeling also that the remuneration received would fall far short of compensating him for the vexations and cares incident to the public service.

MATHIAS A. JOHNSON, deceased, was numbered among the shrewd, practical men of Cass County, who have been important factors in developing its great agricultural resources, and in his death it lost an honored and useful citizen. He was a member of the farming community of Liberty Precinct, and he had a good farm there, with many substantial improvements. The widow of our subject and her sons, Walter A., Rudolph, Antone and Julius A., occupy the homestead, and are among the most highly respected residents of this community.

Mr. Johnson was a native of Germany, his birth occurring Dec. 24, 1834. He came of respectable and honest German parents, from whom he inherited good traits of character, and he was given the benefits of a sound education in both German and English branches, acquiring a knowledge of the latter after coming to this country. When he was sixteen years old he came to the United States. His parents died in the Fatherland.

Mr. Johnson's first seven years in this country were spent in Iowa, and from there, in company with three others, with teams, he crossed the plains to California some time in the fifties. He spent four years in the Golden State, prospecting for gold in

the mining region with fair results. He was finally taken severely ill with a fever, and was obliged to leave the Pacific Coast. He went to New York by way of the water and isthmus route, and there embarked on the Atlantic for his old home in Germany. He spent some time amid the familiar scenes of his youth in order to recuperate, and with renewed health once more crossed the ocean to his adopted country. He located in Jackson County, Iowa, and some years later removed to Fremont County, in the same State, and there, when he was thirty-two years old, was married in Plum Hollow, Nov. 7, 1867, to Mrs. Amanda Surber, *nee* Wollf. She was born in Johnson County, Ind., July 4, 1843, to Peter and Rhoda A. (Kelly) Wollf. Her parents died about the year 1850 in Illinois, near St. Louis, Mo., they having gone to Western Illinois two years before, from Indiana. The father was a farmer by occupation, and a good, honest, hard-working man, and he and his wife were in the prime of life when death terminated their mortal existence. Mrs. Johnson of this notice was the youngest but one of the family, and she was very young when her parents moved to Western Illinois, and was but seven years old when she was bereaved of their care. Two years later the little orphan was taken by a family of the name of McDonald, in Missouri, and reared by them to womanhood. She afterward went to Tabor, Mills Co., Iowa, and later still to Nebraska City, Neb. There her first marriage took place Dec. 18, 1864, John Surber becoming her husband. He was a native of Switzerland, and came to the United States when sixteen years of age. He made his home in Indianapolis, Ind., for four years, and was there engaged as an engineer in a foundry. He lost his health, however, and finally after marriage located in Fremont County, Iowa, where he was extensively engaged in the sawmill business until his death, nearly two years after marriage. To him and his wife had been born one daughter, Rachel, who was a bright, interesting child, and her death at the age of fourteen was a severe blow to her mother.

After Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were married they settled in Fremont County, and he was engaged in running a sawmill there until he came to Nebraska with his family, and located on 160 acres of land on section 33, Liberty Precinct, which he had taken up as a pre-emption claim before he went to California. He labored hard to improve his land, and during the ten years that preceded his death he had wrought a great change in the tract of wild prairie on which he settled, had it under good tillage, and otherwise well improved. His death occurred here Feb. 3, 1877, while yet in the prime of life, and many sincerely mourned his death with his bereaved family. To him and his wife four sons had been born. Mr. Johnson was a man of high manly character, with a warm heart and kindly nature. His neighbors placed implicit confidence in his word, and none knew him but to trust him. He was a devout Lutheran in his religious belief, and in his political faith a stanch Republican, and his sons are also supporters of that party.

ALFRED S. COOLEY, one of the leading farmers and stock-buyers of Tipton Precinct, was born in Johnsonville, Trumbull Co., Ohio, June 7, 1846, where he lived with his father on the home farm until he was eleven years of age, when the family removed to Wisconsin, where he continued on the farm with his parents, and went to school. When he was twenty-one years old he began the operation of his father's farm on his own account. He continued there, working his father's place, until 1872, when he started for the West. He first located in Ringgold County, Iowa, where he bought 120 acres of land, which he cultivated for seven months. He did not like the location, so he sold out in the fall of 1872, and came overland with teams to Nebraska, crossing the Missouri River at Nebraska City, and, coming to Tipton Precinct, he located on his present place, where he homesteaded eighty acres, and purchased eighty acres more, for which he paid $1,000, which gave him a tract of 160 acres of choice, eligibly located farm land.

Having secured his land, our subject set to work with a will to improve it by building a sod house, in which he and his family lived the first winter. During this time he suffered intensely with the ague; his wife taught school until spring. The next

spring he hauled lumber from Lincoln, and built a comfortable house. The loss of the crops in 1874–75, on account of the grasshoppers, compelled him to mortgage his farm. After the years named above he was exceedingly prosperous in his farming operations. Recognizing the advantages and future value of the land, he set about increasing his possessions. In 1879 he bought 160 acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, for which he paid $5.50 per acre; in 1882 he bought 160 acres more, for which he paid $12 per acre, both tracts on section 9. Abundant water is supplied to his farm by Camp Creek, and a good quantity of native timber is growing on his various tracts. The property is enclosed and cross fenced by substantial wire and hedge fences.

Mr. Cooley is one of the most extensive buyers and shippers of stock in the county, buying cattle, hogs, horses and sheep, which he ships to the general markets at Lincoln and Omaha. He makes a specialty of raising hogs and horses, raising and shipping four or five cars of hogs each season. His horses are graded Normans; he has twenty-four head in all, and they certainly reflect great credit on their owner, evidencing the great care and skill and thorough knowledge of the business possessed by him. The barns provided for the care and protection of his stock are exceedingly comfortable, and conveniently arranged for the proper care of the different classes of animals for which they were designed. Water is supplied in the barnyard by a system of piping from a water tank, which is filled by pumps operated by a large windmill.

The subject of this sketch is one of the youngest of a family of eight children. His sisters Mary J. and Rhoda L., and his brothers, Franklin B., Roswell D. and Richard S., being older, and his brothers Timothy M. and Edward L. being younger. His brother Richard S. served during the late war in the 6th Ohio Cavalry, enlisting when only nineteen years old. His regiment was with the Army of the Cumberland, and accompanied Gen. Sherman in his famous march to the sea. In different engagements in which he participated he had two horses shot from under him. While out on a scouting expedition from Sherman's army he was taken prisoner by the rebels and sent to Libby Prison, thence to Belle Isle, from which latter place he was exchanged and restored to the service with his regiment. He was honorably discharged in Washington in 1865.

Our subject was married to Miss Rosalie M. Smith, the daughter of Franklin and Mary E. (Parker) Smith. This lady was born in Stafford Hollow Township, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 31, 1847. When she was nine years old her mother died, after which she made her home with an aunt. When she was eleven years of age she removed with the other members of her family to Forreston, Ogle Co., Ill. From there they removed to Platteville, Wis., where she attended the Normal School for three years. After completing her course in this institution she taught school for six years. She is one of a family of nine children. Her brothers, Franklin D., William S. and Andrew J., and her sisters, Anna L. and Abbie A., being older; and her sisters, Ruth H., Ella A. and Mary E., are younger. The latter two are deceased. Her brothers Frank and Andrew were in the late Civil War. Frank served as Second Lieutenant, and Andrew as First Orderly Sergeant. Both served through the war, and were honorably discharged at its close.

The lady's father was a farmer in Connecticut. He removed with his family to Onondaga County, N. Y., where he cultivated a farm, and also built a sawmill, and operated the same for many years. He is at present living in Port Byron, N. Y., now over eighty years of age. Her mother died in 1855, aged forty years. Her grandfather Parker was a lumberman and farmer in Vermont, where her mother was born. He removed with his family to New York State, and there his decease occurred. Her grandfather, Ira Smith, was a soldier during the Indian War, moved to Onondaga County, N. Y., and from there to near Charlotte, Mich.

The father of our subject was Sherman Cooley, a native of Connecticut, where he was born in 1806, near Granby, Hartford County. He farmed there until 1832, when he removed to Ohio, and located on a farm in Trumbull County, being one of the first to settle in that county. The mother, Diana Day, is still living, in Lima, Grant County, at an advanced age. She was born in Vermont, in the year 1811, and is an active member of the

Christian Church. Grandfather Cooley was a native of Connecticut. After his marriage in that State he removed, in 1832, to Ohio, locating in Trumbull County, in that State. He was one of the earliest settlers in that part of the State, where he bought 160 acres of Government land in the midst of a heavy forest, which he cleared up. He was Justice of the Peace for a number of years; as a civil engineer he acted as County Surveyor, but paid most of his attention to his farm. In 1856 he sold the farm and went to LaFayette County, Wis., where he bought wild land, improved it, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Here again he was elected Justice of the Peace and Town Clerk, also a member of the Board of Supervisors. He bought 100 acres of land in Grant County, Wis., to which he removed in 1880, and where he lived until his death, which occurred Feb. 20, 1888. He could trace his ancestry back to the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. Grandfather Giles Day, a native of Vermont, was a blacksmith by trade, and could trace his ancestry back to the Puritans of Plymouth Rock.

A family of seven children has been born to our subject and his estimable wife, who were named respectively: Sherman, Harold O., Archie B., Ferris F., Ora A., Florence P. and Hazel, all at home with their parents; two are dead. The gentleman whose name heads this sketch is known throughout the country as a man having an unlimited amount of push and energy. Such is his reputation in this district, that, whenever any work is to be accomplished requiring an extra amount of vim, he is the one called upon to take charge of it, and success generally crowns his efforts. If a question of vital importance is to be voted upon at any election, he is indefatigable in his efforts to secure the attendance of a sufficient number of voters to carry the measure in question. He carries the same amount of energy into his everyday life, and during the busy season his farm presents a lively appearance, everyone employed receiving inspiration from its proprietor. In politics he is a strong and aggressive Republican. During his busy life he has found time to serve his neighbors in various official capacities; has held the office of Postmaster at Eagle for six years; District Treasurer, Constable, was a member of the Republican County Central Committee, and has been a delegate to the various State and County Conventions. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and I. O. G. T., and was an active member of the Grange. He is a strict and conscientious member of the Episcopal Church. He is Past Commander of the Knights of Pythias.

JACOB FORSYTH, an honored and respected citizen of Tipton Precinct, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, April 25, 1836, where he lived with his parents until he was fifteen years of age, working on the farm with his father and attending the common schools of the neighborhood. In 1851 he went with his father to Scott County, Iowa, where he lived with the latter until reaching the age of twenty-six years. Aug. 25, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, 20th Iowa Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Clinton, Iowa.

The regiment of which our subject was a member went southward into Missouri and took part in the battle of Prairie Grove. In June, 1863, they were sent to Vicksburg, where they remained until the final surrender of that city, taking an active part in many battles and skirmishes about that place. After the surrender the regiment was sent down the river to New Orleans; from there they went into Texas, taking an active part in the engagement at Brownsville. After being in Texas one year they were ordered northward, were present at the siege and capture of Ft. Morgan, in Alabama, then north into Arkansas, where they went into winter quarters; the following spring they were sent by water to Pensacola, Fla. From there they were ordered to Mobile, Ala., where they took part in the storming and capture of Ft. Blakesley. Our subject passed through the war unscathed by wounds, but he was sick for two months and a half in the hospital. During his term of service he was granted but one furlough to visit home. After serving his time, till the close of the war, he was mustered out of the service and honorably discharged at Clinton, Iowa, Aug. 24, 1865.

For three years after his return home Mr.

Forsyth engaged in breaking prairie and threshing grain. He then began farming on rented land in Scott County, which he followed for three years more. In the spring of 1874 he came to Nebraska overland with teams, crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, coming into Tipton, where he rented land for the following five years. During this time he had bought eighty acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, and in the autumn of 1880 he removed to it, and immediately proceeded to improve it, building a house, barn, setting out a grove of five acres, an orchard of thirty trees, and a large number of cedars. The entire farm is well fenced by substantial wire fences.

From the time he moved to this farm our subject has devoted his time and attention exclusively to its cultivation and improvement, raising corn and hogs, and he has been eminently successful. In the spring of 1888 he erected a new residence as large as any in the precinct, conveniently arranged for the comfort of his family. He uses five head of graded horses in the operation of his farm.

Our subject was married in LeClaire, Scott Co., Iowa, Nov. 25, 1870, to Miss Ellen F. Stopher. This lady possessed a most estimable character, and was highly honored by all who knew her. Her death, which occurred but recently, May 7, 1888, was a sad affliction to her husband, who was devoted to her. He feels her loss greatly, and the blow was especially heavy, coming at the time when they had everything gathered around them to be comfortable and enjoy life, which result was due in a great measure to her earnest and devoted assistance. She was born in Scott County, Iowa.

The subject of this sketch was the second eldest in a family of seven children; his brother Jasiel was older; and his brothers William, John, Luther, Jasper and Jesse, were younger. John served four years in the 13th Iowa Infantry, during the late war; Jasper served three years in the same regiment; Luther served in the 21st Iowa for three years, and William served one year on detail in Davenport, Iowa. All the brothers were honorably discharged.

The father of our subject was John Forsyth, a native of Virginia. He settled with his parents in Muskingum County, Ohio, when a boy. He bought Government land in that county and cleared a farm on which he lived until 1851, when he removed to Scott County, Iowa, where he remained one year. He then removed to Clinton County, where he bought 400 acres of land, and remained there one year; then moved into Princeton, Scott County, where he built a sawmill on the banks of the Mississippi River. In this venture he was very successful. He sold his mill and bought eighty acres of land near Princeton, which he rented. He lived in the town of Princeton until his death, which occurred in February, 1885, aged seventy years. His wife, the mother of our subject, died in 1881. Both parents were of English descent, and were consistent members of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Forsyth is a member of Kenesaw Post No. 103, G. A. R. In politics he is a thorough-going Republican, taking a lively and active interest in the councils of that party. He is a man of considerable prominence in the community in which he lives, and has the esteem and good opinion of all who know him; kind, generous and open-hearted, he has a welcome for each and every one. He is always glad and happy to meet an old army comrade, and live over again the scenes and incidents of a soldier's life.

DANIEL W. FOSTER represents both the industrial and farming interests of Liberty, and he is a man of prominence in this precinct. He is a very skillful mechanic, and also a practical agriculturist, owning a farm of which eighty acres are on section 26, this precinct, and eighty acres in Otoe County. It is well watered, is provided with substantial improvements, and has every facility for conducting farming. On the home farm is a fine bearing orchard of 270 choice fruit trees, the place is well stocked, and our subject has some fine horses. He is prominently identified with the Wyoming & Liberty Stock Company, having been officially connected with it as Secretary. The head of the horses of high grade owned by the company is "British Lion." He is a

magnificent imported animal, dark bay in color, weighing 1,820 pounds, and five years of age.

Our subject was born in Washington County, Ill., in the town of Beaucoup, Jan. 11, 1834. He was the third son born to Andrew and Nancy Jenning (*nee* Cox) Foster, the father of Irish-Protestant stock, and the mother of English descent. They both died in Washington County, Ill., when scarcely past the prime of life, the father at the age of forty-five, and the mother at the age of forty-three. The former was a native of Campbell County, Ky., and received a liberal education in Cincinnati, Ohio. Through some misfortune he was crippled in his lower limbs, and chose the sedentary life of teacher, for which he was well fitted, being a man of more than ordinary intelligence and information. He made that profession his business the most of his life until his premature death, going to Washington County for that purpose, and he had a varied experience in his capacity as schoolmaster.

Our subject was a resident of Ohio from 1853 until 1868. He took a mercantile course at Smith's College, Cincinnati, and also at the school at Granville, Ohio. He completed his education in Fayette County, and learning his trade there of carpenter, followed it for some time in that county. July 20, 1861, our subject threw aside his personal interests to enlist with the brave boys in blue to assist in the defense of the stars and stripes, enlisting in Pickaway County, Ohio, as a member of Company A, 27th Ohio Infantry, and serving in the capacity of mechanic for awhile. He took part in several engagements, was at Corinth and Atlanta, and at the latter place was taken from his duties as mechanic and appointed on special duty as one of the signal service, and by his steadfast devotion to his work won the encomiums of his superiors. He was raised to the rank of Corporal, and Aug. 17, 1864, after more than three years of hard service, was honorably discharged. He made his way back to Pickaway County, Ohio, and was there married to Letisha McKinley, a native of the North of Ireland. She was born Aug. 3, 1842, and when young came to the United States with her parents, Edward and Ann (Riddle) McKinley. They settled in Pickaway County, Ohio, and there the father died at the age of sixty-eight, and the mother in her eighty-first year. Mrs. Foster was only two years old when her parents brought her to this country, and she was reared in Ohio, knowing no other home until her marriage. Her parents were very worthy of esteem and respect, and were Protestants in religion. Of the seven children born to our subject and his wife, four are dead—Andrew W., Alma, an infant and Fred. Those living are: Nettie, a graduate of the Lincoln High School, and Mary and Reuben, all at home.

After marriage Mr. Foster settled in Fayette County, Ohio. Four years later we find him in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he was engaged as a contractor for two years. Then Kansas claimed him as a citizen, and his next point of settlement was Bismarck, Dak., of which he was the first Justice of the Peace, being one of the earliest settlers. He lived there one year, and then came to Cass County and took up his residence on his present farm, and has ever since been a valued citizen of this community. He owns other valuable property in the county besides his farm, and has recently erected in the village of Union a pleasantly located business house of commodious dimensions. Mr. Foster is a man of high moral character, honest, straightforward and incorruptible, and wields an undoubted influence for good in his community. He is an earnest supporter of the Prohibition party in politics, and leads a temperate life in accordance with the principles that he professes.

JOHN CLEMENTS. This thorough-going and public-spirited gentleman, now a resident of Elmwood, was born in Somersetshire, England, Oct. 26, 1838, coming to this country with his parents when only three years of age, after a long and tedious voyage of six weeks by sailing-vessel from Bristol landing in New York City. The family finally settled in Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N. Y., where our subject lived with his parents until he attained his majority. Having a strong desire to secure a foothold for himself, he bought a farm of 120 acres of improved land in that county, and devoted his entire time and attention to the cultivation of his farm and raising

stock for five years, when he sold out and removed to Skaneateles in the same county, where he bought a house and lot. He remained there a couple of years, engaging in the tobacco trade. In 1868 he sold out and removed to Nebraska, coming by rail to Nebraska City, thence by team to Stove Creek Precinct, where he settled on a homestead on section 34, taking up eighty acres of raw land. He broke this prairie with three yoke of oxen, planting a grove of ten acres, and an orchard of 200 fine trees, set out by himself. He lived on this farm for five years, then proved up and moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he engaged in the grocery and dry-goods business, in partnership with his brother. They carried on the business for two years, losing money on account of the grasshopper plague, there being no crops, and consequently no money coming into the country.

The appointment of head janitor in the Peru Normal School was given Mr. Clements in 1875, which necessitated the removal of his family to that place. He held this position for five years. In 1880 he determined to try farming again, having in the interim bought an addition of 160 acres, making a tract of 240 acres for cultivation.

Once more on his farm Mr. Clements devoted his attention to general farming and the raising of hogs and cattle. In this he was very successful, and carried it on until 1886. During the two years prior to 1886 he served as County Commissioner, which occupied about one-half his time, consequently he simply superintended the operations on the farm. He served as County Commissioner, the highest and most responsible office in the county, until January, 1887. In 1886 he moved into Elmwood, where he bought eighty acres adjoining, forty of which he laid out as an addition to that town. In August, 1886, the railroad was built through the town, which gave the real-estate business in which our subject was greatly interested a great impetus. He has built three large store buildings on D street, besides the large building occupied by the firm of which he is the senior member, devoted to the furniture and implement trade, which he began in 1887 under the firm name of Clements & Elliott, which firm was dissolved in June, 1887, he then taking his son into partnership, under the firm name of Clements & Son. He is at present engaged in the purchase and sale of real estate, and has large interests in Lincoln, the capital city. He still owns the old home farm, but rents it. After the sale of the first addition he platted and sold the other forty acres adjoining Elmwood.

The father of our subject was George Clements, born in Somersetshire, England; his mother was Harriet Richards, also born in Somersetshire. His father was a farmer, and came to America in 1842, settling in Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N. Y., where he bought 400 acres of improved land, which he operated until the fall of 1864, when he moved into Marcellus, where he lived until 1888. He and his wife are now living with one of his sons on the old homestead, and have reached the advanced age of eighty years. Both are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our subject is one of a family of six children: Infant brothers, Thomas and Charles, are deceased; and Thomas, the second, lives in New York State; I. N. and Ephurem G., in Lincoln, are younger. Isaac N. and E. G. served in the 122d New York Infantry during the late war. The scene of their service was laid in the Peninsula, participating in the battles of Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Antietam. E. G. was honorably discharged at Alexandria, Va., on account of physical disability. I. N. served as hospital steward, was shot through his ankle during the battle of the Wilderness, was taken prisioner by the rebels, who amputated his leg and sent him to Libby Prison, where he remained six months a prisoner of war, when he was paroled and exchanged. Upon reaching Annapolis, Md., he was honorably discharged. He is at present Principal of the seminary at Cazenovia, N. Y.

Mr. Clements was married in Marcellus, N. Y., March 12, 1857, to Miss Sarah J. Barnett, the daughter of William and Maria Barnett. She was born in Marcellus, N. Y. Five children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely: Hattie; Sanford and Samuel, twins, deceased; Byron I. and Albert are living. Byron I. married Miss Minnie Bailey, and is the junior partner of the firm of Clements & Son. Albert is at home with his parents.

The beautiful home of Mr. Clements is situated

on the corner of F and Second streets. The house is 32x48 feet, the finest in the town; water is supplied throughout by a system of pipes from a large reservoir tank which is filled by the operation of a large windmill, and otherwise arranged in the interior with every appliance to add to the comfort and well-being of the inmates. The lawn is nicely arranged, and taking the home both inside and out, is the most beautiful place in Cass County, and does great credit to the liberality and enterprise of the owner. But few homes in our cities are better adapted to the giving of pleasure and comfort than that of our subject.

The citizens of Elmwood are indebted as much if not more to this gentleman than to any other for the prosperity of their town. It is owing mainly to his efforts and zeal that the Missouri Pacific Railroad was built through the town. After the two surveys had been made, neither of them going through the town, our subject, with Dr. Hobbs, C. D. Clapp, C. Alton and John Hart, formed a corporation between themselves, and after corresponding with and interviewing the Superintendent of the road, and by raising $1,200 in cash, and giving the right of way and one-half of 160 acres of the town site, they induced the company to abandon the proposed route and lay the road through Elmwood. The $1,200 was raised by subscription; the eighty acres of land donated the road was given by the five men mentioned, Mr. Clements giving one-fourth, or twenty acres of the amount. The road was completed in 1886.

In all matters pertaining to the welfare of the people among whom he lives Mr. Clements has taken and occupied a foremost position, being always on the alert to secure for himself and neighbors all and every advantage that could possibly be secured by energy and push. He has received and deserved at the hands of his fellow-citizens the most complete confidence and regard, being placed by them in many positions of trust, serving for three years as County Commissioner, which is the highest and most responsible local office within the gift of the people of the county. He is at present Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, a member of the Board of Trustees of Elmwood, and a member of the A. F. & A. M., of Plattsmouth. He is Past Chancellor of the K. of P., of Elmwood, and a valued member of the A. O. U. W., of that place. Both himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He donated the site for and contributed largely to the building of the church edifice. Always generous, large-hearted and genial, he is the ideal citizen of the West.

In politics Mr. Clements is a strong Republican, a delegate to the State and County Conventions of that party time after time, a conscientious and conservative member of both the Grand and Petit Juries. He can rejoice in the fact of every duty well and faithfully performed.

WILLIAM HEROLD is the oldest merchant in Plattsmouth, and he has a well-kept establishment, with an extensive patronage among the best class of people. He represents both the business and public interests of the city, and is numbered among its most enterprising and substantial citizens.

Our subject was born in Bustadt, Saxe-Weimar, Germany, and his father, Gotleib Herold, was a native of the same place. His grandfather, Frederick Herold, was born and reared in France, and served in the French army under Napoleon. He was with that great leader in the raid on Moscow, and in the subsequent terrible retreat through the winter snows. Mr. Herold proved to be so courageous and efficient a soldier that he was made an officer in the army, and he used often to be sent to Russia to buy horses. He was a great admirer of the great commander under whom he fought, and he used to tell his children many anecdotes concerning him, and also concerning the campaigns in which he himself took part. After his retirement from the army he opened a hotel one mile from the county seat of Saxe-Weimar, and was for many years profitably engaged as "mine host." He spent his declining years with the mother of our subject, dying at the ripe old age of eighty-four years.

The father of our subject was reared in his native place, attended school in his youth and subsequently learned the trade of butcher. He owned a farm which he managed himself, besides keeping a meat-

market in town. He died while yet a young man, and left a wife and four children, the names of the latter being Adam Bernhard, William, Gustave and Herman. The mother of our subject spent her whole life in her native country. Being left a widow thus early she faithfully performed the duty of rearing her children to honest and useful lives, thus making them good citizens of their adopted country, for they all came to America in after years.

William Herold was eight years of age when his father died. He attended school quite regularly until his sixteenth year, and obtained a sound education. He then bought his time of the Government until he should be of age, and through his uncle purchased his freedom from military service, and then he and his brother Gustave set sail from Hamburg in the fall of 1849 in an American-bound vessel. They encountered high winds in mid-ocean, and the ship was driven from its course, and the provisions becoming scarce, all on board lived on rice and molasses for two weeks. At length, after a perilous voyage of sixty days, they landed in New York. They went directly to LaSalle County, Ill., and our subject found work there with a butcher, receiving $8 a month in payment for his services. At the expiration of a year he left Illinois, crossing the Mississippi to St. Louis, where he worked at the butcher's trade for one year. In 1851 he engaged to go with a man from Illinois to California, to assist him in driving a herd of cattle across the plains and mountains. They started from Independence, Mo., in the spring, and made the journey across the wild prairies of the unorganized territory now comprising Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, etc., to their destination in Marysville, arriving in October. The traveler of the present day can scarcely realize, as he speeds along over the iron rails in luxurious palace cars, that such an undertaking in those days involved many weary days and months of slow traveling across the mountainous plains and the rugged mountain passes, through a country infested by Indians (who were, perhaps, hostile), and wild animals, such as deer, elk, antelopes and buffaloes.

Mr. Herold engaged in butchering in San Francisco for other parties, and remained there a year. We next hear of him in Drytown, Amador County, where he opened a meat-market, which he managed with great profit for two years. He then left California and returned home by the Nicaragua route to New Orleans, and thence up the Mississippi River to Muscatine, Iowa, where he took the stage for Council Bluffs. He then bought two yoke of oxen and pushed on to Omaha, which he found in an embryo state, it having just been platted, and containing only from fifteen to twenty houses. He engaged there in breaking the prairie with his teams, receiving $8 an acre for his work. All the land in Nebraska was then owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 an acre, and Indians still inhabited that section of the country. In the fall of 1855 he came to Plattsmouth, which he found to be an insignificant hamlet, with about fifteen houses, about half of which were log structures, and the remainder small frame buildings. He continued on west of that town and took up a timber claim one mile southwest of the present site of Louisville. After entering his claim he went to Glenwood, Iowa, and opened a general store there. In 1857 he established a branch store at Plattsmouth, and thus became one of the pioneers in the mercantile business in this city. In 1859 he sold out at Glenwood and settled on his land near Louisville, and commenced to improve a farm. In 1862 he came to Plattsmouth to engage in business, opening a general store, which is now the oldest in the city. He has prospered exceedingly, and has built up an extensive and paying trade.

Mr. Herold was married, March 2, 1858, to Miss Elizabeth O'Neil, a native of Hocking County, Ohio, and a daughter of James and Rachel (Aubery) O'Neil, of whom see sketch. Four children have been born of this marriage, namely: James, who married Mary Clark, and is in business in Boston; Emma, who is the wife of Frank Hager, of Plattsmouth; Henry and Dora, who are at home with their parents.

Mr. Herold is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, owing his good fortune solely to the exercise of his own powers. His conduct in life is guided by good principles, and in all of his transactions he is found to be fair and upright. In him the Episcopal Church has a devoted member. As a good citizen he is deeply interested in the welfare

of the city whose growth he has witnessed and promoted, and as one of the Board of Councilmen for two years, has heartily entered into all schemes looking to its advancement. Politically, he is a Democrat, firmly believing that the policy of that party, if carried out, would stimulate the various industries of the United States to an unprecedented activity. Socially, he is identified with the A. F. & A. M., Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, and the I. O. O. F., Plattsmouth Lodge No. 7.

JOHN W. SHANNON, now deceased, was one of the earliest settlers of Plattsmouth, coming to this region when there was little indication of the present wealth and prosperity of this flourishing city. A native of Colborne, Northumberland County, Province of Ontario, Canada, he was born in 1821, where he was reared and received a common-school education. Upon approaching manhood he learned the trade of a tailor, at which he was occupied until 1852, then migrated over into the States, and worked at his trade in New York and Ohio for a period of seven years.

About this time the gold excitement at Pike's Peak attracted thither a large number of men desirous of bettering their condition financially, and Mr. Shannon, joining the caravan setting thitherward, made the journey overland across the plains. He at once entered the mines, and met with very good success. He afterward decided to seek another locality. In the meantime he had made the acquaintance of George Gilpin, who gave him a letter of introduction to Kit Carson, at that time Indian Agent at Taos, New Mexico, whither he repaired. He did not remain long, however, in that region, but returning east as far as the present site of Plattsmouth, concluded to locate here, and here he spent the remainder of his life.

Mr. Shannon is a man of great energy and enterprise, and after concluding to make Plattsmouth his headquarters, gathered together teams and other equipments and commenced freighting across the plains to Denver, and other important military posts in the West. He was thus occupied until in 1864, when, settling down in Plattsmouth, he established in the livery business, and was thus occupied until in 1886. Being now near his threescore years and ten, he decided to retire from active business and accordingly sold out. His death took place Sept. 8, 1888.

On the 2d of February, 1873, Mr. Shannon was united in marriage with Miss Martha J. Erway, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride. Mrs. Shennen was born at Three Rivers, St. Joseph Co., Mich., and is the daughter of Albert H. Erway, a native of Tompkins County, N. Y. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. S. were Charles and Susannah (Corchit) Erway. They settled in St. Joseph County during its pioneer days, and Albert H. remained with his parents until approaching manhood. His business career commenced as a clerk in a store of general merchandise. So great was his application to his duties, his honesty and integrity, that he not only made many friends, but managed his finances wisely that he was enabled to purchase the business of his employer, which he conducted afterward for a period of thirteen years.

In 1852 Mr. Erway started for California, making the journey via the Isthmus, and landing in San Francisco on the 7th of April. He first engaged in mining on Mormon's Island. The winter following, associating himself with a partner, he purchased a stock of goods in San Francisco, and established himself in business at a place called Fiddletown, and remained there until after the destruction of Sacramento by fire. He then engaged in freighting from Stockton to the mines, making his headquarters at the former place.

In 1855 Mr. Erway returned to Michigan, and locating in Cass County, occupied himself there until in 1860. He then crossed the Father of Waters again, locating in Iowa, but a year later sought Nebraska Territory, and for a year thereafter occupied himself as a hotel-keeper. We next find him in the young city of Denver, where, however, he sojourned but a short time, but migrating farther northwest resumed his old business of freighting, transporting goods from Walla Walla to the mines in Idaho.

In 1863 Mr. Erway again sought the Pacific Slope, and began freighting to the mountains.

Later he purchased a ranch sixteen miles below Sacramento, where he lived until 1868; then went to Nevada, and again became interested in freighting, doing an extensive business. Here, however, his usual prosperity seemed to have deserted him, as he finally lost the accumulations of years and was obliged to start anew. His perseverance and resolution, however, brought him out a victor from the struggle, and in the course of eighteen months he had accumulated $3,000. A part of this, in 1876, he invested in a ranch in Esmeralda County, the Mason Valley, where he engaged extensively in stock-raising, built a beautiful home, and there spent his last days. He closed his eyes upon earthly scenes on the 8th of March, 1886.

Mrs. Abigail Jane (Phillips) Erway, the mother of Mrs. Shannon, was born in Kentucky. Of this union there were eight children, namely: Benjamin, James, Amanda, Emma, Mark, Martha, Edward and Charles. Mr. Shannon was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

THOMAS T. YOUNG. Among the many valuable farms which make South Bend Precinct a veritable Garden of Eden, there are none that present to the eye a finer appearance, or are under a higher state of cultivation, than the home farm occupied by the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He owns and operates a farm of 240 acres on section 32, devoting it to general farming and stock-raising. He is a native of Ohio, being born in Pickaway County, June 29, 1844, the youngest child in a family of four, having three sisters older, named Sarah J., Mary E. and Allie A. They are the children of Thomas and Sarah (Cole) Young. The father was born in Pennsylvania, and the mother in Pickaway County, Ohio. The parents lived for many years in the northern part of Ohio, when they removed to Iowa in 1852, where they settled on the land in what is now Mt. Pleasant. The father died at the present home of our subject in 1874, aged seventy-five years. The mother still lives in Greenwood, and is now eighty-two years old.

Our subject was taken to Allen County, Ohio, by his parents, when he was eight years old; he attended the Union Schools while living in that county, and after his parents migrated with their family to Iowa, he took a course in the Iowa Wesleyan University. After leaving this school, he engaged in business in Iowa as a clerk. Not feeling satisfied with the possibilities of his position, and hoping to advance his interests favorably, he went to Colorado in 1864, where he engaged in farming in El Paso County. The results of this venture did not entirely satisfy him, and after five years' experience he came in 1869 to Eight Mile Grove Precinct, this county.

Mr. Young was married to Miss Susie Creamer, a daughter of Cyrus and Sarah Creamer. This lady was born in Indiana, and at the age of three or four years, her parents moved to Bloomington, Ill., where they resided for several years, when they again moved, this time from Illinois to Nebraska, where they finally settled in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. This lady was then about twelve years of age. She resided at home with her parents, taking her part in the various household duties pertaining to their home, attending school, and otherwise preparing herself for a life of usefulness. She has become the mother of eight children, five of whom are living, named: Eva M., Mary E., Frank T., Alice E. and Myra B. Her parents were natives of Indiana.

Since his final settlement on his present farm, Mr. Young has devoted his time and attention to the improvement of his land, and the raising of stock for the general market. The improvements which he has from time to time placed on his farm, are of the most substantial and solid nature, and built with a view of being permanent and lasting. He has good barns which are models of their class; large and roomy, they are admirably arranged for their intended use. His cattle sheds, corn cribs, granaries, and the sheds for the protection of the various farming machinery, are first class in every respect. He feels that successful farming depends largely on taking proper care of the animals and implements on a farm. He is wide-awake, pushing, and well informed in his business, possessing an eminently practical knowledge, derived from experience and observation, of all the details pertaining to farming and stock-raising.

The fine frame residence in which our subject resides occupies a commanding location, and is one of the most tastily built residences in the precinct, is nicely furnished throughout, and contains the latest improvements for reducing the labor of honsekeeping to the smallest possible amount. His wife, who is at the head of his domestic establishment, is a handsome and most excellent lady in all respects. She takes a pardonable pride in the internal arrangements of her home, which is certainly justifiable, for it reflects great credit on her judgment and artistic taste. She is genial and hospitable, which qualities make her a leading spirit in the social life of the locality. Herself and husband are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They carry their religion into their everyday life and live fully up to their conception of what a true Christian should be. Mr. Young has filled acceptably to his neighbors and with credit to himself various public offices, being elected Assessor for two terms, was also from 1871 to 1880 an active member of the School Board. He served on the Grand and Petit Juries of the county, in which latter position he discharged his duties in an impartial manner. In politics Mr. Young is a Republican.

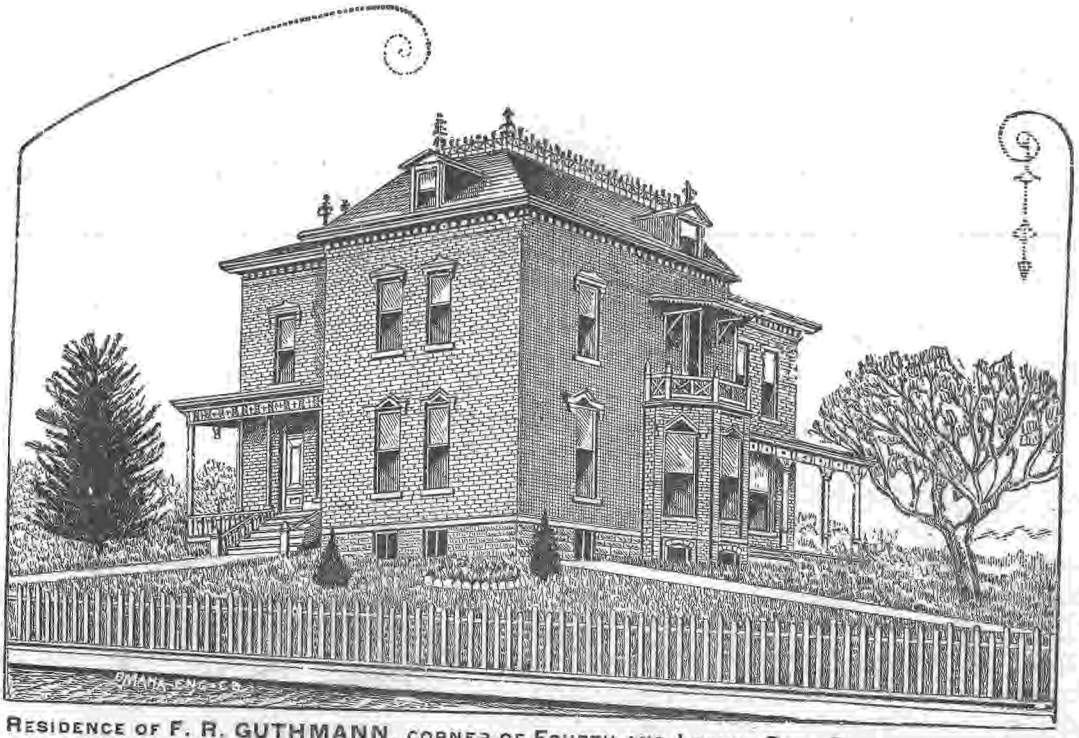
NICOLAS YOUNG has a farm of 200 acres very pleasantly located, partly on Weeping Water Creek, on section 27, Liberty Precinct. It is well watered, well stocked, and well improved, comparing favorably in all respects with the best of the many fine farms in this section of Cass County. Our subject is a representative farmer and citizen of his precinct and county, and is eminently worthy of a place in this biographical work.

He was born in Berlin, Germany, May 3, 1826, and was reared and educated in one of the Rhine Provinces, some fifty miles from that capital. His father, Simon Young, was a laboring man, and worked in a tobacco factory. He married a lady of the same town as himself, and they are both now deceased, he dying at the age of sixty-six and she in the prime of life, when our subject was but six years old. They were both people whose blameless lives and honest, industrious habits gained them the respect of their neighbors. Mr. Young was a Lutheran in his religious belief, and was ever faithful to the tenets of his church. In early manhood Mr. Young, of whom we write, sought the United States of America, this Mecca of so many of his compatriots, after having plied the trade of stonemason in the Fatherland nine years, hoping to secure more profitable wages here in return for his labors. That was in the year 1854, and he made his way to St. Louis, and followed his trade in that city more or less until he came to Nebraska and turned his attention to farming in 1856. He spent the first year after his arrival in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County, and in 1859 came to Cass County. He pre-empted eighty acres of land, and immediately entered upon the labor of improving it, and later he bought the 120 acres where he now resides, and has 200 acres of well-tilled land, provided with buildings and everything needed for successfully prosecuting his work.

July 5, 1860, our subject took one of the most important steps of his life, in his marriage with Miss Maria Schmitz, who has ably assisted him in building up their comfortable home. She was born in Germany, Sept. 17, 1833, and is the daughter of John and Catherine (Bonsen) Schmitz, now both deceased, her father having died at a good old age, and her mother in the prime of life, when her daughter, Mrs. Young, was a child of three years. Mr. Schmitz was a tailor by trade. Mrs. Young was reared and educated in Germany, and was twenty-three years old when she came to the United States and took up her home in Nebraska. She is the mother of nine children, four of whom are dead—John W., Andrew, Henry and Peter. The remaining children are Fred W., Simon, Anna M. and Anna Frances (twins), and Charles E., and all are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Young are Lutherans in their religious belief, and are active in the church. Mr. Young is independent in politics, always exercising his reason in casting his ballot, and voting for those men whom he thinks will best serve the country, without regard to their political affiliations.

Yours Truly
F. R. Guthmann

FRANCIS R. GUTHMANN, a capitalist of Plattsmouth, is numbered among the wealthy and substantial citizens of Cass County. He has now practically retired from business, although he still supervises his extensive interests. He has contributed largely to the upbuilding of the city, and has a great deal of property here, including a handsome residence, the best hotel of the place, and two smaller ones, besides stores and other buildings. Mr. Guthmann was born in the village of Waldhausen, near Buchen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, July 2, 1841. His parents, Francis and Anna Maria (Gramlich) Guthmann, were natives of the same place, as were also their parents. The paternal grandfather of our subject owned a farm there and was a lifelong resident of that place. His father, Francis Guthmann, was reared to agriculture, which he pursued in his native land until his death, Nov. 26, 1875. His wife, Anna Maria, was born in a village near her husband's birthplace, and spent her last years in the home where all of her married life was passed. She died Dec. 11, 1860. There were fourteen children born to her and her husband, and ten of them grew to maturity. Caroline married Peter Rauen; Helen married Valentine Egenberger; Charles, who served in the 3d Missouri Regiment under Gen. Sigel for four years, and afterward settled in Lancaster County, Neb., died at the home of our subject in 1882; Maria L. married Benjamin Hempel; William, who served in the German Army, died in Plattsmouth in 1884; our subject was the next in order of birth; then Maria Catherine, who married J. V. Weckbach, of whom see sketch on another page of this book; John F. M. died in his native village; Fred and Oswald are the youngest members of the family. Seven of these are living in Nebraska, and all in Cass County, with the exception of Fred, who is a resident of Seward County.



RESIDENCE OF F. R. GUTHMANN, CORNER OF FOURTH AND LOCUST STS., PLATTSMOUTH, NEB.

Francis R. received an excellent education in the Fatherland, attending school pretty steadily in his boyhood until he was fourteen years of age. He then assisted his father in the labors of the farm until the month of December, 1856, when he and one of his sisters set sail from London, and landed in New York Feb. 9, 1857. Another brother and

sister had preceded them, and they joined them in Davenport, Iowa, where they had settled. Our subject had come to America with but little means, and he immediately set about procuring work that he might better his financial condition. The first year of his stay in this country he was employed at the saddler's trade. In 1859 he started with a party bound for Pike's Peak in search of gold. Going from Davenport with teams, they traversed the wild prairies of Iowa, and crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, then an insignificant hamlet, they pushed on across the plains through the Territory of Nebraska to near Ft. Kearney, where they were stayed in their course by meeting many weary and disappointed emigrants returning from Pike's Peak with very discouraging reports, so the party concluded to abandon their purpose. Our subject's brother decided to take up a claim in Nebraska, and selected a tract of land in Lancaster County, about ten miles east of the present site of Lincoln, which was then a wild, open prairie, owned by the Government, and for sale at $1.25 an acre. Indians still lingered in that part of the country, and deer, elk and wolves roamed at will over the plains. Our subject was then too young to make a claim to some land, so he returned to civilization. He spent two months in St. Louis, and then went to St. Joseph and worked in a bakery. After thoroughly mastering that trade, he engaged in pantry work in the Pacific House in that city, remaining there until 1863. He then crossed the plains to Denver, and there engaged as pastry cook in the Planters' Hotel, then the leading hotel in Denver. Ten months later, in February, 1864, he left that place, and, with others, started with six wagons for that part of Idaho now included in the Territory of Montana. While traveling in the mountains the party encountered severe storms and nearly perished. In one place they were five days making seven miles, and one night the wolves killed and devoured one of the mules. On the 15th of May the party arrived at Virginia City, and there learned that it had been reported that they had all perished in the mountains. Mr. Guthmann opened a bake shop and boarding-house in that city, but his residence in that part of the country was of short duration, as in the fall of 1864 he came to Plattsmouth to invest his money in city property, and made arrangements to erect a store building. In 1865 he returned to the mountains and established a bakery and boarding-house in Blackfoot City, Deer Lodge Co., Mont., conducting both with good financial success until 1868, when he again came to Plattsmouth. He engaged in the bakery business here, and the following year added pork packing. In 1870 he opened a billard hall, and in 1871 a grocery store, giving his personal attention to these varied enterprises until 1874, all the while carrying on his bakery. He then sold the grocery store, but continued to manage the billard hall until 1881. Since that time he has not been engaged in any actual business, but devotes himself to the supervision of his multiplicity of interests, from which he derives an ample income. Mr. Guthmann is a man of great enterprise; he has a clear head for business, and displays much tact and shrewdness in his various undertakings. He has done much toward building up Plattsmouth, having erected two dwelling-houses and three stores, besides other buildings. The brick house which he occupies with his family is one of the finest in the city, and was erected in 1886. Mr. Guthmann is a stockholder in the Citizens' Bank, also in the Bank of Cass County, and also in the Plattsmouth Canning Factory, of which he is President. He has taken an honorable part in public affairs, having been a member of the City Council. He has always been identified with the Democrats in his political affiliations.

Mr. Guthmann was united in marriage to Anna M. Pankratz, Jan. 10, 1878, and to them have been born four children—Nellie, Charles F. M., Henry A. J. and Minnie T. They have also an adopted daughter, Annie. Mrs. Guthmann was born in Manitowoc County, Wis., Nov. 24, 1860, and is a daughter of Joseph and Katrina (Bruner) Pankratz, natives of Bavaria. They were reared and married in that country, and resided there until 1853. In that year they crossed the water to the United States, and located in Manitowoc County, Wis., being early settlers of that part of the country. Mr. Pankratz bought a tract of timber land, and first erected a round log house to shelter his family, and then commenced to clear a farm from

the wilderness. Later he erected a substantial, two-story, hewed log house, and other necessary farm buildings, and resided there until his death in 1863. His widow is still living on the old homestead. There were eight children in their family, as follows: Anton, who died at the old home in 1888; Mary, who married Joseph Lemberger, is now deceased; Katrina, who married John Steiner, and lives in Manitowoc County, Wis.; Theresa, who married Henry Fetzer, and lives in Lancaster County, Neb.; Frances, who married Fabian Heitzmann, and lives in Gage County, Neb.; Joseph, who lives in Manitowoc County; Mrs. Guthmann; Maggie, who married John Smith, and lives in Manitowoc County, Wis.

The life of Mr. Guthmann has been an active one, full of enterprise and stirring incident, and through all he preserved the cool headedness and good judgment which enabled him to acquire the fortune he is now enjoying. On an adjoining page appears an excellent portrait of this well-known resident.

HON. A. M. ROSE, an honored resident of Union Village, occupies an honorable place among the prominent pioneers of Nebraska, who were its earliest settlers. He settled in Nebraska City before it was surveyed, and at the time there were but very few settlements of whites in the whole Territory, it then being the home of the Indian. Mr. Rose is thoroughly conversant with the early history of this portion of the great West, and converses very interestingly of his experiences here at the time, and of the many pioneer incidents that fell under his notice. It was the custom for settlers coming here then to pay tribute to the Indians for the noble privilege of settling on this side of the Missouri River. This was to prevent thievery by the redskins, as there was then no law to protect the property of the white settlers in Indian Territory, and the sum of money exacted was $10 for the men who had stock and $5 for those who did not.

When Mr. Rose first crossed the Missouri at Nebraska City he found only a few buildings besides the abandoned forts of the Government, and a wild and desolate country surrounding the town, which was then known as Ft. Kearney. It was at about that time that Maj. Gatewood, Indian agent for the Otoes and other Indian tribes on this side of the Missouri River, acting under instructions from the United States Government, ordered the settlers off their lands in this State. This order, however, was never executed, as Maj. Gatewood himself did not favor the idea, and through Maj. Downs succeeded in circulating the report that the settlers would leave, and that seemed to satisfy the authorities at Washington. Maj. Downs, who was one of the original settlers of Nebraska City, and once owned a large part of its present site, had charge of the abandoned forts of the Government at that point. He was one of the most prominent men in the Territory, and he and his wife were particular friends of the natives and exerted great influence over them, understanding their language and customs, and the Indians placed implicit confidence in them and would swear by them. This trust proved of great advantage to Mrs. Downs, as at one time her rights to a claim that her husband had taken were threatened by a quarrelsome man who lived on the Iowa side. But by the aid of her savage allies Mrs. Downs was enabled to hold her own despite his attempts to wrest her land from her. All such incidents in the early history of Nebraska are perfectly familiar to Mr. Rose, as he was acquainted with every man (official or civilian), woman and child for miles around. He carried the chain for Charles Pierce and Dr. Dewey, the gentlemen who made the first survey of the city. In Territorial days our subject took a conspicuous part in the management of public affairs, and in 1855 represented Cass and Otoe Counties in the Second Territorial Legislature that was convened in Nebraska.

In the spring of 1859 Mr. Rose returned to his old home in Trumbull County, Ohio, and remained there six years. On his return to this part of the country a second time he settled on land in Cass County. On his first arrival in Nebraska he entered land that is now occupied by the packing-house. He afterward sold that place, and coming to Liberty Precinct, purchased a farm on the banks of Weeping Water Creek, not far from its mouth.

and here he began to build up an entirely new home from the wild prairie, in which he lived until his recent retirement from active life to a pleasant place in Unionville. He has a good farm of 100 acres, which he has put in a fair state of improvement.

Mr. Rose was born in the township of Bristol, Trumbull Co., Ohio, Jan. 1, 1824, and was there reared and educated. He learned the cooper's trade, but never followed it after he came West. His father, Ira Rose, was a shoemaker by calling, and ran a small farm at the same time He was a native of Connecticut, and came of an old New England family of English extraction. He grew to manhood in the State of his nativity, there learned his trade, and later was married, Julia Maltby, also of Connecticut birth and of similar parentage and descent, becoming his wife. She moved with her husband to Trumbull County, Ohio, when that county and State were almost an unbroken wilderness, and a few years after their advent there she died, leaving four children. Mr. Rose married for his second wife Mrs. Betsy Barnes, *nee* Morley, a native of Massachusetts, coming of a good family. It is thought that she married her first husband in Ohio. To her and Mr. Rose were born five children, of whom our subject was the eldest. She was a woman of exceptionally fine character, and her death, in 1844, was a serious loss to her family. Mr. Rose was married a third time, Laura Preston becoming his wife. They subsequently moved to Geauga County, Ohio, and there Ira Rose died, at the age of nearly fourscore years. He was a man whom to know was to respect, as his every act and deed were governed by right motives, and his integrity was unquestioned.

The Hon. A. M. Rose, of this biographical notice, was married in Bristol Township, Ohio, Oct. 8, 1845, Miss Sobrina Webster becoming his wife, and for over forty years they have traveled life's road together as true and devoted companions. Mrs. Rose was born March 28, 1824, in Chautauqua County, N. Y., her parents being Joseph and Olive (Ackley) Webster, likewise natives of the Empire State. They were reared and married there, the latter event occurring in Chautauqua County, where they began life together as farmers near Dunkirk. In 1834 they removed with their family to Ohio, and settled on a farm in Bristol Township, and there both departed this life, Mr. Webster in 1859, when about seventy-eight years old, and his wife some years before, when less than sixty years of age. She was an active member of the Christian Church, and he of the Methodist. In politics he was a sound Whig. Mrs. Rose was one of the youngest of eight children, all girls, born to her parents, all of whom lived to be married and rear families, and three of them are yet living. Mrs. Rose was reared in her father's home and educated in Ohio, and since marriage has been one of those whole-souled, faithful wives, loving and wise mothers, and of her happy marriage seven children have been born, of whom four died in infancy. Those living are: G. Albert, a store-keeper in Union, who married Elizabeth Dodge; Lalla K., the wife of Charles Barrow, a farmer in Liberty Precinct; and Virgil E., at home, is going to manage his father's farm, as he is now nearly twenty-one years old.

Our subject is a man of acknowledged integrity, of unblemished honor, broad and liberal in his views of life and its many problems, and of more than average vigor of mind. Such a man was an invaluable citizen in pioneer days, and is not less so at the present time. Mrs. Rose is a devoted member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, while Mr. Rose, holding advanced opinions on religious questions, has not identified himself with any church, although contributing liberally to the one in which his wife is interested. He has been an active local politician, and has always voted the Republican ticket.

HON. JAMES M. HIGGINS, a resident of Tipton Precinct, at present (1888) represents his district in the State Senate, and is spoken highly of by his constituents, members of the Democratic party. He was elected to the office in the fall of 1886, and is discharging his duties in a conscientious and intelligent manner. The present Assembly is the twentieth session of the Nebraska Legislature, and there are naturally many interesting questions constantly arising, especially

that pertaining to the relations between capital and labor, in which subject Mr. Higgins is especially interested. He is a man of good sound sense, self-educated, and has had a practical experience in life, which enables him to take a practical view of those interests most nearly affecting the common people.

A native of Franklin County, Ohio, our subject was born near the city of Columbus, then in its infancy, Nov. 22, 1826. His parents were Samuel and Permelia (Patrick) Higgins, the former a native of Prince George County, Md., and the latter born near Petersburg, in Virginia, in 1803. The paternal grandfather, Samuel Higgins, Sr., also a native of Maryland, emigrated to Ohio soon after it had been admitted into the Union as a State, and prior to the War of 1812. He converted a portion of the wilderness into a well-regulated farm, became prominent as a stock-raiser, and there spent the remainder of his days. He was a substatial citizen in all respects.

Grandfather Thomas Patrick was a native of Ireland, and upon emigrating to America settled first in the Old Dominion. Thence he too emigrated to Franklin County, Ohio, and carried on agriculture successfully until resting from his earthly labors. Samuel Higgins, the father of our subject, was a lad twelve years of age when he went with his family to Ohio, and was reared among the pioneer scenes of the Buckeye State. He possessed a large portion of the business talents of his father, speculated considerably in lands, and also operated as a stock-buyer, at the same time carrying on the cultivation of his farm, which he cleared from the wilderness. He was at one period in his life the owner of a fine property, but by an unfortunate venture lost the whole of it. He only lived to be middle aged, dying in 1843, when forty-two years old. He was a man of strong character and decided views, and was regarded as one of the shrewdest business men in Franklin County.

The mother of our subject survived her husband a period of forty-five years. She was a second time married, to Jacob Myers, who died in 1858. After his death she remained a widow until her death, in March, 1888, at the home of our subject, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The parental family included five children, namely: James Madison, our subject; Tabitha A., who died when forty years old; John, a resident of Jefferson County, this State; Sarah and Samuel, who died in infancy. John during the late Civil War served in the Missouri State Militia.

Our subject pursued his first studies in the subscription schools of the Hawkeye State, and at the age of fifteen entered the academy at Columbus, where he spent two years. He made his home at the farm until reaching his majority, and being a bright and observant youth became possessed of a fund of useful information, which paved the way to his future success. At the age of eighteen he officiated as a pedagogue three months, and afterward, going to Columbus, began an apprenticeship at the carpenter trade. He worked at the bench, however, only about eighteen months, then resumed teaching, but later worked as a carpenter during the summer season and taught school in winter for several years thereafter.

In the spring of 1847 Mr. Higgins was given the post of superintendent of repairs and bridge builder of the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad. This occupied his time for three years. In the meantime he put up the first depot in the present flourishing city of Springfield, Ohio, among other structures of note at that time. Later we find him a contractor in connection with the county courthouse, and in the winter of 1850 he taught school in Marion County, Ohio. The spring following he was married, and settled upon a farm in Marion County, pursuing farming and carpentering for the four years following.

In the spring of 1854, determined upon seeing something of the Great West, Mr. Higgins started overland with a team for Iowa, and distinguished himself as one of the first settlers of Clark County. He purchased in the forest 320 acres of Government land, constructed a sawmill on Long Creek, speculated in land, and sojourned there until the outbreak of the war. He watched the course of the struggle a year, and then, seeing no prospect of its termination, proffered his services as a Union soldier in Company B, 18th Iowa Infantry, and was assigned to the Army of the West and operated on the frontier. Later they were ordered

to join Sherman's army at Cairo, Ill., whence they proceeded to St. Louis and from there to Springfield, Mo.

At this point a corps was organized, and they proceeded to do battle with the rebels and guerrillas in that vicinity, during which time Mr. Higgins was assigned to provost duty at Springfield, Mo., for a period of eleven months. In the fall of 1863 he went with his regiment after the rebel General, Price, in the northern part of the State, driving him across the Arkansas River, then proceeded to Ft. Smith, remaining there on post duty until April, 1864.

The regiment of our subject was now assigned to the command of Gen. Thayer, and sent to the vicinity of Camden, Ark. They skirmished thirty days toward Camden, and were nearly starved to death on account of failure of expected forage. About that time was fought the battle of Parsons Springs, when the regiment was nearly cut to pieces, but Mr. Higgins fortunately escaped with a few others to Camden. Thence they were sent back to Ft. Smith, where they remained until the close of the war, being mustered out on the 26th of August, 1865.

Our subject now proceeded homeward as rapidly as steam could take him, and resumed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture and carpentering, combined with stock-raising. He had in the meantime established a sawmill in Clarke County, which he now sold, together with other property, and changed his residence to Page County. In this latter he purchased 160 acres of land, upon which he effected considerable improvement, and rented 400 acres besides, operating thus an area of 560 acres. This employed his time and attention until the spring of 1878.

Mr. Higgins now disposed of his interests in the Hawkeye State and started for Nebraska overland with teams, crossing the Missouri at Nebraska City and made his way to Tipton Precinct, this county, locating shortly afterward on section 11, securing 120 acres of land, which he still owns and occupies. Upon this not a furrow had been turned, and there was no evidence that its soil had ever been pressed by the foot of a white man. After providing a shelter for his family Mr. Higgins began planting fruit and forest trees, and erected, as his means justified, the buildings, one after another, necessary for his comfort and convenience. A noticeable feature in the homestead is the fine grove of 150 maple and cottonwood trees, which retain their living green in winter and summer alike, and serve to make a most pleasant picture in the landscape. A large portion of the farm is enclosed with hedge fencing, and for the last few years Mr. Higgins has given his attention largely to stock-raising, keeping about twelve head of horses and a goodly assortment of cattle and swine. The present residence was completed in the spring of 1878, and is in every respect suitable to the requirements of the modern household.

The marriage of Mr. Higgins with Miss May Stiverson took place in Marion County, Ohio, March 28, 1851. This lady was born in that county, in 1827, and is the youngest of seven children, the offspring of David and Mary (Barnes) Stiverson, who were natives respectively of Kentucky and Ohio. The father was numbered among the well-to-do farmers of the Buckeye State, and with his estimable partner, is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Higgins there were born nine children, the eldest of whom, Byron, is farming in Page County, Iowa; Elon is the wife of David Edwards, a well-to-do farmer of Washington County, Kan.; John, who has inherited a large portion of his father's enterprise, is stock-buyer for the Occidental Provision Company, at Lincoln, this State, where he resides; William M. is residing in Tipton Precinct, this county; Mary J. is the wife of D. Allen, a farmer of Custer County, this State; James M., Jr., is farming in Dundee County, together with his brother Frank; Charles is at home with his parents; Permelia died when three years old.

Mr. Higgins in the spring of 1882 consented to become the candidate of his party for the State Legislature, being on the minority ticket, but was defeated by a small majority. Two years later he again ran on the Democratic ticket, and was elected a member of the Nineteenth General Assembly, serving with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In 1886 he was made a State Senator. Prior to this he had frequently been sent as a delegate to the various conventions of his

party, in which he has been an industrious worker. He is one of the oldest members of the Masonic fraternity in this county, with which he identified himself in 1856 while a resident of Iowa. He also is a member of the R. A. M., and of the G. A. R., at Elmwood. Religiously, he is an adherent of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Higgins entered the army as a private, but upon the organization of his company was made an Orderly Sergeant, in which capacity he served five months, and was then promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was mustered out of this company as such and mustered into the same company again as First Lieutenant. Later he was tendered the office of Captain, but preferred to operate as First Lieutenant. Later he was detailed as Regimental Quartermaster, serving as such until the close of the war. His army record was creditable in the extreme.

JACOB DOMINGO, an energetic and prosperous farmer, resides on the highly improved farm on section 30, Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He is a native of Denmark, where he was born March 16, 1856, but is now an American citizen, through and through. He is a son of John and Ellen Domingo, both natives of Denmark, and is one of a family of four children. Mincus is at home in the old country; Christian is deceased; John lives in Centre Precinct, Cass Co., Neb., and Jacob, our subject. The early years of his life, until he attained his majority, were passed in his native country, where he received a good education in his native tongue. When he arrived in America he possessed no knowledge of the English language, but by close application he has mastered it to such an extent that he can speak it very fluently. He is well informed on current events.

The life of our subject, when not in school, was passed on a farm, where he took his full share of the labor and duties. After he had obtained his education he felt there would be a greater scope for his powers in the New World, and in consequence of this decision, in the autumn of 1877, started for America, taking passage from Copenhagen on November 3d, in a steamer of the Anchor Line, which landed him in New York City November 17th of that year. He at once came westward to Ford County, Ill., where he farmed as a renter for several years. In the spring of 1882 he came to Nebraska and settled on his present farm, where he has resided ever since. He owns 160 acres of good land, which he has brought to a good state of cultivation. When he bought the land there were no improvements on it, but by energy and hard labor he has so improved it that it is now in excellent condition, considering the length of time which he has owned it.

Our subject has begun his improvements in a systematic manner, and has a well defined plan which he is putting into effect as fast as time and circumstances will allow, and, when completed, no farm in the State will be better arranged or more convenient than his. With the exception of some $400 which he received from the estate of his father, he has had no assistance from any source whatever, having to depend entirely on his own efforts to reach the desired end, which makes him in all respects a truly self-made man.

Mr. Domingo was married to Annie M. Anderson, Nov. 20, 1884. The lady was a native of Wisconsin, where she was born Nov. 3, 1862. She is the daughter of Peter and Annie M. Anderson. Her father is a native of Denmark. He located in Wisconsin for a time after coming to America, then removed to Ford County, Ill., where he now lives. The lady's mother was a native of Denmark, and is now deceased. Her father was married the second time, and is the head of a family of twelve children, eight of whom are living, named: Andrew, Annie M., Peter; Christiana, who is now the wife of Nelse Robison; Annie, Jennie, Lizzie and Lena. To our subject and wife there has been born one daughter, Annie E., Dec. 15, 1887.

Our subject and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, conscientious and consistent in their profession. They take an important part in all social matters of their neighborhood. In politics he is a Democrat, is wide-awake and progressive, believing in the greatest good for the greatest number, and enters heartily into any pro-

ject that is intended to elevate or benefit the people. He ranks high among the leading, intelligent Danish-American citizen, of which there are a large number in Cass County. He is widely and favorably known for his integrity of character and industrious habits.

JOHN MURDOCH. Thirty-four years ago, Dec. 1, 1854, Mr. Murdoch made his way to the Territory of Nebraska, and three years later settled on a tract of wild land in the southeastern part of this county, and which has been familiarly known since Liberty Precinct. His farm is in the northwest corner of the precinct. He secured by pre-emption the northwest quarter of section 6, and in the year 1859 entered upon its improvement and cultivation. It is now one of the most attractive homesteads in this part of the county, having neat and substantial buildings, good fences and farm machinery, the land assisted to fertility by a branch of the Weeping Water, and its natural resources more than ordinarily abundant. This, together with the judicious care exercised by the proprietor in its cultivation, renders the farm exceedingly valuble.

The property of Mr. Murdoch is the result of his own industry and perseverance, he having come to the West without capital, having only his stout muscles and courageous heart. He worked several years as a farm laborer before purchasing his land, and two years afterward operated in the same manner before settling upon it. As time passed on, and he found his means accumulating, he wisely invested in additional land, and is now the owner of 400 acres, all lying in Cass County. A quarter-section of this is in Rock Bluff Precinct, and eighty acres in Mt. Pleasant. The whole is in a good state of cultivation.

The boyhood home of our subject is in Franklin Township, Richland Co., Ohio, where he was born April 17, 1834. His father, Samuel Murdoch, was a native of Maryland, a miller and millwright by trade, and emigrated to Ohio when a young man. He was married in that State to Miss Susan Poisel, who was born in Ohio, and whose family, like the Murdochs, were of Scotch ancestry. The parents of our subject began life poor in purse, and it was their lot to remain thus. They became the parents of nine children, and died in Richland County, Ohio, in middle life, and within a few months of each other.

Our subject was a little lad only eight years of age when he was orphaned by the death of his parents. He was the youngest of the household, and made his home with his brothers and sisters until able to earn his own living. He then started out to work for the farmers in his neighborhood, and continued a resident of his native State until coming to Nebraska. He found a bride in this county, being married Oct. 27, 1861, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, to Miss Sarah H. Oliver. This lady was born in Edgar County, Ill., April 17, 1843, and is the daughter of Rev. Lutheran and Cyrene J. (Rounsavell) Oliver, who were natives respectively of Vermont and Ohio. They emigrated to Illinois in their youth, and were married in Edgar County. The father later entered the ministry of the Methodist Church, and after a few years' sojourn in Illinois, crossed the Mississippi River into Wapello County, Iowa, where he took up his abode on a farm, but continued his pious labors as a local preacher from 1844 until 1859. The family then all came to Nebraska and settled on a tract of new land in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county, where the father still labored as a farmer and "circuit rider." He exerted himself industriously for the comfort of his family, and deemed no sacrifice too great to insure their well-being and happiness. At the same time he was also a public-spirited citizen, and evinced an interest in the moral and religious welfare of the people about him.

Mr. Oliver after a sojourn of some years in this county changed his residence to Seward County, taking up a homestead and settling once more upon a tract of new land, still continuing as a farmer and a preacher, and traveled over a large portion of Western Nebraska in the pursuance of his pious duties. Finally, worn out from hard labor, he was persuaded to take up his abode at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Murdoch, where he spent his last days, passing away Nov. 15, 1884, at the ripe old age of seventy-four years. He was

quite helpless during the last few years of his life from age and infirmities. The faithful wife and mother had preceded her husband to the land of the hereafter nearly twenty years, her death taking place in June, 1865, at the age of forty-six. She was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Murdoch was the eldest of seven children, one son and six daughters, and was reared under the home roof, acquiring her education in the common school. Under the training of her excellent parents she became imbued with those principles which have constituted her one of the truest women ever becoming the helpmate of a good and worthy man. Of their union there have been born eight children, one of whom, a little daughter, Julia E., died April 13, 1874, when only eighteen months old. Of the survivors the record is as follows: Oliver S. married Miss Ida M. Coleman, and they are living on a 160-acre farm in Gosper County, this State; Henry married Delia Colvin, is also a resident of that county, engaged in the same calling, and is the owner of a fine tract of land of a like extent; Mary is the wife of Scott Norris, and they live on farm in Antelope County; G. Albert, John W., Cyrene and Ruth O. are at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending services regularly at Mt. Pleasant. The two eldest sons, departing somewhat from the religious bias of their parents, belong to the United Brethren Church. Mr. Murdoch is a Democrat of pronounced ideas.

The first studies of Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch, as children, were conducted in the log school-houses of the olden times, structures widely different from those in which is carried on the education of the present generation. Then the temple of learning was built of logs, with a wide fireplace occupying nearly one end of a cabin probably 12x16 feet square, and the chimney built outside of earth and sticks. Light was admitted through a few small panes of glass or greased paper, and the floor was made of puncheon—a log riven and placed with round surface downward. The roof was probably of clapboards held in place by weight poles. The system of learning corresponded with the other surroundings, and the books utilized descended from the elder child to the younger as long as they would hold together. Children in those days were taught to be useful as soon as old enough to labor, and while their hardships were plentiful, there were still many simple sources of enjoyment, and people were probably happier in those times than many are at the present, surrounded with comforts and luxuries. There is an air of romance woven within the history of the old pioneers, which forms a tale ever listened to with readiness and attention both by old and young. Few can relate a more interesting story than the subject of this sketch and his interesting wife.

The year after the outbreak of the Civil War, although in the midst of his labors and plans in his new home, Mr. Murdoch felt it his duty to lay aside his personal interests, and on the 18th of November, 1862, enlisted in Company H, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, under Capt. Marshall, the commander of the regiment being Gen. Sully. They were assigned to the Army of the Northwest, and operated mostly along the White Stone Valley, Dak., keeping the Indians in subjection, and during which time Mr. Murdoch was under fire in two active engagements. He saw his fill of life on the frontier, and when his services were no further required received his honorable discharge, in December, 1863, at Omaha, and soon thereafter, returning home, he resumed his farm labors, which have since been comparatively uninterrupted.

ALBERT A. MILLER, senior member of the firm of Miller & Olmstead, is with his partner conducting a prosperous trade in clothing, hats, caps, trunks and general furnishing goods, forming a house which occupies a leading positition in trade at this point. Their headquarters are in a fine brick structure, the I. O. O. F. building, and they number among their friends and patrons the best people of Weeping Water and vicinity.

Mr. Miller first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska in 1869, less than two years after it had been admitted into the Union as a State, on his

way to the Pacific Coast. While pleased with the face of the country he did not locate here until about 1881, when he began business as one of the firm of Reed Bros. & Co., of whom mention is made in the sketch of E. L. Reed, found elsewhere in this volume. That partnership continued a period of three years. The career of Mr. Miller in this county has been been uniformly fortunate, and he has invested considerable capital in town property, putting up two good residences, one of which he sold at a round sum.

The firm of Miller & Olmstead was established in October, 1888, and both partners are men of first-class business capacities. Mr. Miller started out in life dependent mostly upon his own resources, but Providence endowed him with that genial and courteous manner and fine integrity which has gained him the friendship and confidence of those with whom he has been associated. He is a stanch Republican politically, although having no desire for the responsibilities of office. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the Knights of Pythias. In religious matters he is a prominent member of the Regular Baptist Church, in which he officiates as Deacon, Financial Secretary and Trustee.

Mr. Miller was born in Liberty Township, Trumbull Co., Ohio, August 5, 1848, and lived there with his parents until he was about five years old. They then removed to Warren, Ohio, where he completed a good education and whence he went at the age of twenty years to Indianapolis, Ind., where he sojourned a period of twelve years, engaged in business as salesman. Mr. Miller was connected with several mercantile houses and lived in Indianapolis until 1881. In the meantime he was married, Oct. 10, 1872, to Miss Frances Seaman. Of this union there have been born five children, three only of whom are living, namely; Francis, Laura and Clara. They are all at home with their parents and are being given the training and education suitable to their station in life, which will make of them worthy and respected citizens.

Mrs. Miller was born in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 11, 1853, and is the daughter of Edwin and Cynthia (Crutchfield) Seaman. Her father was engaged in mercantile business the greater part of his life. He was born in Ohio, Sept. 3, 1824, and came to Nebraska in 1881. He now makes his home with his son-in-law, Mr. Miller. He has been a prominent light in mercantile circles. Since coming to Nebraska he has served as a Justice of the Peace in Weeping Water, and like Mr. Miller belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the K. of P. Mrs. Seaman died in October, 1864. Mrs. Miller was her only child.

Reuben Miller, the father of our subject, was born in New Jersey, Jan. 11, 1811. When an infant he was taken by his parents to the city of Washington, D. C., where he lived until a young man of twenty years. Then starting out for himself he made his way to the vicinity of Liberty, Trumbull Co., Ohio, where he was engaged in manufacturing in connection with farming. In the Buckeye State he married Miss Emeline Fuller, and they became the parents of six children, of whom but two are living, Albert A. and Laura M., Mrs. Titus, of Minneapolis. Mr. Miller departed this life at his home in Pennsylvania in February, 1867. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, dying in November, 1862. She was born in Orange County, N. Y., August 28, 1815, and was the daughter of Ira and Sallie Fuller. The paternal grandfather of our subject was James Miller.

WILLIAM W. GULLION. Among the many extensive land-owners within the confines of Cass County we find the subject of our sketch, who was one of the earliest of the early settlers in the county. He settled near Plattsmouth in 1854, and on the 14th of June of that year, he and his brother-in-law, William H. Sheffer, both laid the foundations for rude log houses on their respective claims, at a time when there was but one house in Plattsmouth, and that was a trading-house belonging to Samuel Martin, who was perhaps the first settler in Cass County.

The brother-in-law Sheffer built the first house, and our subject helped him, completing his own afterward. At the first election, in the spring of 1855, Mr. Gullion was elected Constable, the first person filling that office in the county. In those days justice was administered in a primitive, yet

extremely effectual manner, the entire legal system being exclusively managed by a vigilance committee, and it can be said in favor of those times that justice was generally rendered. He pre-empted a claim of 160 acres adjoining Plattsmouth on the north.

On the breaking out of the gold excitement in 1858, our subject went to Pike's Peak and Denver, where he passed one winter, after which he returned to Plattsmouth and engaged in freighting across the plains, which business he followed with varying success for six years. As he has prospered he has from time to time added to his ownership of land, until he now owns an extensive tract in Salt Creek Precinct. It is not possible to enter into a full history of the earlier years of this gentleman in Nebraska. To do so would require a volume. Coming to the State at the time he did, when there were but very few settlers within what is now the limits of the county, at a great distance from the markets, he had his full share of the discomforts and troubles attending the life of a pioneer, which for a verity, in this case, he was. He possesses a large fund of information regarding the early times of the State, having had an active part in making its history, and none should know it better than he. Then again, it would not be possible for the pen to paint sufficiently vivid word pictures, that would convey to the reader such knowledge as would enable them to comprehend, in all its bearings, the life they were compelled to lead.

Among the least of the dangers our subject was obliged to endure was the treachery of the Indians who were then thickly scattered over the broad domain, which they claimed as their inalienable birthright, and on which they considered every white man to be a trespasser. To appreciate this life one must hear the description from the lips of those who went through it, and it is time well spent in engaging the subject of this sketch in conversation relative to those frontier times, when men and women took their lives in their hands, and dared to undertake that which they knew beforehand to be fraught with untold dangers.

Our subject was married to Miss Mary Elizabeth Mayfield, the daughter of LeRoy and Martha (Baskett) Mayfield. The lady's mother is still living, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years, and makes her home with our subject. Mrs. Gullion was born in 1839, in Monroe County, Ind. Her father died in 1851, aged fifty-two years. Herself and husband are the parents of two children—John Willmer and James E.

Our subject came to his present farm in the year 1879; it contains 240 acres of nicely located land, a large portion of which he has improved. Like many others he has not proved to be a successful financier, but whatever troubles may have come to him from this source, they cannot in any instance, or in any way, be attributed to any failure on his part to act fairly, honestly and uprightly with every man with whom he has had business relations. In fact his honesty and integrity of character have become proverbial, and he is above reproach.

The subject of this sketch is one of the best citizens of the precinct. He is public-spirited and generous to a fault, and every suggestion that has for its object the advancement or improvement of the locality in any sense of the word meets with his earnest and hearty approval. Since reaching years of maturity he has voted at every election, never voting but once outside the State. He was the first Constable and Deputy Sheriff elected in Cass County, the duties of which he performed in a highly acceptable manner.

JOHN CORBET. The sons of Scotland are always pardoned for pride in their nationality. The subject of this record, one of the solid men of Avoca Precinct, was born in Lanarkshire, the land of the thistle, Feb. 2, 1837, and crossed the Atlantic with his parents at an early period of his life, they settling in Trumbull County, Ohio, where he received his education and was reared to man's estate.

Mr. Corbet is now the owner of 240 acres of fine land on section 2, all of which has been brought to a high state of cultivation. It is embellished with neat and substantial buildings and forms the ideal country home. Stock-raising is made a specialty of at this farm, Short-horn cattle taking the lead.

The land became the property of Mr. Corbet in 1859, when it was in a wild and uncultivated state, and he did not settle upon it until eight years later. Upon taking up his residence here in the April of 1868, he began in earnest the cultivation of the soil, the planting of trees, the erection of buildings, and the gathering about him and his family the conveniences and comforts necessary to modern life. No man is more highly respected in his community, and none have contributed in a greater degree to build up its reputation and develop its resources.

While a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Jameson, a native of his own shire in Scotland, and born July 10, 1839. Mrs. Corbet is the daughter of William and Jannett (Hamilton) Jameson, excellent families of Scotch birth and ancestry, who came to the United States about 1842 and settled in Trumbull County, Ohio. They sojourned there until the death of the mother, about 1881. Later Mr. Jameson came to Nebraska and is still living, making his home with A. E. Jameson in Avoca Precinct, and is now quite aged.

Mrs. Corbet was reared and educated in Trumbull County, Ohio, and of her marriage with our subject there have been born four children: Frank is a student of the Commercial College at Lincoln; Robert is attending school; Jannett and Katie are pursuing their childish studies in the district school. Mrs. Corbet is a very estimable lady and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject, politically, is a stanch supportor of Republican principles, public-spirited, high-minded and intelligent, prompt to meet his business obligations, in fact, one of the most valued members of his community.

Robert Corbet, the father of our subject, also a native of Lanarkshire, married a lady of his own county, who died after the birth of three children of whom John, our subject, was the second born. He was only three years old at the time of his mother's death and knows very little of her history. His father was a second time married in Lanarkshire to Miss Catherine Currie. This lady was also of pure Scotch descent, and after the birth of one child by this marriage the family all came to America, being on the ocean four weeks less two days, and landing in New York City. That same year, 1849, they settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, where the father engaged in farming in Fowler Township, of which he continued a resident until within a few years of his death. He then removed to Vernon Township where his death occurred in 1886, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. His last wife is still living with her children in Trumbull County, and is now ripe in years. They were Presbyterians in religion, and the father, after coming to America, identified himself with the Republican party.

Janet, the own sister of our subject, is now the wife of John Cleland, a well-to-do farmer of Crawford County, Pa.; Andrew, his brother, lives on a farm in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County, this State.

SAMUEL RICHARDSON is certainly entitled to take a front rank among the pioneers of two States, being born a member of one of the first families that settled in Ohio, which at that time was wild and unsettled, and coming to Nebraska while it also was in a comparatively new condition. In 1860 he settled on a farm on section 1 of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where he now resides on his highly cultivated and well-improved farm, surrounded by the comforts and conveniences of life, accumulated by many years of hard and anxious toil.

This gentleman was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Dec. 12, 1827, a son of Thomas and Sarah Richardson. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother of West Virginia. They were the earliest settlers in Belmont County, and their family, including our subject, were reared amid the scenes of a wild country. He lived there with his parents until he was about seventeen years of age, when he went to what is now known as Noble County. When he was eight years old his mother died, leaving a large family of children, of whom the following named survive: Rebecca is now the wife of John H. Pool, and resides in Cass County; Sophia is now the wife of William Preshaw, and lives in Ottawa, Kan.; and Samuel. The deceased

members of the family were named: Margaret, Jane, Thomas A., Mary A., James and Sarah.

The paternal ancestors of our subject were of English-Irish origin; the ancestors on the maternal side were English. As far as can be learned, the Richardson family are supposed to have first located in Pennsylvannia, but nothing definite can be ascertained upon this point.

Our subject lived in Noble County, Ohio, until he was married, Nov. 29, 1849, to Jane E. Thomas, who bore him five children, one of whom, Mary E., who is now the wife of J. R. Vallery, and resides in Cass County, survives. The four deceased children were named Sarah L., Melissa J., Margaret E. and Jennie C. The first wife of Mr. Richardson departed this life at her home in Mt. Pleasant Precinct March 24, 1864. She was a model wife and loving mother, and her death was felt to be a great loss to the community as well as to the family.

On Aug. 21, 1864, our subject married Mrs. Mary E. Kennedy, the widow of James B. Kennedy, who was a resident of Cass County, Neb. This lady is a native of Ohio, having been born in Muskingum County, Aug. 15, 1837. She was the daughter of William and Mary (Richey) Colvin.

This lady's parents were both natives of Muskingum County. Her paternal ancestors were English. When she was a child of about five years old her parents removed with their family to Franklin County, Ohio, where they lived until she was sixteen years old, when the family moved west to Marion County, Iowa, where they lived until she reached her maturity, and was there married on Jan. 31, 1857, to Mr. J. B. Kennedy, by whom she had two children: Loran V., now residing in California, and May, now the wife of J. M. Hamilton, Attorney at Law in Lincoln, Neb. James B. Kennedy, her first husband, met his death in Colorado while out with two companions prospecting, under the following circumstances: Being short of provisions he and one of his comrades had gone to the top of the mountain to procure some game for breakfast; while they were looking for game five Indians came and took supper in their tent. The Indians pretended to be going on down to Denver; instead of doing so they hid in the bluff and killed Mr. Kennedy and his companion, a Mr. Shanks of Omaha. A Mr. Slaughter, who was one of the trio, alone escaped to tell the tale.

The first wife of Mr. Richardson was a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Thomas. By the second marriage, and his present wife he is the father of four children: William T., now at home with his parents; Lily A., deceased; Frank S., now attending the Lincoln Business College, and Florence E., who is attending school at Lincoln.

In the spring of 1860 our subject came to Cass County and settled on his present farm, which at that time contained 160 acres of land, for which he paid $1,000. The improvements at the time of his purchase consisted of a log cabin and twenty acres of plowed land. From the day of his arrival on his farm to the present, he has devoted his time and energies to the further development of the resources of his property, until he now owns one of the finest improved farms in the precinct. His large and elegant residence, roomy and well designed, is furnished handsomely, and is well equipped with all of the conveniences necessary to make the task of the wife one of pleasure and satisfaction. The grounds surrounding his home are elegantly arranged and beautified with fine ornamental trees, shrubbery and flowering plants.

The large and conveniently arranged barns are models of their kind, designed as they are with a view to accommodate his large herds of stock, and to storing and handling the grain products of the farm economically and to the best advantage. A large orchard of thrifty trees of the choicest varieties of fruit best adapted to the climate, and a number of groves, both natural and planted, add value and beauty to the homestead. He has at different times made additions to his original purchase, until he is now the owner of 320 acres of land.

When the first husband of Mrs. Richardson (Mr. Kennedy) came to Mt. Pleasant Precinct, in 1857, there was not a house between their home and Plattsmouth, and no land had been plowed within that distance. This lady during the life of her first husband, and also since her marriage with our subject, has borne many of the privations of pioneer life with great bravery, and she deserves a proud place in the roll of honor containing the names of

the good wives and mothers of Nebraska, and since her marriage to our subject she has contributed largely to their present prosperity by her wise counsel and excellent management.

William T. Richardson, the son of our subject, is now at home. He was for three years foreman in a large lumber-yard in Omaha, and filled responsible positions for the same firm elsewhere, and has traveled over the greater portion of the West, visiting the various States and Territories. He attended the State University at Lincoln one year, and for a time attended the Business College in Omaha.

The subject of this sketch holds a prominent position among the people of the precinct. He has been called upon by them at various times to fulfill certain public duties requiring the highest integrity. He was elected Commissioner of Cass County in the autumn of 1878, re-elected in 1881, serving two terms of three years each, with credit to himself and benefit to his constituents. He has discharged the duties pertaining to the office of Justice of the Peace. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he has served as Steward for many years. They both take an active interest in society, and are widely and favorably known, and they stand among the leading and representative pioneer families of Cass County, and we are pleased to represent Mr. and Mrs. Richardson in this ALBUM.

JOHN HOLSCHUH, one of the most enterprising German farmers of Cass County, first opened his eyes to the light in what was then Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, July 6, 1824. He is the son of J. William and Sophia (Grenc) Holschuh, who were also of German birth and ancestry. He spent the first years of his life in his native country, where he united his fortunes May 24, 1853, with a maiden of his own Province, and the same month in which they were married they started to the United States, landing in New York City on the 6th of August, 1853. They made the voyage on a sailing-vessel, spending fifty-two days on the high seas. Visiting with friends a few days in the metropolis they proceeded on their journey into Franklin County, Ohio, where they arrived August 14, and established themselves in the city of Columbus, where they lived until July, 1885, then gathering together their personal effects, they started once more westward, halting in Washington, Tazewell Co., Ill., where Mr. Holschuh rented a tract of land upon which he operated until the spring of 1857. He now concluded to cast his lot among the people of Nebraska Territory, and accordingly set out with his little family via the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, thence up the Missouri to Plattsmouth, where they arrived on the 17th of April, and our subject, establishing his family comfortably began working by the day.

Mr. Holschuh had been accompanied from Illinois by Jacob Horn, and the two purchased a lot in Plattsmouth and a team of mules. Later they dissolved partnership, dividing their property, Mr. Horn taking the team and Mr. Holschuh the lot. Our subject traded his property for two yoke of oxen and a plow, and thus equipped began breaking prairie for the settlers around. He managed to save a little money and after a time invested his capital in another lot and put up a house which he sold later. He operated considerably in real estate after this, in a small way buying lots, building houses and selling, and has traded considerably in city property, besides timber land, etc. He at one time cleared quite a tract of timber, then sold the land at a good profit.

Mr. Holschuh finally after years of labor purchased forty acres of land two miles northwest of Plattsmouth, and later added to it sixty more, whereon he made improvements, and finally sold the 100 acres for the snug sum of $10,500. This transaction was completed in May, 1887, and later Mr. H. purchased the farm of 142 acres where he now lives. Of this he took possession in March, 1888. It is one of the finest in the precinct and he has effected various improvements, putting up a barn and corn cribs and making a large amount of fencing. He also in 1888 bought another farm west of his present homestead, in this precinct, of 120 acres.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catharine Michel, and they were married May 24, 1853, in their native Province of Hesse-Darmstadt,

Germany. Mrs. Holschuh was born Aug. 31, 1831, and is the daughter of Jacob and Ann (Miller) Michel, who were of German birth and descent, and spent their last years in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. H. have six children living, namely: Mary is is now Mrs. G. V. Eigemberger; Hermon; Anna, Mrs. G. V. Eigemberger, Jr.; William; Nettie, Mrs. John Herz; and Rosa. Our subject and family are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. H., politically, is independent, aiming to support the men best qualified for office. He has been Road Supervisor in his district a period of eight or nine years, and is a man of decided views, whose opinions are generally held in respect.

MRS. HARRIET CRITCHFIELD. It gives us much pleasure to place in this biographical volume a brief record of the life of this most estimable woman, the widow of the late Lewis H. Critchfield, who owns a fine farm of 160 acres on section 24, Centre Precinct, where she still resides, surrounded by kind friends and neighbors, by whom she is much esteemed and respected. Our subject was born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 18, 1834, and there lived until the time of her marriage. She is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Foltz) Shreve. Her father was a native of Ohio, where he spent his entire life, dying at the age of thirty years, when our subject was only six years old. Of his marriage five children were born, four of whom grew to maturity. His widow married again, and lived many years after.

She of whom we write was married to Lewis H. Critchfield, Sept. 9, 1852, and of their union ten children were born, all of whom are still living, namely: Jason lives in Ohio; A. Bird, William P. Cowen and Casper, live in Centre Precinct; Alice, now Mrs. Moore, lives in Ohio; Jenny lives with her mother; Exa lives in Plattsmouth; Wade is at school; Anna and Lorenzo Dow are at home. All have received good educational advantages, and have pleasant prospects for a successful future.

Mr. Critchfield was born in Holmes County, Ohio, April 6, 1832, and was reared and lived for half a century on the farm on which his mother lived from the time she was fourteen years old until her death. He was the son of L. D. and Julia (Humbarger) Critchfield, who reared a family of six children, four of whom are still living. Mr. Critchfield received his education in his native town, and on deciding to establish himself in life, married, and brought his young bride to the old homestead where he had always lived. The young couple were industrious, prudent people, who, by careful economy, energy and frugality, succeeded in bringing up their large family of children in comfort, and giving each a good education. After toiling there for many years, desiring to still further inprove their fortunes, they came to Nebraska in the spring of 1882, and purchased the present homestead. The farm was partly improved, a house, barn, and even a cyclone cellar, having been built. Mr. Critchfield continued working on the land, put up a windmill, and made other needed improvements, and by continuous labor succeeded in bringing his property into as fine and productive a farm as is to be found in the vicinity. He raised grain, cattle, horses and hogs, living here prosperously and happily until his death, April 28, 1887. He was a man universally respected for his many worthy traits of character, and his death was deeply regretted by a large circle of friends. Socially, he was a member of the K. of H. He was a member of the Christian Church, where our subject also communes.

HANS H. TIMM. Many of the most thrifty and intelligent agriculturists of this section of Nebraska were born and reared on the other side of the Atlantic, and to Germany especially is Cass County indebted for some of her most enterprising and prosperous citizens. Among them may be numbered the subject of this sketch, who owns a fine body of land in Avoca Precinct, embracing 320 acres each on sections 1 and 12. The homestead proper has been brought to an especially fine state of cultivation, is well stocked with the domestic animals, and upon it has been erected a neat and substantial set of frame buildings, which, with their surroundings, fruit and shade trees, and the various little conveniences having so much to

do with the happiness and comfort of the family, form a goodly sight to the eyes. The land is kept in productive condition by the proximity of the Weeping Water. The whole was originally prairie soil. Mr. Timm has planted forest trees which form the purpose of shade and windbreak combined. He has in fact been in no respect behind the other progressive men of his precinct in instituting the improvements which serve to aid in forming the complete homestead.

A pioneer of 1859, Mr. Timm July 4 of that year first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska, eight years before it had been admitted into the Union as a State. He secured eighty acres of land from H. Loz, upon which he settled with his estimable wife, who is still surviving, and they began laboring hand in hand in hope of accumulating something for their declining years. Their first dwelling was a log house, and their surroundings were widely different from those amid which we behold them to-day. With genuine German thrift and prudence they were content to labor early and late, live economically, and in due time were rewarded with the fruits of their industry.

Mr. Timm about 1865 doubled his first purchase by an additional eighty acres, and later purchased another quarter-section of land, all of which at the time it came into his possession had been undisturbed by the plowshare. He had emigrated to this section of the country from Cook County, Ill., of which he had been a sojourner four years. Mr. and Mrs. Timm landed first upon American soil in New York City in May, 1855, and were then approaching middle life, Mr. Timm being thirty-nine years old, having been born June 5, 1816. His first recollections are of his boyhood home in the Duchy of Holstein, Germany, where he was born of respectable parents, and was reared to habits of industry and principles of honor. In accordance with the laws and customs of his native land he was placed in school at an early age and given a practical education. His father was a farmer by occupation, and Hans H. from the time of leaving school until his marriage was employed mostly in Germany at farming. The lady who has for a period of forty years been his faithful and devoted companion was in her girlhood Miss Margaretta C. Schomaker, and they were married in their native Holstein, April 29, 1849.

Mrs. Timm was born Sept. 26, 1818, not far from the boyhood home of her husband, and is the daughter of Michael and Anna (Youngke) Schomaker, the father a farm laborer who spent his entire life in his native Germany. He did not live to be an aged man, dying when thirty-six years old. The mother came to America with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Timm, in 1855, and died at their home in Avoca Precinct, April 13, 1870, at the age of seventy-four years. John Timm, the father of our subject, also a native of Holstein, married a lady of his own Province, and they settled upon a farm where they spent their entire lives. John Timm was fifty-six years old at the time of his death, which occurred about 1836. The mother survived her husband a number of years, and attained the age of threescore. They were people more than ordinarily careful and upright in their lives, and consistent members of the German Lutheran Church. Their family consisted of five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom Hans H. was the second son and child. Of these three are living, making their homes in Nebraska and Germany.

Our subject and his estimable wife have been parents of one child only, which was born in Germany and died in infancy. In coming to America they brought with them besides Mrs. Schomaker, the mother of Mrs. Timm, Lena and Elizabeth C., sisters of Mr. Timm. The latter is deceased. Lena is the wife of Peter Peters, of Avoca Precinct. Our subject and his good wife have performed the part of foster-parents to a niece, who before her marriage was Miss Anna C. Baumgarten. This lady was born Jan. 22, 1860, at the Timm homestead, and was deprived of a mother's affectionate care when a little child of one year old. She was then taken into the hearts and home of Mr. and Mrs. Timm. Her father, John C. Baumgarten, is a resident of Chicago, Ill., holding one of the city offices. Anna C. is now the wife of J. Frederick Schomaker, and still lives at the farm, which is operated by her husband. They have two children—Edwin H. and Katherina M.

Mr. Timm after becoming a naturalized citizen

and having fully acquainted himself with the general methods of American institutions, identified himself with the Republican party, as meeting his idea of liberty and justice, and has since been one of its most ardent supporters. Both he and his amiable partner were trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran faith, to which they still loyally adhere. There is probably no more hospitable home within the precincts of Cass County than that presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Timm, of Avoca.

WILLIAM T. ADAMS is one of Cass County's enterprising and successful young farmers, who is actively pursuing his calling on the old homestead in Plattsmouth Township, where nearly the whole of his life has been passed. He is a native-born citizen of this place, May 2, 1864, being the date of his birth.

Jacob Adams, the father of our subject, was born in North Carolina in September, 1814, and when very young his parents, William and Rachel Adams, moved to Indiana and cast in their lot with the pioneers of that State, and there the mother died in 1819. A few years later his father emigrated to Missouri and became an early settler of Ottawa County. He subsequently became a pioneer of Mills County, Iowa, and from there came to Plattsmouth in 1862. He staid here only a short time, however, and then returned to Iowa, where he lived for a year. At the end of that time he came back to Plattsmouth, and some months later rounded out a good old age, dying here in September, 1864. He may be said to have spent his entire life on the frontier as a pioneer in four States of the Union.

His son Jacob was thus reared amid pioneer scenes, and grew in strength and vigor to a robust manhood. He adopted the honorable calling of farmer for his life work and pursued it with good success. While a resident of Missouri he met and married Miss Rachel Wiles, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hobson) Wiles, Sept. 8, 1844, being the date of their marriage. In 1864 they came to Nebraska and identified themselves with the pioneers of Plattsmouth, and Mr. Adams became an important factor in the development of its agricultural resources. In 1865 he purchased the farm now occupied by our subject, and in the few years of life left him made many valuable improvements. Jan. 15, 1874, his useful life was terminated by his death, and a valued citizen was removed from our midst. He was a man of good capabilities and industrious habits, and it is the united testimony of those who knew him well that he was upright in his dealings and always true to his obligations. He occupied a good social position in this community, and was a charter member of the Plattsmouth Lodge, I. O. O. F. To him and his wife six children had been born, namely: Elizabeth, now the wife of Judge Samuel Maxwell, of the District Court, a resident of Fremont, Neb.; Mary F., who died April 5, 1849; Lydia E., the widow of John Livingston, who died Aug. 8, 1874, and she is now living on the old homestead with her mother and brother; Rebecca J., who died Nov. 9, 1856; Louviera, now Mrs. Ezra Horning, of York County, Neb.; and our subject.

The latter came to his present home with his parents when he was one year old, and has lived here since. He received a good, practical education, and has an intelligent knowledge of agriculture, so that he bids fair to place himself among the leading farmers of his native county at no distant date. He has bought the interests of the heirs in his father's home farm, with the exception of one share. It is finely located on section 25, and comprises 120 acres of very fertile and highly productive land. It is amply provided with substantial buildings, comprising a large brick house, a stable, corn-cribs, wagon-sheds, etc. The farm is well stocked and is all under cultivation and pasture.

Our subject was married, June 5, 1887, to Miss Ella Cole, a daughter of William T. Cole, whose biography appears in this volume. They have an infant son, William. Our subject still makes his home with his mother, a most estimable woman, who commands the respect of all the community. Mr. Adams is a member of the United Brethren Church, and he takes an active interest in promoting the good work carried on within its fold. He is a sincere and manly Christian, is well endowed

mentally and physically, with good powers of observation, and a keen, practical insight into business, and he is undoubtedly well deserving of the high favor in which he is held. In his political beliefs he is strongly Republican.

CHRISTIAN LORENSON, an energetic Danish-American citizen, lives on his well-improved farm on section 30, Mt. Pleasant Precinct, where he, with his family, settled in the winter of 1884. He was born in Denmark, Europe, Oct. 21, 1850. He is the son of Eric and Anna Lorenson, and his mother is still living at the old home in Denmark. When our subject was seven years old his father died, leaving a large family of children. At this early age he was thrown on his own resources, and as a means of livelihood he worked at farming until he attained his majority, when he emigrated to America. A family of five children were born to his parents, who were named: Louis, Jesse, Eric, Christian (our subject) and Ella. Louis and Jesse are in Denmark; Eric is in Nebraska.

Prior to the time he left Denmark our subject spent a year and a half working at wagon making. In 1871 he left his native land for America, sailing in an Anchor Line Steamer from Copenhagen, on June 15, landing in New York one month later, he having taken passage via Glasgow, Scotland. The voyage was entirely uneventful. From New York City he went directly to New Orleans, remaining there but a few months; he then went to Jackson County, Miss., and secured employment in a large shingle mill. He stayed here but two months, when he went to Oson Springs, Miss., where he worked at different occupations for seven months. He then came north to McLean County, Ill., and worked for three years as a farm hand. He then went to Tazewell County, Ill., where he rented land for the next eight years. At the expiration of this time we find him located on his present homestead.

The subject of this sketch was married, in McLean County, Ill., to Anna S. Graves, March 1, 1879. This lady was born in Denmark, Dec. 17, 1848. She is the daughter of Christian C. and Anna M. Graves. She is the oldest child in the family; she came with her parents to America in 1872. Our subject and his wife are the parents of seven children, six of whom are living, namely: Anne M., Jenna G., Etta A., Tena S., Maria A. and Louis.

Mr. Lorenson has brought all his native energy and perseverance into play in opening and improving his farm, working early and late, in fair weather or foul. He has been prospered, and to-day he finds himself the owner of a choice farm of 160 well improved acres, surrounded by the comforts and enjoyments of life. In all his efforts he has found an able assistant in the person of his wife, who has bravely taken her part of the cares and trials of life in a new country, and has found abundant time, and has, by both precept and example, educated their children in the ways of honesty, uprightness and virtue. Himself and wife are identified with the Lutheran Church, and they are foremost in all matters of charity and benevolence. He has never held any public office, feeling that the time required to obtain the position and discharge the duties properly could not be spared from his farm. In politics he is a straight, earnest Republican.

CHARLES W. SHERMAN, editor and manager of the Plattsmouth *Daily* and *Weekly Journal*, was born in the village of New Castle, Ohio, June 9, 1841. His father, Henry Sherman, was a native of Shippensburg, Franklin Co., Pa., and his paternal grandfather, Salisbury Sherman, was a native of the State of Connecticut and a descendant of English ancestry, who emigrated to America during the Colonial times.

Grandfather Sherman learned the trade of too'-maker in his native State, and when a young man migrated to New Jersey, where he enlisted as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself for his bravery, and met the enemy in the battle of Monmouth, besides other important engagements of that memorable time. After the war

he settled in Franklin County, Pa., remaining unmarried until forty years of age. He then to ok for his wife Miss Sarah Whealan, and occupied himself at his trade the remainder of his life, dying in Franklin County at a very great age, said to have been one hundred and twelve years. His wife also lived to be remarkably aged, her death taking place in 1865, when she was one hundred and four years old.

Henry Sherman, the father of our subject, was the eldest of six children, and early in life learned the trade of a blacksmith as well as that of toolmaker. In 1827 he journeyed overland to the young State of Ohio by means of teams, and settled among the pioneers of Richland County. He purchased land near the present site of Ontario, and six miles west of Mansfield, where he first cleared a spot large enough to erect a log cabin and establish a blacksmith-shop, in the latter of which, by means of a charcoal furnace, he made himself remarkably useful to his neighbors for miles around. He was prospered in his labors of farming and blacksmithing combined, and cleared quite a large tract of land. The log cabin in time gave place to an imposing two-story log house, which was weather-boarded outside, and was the admiration of the country around.

The elder Sherman was injured while shoeing a refractory horse, and died Nov. 30, 1844, in his prime, when forty-two years of age. The mother of our subject, Mrs. Mary (Nazor) Sherman, was a native of Pennsylvania, and the daughter of William Nazor, who was born in Germany and emigrated to America in 1801. He settled in Lancaster County, Pa., where he engaged for a time in farming, then changed his residence to the wilds of Richland County, Ohio, where he cleared another farm and spent the remainder of his days.

The mother of our subject lived on the homestead in Richland County, Ohio, until 1858, then joined her children in Knoxville, Marion Co., Iowa, where her death took place in 1880. Of the sons and daughters comprising the parental household seven lived to mature years, viz: Sarah J., Mary C., Salisbury, Jacob, Henry H., Elizabeth and Charlie W. The latter, the youngest child, was but three years old at the time of his father's death. The faithful and devoted mother kept her family together until they were able to go out into the world and do for themseves.

Charles W. Sherman pursued his first studies in the district school, and as soon as old enough commenced to assist in the labors of the farm. When a lad of eleven years he began learning the trade of a brickmaker with his elder brothers, at which he employed himself two summers. During his boyhood days his time was utilized morning and evening cutting wood and splitting rails, while the intermediate time was spent in school. He thus earned money with which he was enabled to start out for himself in 1857, being then a youth of sixteen years. Turning his face toward the farther West and crossing the Mississippi, he joined an elder brother in Winneshiek County, Iowa, where the latter had previously located, and after a brief sojourn with him made his way by rail to the embryo city of Dubuque.

The summer following young Sherman employed himself on a farm, and in the fall joined two other brothers at Knoxville, Marion County, and all three that next winter engaged in cutting timber for sawlogs. In the spring of 1858 Mr. Sherman conceived the idea that he would like to learn the printer's trade, and accordingly addressed letters to parties in various towns in Iowa, receiving in return several very encouraging replies. One of these was from the proprietor of the *Nonpariel*, of Council Bluffs, and he at once started on foot across the prairie for that office. He walked the entire distance, making the journey in seven days.

Young Sherman served an apprenticeship of two years in the office of the Council Bluffs *Nonpariel*, and in the year 1860 proceeded thence to Omaha, Neb., and became an employe of the *Republican*. A few months later we find him in the office of the *Nebraskian* and *Herald*, and on the 9th of November, that same year, he assisted in setting up the first telegraphic news ever published in the Territory of Nebraska. This great event occurred in connection with the Omaha *Telegraph*, which was published in the office above named.

Our subject employed himself as compositor until the spring of 1861, then materially changing his occupation, engaged to drive a team loaded with merchandise across the plains, stopping at different

trading-posts on the way. He thus made two trips, and upon the last journey homeward stopped three months at a ranch three miles east of the present site of Kearney. While at that point he received news of the firing upon Ft. Sumter, and in July following started on foot for the States. He had proceeded but thirty miles when he overtook a train of wagons, and there being more teams than drivers, Mr. Sherman made arrangements to conduct a certain number of the oxen into Des Moines. He fulfilled his contract satisfactorily, and again entered a printing-office, where, however, he staid only one week, having heard that his brother Henry had enlisted in Company B, 3d Iowa Infantry, had been killed in Missouri, and his remains sent home for burial, which was to take place the day following, and he started that night for home.

After recovering from the shock and sorrow of this affliction Mr. Sherman was employed in a printing office in Knoxville, Iowa, until August, and then obtaining his mother's consent, he enlisted on the 20th of that month in Company K, 3d Iowa Cavalry, which went into camp at Keokuk, and when receiving marching orders moved to the vicinity of Rollo, and finally to Salem, Mo., where they tarried two months. In the meantime they were scouting in the southern part of the State, harrassing the various rebel bands roaming around in that region, and putting a stop to the recruiting of rebels. In the middle of March, 1862, they joined the command of Gen. Curtis, and fought at the battle of Pea Ridge. Later, in the month of July, they proceeded to Helena, Ark., which was their headquarters until June, 1863.

This regiment was then made a part of Grant's command, and moved to the vicinity of Vicksburg, assisting in keeping the troops of Gen. Joe Johnston from attacking Grant in the rear. On the 5th of July they started for Jackson, Miss., participating in the battle there, then returning to the outskirts of Vicksburg, started thence in August on a raid through the enemy's country in Mississippi and Tennessee, via Grenada to Memphis. From that point they proceeded by boat to Helena, and thence to Little Rock, where the regiment united and moved toward Benton, thirty miles away, and from there to Little Rock, another thirty miles. Here they were engaged in garrison duty until the month of October, 1863, when Mr. Sherman, with seventeen others, was sent home to raise recruits.

In January, 1864, our subject received orders to report to Davenport, and found on his return that the greater part of the regiment had re-enlisted. He and one other man of the seventeen concluded to do the same, and were obliged to make out their own muster roll. At Davenport they received the thirty days' furlough granted to veterans, and at its expiration the regiment re-assembled at St. Louis, whence they proceeded to Memphis and later to Mississippi, participating not long afterward in the ill-fated battle of Guntown. Mr. Sherman in the thickest of the fight came near being captured. The commanding officer finally gave them word to save themselves as best they could, and putting spurs to his horse he made a dash for life and liberty. The enemy was surrounding them, and Mr. Sherman soon encountered another band by whom he was ordered to surrender. He wheeled his horse about and plunged into a creek, which the noble animal swam while the bullets flew thick and fast around them. The horse received a mortal wound, but lived to carry his rider safely out of the reach of the enemy, then lay down and died.

Our subject pursued his way now on foot, carrying with him his accoutrements 160 miles to Memphis. He subsequently participated in the battles of Pontotoc, Harrisbug, Tupelo, Ebenezer Church, Selma, and Montgomery, Ala. On the 16th of April, 1865, his regiment made the last charge in the last battle of the war east of the Mississippi River, at Columbus, Ga. Thence they proceeded to Macon, where they learned of the truce between Gens. Sherman and Johnston. He was mustered out with the regiment in August, 1865, and shortly afterward greeted his friends and acquaintances at home.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Sherman first established in business for himself, becoming proprietor of the Elizabeth *Star*, which he conducted one year. At the expiration of that time he became associated with the Burlington *Hawk-Eye*, and later with the Burlington *Merchant*. Later he was at Quincy and Villisca. In 1872 he established the *Mills County Journal*, at Glenwood, which he conducted a period of nine years. That year also he was

elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the Iowa House of Representatives, serving acceptably two terms. On the 5th of November, 1881, he established the Plattsmouth *Daily* and *Weekly Journal*, which he has since conducted successfully. With him is associated Mr. J. W. Culright.

Mr. Sherman was married, Aug. 27, 1866, to Miss Graeme, who was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, in 1847. This union resulted in the birth of these children, viz: Eva C., Charles S., Mary, Francis M., John, Freddie, Albert and Helen. Mr. Sherman is a member of the McConchie Post No. 35, G. A. R.; also of Lodge No. 84, A. O. U. W., and as a representative of the "art preservative" belongs to the Burlington Typographical Union No. 51, and the Nebraska Press Association.

MARTIN PROPST. The life labors of the subject of this biography, a farmer in good circumstances and a resident of Plattsmouth Precinct, have been crowned with more than ordinary success. He has one of the most beautiful homesteads in the northeastern part of Cass County—a highly cultivated farm pleasantly located, with handsome and substantial stone buildings set in the midst of well kept grounds, fulfilling the modern idea of the complete country home.

A native of Pendleton County, Va., our subject was born Dec., 7, 1830. He is the son of Eli and Sarah (Eye) Propst, who were natives of Virginia and of German descent. They removed to and settled in Scott County, Iowa, engaged in farming, and lived there until they both died. In his native county he spent his boyhood and youth and lived with his parents until twenty-two years old. Then desirous of seeing something of the western country, he started out for the young State of Iowa, and purchasing land in Scott County set himself to work improving his purchase, living there until the year 1868, his parents settling there at the same time. He was married April 7, 1859, at Davenport, Iowa, to Miss Catharine, daughter of Abraham and Susan (Heavener) Snyder, the wedding taking place in Davenport, Iowa. They lived on the farm in Scott County, Iowa, until the year 1868, then selling out. Mr. Propst made arrangements to cast his lot with the pioneers of Nebraska Territory. Upon his arrival in this county he put up a shanty of cottonwood boards which he transported from across the river in Iowa, and the humble dwelling served as a residence for himself and little family for several years. In the year 1876 he was enabled to put up one of the finest residences in the country round—a large stone structure which is the admiration of all who pass by it. Later he added to the attractions of his homestead by the erection of a two-story stone barn, 44x80 feet in area, with side walls twenty-one feet in height above the foundation. The lower story provides shelter for twenty horses and fifty cattle.

The farm of our subject now embraces 480 broad acres, and adjacent to the dwelling are fruit and shade trees, including a fine apple orchard. Mr. Propst makes a specialty of swine, feeding for the market each year about 100 head. There is a fish-pond near the house which is supplied by a never-failing spring of pure water, and in which the highly prized German carp flourishes finely. He has taken out some carp for the table weighing four pounds.

The parents of our subject, Elias and Sallie (Eye) Propst, were also natives of Virginia. The paternal great-grandparents were born in the Duchy of Holstein, Germany, whence they emigrated to America at an early period in the history of this country, settling in Virginia, where their son Daniel, the grandfather of our subject, was born. The latter in coming to Iowa was accompanied by his parents, they settling with him in Scott County, where they spent the remainder of their days, the mother passing away in the year 1870, aged sixty-eight years, and the father in July, 1874, at the age of seventy. Martin was the third of their eight children, six of whom are living and residents of Iowa and Nebraska.

Our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Baptist Church, attending services at Eight Mile Grove. Mr. Propst cast his first Presidential vote for Stephen A. Douglas, and is a stanch advocate of Democratic principles. The

household circle includes three children—two sons and a daughter—John A, Walter L. and Mary S. The eldest is twenty-eight years of age and the youngest twenty. They are all at home with their parents. Another child, William Edwin, died at the age of twenty-one months.

ELIAS S. GILBERT, farmer and stock-raiser, is now a resident of Weeping Water. This gentleman is one of the most prominent and leading citizens of the neighborhood in which he lives, and devotes his time to general farming and the raising of thoroughbred bank stock, horses, hogs and cattle, having twenty-four head of the fine graded Norman horses, a herd of fifteen head of thoroughbred Short-horn cattle, and 200 full blooded Poland-China hogs. He has made a study of the business, and an inspection of his herds of cattle and hogs will convince the most skeptical that he possesses a complete knowledge of the business, for it is but seldom that herds of both classes display so many fine points and so few poor ones as those the property of Mr. Gilbert; besides he buys and feeds from forty to one hundred head of cattle annually for the general market.

The subject of our sketch was born in Ontario County, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1816, where he lived and attended the common schools of the county until his fifteenth year; he then spent three months at Temple Hill, N. Y., then two years at the academy at Canandaigua, N. Y.; when he had completed his course there he went back to the farm. He there purchased the home farm of 400 acres from his father, and began life for himself, about the age of twenty-one. He remained here until he was thirty-five years old; he had done exceedingly well, and in the spring of 1852 sold all his property and moved to Davenport, Iowa, where he bought 120 acres of improved land near the town. He had previously bought a one-third interest in the Moline Water Power, and 260 acres of land in Moline, which comprised about one-half of the town site. He lived in Davenport and attended to his affairs successfully until the crash of 1857 came and swept the entire fortune away, only succeeding in paying his debts. He continued farming and engaged in the fruit business, planting twenty-five acres in orchard, and carried on that business until 1875. In 1876 he removed to Nebraska with his son, and came to Weeping Water and bought their present home of 160 acres in partnership, which was partly improved at the time, and since then has improved the balance, and has now all necessary buildings, house, barn, granaries, to the value of $3,000. He also has six acres in grove and a fine orchard. He has a large improved windmill, which supplies water to four tanks, which is conveyed to the different yards and barns for the use of the stock by a system of piping.

The subject of this sketch has been married twice, the first time in Ontario County, March 4, 1846, to Miss Caroline E. Pitts, the daughter of Hon. Gideon Pitts, who was the first settler in the town of Richmond, Ontario Co., N. Y., and a wealthy farmer; he served several terms in the New York Legislature. Caroline E. Pitts, wife of our subject, was born in Ontario County, N. Y., May 24, 1819, and died in Gilbert, Iowa, Aug. 2, 1862, leaving two children, Cyrus P. and Carra G. Cyrus P. married Miss Emma Kellogg, and is a farmer and grain buyer in Eagle, Elmwood and Weeping Water. His family consists of four children—James S., Chauncy K., Louisa J. and Fanny P. Carra G. is married, her husband being Mr. George S. Jewett, a merchant in New York City. The second marriage of our subject was contracted in Philadelphia, in December, 1864, to Miss Frances J. Lambaert, daughter of the Hon. Charles Lambaert, who superintended the building of the railroad from Philadelphia to Baltimore. She was born near Philadelphia, Pa. One child is the result of this marriage, Anna, now married to Edward E. Howell, an insurance agent in Omaha, Neb.

The father of our subject was Elias Gilbert, who was born in Litchfield, Conn., in November, 1776. His mother was Polly Greene, born in Rhode Island. Grandfather Joseph Gilbert served through the entire Revolution as a non-commissioned officer, was a shoemaker by trade; his father came from England. Grandfather James Greene, a farmer, was of English extraction, and a distant relative of General Greene of Revolution-

ary fame. The father and mother were married in New York, the father being a farmer as well as a merchant in Ontario County, was also a tanner, currier, harness-maker, saddler and shoemaker, and was in very easy circumstances. He was a merchant at the time the panic swept away his property, but he, by close attention to business, regained it. The parents left New York in 1854, and went to live with their son, our subject, at Gilbert, Iowa. They remained with him until the death of the father, March 4, 1872, aged ninety-five years, three months and five days. Our subject's mother died in Gilbert, Scott Co., Iowa, Oct. 29, 1867, seventy-three years old. Both parents were active members of the Congregational Church. Elias S. was the sixth child in a family of eight children. Horace died when an infant; his second brother Horace, sister Polly, sister Maryette and sister Theodosia, are dead. Sister Amanda is older and brother Warren is younger than our subject. Many positions of trust and confidence have been held by our subject; he was Trustee of the city and township of Davenport, Iowa, for five years, has served several years as school officer and served as Justice of the Peace six years, and was largely interested in the formation and successful operation of the Farmers' Alliance, and it can be said to his credit, the man never sought the office but the office always sought the man. In politics he always was found in the ranks of the Independent or Republican parties, and was frequently delegate to the County and State Conventions of one of those parties. Both himself and wife were active members of the Congregational Church, of Victoria, teachers of the Bible Class, and took a leading part in all good works. The life of our subject presents many changes, many difficulties met and overcome by the exercise of the indomitable will and inflexible integrity, and all embarrassments and troubles which have come to him in business have been brought about by the financial crush of 1857, and it can be safely said that he has never failed in anything he has undertaken to carry through by himself, and he presents to the mind of the reader and to those who know him, the appearance of a man self-reliant, honest, shrewd and ambitious. He always takes an active part in the political canvass of the country, delivering speeches, and doing all in his power to further the interest of the party which claims his allegiance, and in the times prior to the war he was connected with the "underground railroad," and did much toward helping many colored men to the North and freedom.

The nobler impulses of his nature revolted at the system of slavery existing in this country, and he very early assumed a positive stand against it. In fact, when only seventeen years of age he began his vigorous anti-slavery work in Richmond, Ontario Co., N. Y., then a town of 2,000 inhabitants. In those days pronounced opposers to slavery were few, and strange as it may seem, young Gilbert stood alone as the champion of universal freedom in that city. He was aggressive, and by his able discussion of the question threw such light upon it that ere long his copatriots were many, and included the best men of the community. He was the founder of the town of Gilbert near Davenport, Iowa.

A. B. KNOTTS, editor and proprietor of the Plattsmouth *Herald*, one of the best conducted and most popular newspapers in Cass County, has already shown that he possesses ability that will no doubt some day place him in the front ranks of the journalists of the West. He was born in Lumberport, Harrison Co., W. Va., February 9, 1859. His father, Joseph Knotts, was born in Knottsville, W. Va. Sept. 24, 1832, his father, Absalom Knotts, having been born in the same house. His grandfather, the great-grandfather of subject, was born of Scotch parentage either in Scotland or America. He lived in Princeton, N. J., in the early part of his life, and finally went from there to West Virginia, and became an early settler of Knottsville. He bought quite a large tract of heavily timbered land, and built a grist and saw mill, which he operated for many years, spending the remainder of his life there.

The grandfather of our subject succeeded his father in the proprietorship of the mills, continuing to manage them for some years. In 1860 he sold his

property in West Virginia, and moved to Warren County, Iowa, where, in company with Messrs. Read and Felton, he bought a tract of land and platted the village of New Virginia. He was a local preacher in the Methodist Church, besides being a farmer, and was quite well known throughout that part of the State in that capacity. He improved a farm in Warren County, but he subsequently disposed of it, and moved from New Virginia to Osceola, Clarke County, where he was engaged in the mercantile business until about 1879, when he removed to Lucas to conduct the same business, which he carried on in that city until his death in 1885. The maiden name of his wife was Matilda Sayre, and she was a native of Taylor County, W. Va, She spent her last years in Osceola, Iowa, and with her husband lies buried in the cemetery of that place.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and early in his youth joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and when quite a young man commenced teaching and preaching. He resided in West Virginia until 1860, moving in that year to Iowa, being transferred to the Iowa Conference and assigned to duty in the western part of the State. When the conference was divided he became a member of the Des Moines Conference. In 1865 he was appointed to the pastorate of the Broadway Society in Council Bluffs, and during the two years that he ministered to the people there a church was built under his auspices. But a wider field of usefulness was open to him, and he became agent for the Methodist Church Extension Society, and was actively engaged in the work of that society the following two years. He was then appointed Presiding Elder of Council Bluffs, which position he held for four years, and during that period was delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Philadelphia. The responsibility and work connected with the office of Presiding Elder proved too much for his health, which became impaired, and he was obliged to relinquish his beloved calling. He then turned his attention to book and job printing, and edited and printed the *Inland Advocate* a number of years, also the *Weekly Independent*, a political paper. In the fall of 1874 he lost all of his material by fire, and at that time his health was also injured, and the winter of 1874–75 he spent in Washington. Gen. Grant appointed him United States Consul at Chihuahua, Mexico, and while in that country he became interested in some valuable mines, and resigned his Consulship to turn his attention to mining, and was thus engaged until his death in El Paso, Tex., Jan. 23, 1888. He was a man of marked talent, both in the pulpit and as a financier. In him the Methodist denomination suffered a great loss, as he was instrumental in building up a number of churches, and even after he retired from the pulpit took an earnest interest in the work. The maiden name of his wife was Rebecca Hall, and she was a native of Barbour County, W. Va. She now resides at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Seven sons and one daughter were born to them, namely: Edith, now Mrs. Robinson; our subject, T. H., L. G., E. F., James E., Gordon B. and Joseph.

He of whom we write received his education in the public schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa., and was subsequently graduated from the Iowa Business College at Des Moines, in December, 1876. He then went to Texas in the early part of 1877, with the intention of going into the cattle business. At the expiration of six months he was satisfied with his experience of life in that State, and returned to Council Bluffs to resume work in the office of the *Nonpareil*, where he had previously commenced to learn the trade of printer. He worked there until 1882, and in the fall of that year went to Mexico and took charge of the stamp mills at the mines of Parral in Chihuahua, continuing thus engaged for four months. He then returned to his old home in Council Bluffs, and in July, 1883, bought the Indianola *Herald*, in Warren County, Iowa. He retained the proprietorship of that paper for three years and three months, and then sold it at a good profit, but continued in the office as one of the staff of the paper until Dec. 1, 1886. At that time he went to Dallas, Tex., and spent the winter in that delightful climate. In the following spring he came to Plattsmouth and bought the *Herald*, his brother T. H. being associated with him in the purchase, and continuing in partnership with him until July 5, 1888, when our subject bought his

interest, and has since conducted the paper alone. He has an easy, pleasant style of writing, and his editorials are marked by vigor, earnestness, and a thorough comprehension of the subjects under discussion.

Mr. Knotts was married, Nov. 1, 1888, to Miss May Russell, a daughter of Judge Russell, of whom see sketch on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Knotts have a very attractive home, and their many friends meet with a cordial reception beneath its roof. Religiously, our subject is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Socially, he belongs to the Indianola Lodge No. 71, I. O. O. F., and to Three Rivers Lodge No. 84, A. O. U. W. His views on the political questions of the day are sound and sensible, and in consonance with those expressed by the Republican party.

ORRIN P. SMITH, a druggist by profession, is carrying on his business in Plattsmouth in connection with Dr. E. W. Cook, having bought an interest in the store of that gentleman. He is a man of education and wide experience, and has a good, practical knowledge of pharmaceutics.

Mr. Smith is a native of Ohio, born in the town of Marion, Marion County, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Hartman) Smith, natives respectively of Elizabeth and Newark, N. J. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Smith, was born in that State, of mingled Scotch and German antecedents. The great-grandfather of our subject was born in Scotland, and after attaining manhood took up his residence in America, in Colonial times, settling in New Jersey, where he practiced his profession of attorney, and there he spent the remainder of his life. Before coming to this country he had visited Germany, and married a German wife. The grandfather of our subject, who was also a member of the legal profession, moved to Ohio in 1803, and was a pioneer of Franklin County. He became prominent as a lawyer, practicing his profession there, and serving as Justice of the Peace for many years, and as an educator. Through his zeal and influence the first school district was organized in Franklin County, and he taught the first school. His home was eight miles northeast of Columbus, where he spent his last years. The maiden name of his wife was Harriet DeCamp, and she was born in New Jersey. Her father was a native of France.

The father of our subject was young when his parents removed to Ohio, and he was there reared amid the pioneer influences of the early settlers of that State. In his youth he was sent to Columbus to learn the trade of iron moulder, and afterward to Mt. Vernon, to finish learning it. He subsequently established a foundry at Marion, and made the iron for the rolling stock of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Warsaw Railroad. He took his payment in real estate, which afterward depreciated in value, so that he was obliged to assign to his creditors. He was an exceedingly honorable man, with a great dislike for debt, and he did not rest until he was finally able to settle his indebtedness dollar for dollar, and then commenced life again with nothing but his home left. He is now a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he is Superintendent of Whiting's iron works. He has a fine military record, one of which his family may well be proud. He and his six brothers, Aaron, Levi, Elias, Daniel, Hiram and Frank, all served in the army during the late war, and were all commissioned officers. The total service of the seven boys counts up thirty-two years. One brother died in the service; another, Daniel, was shot seven times, but is still living. The father of our subject was an Orderly Sergeant in an Ohio regiment. The parents of our subject have nine children—Oliver H., Edward H., Mary J., Josephine, Commodore P., Benjamin F., Orrin P., William G. and Harry C.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of good abilities, and was bright and apt in his studies. He laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of Westerville, and, so rapid was his progress, that he was admitted to the High School at an unusually early age. When he was only eleven years of age he was engaged in pattern making and drafting for the C. & G. Cooper Manufacturing Company, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and he remained with them three years. When he was fourteen he went to Iowa, and worked on his brother-in-law's farm in Victor for a year. At the

expiration of that time he returned to Mt. Vernon, and formed a partnership with his brother Benjamin to buy and manage a drug store in that city. They continued together in that business for five years, and then sold and went to Granville, Ohio, where they embarked in the same business. A year and a half later our subject went to Chicago, and was employed as a traveling salesman for a year, and then was on the open Board of Trade in that city for two years. We next hear of him in Red Cloud, this State, where he was employed as a clerk in a drug store for a year. In 1887, having a fine opportunity to purchase an interest in Dr. Cook's drug store, in Plattsmouth, he came here for that purpose, and was enabled to make satisfactory terms with that gentleman. He is a man of high purpose and fine character, is gentlemanly in his deportment, and prompt and attentive in waiting on customers. Although he has been a resident of this city but a short time, he has favorably impressed those with whom he has come in contact, and has made many friendships. While a resident of Ohio he became identified with the Knights of Pythias, joining Timon Lodge No. 45, Mt. Vernon, and was made a Knight in 1879.

THOMAS J. FOUNTAIN. The pioneers of 1857, coming to Nebraska during its Territorial days, deserve more than a passing notice in a work of this kind. Among them may be numbered the subject of this history, who, in the spring of that year, settled on his present farm, which occupies a portion of section 24, in South Bend Precinct. He secured at first eighty acres, and to this he has given his close attention for a period of over thirty years, building up a good homestead, and bringing the soil to a high state of cultivation. Upon it, as may be supposed, there were no improvements whatever, and his neighbors were few and far between. The contrast between the past and present is one which only those who have marked the transformation are able to realize. To the men who first braved the dangers and difficulties of life on the frontier, is Nebraska indebted for her position as one of the most prosperous commonwealths west of the Mississippi. Mr. Fountain has contributed his full share toward her wealth and prosperity by eliminating from her soil one of her model homesteads, and otherwise performing the duties of an honest man and a good citizen.

Our subject first opened his eyes to the light on the other side of the Atlantic, in Buckinghamshire, England, May 22, 1830. His father, John Fountain, was a prosperous farmer and stock-dealer, and also engaged in merchandising. The mother, Mrs. Ann (Franklin) Fountain, was a native of the same shire as her husband, and they came to America when their son, Thomas J., was a little lad five years of age. They landed in New York City, and thence proceeded to Middletown, Conn., which was their home a number of years, and where the mother died in middle life, leaving six children—four sons and two daughters. They were named respectively: Henry, Esther, Richard, David, Thomas and Ann. Of these, three are living—Thomas and Ann in South Bend, Neb., and Esther in Oregon.

Our subject pursued his early studies in the common schools of Middletown, Conn., and later served an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, laboring as a journeyman thereafter for a number of years, and as long as he remained in New England. He was first married in Massachusetts to Miss Abelene Phipps, who became the mother of three children —Jason, Isabelle and Lafayette, and departed this life at her home in South Bend Precinct in 1886. These children are now living in South Bend, Neb.

Mr. Fountain's present wife was formerly Mrs. Mary Ann (Hamilton) Cummings, born in Chariton County, Mo. Later she removed with her husband to Sarpy County, this State. She is the daughter of William Hamilton, who, when leaving Missouri, removed first to Linn County, Iowa. Of her marriage with Henry Cummings there were born three children—Ethleen, Harriet and Erwin, all of whom are married and living—two in Sarpy County, this State, Harriet and Ethleen, and Erwin in Lyons, Col.

The father of our subject left New England in 1858, and came to this county, where he sojourned until his death, which occurred in 1882, after he had arrived at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Mr. Fountain, politically, votes the straight

Democratic ticket, and otherwise than serving as Treasurer of the School Board, has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office. He is regarded as a law-abiding and peaceful citizen, one who attends strictly to his own concerns, making little stir in the world, content to work quietly in his own sphere, and forming a worthy factor in the element constituting the bone and sinew of law and good order.

CHARLES H. BEODEKER, an enterprising farmer and stock-raiser, resides on section 24, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, was born March 30, 1852, in St. Louis, Mo., and is the eldest in a large family: Charles H., Lewis, Adolph F., Henry; Ella, now the wife of George Delezene; Theodore; Minnie, now the wife of Arthur Blackwell; Nora, now the wife of John Dunson; John, Effie and William C., now deceased. When about three years old his parents removed with their entire family to Jefferson County, Wis., where they resided six years, when they settled in Muscatine County, Iowa, where they lived until the spring of 1866, when the entire family, including our subject, came to Cass County, Neb. The educational advantages enjoyed by our subject were limited to the district schools in the neighborhood of his home. He had a natural taste for reading and study, which he has cultivated, and he is now a man well versed in the general topics of the day.

Our subject was married to Miss Sarah J. Hobson, Oct. 19, 1875. The lady was born in Mills County, Iowa, July 16, 1859, and is a daughter of Hadley and Rebecca Hobson. Her father was a soldier during the late Civil War, in which service he died in the hospital, of the measles. The mother married Jasper Bedwell, and now resides in Nodaway County, Mo. She is the elder of two children born to her parents; her brother is Nathan L. Hobson. As the result of the mother's second marriage there are seven children: Effie, the wife of John T. Atkinson; Ida E., now the wife of Price McCoppin; William E., Mary C., Carrie A., Alvin and Lulu.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Theodore and Patience Beodeker, who are now residents of Louisville Precinct. The father is a native of Germany, and came to America when he was about nine years old. The mother is a native of New York State. After various journeyings the parents settled on their homestead in Louisville Precinct, and they were among the first settlers there. They have continued residing on the original homestead from that date. His means were quite limited, and, like all pioneers in starting in a new country, they had continuous hardships and privations. In the summer season he devoted his time to the cultivation and improvement of his land, and in the winter he performed such jobs of freighting as time and occasion offered. In this way he managed to improve his property, until he now has a fine, well-improved farm, and is classed among the leading and representative men of the precinct. In politics he is a Democrat. He was a soldier during the Mexican War, having enlisted when quite a youth. Now, in the evening of life, they are enjoying the fruits of a life well spent.

Our subject has been practically reared to man's estate in this county, and has experienced many of the cares of pioneer life, giving the assistance of his strong right arm to his father in opening their then new farm, and bearing a heavy share of the labor incident to that purpose. Three children have been born to our subject and his worthy wife: Alta M. was born Dec. 17, 1876; Ida E., Dec. 4, 1879; and Willie Glenn, June 10, 1885. Mr. Beodeker settled on his present farm in the spring of 1876, where he has lived ever since. At that time it was perfectly wild. He had devoted himself to the improvement of his land so intelligently and assiduously, that he now has one of the finest improved farms in the county. He has a large and commodious dwelling, which, with the barns and other buildings, commands the attention and admiration of all, and is a continuing monument to the industry and persistent efforts of our subject.

Mrs. Beodecker came to Nebraska with her mother and step-father. She also knows what it is to be a pioneer, and she has faithfully seconded her husband's efforts, and rendered him all the assistance that a devoted wife can extend to a husband. She is a very intelligent, refined woman,

and her home displays the exercise of rare taste. Herself and husband are members of the United Brethren Church, and are foremost in all works of charity and benevolence; they hold a leading position in the social life of the precinct.

Mr. Beodeker, the owner of this fine farm, has been very successful in life. He attributes this success to the fact that he endeavors to live in a strict observance of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as ye would that they do unto you." Honest and upright, he merits and has the respect and admiration of all his neighbors. The family are noted for their generous hospitality and sociability. In politics he is a Democrat. Up to the present he has never sought or held any public office, feeling that he could not forego the quiet of his home that an entrance into public life would destroy. Hence, he has persistently refused to accept any favors in this line, although he is repeatedly requested to allow his name to be used.

JULIUS F. RAGOSS. Among the tillers of the soil of America no nationality has distinguished itself in a more praiseworthy manner than that owing its origin to the German Empire. To this the subject of this sketch, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, traces his direct origin, having been born in Prussia, Sept. 24, 1845. When a youth of seventeen years he emigrated with his parents to America, embarking on a steamer at the port of Bremen, and after an ocean voyage of fourteen days landed safely in New York City. Thence they proceeded directly to Henry County, Ill., where the parents settled, but about 1867 moved across the Mississippi into this county, and took up their abode in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, where they still reside.

Jacob and Epfrasine (Ziebart) Ragoss were also natives of Prussia, and Julius F. was their eldest son. The family included three other children, who are now located in Nebraska and California. Our subject lived with his parents about two years in Illinois, then started for the farther West, and spent some time looking over the country in Missouri, Arkansas and Minnesota, drifting to Nebraska about 1866. He, however, returned to Illinois, not being yet ready to settle in this State, but the year following took up his residence in this county, upon the quarter-section of land which he now occupies, and for which he paid the sum of $8 per acre.

This land, when coming into the possession of Mr. Ragoss, was nothing but a wild, uncultivated prairie, upon which not a furrow had been turned, it being just as the Indians had left it. His first business was to put up for himself a temporary shelter, and then to get in the crops of that season. He had come to this county empty-handed, and endured in common with the pioneers around him the hardships and privations incident to life in a new settlement. He knows how every dollar of his property has been accumulated, and gives due credit to the excellent woman who has been his companion for a period of seventeen years, and has labored equally with him in the building up of a homestead. To this lady, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary Ahl, he was married Feb. 22, 1871, at her home in Cass County, Neb.

Mrs. Ragoss, also of German parentage and ancestry, was born in the Province of Hessen, Jan. 29, 1854. Her parents, John and Catherine (Huff) Ahl, were natives of the same country, and the mother died in Nebraska about 1878. The parents emigrated to America when their daughter Mary was a child a year old, and lived for a time in New York City. Later they were residents of various States, and about 1865 made their way to this county, where Miss Mary was reared to womanhood. The father took up a tract of land in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, where he still lives. He was one of the pioneer settlers of that region, and is an honest and reliable citizen, greatly respected by his community.

Mr. and Mrs. Ragoss began their wedded life together in Cass County, and are now the parents of six children, who were born as follows: Henry H., Feb. 28, 1873; Julius A., Jan. 9, 1876; Edward, Dec. 7, 1878, and who died May 5, 1881; Ida C., Sept. 18, 1881; Olga, June 22, 1884, and Hugo A., Jan. 14, 1887. Our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, and Mr. R., politically, exercises the right of a free American citizen, to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office, irre-

spective of party. He attended school a short time after coming to this country, and employs himself in reading as time and opportunity permits. He thus keeps himself posted upon the important events transpiring upon both hemispheres, while in the direction of his farming interests he keeps abreast of new methods and modern machinery. The property which he has accumulated forms a standing monument to his industry and perseverance: one which will endure until his children are old enough to appreciate the diligence and forethought which characterized the labors of their honored sire.

ELI SAMSON, Superintendent of the Cass County Farm, Plattsmouth, and of the infirmary connected with that institution, is well fitted by his practical sagacity, sound common sense, and sterling integrity, for the responsible position that he is so satisfactorily filling. He was born in Scioto County, Ohio, Aug. 1, 1833, to James and Margaret (Bradford) Samson. In 1845 his parents, accompanied by their children--our subject, his brother Ezra, his sister Sarah and her husband, R. E. Bennett, embarked on a boat on the Ohio River bound for Missouri, and after a voyage of several days down the Ohio and up the Mississippi, they landed at St. Louis. They proceeded by team to their destination in Andrew County, Mo., four miles south of Savannah Landing, now the county seat, where the father had a short time previously preempted some land. Missouri was then in quite a wild condition; the Indians still living there, and wildcats, and other obnoxious animals then common in the sparsely settled regions of the West, were plenty. St. Joseph had but one store, being an insignificant trading-post, kept by a Frenchman of the name of Rubideaux, to whom belongs the honor of laying out the town. Mr. Samson and his children immediately set to work with a good will to build up a home in the wilds of that country, clearing the land from the heavy forest that covered all but five or six acres, which were all ready to cultivate, the tall, old trees having been removed before Mr. Samson purchased it. They succeeded in developing a fine farm, which they fenced, and erected a good dwelling, barn and other necessary buildings. Mr. Samson had a fine sugar camp, and they made all the sugar and molasses that they used. The parents of our subject died in Andrew County, leaving behind them the legacy of a good name and the record of lives well spent.

He of whom we write was a lad of twelve years when he accompanied his parents to Missouri, and there he grew to manhood. He was married in that State to Miss Mary Lyons, in Dec. 1858. They continued to live in Missouri about four years, and then took up their abode in Brown County, Kan. In February, 1863, he enlisted in Co. L, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and served with bravery and efficiency until Dec. 24, 1863. He took an active part in the battle of White Stone Hill, and was there wounded Sept. 2d by an Indian, the shot penetrating the right leg near the hip, and coming out near the knee, shattering a part of the bone, and it was not removed until eight years later. His eyesight was also greatly impaired while in the service, and at times he is almost blind. Mr. Samson continued to reside in Kansas some sixteen years, spending the last four years in Wabaunsee County. He then returned to his old home in Andrew County, Missouri, where he lived until November, 1877, when he came to Cass County with his family. He first located on a rented farm four miles south of Plattsmouth, but he subsequently bought an eighty acre farm on section 32, this township, to which he removed. At the expiration of a year and a half he sold that at a good advance, having been appointed in March, 1884, to his present position to take charge of the County Farm, the paupers and infirmary. He has been found by the commissioners to be the right man in the right place, and they have made a contract with him to retain the position of superintendent another year. Under his able management the farm is in a very satisfactory condition, and the paupers are well and kindly cared for. Mr. Sampson is indentified with the G. A. R., being a member of McConihie Post No. 43, Plattsmouth. Politically he supports the Republican party, and he has always proved a good and loyal citizen. Mr. Samson and wife have a family of nine children living, viz: David, married Sophia

Marler, they live in Rock Bluff Precinct; William married Mary Goodwin, they reside in Plattsmouth Precinct; Susan, wife of William Moore, lives in Plattsmouth; Lewis, Michael, Thomas, Oscar, Sarah and Ettie, all single.

G. A. ROSE is one of the oldest general merchants of the village of Union, and one of the best known business men of Liberty. He established his present store in this village in May, 1887, and S. A. Weimer is associated with him, under the firm name of G. A. Rose & Co. The latter is from Nebraska City, and was formerly engaged, for a period of twenty years, as general merchant, and being an enterprising, progressive man, was successful in his business. Our subject and his partner have a well-appointed store, and carry a full line of general merchandise, with a large supply of everything their trade demands. The stock runs as high as $7,000, and the sales are about double that amount. This is not Mr. Rose's first venture in the mercantile business, as he had a year's experience in the same line in a country store one and a half miles from Union, carrying groceries chiefly. In that he was very successful, but a man of his enterprising and energetic spirit and fine talent for business of course craved a broader field, and as a result he is established here, and is prospering as he deserves. Mr. Rose began life, however, as a farmer, having had a good property on section 30 of the fractional township or precinct of Wyoming. He still owns the old home farm, which comprises eighty acres of fine farming land, the most of which he improved himself and put into a suitable shape for a comfortable home.

Mr. Rose is a native of Ohio, born in the township of Farmington, Trumbull County, Nov. 4, 1847. He is a son of Hon. A. M. Rose. (For further parental history, see the biographical notice of the father of our subject, the Hon. A. M. Rose, on another page of this volume). He was married in Liberty Precinct, this county, in 1868, to Miss Elizabeth M. Douge. She was born in Indiana, Nov. 3, 1848, and is the daughter of N. G. Douge, likewise a native of Indiana. He is a farmer, and has also engaged in various other enterprises. Mr. Douge was married in Indiana to Miss Eliza A. Beaty, who was most likely a native of that State. Some years after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Douge came West, and he engaged in the various occupations of mechanic, merchant, well-digger and farmer. On coming to this State he located near the west bank of the Missouri River, on the boundary line of Cass and Otoe Counties, and that was his residence for some years. He finally sold out his interests in that locality and moved to Saline County, where he is still living, owning and managing a store at Pleasant Hill. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Rose, died in Cass County in 1882, aged nearly threescore years. Mr. Douge was subsequently married to Mrs. Worth Wright, who is still living. Mrs. Rose was well reared in a good home, and lived with her parents until her marriage. To her and her husband have been born ten children, two of whom, Sidney and LeRoy, died in infancy. The remaining children, all of whom are at home with their parents, are: Vinnie N., Viola M., Orpha B., Edna V., Lliota P., Lena, Fabian and Raymond. Mrs. Rose is a faithful Methodist in her religious belief, and with her husband is of high social standing in this community. Mr. Rose is an active, wide-awake man of business, prompt and decisive in his dealings, of good financial ability, and his credit is of the best. His interest in politics centers in the Republican party, he being an enthusiastic advocate of the policy of that party.

ABEL CRABTREE. Among the early pioneers of Cass County, few have rendered more efficient assistance in the development of its resources than the subject of this biography. He settled upon a tract of new land in the early days, and after years of industrious labor found himself in possession of a good farm and surrounded by all the comforts of life. He has recently sold his farm to his son. It comprises 160 acres of improved land, with good buildings, a fair assortment of live stock, and all the other appurtenances of a well-regulated country homestead.

The family history of our subject is essentially as follows: His father, James W. Crabtree, a native of Virginia, was the son of William Crabtree, who was born in Virginia, and married Miss Sarah, daughter of James and Mary Graham, who it is supposed were also natives of the old Dominion, where the family existed for several generations.

James Graham, Sr., the maternal great-grandfather of our subject, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, receiving an honorable wound, and later drew a pension from the Government until his death, which took place in Virginia. Grandmother Graham later emigrated with her son James, the father of our subject, to Jackson County, Ohio, at a very early period in its history, about 1820. He had in the meantime been married, and Abel, their first son, was born May 6, 1821. Grandmother Graham lived a period of over thirty years in the Buckeye State, dying in 1852 at an advanced age.

The subject of this sketch was reared to man's estate in Jackson County, Ohio. In the meantime his father had died, about 1874. Later the mother joined her son Abel in the West, making her home with him and another of the boys about three years. She then returned to Ohio, and took up her abode with her daughter in Scioto County, where she passed away in the spring of 1885, when about eighty-six years old. Their family included eighteen children, seventeen of whom lived to mature years, and were married; and thirteen are still living, and for the greater part are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Our subject found his bride in the Buckeye State, being married in his native county, July 9, 1848, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. John and Ruth (Peterson) Clemmons. The parents of Mrs. Crabtree were natives of Ohio, and came to Nebraska with their daughter Elizabeth, after her marriage. The father obtained his title of Captain on account of having raised a company during the Mexican War, which he commanded in that struggle. Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree, after their marriage, lived in Scioto County, Ohio, until 1853, when they emigrated to Missouri, making the trip via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, to St. Joseph, Mo., and thence across the country with teams to Andrew County. After one year's residence there they journeyed overland to this county, and located near the present site of the city of Rock Bluff as early as 1854, in the Territorial days. Indians were encamped all around them, the treaty not having yet been consummated by which settlers could come in and locate land. The Crabtree family were really dangerously situated, but by the most careful conduct and the avoidance of giving offense, they succeeded in living without molestation, until the treaty was completed and the survey effected, the Indians then leaving.

The first winter our subject and his little family spent in Nebraska they were sheltered in a log pen, with both roof and floor of dirt. The cracks were stopped up with leaves, and there was left a hole in the roof through which the smoke from their fire, which was made on the ground, could escape. They had neither fireplace nor stove, the cooking being performed, as the house was warmed, by the fire on the floor. The spring following, however, Mr. Crabtree put up a log house, which the family occupied comfortably several years.

When the land came into market Mr. Crabtree pre-empted 160 acres on section 15 where he now lives. It was then an unbroken prairie, and the habitation of a white man was not to be seen in that vicinity. It has taken years of labor and thousands of dollars to bring the farm to its present condition. In the meantime civilization has been slowly moving westward, and the culture and comforts of to-day form a wide contrast to the toils and deprivations of the pioneer times. The household circle in due time numbered seven children, namely: Allen, Noah, Ross, Tarvis, Elsa, Cyrus and Abel. The last-named died at the age of eighteen months. The others are living and all have homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree became identified with the Christian Church many years ago, and Mr. Crabtree has officiated as Elder a quarter of a century. In the full faith of this belief Mrs. Crabtree triumphantly passed from earth July 31, 1886, at the age of sixty-three years. She was a lady possessing all the Christian virtues, and her name is held in tender remembrance by her family and

a host of friends. Mr. Crabtree cast his first Presidential vote for Harrison, subsequently became a Democrat, prior to the formation of the Republican party a Whig, and is now a Democrat.

THOMAS RUBY is a prosperous farmer who may be classed among the pioneers of this county, having been a resident of the State since 1856. He resides on a well cultivated farm, located on section 10, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Madison County, Iowa, Aug. 12, 1854, where he lived with his parents until 1856, when the entire family migrated to Nebraska and settled on a claim of 160 acres of Government land that his father had pre-empted in Plattsmouth Precinct. From the day of his arrival in Cass County to the present time, he has continuously resided within its limits. His education was obtained in the district schools while a boy; when he entered into business for himself it was as a farmer and stock-raiser, which occupation he has pursued continuously up to the present time.

The subject of this sketch is a son of James and Amy J. Ruby, who were residents of Holmes County, Ohio. His maternal grandfather was a Scotchman, and his grandmother was a Quaker. His paternal grandfather, Isaac Ruby, was born in Maryland in 1801, and now resides in Madison County, Iowa. Our subject's father lived in Holmes County, Ohio, until he had reached his majority. There he married and later removed to Madison County, Iowa, where he resided for some time, when he migrated to Cass County, in 1856. He was the father of two children—Thomas, our subject, and Mary, who is now the wife of Warren Fletcher and resides in Georgetown, Col. Both parents are now residents of Plattsmouth Precinct.

Our subject and Miss Martha Jeffers were married Sept. 27, 1879, in Montgomery County, Kan. The lady was born in Cass County, Neb., Oct. 13, 1857. She is the daughter of George W. and Mary A. Jeffers. Her father now resides in Athens County, Ohio. He is a native of Ohio, as was also the mother, who is now deceased. Her parents removed from Clark County, Iowa, to Nebraska in 1857, and settled in what is now known as Rock Bluff Precinct, where her father pre-empted a claim which he improved and lived upon until 1876, then returned to Ohio. Her mother died Nov. 20, 1883. This lady is one of a family of eleven children, namely: Joseph, Sarah, Mary, Benjamin F.; Martha, the wife of our subject; Charles W., William L., Elenora, Ernest H., and two children deceased. Joseph resides in Washington Territory; Sarah is the wife of O. J. King, and resides in Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Mary is the wife of Isaiah White, and resides in Idaho; Benjamin F. also resides in Idaho; Charles W. lives in Buffalo County, Neb.; Elenora is the wife of Lewis Barker, and resides in Eight Mile Grove Precinct; William and Ernest H. reside in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. Our subject and wife are the parents of three children—Frank R., born Jan. 15, 1881; Bessie, Jan. 10, 1883, and James G., Dec. 28, 1885.

Mr. Ruby has improved his farm by planting an orchard of choice trees, buildings conveniently arranged and well located barns, cattle sheds and granaries, for the comfort of his stock and the economical handling of his various farm products. His residence is nicely located, is comfortably furnished, and is supplied with many of the luxuries of life. It is presided over by his good wife, who is ever ready to lend her aid to the furtherance of the interests of her husband at any and all times. The parents take great pride in their growing family, and the love lavished on their children is fully appreciated and reciprocated. Their home farm is composed of 160 acres of nicely located land, fenced and sub-divided into fields of convenient size and thoroughly cultivated. Mr. Ruby makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred English Shire horses, and is now the owner of several fine graded animals; he takes great pride in them and they certainly show the large amount of attention and care bestowed upon them. He owns one imported horse which is valued at $1,200. He is also the owner of a herd of high-grade cattle and a number of fine hogs.

The subject of our sketch is a man possessing great force of character, and being a public-spirited citizen, he makes his influence felt in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the best interests

of the community in which they live. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and have always taken an active interest in religious matters. They also hold an enviable position in the social circles of the neighborhood. He is a Republican in politics. He has filled no public office except that of School Director, of which he is now the incumbent.

BASIL SWEARINGEN RAMSEY, one of the ablest members of the legal profession in Southern Nebraska, established himself in the city of Plattsmouth in the spring of 1881, and entered upon a most successful career. He comes of excellent Pennsylvania stock, and was born in the vicinity of Frankfort Springs, Beaver County, that State, July 4, 1844. His father, William Ramsey, a native of the same place, was born Jan. 11, 1808, and the paternal grandfather, Samuel Ramsey, was also a native of Beaver County. The great-grandfather, James Ramsey, was a native of either Scotland or Ireland, whence he emigrated at an early day to America, settling among the pioneers of Beaver County, Pa. He was one of the most highly esteemed members of the farming community of that region, where he spent the remainder of his life, building up a good homestead and making for himself a worthy record. His remains were laid to rest in Kings Creek Cemetery, where his son, William, and grandson, William, were also buried.

James Ramsey was the father of fifteen children, and from him probably sprang the people of that name in the United States. Samuel Ramsey also followed farming, and spent his entire life in his native county. His son William, the father of our subject, was reared and educated in his native county, and departing somewhat from the career of his forefathers, chose the profession of law, while at the same time he became the owner of a farm where he made his home and the operations of which he superintended. He thus spent his entire life practicing law and carrying on agriculture, and was a life-long resident of his native county. He rested from his earthly labors in October, 1870.

Basil Swearingen, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Maryland, and was the son of Samuel Von Swearingen, who was born also in that State. The family came originally from Holland, and were among the earliest settlers of Maryland. The great-grandfather migrated to Beaver County, Pa., about the time of the trouble with the Shawnees, Mingoes and other tribes of Indians along the Ohio River. He being contemporaneous with Lewis Wetzel and others who acquired reputation as skillful Indian fighters. He opened up a farm from the wilderness and there spent the remainder of his days, his remains being laid to rest in the family burying ground on the farm. His son, the grandfather of our subject, also cleared a large farm in that region and lived to be ripe in years. He was buried in a cemetery near Poe, Hanover Township, Beaver Co., Pa.

The mother of our subject, in her girlhood Miss Mary Swearingen, was also born in Beaver County, Pa., Oct. 13, 1813, and surviving her husband a little over ten years, departed this life Dec. 22, 1880. The parental household included eight children, seven of whom grew to mature years. Alletha married Daniel Standish, a lineal descendant of Miles Standish, the Captain of the Mayflower, and died in Beaver County, Pa.; John came to the West several years ago, and is now a resident of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, this county; Sarah Ann continues a resident of Beaver County, Pa.; Catherine married John Ramsey, of Beaver County; Basil S. was the next in order of birth; William died when eleven years of age; Bella married Dr. J. M. Waterman, and lives in Hay Springs, Sheridan County, this State; Rebecca lives with her sister Sarah, on the old homestead in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Ramsey pursued his early studies in the common schools of his native town, and lived there until the year 1863, when he resolved to seek his fortunes in the West. Coming to Nebraska Territory he settled first at Mt. Pleasant, this county, and for the first two winters employed himself as a school teacher, while in summer he worked on a farm. He was thus teacher and farmer alternately for a time, but finally occupied himself in teaching the year around, until 1874.

In the year 1870 young Ramsey commenced

reading law under the instruction of Judge Samuel Maxwell, of Plattsmouth, now on the Supreme Bench, and was admitted to the bar in 1879. He had in the meantime opened an office at Louisville, and practiced there. Later he formed a partnership with A. W. Crites, who is now Receiver of Public Moneys at Chadron, and opened an office in Plattsmouth, of which he has since been a resident. His partnership with Mr. Crites continued until the year 1887, when the latter withdrew to accept his present position.

Mr. Ramsey was married quite late in life, Dec. 25, 1882, to Miss Libbie Crites, daughter of Joseph and Lydia (Darling) Crites. She is the youngest sister of his former law partner, A. W. Crites. Mrs. Ramsey was born in Racine County, Wis. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and New York respectively. The mother is deceased. The father is a resident of Plattsmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey are the parents of one child, a son, Willie Paul, who was born June 30, 1884. Mr. R. has always been a Democrat politically, and in 1885 was elected County Commissioner, receiving a large majority in a Republican county, which sufficiently indicates his standing in his community. He fulfilled the duties of this office three years acceptably. In 1883 he was Journal Clerk of the State Senate.

JAMES COLBERT, an enterprising farmer of Elmwood Precinct, was born in Huntingtonshire, England, Aug. 19, 1833, and was the youngest in a family of six children. The father died when our subject was twelve years old, leaving him alone to shift for himself at that early age. His educational advantages were very limited. At the age of twenty he came to America to join his brother John, who had emigrated to America, and settled in Niagara County, N. Y., two years previously. In 1856 our subject went to Michigan, residing for a time in the counties of Allegan, Barry and Kent. In 1862 he was married to Miss Sarah Jane Van Avery, the daughter of Samuel and Cordelia (Hitchcock) Van Avery. The lady's parents were of Dutch descent, and were natives of Canada, where they lived until the wife of our subject was twelve years old, when they removed to Michigan, where she resided until her marriage with Mr. Colbert.

After his marriage our subject rented a farm in Michigan, but soon realizing the fact that there were better opportunities in the West for obtaining a home of their own, they, in May, 1868, packed their effects in a wagon, and drove off toward the wild West. At the time of starting his final destination was not specifically determined, they intending to travel westward until they discovered the the location most favorable for their purposes. On June 27, 1868, while travelling westward their present homestead came into view. He at once filed a claim on his present eighty acres, unloaded his household goods, and immediately began the improvements, of which the present well arranged and comfortable home is the result. Mr. C. has made all the improvements on the farm, erected a fine new barn, planted an orchard of choice trees, set out groves and ornamental trees, until he has a farm whose improvements rank second to none in utility and convenience.

Mr. Colbert and wife are parents of ten children—William H. (deceased), Elvira B., John W., George Lincoln, Charles Wesley (deceased), Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Elmer, Mary L., Samuel Eugene and Perry Edwin. Elvira, the eldest daughter, is now married to Mr. Edwin H. F. Richards, a thrifty young farmer of the neighborhood, and is the proud mother of one child, Mary, who is the idol of both her parents and grandparents. The son John W. is a respected citizen of Elmwood Precinct. All of the family were born in Nebraska, except the three elder children, whom they brought to Nebraska with them in 1868. Our subject's son John W. was married to Miss Lucy Frisbey, Dec. 18, 1888, at the home of the bride in Weeping Water Precinct; she is the daughter of James and Sarah Frisbey.

Robert Colbert and Sarah, his wife, the parents of our subject, were natives of England, where the father was a laborer, which position in that country was not conducive to the accumulation of great wealth, in consequence he was not able to give the subject of our sketch any substantial financial assistance, and as a result he has had his own way to

make in the world from the start, and it is but due to him to say that he has performed his part faithfully and well. Having nothing but his hands and head to depend upon, he made such good and effective use of them that he can now look over his broad well cultivated acres and pleasant and comfortable home, and feel that they are the direct result of the labor of himself and wife. He is highly esteemed by his neighbors, and any enterprise for the good of the people finds in him an earnest supporter. In politics he is a stanch Republican. Himself and wife are both esteemed members of the Baptist Church.

W. J. WARRICK. To anyone acquainted with the business circles of Plattsmouth the name of our subject is well known as that of the popular druggist and accurate prescriptionist of that place. He was born in Washington County, Pa., April 20, 1861, and is the son of George M. and Mary (Wilson) Warrick. His father and mother were also residents of Washington County. The family is of English extraction, and the grandfather of our subject, Jonathan Warrick, was born in New England, of English parentage.

Jonathan Warrick was an educated man, and became a civil engineer. He went to Western Pennsylvania as a surveyor in the early days of settlement there, and had charge of the surveying of a large section of the then new country. Many of his field notes are now preserved and kept for reference in Washington, Pa. He located in Washington County, and there spent the latter years of his life. There the father of our subject was reared, and as a young man learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for about ten years, and then engaged in mercantile pursuits. He is now retired from the more active engagements of business, but owns and is interested in two farms in Cass County and one in Otoe County, of this State, and also a farm in Montgomery County, and another in Cass County, Iowa.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary Wilson. She was born in Taylorstown, Pa., and is the daughter of William Wilson. She has become the mother of five children, who received the following names: Matilda Belle, wife of Thomas C. McCarrell; our subject; John Martin, Rachel Mary and Jennie May.

Our subject was educated in the schools of Washington, taking the High School course, and also that of Duff's Mercantile College at Pittsburgh, being graduated from the latter institution on the 31st of October, 1878, after which he returned to Washington, and attended the classes of Washington and Jefferson College; after leaving this institution he became a drug clerk in one of the leading drug-stores of Washington, remaining there for about two years, and coming to this county in the year 1882. He settled at Plattsmouth, and bought a drug-store of O. F. Johnson, and from that time has continued prosperously in that line of business.

On the 5th of April, 1882, Mr. Warrick was joined in matrimony with Annie Poland, who was born in Washington, Pa., and is the daughter of Henry Poland, of Washington, Pa. There have been three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Warrick, and these bear the following names: Annie M. B., who died Dec. 9, 1888; George H. and William J. Mr. and Mrs. Warrick are much esteemed members of the community. Our subject is a member of the Republican party, and is a worthy and loyal citizen, and takes a deep interest in all questions that pertain to the National welfare.

PHILLIP HORN, well known throughout Plattsmouth Precinct, is comfortably located on section 17, and bears the reputation of an honest man and a good citizen, a life-long Democrat politically, and with his family members in good standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. He has made of agriculture a pronounced success, having a finely improved farm, which forms one of the most attractive features in the landscape of that section of country.

Our subject is of substantial German ancestry, and the son of Peter Horn, a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, who married Miss Anna Katie Kump, and lived in Germany until after the birth of nine children. The paternal grandparents, also natives

of Hesse-Darmstadt, spent their entire lives upon their native soil. To Peter and Anna Horn there were born five sons and four daughters, namely: Margaret, Mike, George, Lizzie, Jacob, Margaretta, Phillip (our subject), George P. and Elizabeth. The mother died in Germany when comparatively a young woman, in 1845.

The father of our subject, about eleven years after the death of his wife, emigrated to America, in 1854, locating in Tazewell County, Ill., where his death took place that same year. Phillip and his brother George P. had preceded their father to the United States in June, 1851, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel in twenty-four days. After landing in New York City they proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, first by boat to Albany, N. Y., thence across the State, and by lake to Toledo, and thence down the Miami Canal to the Queen City. At that point, embarking on the Ohio River, they proceeded to the Mississippi and St. Louis, and from there to Pekin, Ill., where, securing a tract of land, our subject engaged in farming.

In Illinois Mr. Horn made the acquaintance of Miss Margaretha Schwabel, to whom he was married Feb. 12, 1859, and lived in the Prairie State until 1868. In that year he came to the young State of Nebraska, and purchased his present farm of 160 acres. It could scarcely then be dignified by the name of a farm, as but forty acres had been plowed, and the only building was a small frame house. Under this humble roof the little family took up their abode, and Mr. Horn proceeded to the building up of a homestead. The steadfast labor of years has been amply rewarded, the soil yielding bountifully to his thorough culture and excellent management. The first humble dwelling was replaced, in 1878, by a more substantial residence, and there is also a barn, granaries, corn cribs and all the other necessary out-buildings. Mr. Horn subsequently invested a portion of his surplus capital in another quarter-section of land, which is now also improved, and he has about 200 acres of pasture. His farms consist of 500 acres.

The career of our subject has been that essentially of a self-made man. He came to the United States poor in purse, and his possessions are the result of his own perseverance, aided by an industrious and sensible wife. They are the parents of four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Mary, is the wife of Theodore Starkjohn, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work; Maggie, Mrs. Fred Kehne, is a resident of this precinct; Katie is the wife of Henry Hirz, who is written of elsewhere in this work; Lizzie, Mrs. John Kaffenberger, resides with her husband on the home farm, with her parents, and has one child, a daughter, Anna. Mrs. Horn is the daughter of Jacob and Caroline Schwabel, who were natives of Germany, and are now deceased.

BENJAMIN F. RUBY. The spring of 1879 found the subject of this sketch journeying on his road from Ohio to this county, accompanied by his wife and four children. He first settled upon a tract of land in the vicinity of Eight Mile Grove post-office, upon which he operated four years with such good results that in the spring of 1883 he took possession of a farm which he could call his own. Upon this he has since resided, and it is pleasantly located on section 9, Mt. Pleasant Precinct. Eighty acres of good land are comprised within its boundaries, which under careful cultivation have become productive and valuable. In addition to general farming, stock-raising forms a prominent feature of the operations connected therewith.

Monroe County, Ohio, was the boyhood home of our subject, and where his birth took place Sept. 19, 1843. Edward R. and Rosetta (Haines) Ruby, his parents, were also natives of the Buckeye State, and are now residents of this county. Ten children completed the sum of the parental household, eight of whom survive: John W. lives in Red Willow County, this State; Mary died when about thirty-nine years old; Benjamin F., our subject, was the third child; Hiram H. is in Colorado; Hester lives in this county; Robert lives in Gage County; Jesse resides in this county; Harriet died when about twenty-five years old; Edward R. is engaged in farming in this county, and William is numbered among the well-to-do farmers of Hitchcock, Neb.

Mr. Ruby continued a resident of his native

county until a young man of twenty years, and then the whole family changed their residence to Morgan County, in the same State. Later he was married there, March 4, 1868, to Miss Mary C. Sanders, who was born in Morgan County, Dec. 22, 1844. Mrs. Ruby is the daughter of Hezekiah and Ann (Rose) Sanders, the father a native of Massachusetts and the mother of Virginia. It is known that Grandfather Rose was a Captain in the War of 1812, and it is believed that Grandfather Sanders distinguished himself in a like manner. The parental family included four children, three of whom are living, namely: Stillman, a resident of Morgan County, Ohio; Mrs. Ruby and Hannah A., the wife of Abraham Long, a resident of this county. Hiram died in Ohio when about twenty-eight years old.

The parents of Mrs. Ruby were numbered among the pioneer settlers of Morgan County, Ohio, of which they were residents for many years, and recognized as among the best element of its people. The mother died at the homestead there March 9, 1878. Mr. Sanders survived his wife for over ten years, dying in Ohio, Nov. 29, 1888. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ruby, only two of whom survive: Mary E. came to the household Dec. 5, 1868, and passed away when a little over seventeen years of age, Dec. 26, 1885; Jesse F. was born March 29, 1871, and died June 15, 1881; Edward M. was born June 5, 1873, and Rosetta A. March 12, 1876. These two bright young people, as may be supposed, are the joy and pride of their parents' hearts. They are being carefully trained and educated as the representatives of a prominent and highly respected family.

Mr. Ruby acknowledges that a large portion of his success is due to the helpful efforts of his worthy and excellent wife, who with him has borne the heat and burden of the day, and contributed her share toward the accumulation of their property. Mr. Ruby, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and before leaving his native State had distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen, frequently serving on the School Board of his district, and often occupying other positions requiring good judgment and integrity. Socially, he belongs to the G. A. R. Post at Weeping Water. During the late Civil War he was a member for ninety days of the Ohio National Guards, ready to shoulder his musket and prevent the Confederates desecrating the soil of his native State. Fortunately a more arduous service was not required, and the Guards in due time disbanded, and resumed the peaceful vocations of civil life.

JOSHUA P. BURDICK. The farmers in the southwestern part of Cass County, in and around Tipton Precinct, are men fully as capable and enterprising as their neighbors further east, and among the most prominent of these is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. One of the heaviest stock-feeders of that section, he utilizes largely in this industry the 640 acres of land which constitutes one of the finest farms in Cass County. He ships usually 250 head of cattle per annum, besides horses and swine, and realizes, it is hardly necessary to say, a handsome income.

Mr. Burdick is the offspring of an excellent old family, his great-grandfather having been one of seven brothers, who emigrated from Scotland over a century ago and purchased a whole township of land in New York State. From them sprang the Burdicks of America. Abel, the grandfather of our subject, a native of New York, after reaching manhood served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He later followed agricultural pursuits, and spent his last years in New York State. His son, Abel Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Allegany County, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1799, and married Miss Lucy Hadsell, a native of the same place and born March 9, 1806.

Grandfather Hadsell was of English descent and one of the early pioneers of New York State. He was a lumberman, also owned a farm in Cattaraugus County, and later he operated a saw-mill on the Alleghany River, rafting his lumber down the Ohio to Cincinnati, and was thus engaged until about ten years before his death, then removing into Allegany City he retired from active labor. His death took place Aug. 29, 1866. The mother survived until March 10, 1879, when she too died in Allegany City. Both were members of the Baptist

Church. The parental family consisted of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. One daughter, Barbara, died when about fifty-seven years old. Those living to mature years were: Abel R., Joshua P., our subject, Euphemia, Hanford D., Albertus P., who died when twenty-one years old, and Sarah. Abel, during the late Civil War enlisted in the 99th Illinois Infantry, in which he served until the close, being neither wounded or captured, and safely returned, settling in Pike County, Ill., where he is now living. Albertus enlisted in a New York regiment, served under Gen. McClellan, and died near Richmond, Va., of fever, in August, 1862. His remains were laid to rest near the old home in Allegany City, N. Y. The other children are living.

The subject of this sketch was born near Alford, Allegany Co., N. Y., Sept. 30, 1832. He was reared to manhood in the lumber districts of the Empire State, and after attending the subscription school completed his studies in the High School at Moline. When a youth of eighteen years he repaired to Pike County, Ill., on a visit, and was so well pleased with the country in that region that he never returned. Upon leaving Pike County he journeyed by rail to Detroit, thence to Chicago by canal, and down the Illinois River to Griggsville. Here he was employed by the month on a farm and whatever else he could find to do until the spring of 1852.

Young Burdick, not yet satisfied with his explorations, migrated to Minnesota and assisted in the survey of the old State wagon road, and later crossed the lake to St. Peters River, and finally engaged in rafting lumber down the Wisconsin. We next find him back in Pike County, Ill., there having been an unusual attraction in that locality which was more fully explained on the 3d of April, 1853, when he was united in marriage with Miss Deborah Gray, the wedding taking place at her father's, in Pike County.

Mrs. Burdick was born near Barry, Pike Co., Ill., Oct. 21, 1835, and is the daughter of Anson and Jane (Harris) Gray, the father a native of Onondaga County, N. Y., and the mother of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather, John Gray, was also a native of New York and of Welsh ancestry. Grandfather Harris, whose Christian name was William, was born in New York State, and followed the trade of gunsmith. In due time he migrated to Ohio, settling near Tiffin, where it is supposed he spent the remainder of his life. His father, the maternal great-grandfather of Mrs. Burdick, was of Irish descent, and was the founder of the present flourishing city of Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania.

Abel Burdick when a youth of eighteen years enlisted in a New York regiment as a soldier in the War of 1812. Later he emigrated to Seneca County, Ohio, and employed himself as a farmer and traveler, being a hunter of no mean skill. Leaving the Buckeye State in 1833 he migrated to Pike County, Ill., and was one of the first men to settle there upon a tract of Government land. Here as before he prosecuted farming and hunting combined, became wealthy, and died Feb. 15, 1870, at the age of seventy-four years. The wife passed away twenty-three years prior to the decease of her husband, her death taking place at their home in Pike County, Aug. 10, 1847, when she was in the forty-first year of her age.

To Anson and Jane (Harris) Gray there were born eleven children, namely: Mary, who died when thirty years old; John; William; Jerome, deceased at the age of thirty; Adelia, Deborah, Angeline, Benjamin, Sylvia A., Jane and Harriet. Benjamin, during the late Civil War enlisted in the 99th Illinois Infantry and served until the close. Deborah, the wife of our subject, was born near Barry, Pike Co., Ill., Oct. 21, 1835. Mr. Burdick after his marriage purchased land to the extent of 200 acres in Pike County, where he commenced farming, but later sold out and purchased another farm of 100 acres. Upon this he operated until the spring of 1858, then, seized with a desire for still further adventure, disposed of his property interests in the Prairie State and set out with teams for Brown County, Kan.

Our subject operated upon the soil of Kansas a period of three years, and in the fall of 1862 came to Nebraska, and pitched his tent in Nemaha County. He was engaged in teaming that year and in the fall, the Civil War being in progress, enlisted as a Union soldier in Company E, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, the boys furnishing their own horses.

He was mustered in at Omaha as First Sergeant and the regiment was detailed to operate against the Indians on the frontier. They met the enemy in a pitched battle on the White Stone River, and in many other lively engagements and skirmishes. After a service of thirteen months Mr. Burdick received his honorable discharge at Brownville, Neb., in the fall of 1863.

Returning now to Nemaha County, Neb., Mr. Burdick engaged in general merchandising at Peru, but a year later sold out and began freighting to Denver, which occupied him two years. Then returning to mercantile pursuits in Peru he busied himself at this for a time, and finally drifted into the grain trade, which he prosecuted six years and until the spring of 1875, in connection with merchandising. Thereafter he turned his whole attention to the buying and shipping of grain, until 1882. Then, having purchased land in Tipton Precinct, he moved upon it, and commenced the farming operations which have resulted so successfully. He began at first principles, turning the first furrow upon it, planting groves and an orchard of 400 trees, besides the smaller fruits, erecting a good house and barn and gradually adding the other structures necessary to the complete homestead.

The farm of Mr. Burdick is finely located and receives the necessary moisture from a branch of the Nemaha River, from which a windmill conveys it to tanks, both around the farm and in the house. Eighty acres of land lies on section 28, and the remaining 160 on sections 33 and 34, the residence being on section 33. In his stock operations Mr. Burdick ships annually about eleven cars of cattle and swine, and keeps about thirty head of graded Percheron horses.

Ten children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Burdick, the record of whom is as follows: James, the eldest son, is married and farming in Dakota; Lucy W. married W. J. Miller, a farmer of Garfield Precinct, in Lincoln County, Neb.; they have two children—Frank and George. Rebecca is the wife of M. D. Zinkon, and they reside in Callaway County, Mo.; Anson is married and farming in Lincoln County; Ida M. is the wife of George Tappen, editor of a paper in Broken Bow; Jerome is unmarried and following the profession of a teacher in Palmyra Precinct, Otoe County; Edward P. is farming in Lincoln County; William H., Sylvia L. and Iven are at home with their parents. They are a group of very interesting and intelligent children, comprising a family of which the parents have reason to be proud. They have been well educated and carefully trained, and are thus prepared to bear worthily in later years the mantle of their honored parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdick are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which our subject officiates as a Trustee, and politically, he uniformly votes the Republican ticket. He has been quite prominent in local politics, and for a period of twenty-five years, with the exception of one or two instances, has represented his party in the various State and County Conventions. He has had considerable experience as a juror, and has uniformly signalized himself as a liberal and public-spirited citizen, encouraging all enterprises calculated for the best good of the people. He believes in education, and was instrumental in organizing Peru College, while he has been a member of the School Board since attaining manhood. In 1887 he was elected Justice of the Peace, and still holds the office. Mrs. Burdick, like her husband, is held in high esteem in her community, being a lady looking well to the ways of her household, kind, hospitable and generous, ever ready to do a favor to those about her, while her cultivated and intelligent mind has had its influence, not only in her own household, but in the circle in which she has moved for so many years. No family stands higher among the intelligent people of Cass County.

OLIVER WARD occupies a prominent place among the pioneers and early settlers of the county and State, and now lives on a highly improved farm of eighty acres, on section 20, Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He took possession of his present home farm in the spring of 1863. He is a native of Union County, Ind., where he was born Dec. 25, 1825. He attained to years of manhood in Putnam County, Ind., amid the scenes of pioneer life, and he did much of the hard labor incident to

opening new farms in a heavily timbered country. His educational advantages were extremely limited, as his time was fully occupied in farming, however, by closely observing the actions of men, and noting events as they transpired he is now fully informed on all matters of general interest.

Our subject is the son of Isaac and Beulah (Bradway) Ward. The mother was born in New Jersey. His father was born in the same State, and is the descendant of an old English family that emigrated to America previous to the War for Independence. Grandfather Ward was a soldier during the Revolutionary War, and the father of our subject was a boy at the time. The parents removed with their family, when Oliver was ten years old, to Putnam County, Ind., where they were also among the earliest settlers. Here there was no cessation to the labor of the farm they proceeding to clear a farm in the midst of the heavy timber, and our subject remembers when in Indiana he "rolled logs" for twenty-three days in succession. Log rolling in those days was made a neighborhood affair, when all the male members of the community gathered by appointment on the farm of some one of their number, and proceeded, with the aid of numerous ox-teams, much whisky, many dogs and loud shouting, to roll into immense heaps the trunks of the trees that had been felled by the owner of the land, after which they were burned. These gatherings served as opportunities for the widely scattered settlers to form the acquaintance of new-comers, for the dissemination of work, and devising plans for the better protection of their interests.

This gentleman is one of a family of eight children, three of whom survive, namely: Jonathan, who now lives in Taylor County, Iowa; Josiah, who now resides in Indiana, and our subject. The five deceased were named: Jefferson, Thomas, Abigail, Joseph and William. Mr. Ward was married to Sarah A. Jenkins, Sept. 22, 1846. This lady was born Sept. 1, 1828, in Putnam County, Ind. She is a daughter of Benjamin and Catherine Jenkins. Her father was born in Montgomery County, Ky., Nov. 15, 1811, and was of German origin. Her mother was born in Indiana and was of English descent. A large number of her ancestors took an active and honorable part in the War for Independence. Her parents settled in Putnam County at a very early day, and reared a family of seven children, five of whom are living. They were named: Sarah, the wife of our subject; Elizabeth, Emily, Elijah and Columbus. Elizabeth is the wife of William Jenkins, and resides in Charleston, Ill.; Emily is the wife of Marion Buis, and now resides in Andrew County, Mo.; Elijah lives in Greenwood, Neb., and Columbus lives in Logan County, Iowa. The two deceased were Jessie and Renia.

Our subject and his wife have become the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are living: Benjamin, Marion, Emily E., Margaret, Henderson, David A., John O. and Charles. Benjamin resides in Washington County, Col.; Marion lives in Cass County, Neb.; Emily is the wife of John Sayles, and resides in Greenwood, Neb.; and Margaret is the wife of Jesse Livingston, and resides in Louisville Precinct; Henderson also lives in Louisville Precinct; David, John O. and Charles are at home with their parents.

Mr. Ward and family removed to Andrew County, Mo., in the spring of 1850, where they lived until the spring of 1855, when they removed to Mills County, Iowa, where they lived until the family came to Nebraska in the spring of 1860 and located near Plattsmouth, where he lived until the spring of 1863, when he settled on his present farm. The improvements at that time consisted of an 18x24 feet square, rudely built board house, and thirty acres of land had been plowed. He has devoted all his time and energy to the improvement and cultivation of his farm, in which he has been very prosperous. He has added to his original purchase at different times until he is now the owner of 170 acres, and a house and two lots in Louisville.

The residence of our subject occupies a very prominent location, and is surrounded by a large number of ornamental trees, a fine orchard is growing, and presents a very thrifty appearance. His barn is well arranged for the purposes for which it was intended, he has numerous cattle sheds, corn cribs and granaries. The farm is divided into fields of convenient size by substantial fences, and, taken altogether, the entire property reflects great

credit on the owner and shows the result of intelligently directed labor, by a man thoroughly well informed in all the details of his business.

During the late Civil War Mr. Ward was in military service for about fourteen months; he was stationed on the Upper Missouri River among the Sioux Indians. He was attacked by a very serious illness, and was confined in the hospital at at Ft. Pierre, Dak., for a long time. After his recovery he did not enter the active service again, but was honorably discharged with the remainder of his command, when he returned home. Both himself and wife are among the leading and representative families of the precinct, are members of the Christian Church, and take a leading part in all charitable and church matters. The wife has ably seconded her husband's efforts in accumulating the splendid property which they now own, and richly deserves the life of contentment and comparative ease which they are now enable to enjoy. They are important factors in the social life of the precinct. In politics he is a straight Republican. He has never sought or held any public office, preferring to devote his entire time to his own affairs, which has rendered him and his good wife so favorably and widely known throughout the locality in which they live.

CHARLES M. HOLMES, a Cass County pioneer, is proprietor of a livery stable in Plattsmouth, and is numbered among the substantial and well-to-do citizens of that city. He is a man of wide and varied experience, keen, prompt and trusty in his dealings, and he is well known and well liked by an extensive acquaintance. He was born in Gilboa, Schoharie Co., N. Y., May 21, 1835. He comes of an old Scottish family of that name, and his father, John Holmes, was born in Paisley, Scotland, of which country his parents were life-long residents, as were his ancestry, for the most part, as far back as known. The father of our subject, with his brother Walter and sister Jane, were the only members of the family that ever crossed the water to this country. The father of our subject learned the trade of a weaver in his native town, and he served seven years as a soldier. He came to America about 1818, and locating in Delaware County, N. Y., worked there a few years at his trade. He subsequently moved from there to Schoharie County, where he bought a farm, on which he lived until 1840, when he sold that and bought a farm five miles from Delhi. During the winter seasons he did weaving for the neighbors, and the rest of the year he farmed. He died on his homestead in Delhi in 1854. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Jane Mayer, and she was also a native of Paisley, Scotland. She died at the home of a daughter in Pennsylvania some years after her husband's death. They were very worthy people, and from them our subject inherited the characteristic Scotch traits of thrift, energy and foresight. They were the parents of twelve children, eleven of whom grew up, namely: Ann, John, Rebecca, William, Jane, James, Elizabeth, Margaret, Lovisa, Charles and Walter. William served in the Mexican War, and died in the military hospital at Pueblo, Mex.

The subject of this sketch was the next to the youngest child in that large family of children. He was a bright, quick little lad, more than ordinarily gifted with independence of spirit, and at the extremly youthful age of seven years was ambitious to earn his own living, and started out into the world for that purpose. His parents found him and took him home again, and he lived with them until he was fourteen years old. He then made another start, and from that time forth took care of himself. He first went to Pennsylvania, and there began to learn the trade of a blacksmith with his brother-in-law, working at it for a year and a half. After that he was employed at various kinds of work for a year, and at the end of that time, having prudently saved all the money that he could, he bought a small stock of groceries with his little capital, taking a part of them on credit, and opened a store at Clarksville, Mercer Co., Pa. In March, 1857, he sold out his business there, and started for the Territory of Nebraska on the 3d day of March, going by wagon to Newcastle, Pa., from there by rail to Pittsburg, and thence down the Ohio, and up the Mississippi and Missouri

rivers to St. Joseph, Mo. When he arrived there he found himself somewhat short of funds, and so took his grip in his hand and started on foot for Nebraska. He arrived at his destination, Rock Bluff, Cass County, with $2.60 in his pocket. He did not allow the low state of his finances to discourage him, however, but sought the means of replenishing his funds. There was a small village at Rock Bluff, with about 150 inhabitants, and with bright prospects of rapid growth. The surrounding country was sparsely settled, and nearly all the land was owned by the Government. Mr. Holmes soon found employment quarrying rock at $2 a day. He worked at that twelve days, and then turned his attention to the lumber business. He bought standing cottonwood trees, cut and drew them to the mill, and then used them in the construction of two houses at Rock Bluff. In April, 1859, our subject and two companions started for Pike's Peak, with two pair of oxen, one pair of cows, and six months' provisions. They arrived at Denver early in June, and after spending two days there passed on to Gregory's diggings in the mountains. They engaged in prospecting, and while doing so Mr. Holmes used, or generously gave way to needy companions, all of his outfit. After remaining in the Rockies two months he retraced his steps to Denver, and there engaged to work in a shingle mill for fifty cents a day. Five days later, with characteristic boldness, he conceived the idea of buying the machine, and did so on credit for $200. He ran the machine for four weeks, and with such success that he was able to pay for it, and he then traded it for five yoke of oxen and a wagon. With them he went to teaming lumber from a point on Cherry Creek to Denver, twenty miles distant, receiving $20 a thousand for drawing the lumber. He teamed three weeks only, and then bought fifty yoke of cattle and ten wagons from D. C. Oakes, for which he was to pay in lumber. In less than four months he had cancelled the whole amount of his indebtedness. He continued teaming for a year, at the expiration of which time he returned to Rock Bluff and invested some of his money in a gristmill, buying a third interest therein. He operated that six months, then sold it, and soon bought a farm in Rock Bluff Precinct. While actively engaged in farming there he dealt in cattle and horses, making his residence in Rock Bluff village and precinct until 1872. His next venture was to come to Plattsmouth and engage in shipping cattle and hogs for some years. In 1877 he opened a livery stable, and since that time has been conducting that business. He has a fine outfit of good driving horses, and neat and stylish vehicles of various descriptions, and he is well patronized.

Mr. Holmes was married, in 1860, to Marietta Kauble, and of their pleasant wedded life five children have been born, namely: William H., who died at the age of twenty months; Walter, Pearl, Ivan and Bertie. Mrs. Holmes was born in Shelbyville, Shelby Co., Ind., March 15, 1843. Her father, David Kauble, was a native of Indiana, and his father, Jacob Kauble, was a pioneer of that State, and later of Page County, Iowa, where he passed his last years, dying at the remarkably old age of one hundred and three years. Mrs. Holmes' father was reared and married in Indiana, and from there moved to Missouri about 1843, and became a pioneer of Andrew County. He bought a tract of wild land on which he built a log house, and continued to reside there until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Cratzier. She was a native of Indiana, and a daughter of John Cratzier. She spent her last days in Andrew County, dying three years after her husband's death. Mrs. Holmes was thus left an orphan at an early age. Mrs. Holmes has for twenty-four years been a member of the Presbyterian Church. Politically, Mr. Holmes is a stanch Republican.

H. C. HINNERS. The general merchandising interests of Avoca acknowledge the subject of this sketch as a leader of the trade, being senior member of the firm of Hinners & Lindemann. They carry a general stock of the articles required both in the village and country household, and from a business established by Mr. H. in the spring of 1883, have built up a good patronage. Mr. Lindemann was admitted as a partner in August, 1884. Mr. Hinners is a man

interested in every way in the prosperity of Avoca, being the owner of good property in the village and otherwise intimately associated with its concerns. He is recognized as a reliable business man and a valuable citizen.

Our subject was born across the water in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, near the city of Bremerhaven, Sept. 24, 1860. He is the offspring of an excellent family, his father being Nicholas Hinners, also a native of Hanover, and of pure German ancestry. Nicholas Hinners upon attaining manhood, carried on farming, to which he had been accustomed since his earliest youth, and was married to Miss Anna Eden. Both had been thoroughly educated in the manner common to the children of the Fatherland. They lived there and became the parents of seven children, and there also closed their eyes upon earthly scenes, each passing away when a little over fifty years of age. They were members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, and people of more than ordinary intelligence.

Our subject at an early age gave indications of more than ordinary activity and enterprise and soon began to lay his plans for the future. As soon as old enough to reflect he nourished a desire of coming to America, and when a lad of twelve there was presented the opportunity. He embarked with John Harms on a vessel at Bremerhaven, and fourteen days later set foot upon the soil of the United States, in the city of New York. Our subject completed his education in the Badger State, attending the High School at Plattville, and later the Normal School at the same place.

The business career of our subject began as clerk in a store at Plattville, which he entered when a youth of fifteen years. He was thus engaged until coming to Nebraska, and in the meantime was married, April 4, 1883, to Miss Mary Loofborow. She received a good education and taught school sometime before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are two children living—Charles C. and Harry E., at home with their parents.

Our subject, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat. He has ocoupied some of the local offices, having been a member of the Village Board, and is generally interested in the matters pertaining to the well-being and progress of the people around him. Socially, he belongs to Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F., of Avoca; a man prompt to meet his obligations, and one whose opinions are generally held in respect, he worthily fills his niche in a very intelligent community.

HON. THEO. NEWTON BOBBITT. The subject of this biography, a resident of Tipton Precinct, deserves more than a passing mention, as he has been for a period of twenty years closely identified with the growth and prosperity of Cass County.

He first arrived upon the soil of Nebraska in the fall of 1869 in company with his family, they having made the journey overland with teams from Mahaska County, Iowa. They crossed the Missouri at Plattsmouth on a steam ferry, and our subject, making his way to Tipton Precinct, homesteaded eighty acres of land, of which he still retains possession. Later he journeyed into Seward County, where he remained over winter, in the meantime suffering two months from a disabled foot, but in the spring of 1870 moved with his young wife upon the present homestead. He had just completed a temporary shelter, hauling lumber for this purpose from Plattsmouth, and put up the structure with his own hands.

The present surroundings of Mr. Bobbitt are widely different from those of twenty years ago. He now has a well developed farm, with fruit and forest trees of his own planting and his fields neatly enclosed by hedge and wire fencing. In due time he added to his first purchase and has now a well-regulated farm of 160 acres with good buildings, a fair assortment of livestock, the requisite farm machinery and the general appurtenances of the modern country estate. Of late years Mr. Bobbitt has made a specialty of cattle and swine, and also keeps a number of good horses.

While the cultivation of the soil has absorbed much of his time and attention, Mr. Bobbitt has in nowise neglected the culture of his mental capacities, and is a gentleman of rare intelligence and

good education, refined and gentlemanly, one with whom it is pleasant and profitable to converse. He has for his life companion a lady his equal in every respect, intelligent and amiable in disposition, and one who has made home for her family the pleasantest spot on earth. Mrs. Bobbitt has been in delicate health for a number of years, but is no less dear to her family and friends. The domestic life of this household presents a picture rarely met with amid the vicissitudes and sorrows of a changeful world.

A native of Morgan County, Ill., our subject was born near the town of Bethel, Feb. 23, 1843, and was reared amid the quiet pursuits of country life. He has an ancestry of which he may well be proud. His father, Everett H. Bobbitt, was born in Madison County, Mo., in 1816, and married Mary A. Newton, who was born in Hancock County, Ill. William Bobbitt, the paternal grandfather, was a native of South Carolina, born near Columbia, and traced his forefathers to Wales. He was farmer and miller combined, and spent his last years in Morgan County, Ill.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject carried a musket in the Revolutionary War, and did good service at the battle of Guilford Courthouse, and in a number of other engagements. At the close of the struggle he settled in South Carolina and engaged in farming and milling. Later he moved to Kentucky, and from there to Morgan County, Ill., where he died at a ripe old age. Grandfather Henry Newton was a native of Ireland, whence he emigrated to America early in life, and settling on a farm in the vicinity of Bloomington, Ill., there spent his last days.

The father of our subject was reared to the age of fourteen years on a farm in Missouri, whence he removed to Morgan County, Ill., during its pioneer days. He assisted his father in the milling operations of the latter during his lifetime, then began farming on his own account and also occupied himself considerably as a teacher, mostly during the winter season. He remained a resident of Morgan County until the fall of 1848, then crossed the Mississippi into Mahaska County, Iowa, where he operated still as teacher and farmer combined. He is still living and a resident of the Hawkeye State, where he owns a good farm of 140 acres. The mother died at the homestead a year after their removal there, in the spring of 1849, when a young woman only twenty-six years old.

To E. H. and Mary A. Bobbitt there were born four children, of whom our subject was the eldest. The next younger, David F., is operating a farm in Washington County, Kan.; Lizzie J., (Mrs. Hillery), resides in Washington Territory.; one child died unnamed in infancy; Theo. N. was a little lad six years of age when his parents removed to Iowa and he lived there on the farm until a young man of twenty years. He launched out as a teacher when a youth of nineteen, and later entered a printing office, but soon found that office work had an unfavorable effect upon his health and abandoned it. In the spring of 1864 he journeyed to Montana and occupied himself in mining in the vicinity of Virginia City and Helena. During his sojourn in the farther West he also engaged in freighting for a period of six months, after which he returned to the Hawkeye State.

In 1861, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Bobbitt proffered his services as a Union soldier at Fremont, Iowa, but being considered too young was rejected.

Upon his return from the mountains, in 1866, Mr. Bobbitt located in Iowa and commenced farming on rented land, at which he continued until his marriage. This interesting event in his life was celebrated in Wapello County, Iowa, Nov. 5, 1868, the maiden of his choice being Miss Amelia Phillips, daughter of John S. and Sarah (Moss) Phillips, of Iowa. Shortly afterward the young people started for the young State of Nebraska, making their way overland with teams to this county, crossing the Missouri River at Plattsmouth on a steam ferry. Not long after his settlement here Mr. Bobbitt was invited to participate in the various enterprises calculated to advance the interests of Tipton Precinct, socially and financially. He was discovered to be a man worthy of the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, and after creditably filling various positions of trust, was elected to represent Cass County in the State Legislature, serving from Jan. 1, 1877, to 1879. This was the first session after the adoption of the

present Constitution, which had been remodeled and more fully adapted to the growing needs of the people. During his term also occurred the election of the Hon. Alvin Saunders, in which Mr. Bobbitt bore a prominent part. He was also a member of three of the most important committees, namely: Federal Relations, County Seat and Boundaries, Mines and Minerals.

Although reared a Democrat, Mr. Bobbitt upon attaining years of discretion, felt that the principles of the Republican party more nearly coincided with his progressive ideas. With it he accordingly identified himself, and has been one of the most active workers in its ranks in Southern Nebraska. His services in that Legislature received much favorable comment by the leading journals of this part of the State. He has been a member of the Republican Central Committee; and has given of his time and means for the furtherance of the enterprises generally calculated to advance the interests of its people. Socially, he belongs to the K. of P., No. 104, at Eagle. He is a member of the Congregational Church at that place, and contributed generously toward the erection of the church edifice. He thoroughly believes in the religious education of the young, and has carried out his sentiments in this respect by officiating as Superintendent of the Sunday-School and studying to make this important subject a matter of interest to the rising generation.

The parents of Mrs. Bobbitt were of English and German descent, the father a native of Ohio, and the mother of Van Buren County, Iowa. The paternal grandfather, a native of Germany, possessed more than ordinary musical talent, being a musician of considerable note, while he also prosecuted farming pursuits. On the mother's side, Grandfather Moss traced his ancestors to England, was one of the earliest settlers of Van Buren County, Iowa, and became the owner of a large tract of land both in that and Wapello County. John S. Phillips, the father of Mrs. B., was a well educated man, and while conducting his farm occupied himself considerably as a teacher. He was one of the pioneers of Iowa, purchasing land from the Government and built up a good homestead in Wapello County, where he still holds property. His present home, however, is at Agency. He is sixty years old and his estimable wife is fifty-eight. They are the parents of twelve children, of whom Mrs. B. was the second born.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bobbitt there have been born six children, namely: Charles E., John F., who died in infancy, Lewis E., William M., George D., and an infant son who died unnamed. The eldest son, Charles, is attending the academy at Weeping Water; The other children are at home with their parents. They are being carefully reared and will be given the education suitable to their station in life as the offspring of one of the leading citizens of Southern Nebraska.

GEORGE W. BARRETT. The ordinary observer must admit that the life of a farmer, though attended with much arduous labor, surely has its compensations. Most forcibly is this suggestion illustrated in viewing the homestead of the subject of this sketch, which is finely located on section 29, in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. The buildings are neat and substantial, and the land, embracing an area of 110 acres, is mostly under a high state of cultivation, yielding under favorable circumstances the richest of crops of Southern Nebraska. The proprietor, a gentleman in the prime of life, bears the reputation of an industrious and persevering citizen, who has been the architect of his own fortune, and indebted to no man for his present position in life. From a worthy ancestry he inherited those qualities which have enabled him to labor to good advantage with his hands while his mind is a storehouse of useful information, and experience has been his safe guide through life's devious ways.

Our subject, a product of the Empire State, was born in Jefferson County, Jan. 12, 1848, and is the son of Nial and Ruth (Coon) Barrett, who located in that county during the early years of their married life. Their household included five children, but three now living, namely: Laura A., Mrs. Henry Strouts, of Berrien County, Mich.; Charles a resident of Jo Daviess County, Ill., and George W.,

our subject. The family is of English-Irish descent, and farther than this Mr. Barrett knows comparatively little of his ancestors.

When a youth of fifteen years our subject removed with his parents from his native State to Berrien County, Mich., where they have since resided. They are both now quite aged, the father having been born in 1806, and the mother two years later, in 1808. Their lives have been distinguished by honest industry, and now in their declining years they are surrounded by hosts of friends, and are living in the enjoyment of all needful comforts. Young Barrett attained to manhood in the Wolverine State, and was educated in the district schools of Berrien County, being deprived, however, of many of the advantages enjoyed by the rising generation. In the fall of 1867 he began an apprenticeship at the trade of plasterer and stone-mason, which he followed much of the time since until within a few years. His preference, however, is for farming pursuits, and to these he has devoted himself mainly since coming to this country.

Mr, Barrett was first married in Michigan, Feb., 13, 1869, to Miss Inez Pearl, daughter of Lewis and Julia E. Pearl, of Berrien County, Mich. Of this union there was born one child, a daughter, Ethel, who is now in Berrien County, Mich., and eighteen years old. Mrs. Inez Barrett departed this life at her home, in Michigan, Jan. 8, 1870, less than a year after her marriage. Our subject contracted a second matrimonial alliance, Dec. 25, 1873, with Miss Olive C. Wolcott, in Jo Daviess County, Ill. This lady was born in Jo Daviess County, Ill., Aug. 27, 1853, and is the daughter of Henry O. and Eliza A. (Williams) Wolcott, who were natives of Ohio. Mr. Wolcott was a wagon maker and farmer by occupation, and died at their home in Illinois about 1857; the mother is still living and a resident of Jo Daviess County, Ill.

Mr. Barrett and his present wife are the parents of five children, namely: Lynn, W., born Sept. 12, 1874; Laura M., Oct. 14, 1875; Loren A., May 5, 1877; Ralph L., Sept. 6, 1878, and Tina I., March 28, 1881. Mr. Barrett resided in Jo Daviess County, Ill., a period of six years, then came directly to this county, and settled upon the farm which he now occupies. Aside from casting his vote with the Republican party, he meddles very little with politics, having an abundance of business in the management of his farming interests. His excellent wife is a member in good standing of the Christian Church, and Mr. Barrett believing in life insurance, is a member of the Royal Arcanum.

HARRY G. RACE, editor and proprietor of the *Cass County Eagle*, is a gentleman of English birth and ancestry, having first opened his eyes to the light in Yorkshire, England, Dec. 28, 1845. He lived there until a youth of fourteen years, acquiring the rudiments of a practical education. Later he came to America and completed his studies in the High School of Eldora, Iowa. Subsequently he engaged with his father in farming until the spring of 1872. We next find him in the vicinity of Salt Lake City engaged in the search for silver and gold in the Bingham and Echo Canyons. Upon leaving the mines he engaged as a shipping agent for the firm of Reed & Benson, at Big Cottonwood Canyon. Finally, returning to Iowa, and sojourned there a brief season, and from the Hawkeye State made his way to this county, arriving at Weeping Water on the 9th of September, 1879. The present flourishing city at that time could scarcely be dignified by the name of a hamlet, there being but a few clumsily-built houses upon the spot now occupied by handsome brick blocks and other structures adapted for residence and business purposes. Mr. Race at once engaged in mercantile business, purchasing first the interest of Mr. Kimball, in the firm of Fleming & Kimball, and later the firm became Fleming & Race, operating thus until Sept. 10, 1874. They continued successfully in business for a period of ten years. They were preceded in this line of trade by the firm of Reed Bros., only, the latter having been the pioneer merchants of Weeping Water.

Mr. Race was soon recognized as a valuable addition to the community, and it was not long before he was solicited to take a part in the official deliberations of the young town. He fully

identified himself with its interests, investing his capital in real estate, and in due time Weeping Water was enlarged by Fleming & Race's addition, being the finest in the city, the lots sold quite readily, although Mr. Race still holds some of them. In the fall of 1888 he completed an elegant residence on Eldora Avenue, the avenue being named after Eldora, Iowa, the place of his former residence, and which he still holds in much affection. He also has a good residence on I Street, and is still considerably engaged in real-estate transactions.

Soon after disposing of his interest in the firm of Fleming & Race, our subject, who had always been interested in newspapers, purchased the *Cass County Eagle*, which he has conducted with rare ability, making of it an assured success. Under his management the *Eagle* was the first paper to put forward the name of John M. Thayer for Governor of Nebraska, and its influence bore no unimportant part in securing his election. Mr. Race has never sought office, but as a conscientious Republican is an ardent advocate of the principles which appeal most effectively to his good sense and judgment.

Our subject is the son of Joseph Race, who was born in Milnthorpe, England, Oct. 11, 1817, and lived there until about 1859. He was there married to Miss Mary Bell, and there were born to them upon their native soil seven children, who were named respectively: Joseph, William, Harry G., Anne A., Eliza, Mary Jane and Walter. They all came to America with their parents about 1859, the latter settling in Eldora, Iowa, at a time when it was little more than a hamlet. They lived in that town five years, then moved to a farm two miles east, where the mother died April 10, 1883. She was born in 1815, in Yorkshire, England, and was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Bell, who were also of English birth and ancestry, and who spent their entire lives upon their native soil. Mr. Race and his wife were reared in the doctrines of the Church of England, in which faith the mother died, and of which denomination Joseph Race is still a member. The latter lived on the farm until the fall of 1888, when retiring from active labor he came to Weeping Water, and now makes his home with his son Harry G. During the years of his active life, he was engaged quite extensively in agriculture and stock-raising, and became owner of a fine large farm of 250 acres, which he built up from the primitive soil and which he still owns. He has been a reader all his life and keeps himself well posted upon current events. A genial, pleasant and companionable old gentleman, he numbers hosts of friends among the people of Cass County, where he is regarded as one of its most honored citizens.

John Race, the paternal grandfather of our subject, spent his entire life in his native town, Milnthorpe, Yorkshire, on the old battle-ground of Wakefield, which was made memorable by the scenes of 1460. The house of Grandfather Race was constructed from ruins of the old castle, and under that historic roof-tree the father of the subject of this sketch was born.

The marriage of H. G. Race and Miss Carrie C. Selleck, of Hastings, Mich., took place at the home of the bride in Weeping Water, Jan. 5, 1875. Mrs. Race is the daughter of William S. and Jennie Selleck, the former one of the prominent business men of Plymouth, this State. About 1882 he came to Weeping Water, where he now lives. Mrs. Selleck died when her daughter Carrie was only two years old. She was in her girlhood Miss Outhwaite. Mrs. Race is a highly esteemed lady and a member in good standing of the M. E. Church.

JAMES DYSART. Cass County owes its prominence and prosperity not alone to its vast natural resources, its genial climate and other advantages, but in part to its early pioneers, who devoted themselves earnestly to its development and improvement. And among those who are still identified with its agricultural interests, is the subject of this sketch. In the month of June, 1856, he, then a stalwart, active young man, in the pride and strength of early manhood, crossed the Missouri River, and making his way to the part of Cass County now known as Liberty Precinct, pre-empted 160 acres of land on section 34, and became the very first settler in this

neighborhood. The land that he thus obtained was in a wild, unbroken state, and his was the pioneer task to develop it by the aid of strong muscle and well-directed toil into a productive farm. That he has succeeded in this attempt is manifested even to the causal observer, who sees its neat farm buildings and various other improvements, and looks over its carefully tilled fields, each acre of which, by wise cultivation, is made to yield to the uttermost, and season after season affords rich harvests to reward his persistent labors.

Mr. Dysart is of Scottish birth and ancestry, having been born in Forfarshire, Scotland, Jan. 9, 1834. His father, James Dysart, a native of Cooper, Angushire, was the son of William Dysart, a Scotch cloth manufacturer of some prominence in his native shire. He lived and died in his native land, attaining an advanced age. His wife, also of Scottish birth and ancestry, died in her native shire before she had passed middle life. They belonged to one of the old Presbyterian families of the Lowlands of Scotland. James Dysart was reared in his native shire, and married a Scotch lady, Anna Sutt by name, also born and bred in the same shire. Their family of eight children, all sons, was born in Scotland, of whom only four lived to come to the United States. While he remained a resident of that country, Mr. Dysart followed the occupation of drover. In 1844, with his wife and children, he emigrated to the United States, and located in Carroll County, Ohio. Shortly afterward he began to farm there, and in his new home in that county his wife died, Feb. 1, 1847, when only forty years of age. This was a sad blow to her husband and children, to whom she was greatly devoted. Mr. Dysart afterward moved to Columbiana County, in the same State, and there he married for his second wife, Miss Ann Everett, who was born in Maryland, was reared in Ohio, and also died in Columbiana County, before her husband, her death occurring in the prime of life. James Dysart, Sr., was a third time married, and this wife also died there, but not till after her husband had passed away. He departed this life Aug. 24, 1870, thus rounding out seventy-six years, which had been usefully spent. He was a good man and a steady, hard-working farmer. He was a life-long Presbyterian, the faith of his forefathers for many generations, and left a name to be held in respect and reverence by his descendants.

Our subject spent five years of his early life in his father's home in Columbiana County, and then at the age of twenty-one set forth in the world to begin life in earnest, at first finding work as a farm laborer in Ohio. But he soon afterward made his way westward, and going to Jones County, Iowa, found work there at the same occupation. Eighteen months later, with the sum of money that he had prudently saved up for some time, he crossed the Missouri River into the then wild territory of Nebraska, having determined to build up a home here, as with the prescience and foresight of the genuine Scot, he shrewdly realized that this was one day destined to be a rich farming country. We have seen the results of his venture, and that his hard labors have placed him among the prosperous and solid men of Cass County.

Mr. Dysart is blessed with a good wife, who, by her thrift and good management of household affairs, has co-operated with him and encouraged him in his work. She is a devout Christian, and with two of her children, is a member of the Baptist Church. Her marriage with our subject was solemnized in Liberty Precinct, Sept. 13, 1860. Mrs. Dysart's maiden name was Nancy J. Hoback, and she was born in Nodaway County, Mo., Aug. 17, 1843. She came of German-Scotch-Irish ancestry, and was a daughter of Robert and Louisa (Clark) Hoback, natives of West Virginia. After the birth of one child, her parents moved to Missouri, and settling on a farm not far from Maryville, in Nodaway County, there lived until 1855, when the family all moved to Nebraska, and began to farm near Nebraska City in Otoe County. Some few years later they came to Cass County and Mr. Hoback pre-empted land on section 34, and there the family lived for some time. The mother died there in 1883, the 22d day of May, aged sixty-two years. She was an earnest Methodist in her religious faith. After the death of his wife, Mr. Hoback sold his property in this precinct and removed to Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and there lives with his daughter Mrs. Rebecca Alford, he being now sixty-eight years of age. He has been a de-

voted Methodist nearly all his life. Mrs. Dysart was one of a large family of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters. She was yet a child when her parents came to Nebraska, and she lived with them until her marriage. Eleven children have been born to her and her husband, of whom three are deceased; an infant, John T. and LeRoy. Those living are Anna E., wife of Jacob Gruber, a farmer in this precinct; Mary E., wife of Rudolph Kreiger, a farmer in Nelson County, Dak.; Louisa, wife of A. M. Bay, a farmer of Washington County, Neb.; Ida J., James A., Thomas B., Jesse R. and Charles H. are at home with their parents.

Mr. Dysart early displayed characteristics of foresight and great prudence, combined with energy and a capacity, not to say genuine liking for labor, and his life in Nebraska has thus been made successful from a financial as well as other standpoints, and he and his wife have one of the neatest cottages in the precinct and are living in comfortable circumstances. In his politics Mr. Dysart takes his stand with the Republicans, and earnestly supports all measures of his party.

JOHN RICHARDSON. The subject of this biography, late a resident of the city of Plattsmouth, nearly crossed a continent for permanent settlement, as he first opened his eyes to the light on the rugged Atlantic Coast in the little town of Mt. Desert, Me., on the 10th of May, 1818. His father, Benjamin Richardson, a sturdy New Englander, and the scion of a hardy race, spent, it is supposed, the greater part of his life at that place, being a resident of Mt. Desert at the time of his decease, which took place when his son John was but a lad.

Young Richardson was a resident of his native town until a youth of fifteen years, when he migrated to Massachusetts and learned the trade of tailor. Upon reaching manhood he was married and located at Jamaica Plains, a suburb of Boston, where he opened a merchant tailor shop and carried on business until 1856. Now desirous of seeing something of the great West, he left New England and emigrated to Henry County, Ill., settling in the town of Geneseo, where he sojourned two years. In the meantime he became possessor of 160 acres of land adjacent, and also a home in the town.

In 1858 Mr. Richardson, disposing of his possessions in the Prairie State, started with his family for the Territory of Nebraska. His outfit would at this day be a subject probably of considerable amusement, as it consisted of four yoke of oxen, two horses, two wagons and a family carriage. In the the latter were stowed away the fair ones of the the household, while the wagons carried their personal effects. The entire journey was thus made overland, and after three weeks' travel they landed safely in this county. Plattsmouth was then a a small village, containing two stores and a few log houses and frame shanties. The surrounding country was very thinly settled and a few miles west deer and other wild animals were plentiful.

Mr. Richardson took up a tract of Government land eight miles west of the "corporation," entering it at the nearest land office, Omaha. He commenced in earnest the improvement of his property, breaking a few acres, and putting up a shelter for his family. A year later, however, he sold out and purchased land in the vicinity of the present township, Eight Mile Grove Precinct. Upon this there was a log cabin, and a few acres had been brought to a state of cultivation by a settler who had become discouraged and abandoned his enterprise.

The Richardson family resided a few months in this log cabin, then moved into a frame house, which they occupied until the year 1885. In the meantime many and great had been the changes passing like a panorama before their eyes, and during which period Mr. Richardson and his estimable wife had contributed their full share toward building up the county, in the development of one of its most desirable homesteads. They now felt that they were entitled to rest, and accordingly rented the farm and removed into the city, where the death of Mr. Richardson occurred April 25th, 1888.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Mercy Maria Ames occurred Nov. 23, 1846, at the home of the bride in Belfast, Me. Mrs. Richardson was also a native of the Pine Tree State, born in the town of Belfast, Jan. 30, 1830. Her father, Jacob Ames, was a native of Vinalhaven, that State, and her pa-

ternal grandfather, Jacob Ames, was of English birth and ancestry, and was one of the pioneers of that region. He engaged in farming all his life and spent his last years at Brockville, Me.

The father of Mrs. Richardson followed the sea during his early manhood and later engaged in ship-building in Belfast, of which he remained a resident the balance of his life. He was a man prominent in his community, one of the pillars of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he officiated as Class-leader many years, and contributed liberally to its support. His wife, Mrs. Eunice (Verrill) Ames, the mother of Mrs. Richardson, was also a native of Vinalhaven, and the daughter of Samuel and Eunice (Carr) Verrill. She also died in Belfast.

To Mr. and Mrs. Richardson there were born four children, namely: Maria A., died at age of thirteen months in Mass., John H. is engaged at farming near Arraphoe, this State; Anna May is the wife of O. P. Austin, a journalist of Washington, D. C.; Florence married W. C. Showalter, who is now District Clerk, and a resident of this county. Mr. and Mrs. R. identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal Church about 1869, and Mr. R. politically was a stanch adherent of the Republican party. Mrs. Richardson was left a comfortable property by her husband. She is a lady held in high regard by the people of her community, and is possessor of a ripe experience of pioneer life in all its phases.

JOHN ALBERT. Cass County was first looked upon by the subject of this sketch in the spring of 1872, when he established himself in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, on a tract of rented land, which he operated a period of three years. Having now gathered together some means, and feeling justified in establishing the domestic fireside, he was united in marriage with Miss Maggie Hartmann, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in this Precinct, Sept. 26, 1875. The newly wedded pair commenced the journey of life together on a tract of new land purchased by Mr. Albert, comprising eighty acres, on section 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert set up housekeeping in a style suitable to their circumstances and surroundings, and began battling with the elements of a new soil and the construction of a homestead. They labored with one mutual purpose in view, and in due time found themselves on a solid footing and in the possession of a cultivated farm. They lived there until the fall of 1886, then Mr Albert, selling out, moved to his present premises on section 4. He is numbered among the leading land-owners of this part of the county, having the warrantee deed to 240 broad acres, upon which have been erected neat and suitable buildings. He is now enabled to rest upon his oars, and looking around him cannot do otherwise than contemplate with satisfaction the result of years of industry. Among his fellow-citizens he is a man held in high regard, is a stanch member of the Republican party, and interests himself in those enterprises calculated for the general good of the people around him. He believes in the establishment of schools and churches, and is the Treasurer of his school district, No. 31. Both he and his estimable wife belong the church of their forefathers, the German Lutheran.

Our subject, the son of John and Catherine (Vetter) Albert, was born in the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, Feb. 28, 1851. His father is a farmer by occupation, and both parents continue to reside upon their native soil, being now well advanced in years. John was the second son of the family, and in common with his brothers and sisters was placed in school when a little lad, pursuing his studies quite steadily for a number of years. At the age of fourteen he began learning the trade of stone-mason, which he followed three years, and then decided to seek his fortunes in the United States. Bidding adieu to the friends and associations of his childhood, he took passage on a steamer at the port of Bremen, which after a voyage of ten days deposited him safely in the city of New York. Thence he made his way directly to Tazewell County, Ill., and soon secured employment on a farm, remaining in that vicinity three years and receiving for his services $225 per year and his board. In the spring of 1872 he decided to push further westward, and soon found himself on the other side of the Mississippi. His subsequent course we have already indicated. He is a man of more than or-

dinary intelligence, and although having little time to give to books since coming to America has picked up a good fund of general knowledge, which serves him admirably among the practical affairs of life.

Mrs. Maggie (Hartmann) Albert was born in Germany, June 20, 1856, and is the daughter of Henry and Anne E. (Misinger) Hartmann, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter still living in Germany. In February, 1872, when a young lady of sixteen years Miss Maggie, accompanied by her sister Catherine, emigrated to America, making the voyage on an ocean steamer, and landing after fifteen days in New York City. She also, like her husband, located in Tazewell County, Ill., where she lived until 1875, coming then to this county, where she was married to our subject. This union has resulted in the birth of six children: John H., born July 2, 1876; Anne, March 3, 1878; George, Aug. 17, 1881; Lizzie, March 8, 1883; Philip, Aug. 21, 1885, and Henry, Sept. 12, 1888.

The precinct of Eight Mile Grove has been particularly fortunate in being settled by a set of sturdy, industrious German citizens, among whom Mr. Albert is a leading spirit. He came to America a stranger in a strange land without means, and has worked his way upward by his own honesty and industry, and is deserving of the highest praise. It is such men as he who have been selected as the representatives of the intelligence and solidity of Cass County, whose names are worthy of being perpetuated in a work of this kind.

HON. JONATHAN N. WISE, Postmaster of Plattsmouth, is an early pioneer of Cass County, landing in this city the 21st day of May, 1856, and most of the time since that date he has been closely identified with both the business and public life of this part of Nebraska.

He was born in Washington County, Pa., Nov. 27, 1832, and his father, Andrew Wise, was born in the same State. The father of our subject was reared and married in his native State Hannah, daughter of Daniel Leatherman, and a native of Washington County, Pa. And a true and helpful companion she proved to be, and actively assisted him in building up a home. She died in Washington County, Pa., leaving many warm friends to mourn the loss of a good woman. Mr. Wise continued to reside in his native State for many years after marriage, engaging in farming until near middle age, and then turning his attention to the mercantile business in Cannonsburg, Washington County, conducting it with great success for a number of years. In 1838 he sold out, and moved to Adams County, Ind., going with a team to Pittsburg, thence down the Ohio River to Cincinnati, from there on a canal to Piqua, and from there by team to his destination in Adams County. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land sixteen miles from Ft. Wayne, and first built a hewed log house on the place, which a few years later he replaced by a more commodious frame structure. There were no railways in that part of the country, and Ft. Wayne was the nearest market place. Mr. Wise cleared a farm of about 100 acres, and made his home thereon until a few years before his death. He then rented his farm and removed to Ft. Wayne to engage in boating on the Wabash Canal. He died there in 1846, leaving the precious legacy of a good name and an upright life.

Jonathan N. Wise was in his sixth year when the family moved to Indiana, and amid the pioneer environments of his new home he grew to a self-reliant and manly manhood. He received his education in the primitive schools of that day, the first one that he went to being taught in a log house, heated by a fire in an open fireplace, and the benches made of slabs with wooden pins for legs and a plain board desk. After his father's removal to Ft. Wayne he completed his education in the schools of that city.

Our subject was, however, imbued with the desire to try life in another part of the country, and in October, 1855, he started for the Northwest, going via stage to White Pigeon, Mich., thence by rail to Galena, and from there by steamer to St. Paul, Minn. He made but a short stop there, and then returned to Adams County. In January, 1856, he again set out on his travels, and went to Princeton, Ill., where he stayed until May, and he then continued his westward journey, going by rail

to Iowa City, Iowa, then the western terminus of the railway, and the only railway in Iowa. From there he proceeded by stage to Plattsmouth. Iowa was at that time but very sparsely settled, and the roads being bad they made but slow progress, finally arriving at the Missouri River, which they crossed on a flatboat, and on the 21st day of May, 1856, were in the embryonic city of Plattsmouth. There were but about fifty inhabitants here at that time and but one store, kept by Slaughter & Vallery.

Mr. Wise found employment at his trade the first year, and also assisted in erecting a number of houses. But he was soon drawn into public life, and in the fall of 1857 was elected County Clerk, being the second man to hold that position in Cass County. He served two years with great credit, and then retired to private life and turned his attention to the real estate and loan business, continuing thus engaged until 1863. He then spent the winter in St. Joseph as a clerk in a commission house. In the spring of 1864 he returned to Plattsmouth and entered the general store of Tootle & Hanna as bookkeeper, holding that position for one year. At the expiration of that time he went into business as an insurance and real estate agent, continuing thus for some years. In 1871 he gave up his business to accept a position as bookkeeper in the general store of Vallery & Ruffner, and was in their employ for three years. In January, 1874, he was offered the position of assistant County Treasurer and bookkeeper, and concluding to accept it he remained an incumbent of that office seven years, and for one year afterward worked on the County books. He then engaged as bookkeeper for Morrissey Bros., grain dealers, and was with them in that capacity for two and one-half years. In May, 1885, he was appointed to his present position as Postmaster of Plattsmouth. He is a very popular official, as he is courteous, pleasant and obliging under all circumstances, and in him the public finds one of its most capable servants, who is careful and painstaking in the discharge of his duties.

The rare stability and highly honorable character of our subject have gained him the confidence of his fellow-citizens to a marked degree, and they have often expressed it by calling him to responsible public positions. In the fall of 1862 they elected him to the Territorial Legislature. He has been a member of the City Council, and at one time held the office of Mayor by appointment. He has always affiliated with the Democratic party, and has many times been delegate to County and State Conventions. He is prominently identified with the following societies: Capital Lodge No. 3, A. F. & A. M.; Nebraska Chapter No. 3, R. A. M.; Mount Zion Commandery No. 5, K. T. He was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska from 1865 to 1868; and also Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska for some years.

Mr. Wise was united in marriage with Miss Frances E. Wright, youngest daughter of the Rev. Alpha and Arabella Wright, of whom see sketch. They have one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in the city, and four children have been born of their happy wedded life, namely: Evelyn W., Willard B., Bertha C. and J. King. Mr. and Mrs. Wise are valued members of the Presbyterian Church, generously contributing to its support and heartily encouraging its good work.

WILLIS P. PERKINS, manager and grain buyer for the Nebraska City Elevator Company of Union, is a man of large experience and a fine capacity for business. He has been a resident of this point since the establishment of the elevator here in November, 1887, and he has been connected with the company for twelve years, and has never lost a day in their service, and for his intelligent management of their interests and his fidelity, the company trust him implicitly, and consider him one of their most valuable employes. The elevator, of which he has control, has a capacity of 8,000 bushels, and is kept well filled all of the time. Mr. Perkins is well and favorably known by the citizens of this community, and by the grain raisers throughout the county. He was one of the pioneers of 1856, settling then in Nebraska City, and has made his home there a great deal of the time since until coming here. He has been variously engaged as a farmer, freighter, grain dealer, etc., and has had a rich and varied experience of

life on the frontier and on the plains, and is perfectly familiar with the history of those early days when the country was new, when Indians were numerous, white settlements few and scattering; and there being no railways, goods were carried on the water courses from point to point, or, where rivers were not available, a long and weary distance across the seemingly endless plains, that were then looked upon as for the most part, barren and fruitless. It has been the privilege of our subject to watch the great change that has been wrought by the energetic hand of man in turning this part of the so-called "Great American Desert" into a fruitful land, teeming with wealth and busy life, and he may be proud to think that he, too, assisted in its development.

He first began life here as a business man, and in the fall of 1859 had his first experience as a freighter, crossing the plains with the first load of apples ever shipped to Denver. To the little band of settlers on the banks of Cherry Creek, famishing for the good things that they had left behind them in their old homes, the sight of those apples was as welcome as if they had been plucked from the Gardens of the Hesperides, and they readily gave $2.50 to $3.00 a dozen for the luscious fruit. Mr. Perkins followed that trip up by many others, making forty trips in all, the longest one to Salt Lake City, and the last one was made in August, 1865. His journeyings to and fro were made when the Indians were on the rampage, but he fortunately eluded their clutches and met with but little loss from their hands, save a few oxen or cattle. During the five years that he was engaged as a freighter across the great plains he became as familiar with the various trails and routes as with the streets of his own town, and made an extensive acquaintance among the large number of people who were journeying in search of gold.

Mr. Perkins' next venture was to engage in the lumber and wood business on the Missouri River, and in that he met with a good degree of success. After that he spent some time in Lancaster County as a farmer, but he lost his crops, which were destroyed by grasshoppers, and his experiment in that direction was a decided failure. Notwithstanding his misfortune, he did not lose his ambition or his courage, but tried something else. He later turned his attention again to freighting, and made two trips to the Black Hills from Sioux City, Iowa. He made considerable money in that way, and thus righted his financial condition. On the occasion of his last trip to the hills, he met the renowned Gen. Custer, who advised him to leave the hills, as he did not consider it safe for civilians, on account of the Indians of that region, and our subject wisely took his counsel and returned to his old home in Nebraska City, and at that time became connected with the company that he now represents.

We will now give a brief resume of the early life of our subject. He was born in Xenia, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1839, to Thomas M. and Mary J. (Parkenson) Perkins. His parents are now dead, having died in Nebraska City, where they had settled in 1856, the father dying at the age of fifty, in the latter part of the fifties, and his wife one year later, at the age of forty-nine. They were old-time Methodists in religion, and the father was a Whig in politics. They were natives of Greene County, Ohio, and were there reared and married, and Mr. Perkins was quite extensively engaged in the mercantile business for many years. He visited California twice, and was there engaged in mining to some extent.

He of whom we write was the first son and child of the five children, two sons and three daughters, born to his parents. In his boyhood he went to Iowa with his parents, and was one of the clerks in the establishments which were managed by his father and others, his headquarters being at Eldora, Harding Co., and also at Oskaloosa, in Mahaska Co., Iowa. He finished his education in Mt. Pleasant, Henry Co., Iowa. After leaving his father's employ he engaged in business on his own account for some time in Plum Hollow, Fremont Co., Iowa, ere he came to Nebraska.

The marriage of our subject to Miss Gertrude W. Wood took place in Nebraska City. Mrs. Perkins was born in Roy, N. J., in 1843, and was the daughter of Daniel and Mary (Rich) Wood, natives of the Eastern States. They were married in New York City, where Mr. Wood was engaged extensively for some years in shipping flour. In 1856 he came with his family to Nebraska, and was engaged in the manufacture of lumber in Nebraska

City for some time. About 1866 he and his family went to Lancaster County, and there he farmed it the rest of his days, twelve miles from Lincoln, his death occurring in 1875, at the age of sixty-eight. In his time he had been an active business man of much acuteness and capacity. His wife survived him until December, 1888, when she too, passed beyond, at her home in Nebraska City, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. They were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Perkins was carefully trained by good parents in all that goes to make a true woman. She received her education in Nebraska City, having accompanied her parents to that place in her girlhood. To her and her husband have been born eleven children, one of whom, Emery, died at the age of three years. Those living are: Minnie E., Horace M. and Edith are at home; Ida, the wife of Harry Hugo, of Shenandoah, Iowa; Elizabeth, Thomas, Lulu, Ella, Bessie and Roy are all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins are people of high merit, and are held in consideration by their many friends. Mr. Perkins is a sound Democrat, and never hesitates to express his views on proper occasions.

THOMAS E. WILLIAMS is an old settler and a very prominent farmer of Stove Creek Precinct, where he owns and cultivates, on section 32, 240 acres of as fine farming land as is to be found in the whole State of Nebraska.

Our subject is the son of a Welsh sea-captain, William Williams, and his wife, Ann Reynolds, a native of Waterford, Ireland. His father was a sailor from boyhood, often sailing from English ports to America. He was sometimes engaged as a coaster, and was captain of an English vessel that coasted along the shores of Nova Scotia, and he also made trips to other countries. He was married in New York, and his wife used to go on voyages with him. In the year 1845 he was shipwrecked off the coast of Nova Scotia, and escaped drowning, but took a severe cold, from the effects of which he died four days later. The mother of our subject continued living in the suburbs of New York City until her death in 1851, at the age of thirty-eight years. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and was a truly good woman in every respect. She was the mother of four children, of whom three are dead, two (who were twins) and William. The latter was apprenticed to learn the shipbuilder's trade. During the war he went on a whaler for a four years' cruise. The vessel was destroyed by the rebels, and he was never heard of afterward.

Thomas Williams was born in Morenci, Westchester Co., N. Y., Dec. 10, 1843. At the age of eight years he was left an orphan, and an English lady, Sarah McGrath, of Harlem, N. Y., took him to her home, and he lived with her until he was ten years of age, acting in the meantime as a news boy. He then became self-supporting, going into the city of New York, where he sold papers for a living, until he was twelve years old. After that he went to Danbury, Conn., to serve as an apprentice at the hatter's trade. He continued at that until the war broke out, and he left his apprenticeship at the call for troops. He enlisted, but could not get into a regiment on account of his youthful appearance. He was attached to the musical corps as drummer, and went on the expedition to Port Royal under Admiral Dupont. After that battle he and his comrades were sent ashore and mounted as Infantry to scout the island. Our subject's Company continued scouting through Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, and was not consolidated with any regular corps. In the fall of 1863 there was a call for recruits for the navy, and our subject was among the volunteers, and was attached to the vessel Pawnee for the ensuing year. He acted under orders, carrying messages to different places for some time. In 1864 his company was landed at Indianola, Tex., and consolidated with a regiment of mounted infantry, and was engaged in scouting in Texas to protect the borders. The regiment of which our subject was a member was kept busy in continual skirmishes with the enemy until the close of the war, and then was ordered back to New Orleans, where our subject was honorably discharged with his fellow-soldiers.

After leaving the army our subject returned to New York City, but did not stay long before his return to view Southern battlefields on which he

had fought, revisiting Jacksonville, Fort Royal, etc. On his return to New York he was not satisfied with his prospects in that city, and decided to try the West. In February, 1866, he went to Fort Scott, where he hired out as a freighter on a train bound for Montana. When the train arrived in Denver he let it proceed to its destination without him, he staying in that city to form a partnership with William H. Hutton for the purpose of prospecting at the Sweet Water mines. That enterprise proved a failure, and our subject was glad enough to obtain employment in hauling bailed hay on the Laramie stage ranche, continuing to work at that until Jan. 1869, when he once more revisited the scenes of his boyhood in the metropolis of the Empire State, going by the Union Pacific to Omaha, and thence on another railway to New York, going on an excursion. Dissatisfied with his situation there, the same spring finds him in Nebraska, he having traveled the last stage of his journey from Fort Leavenworth on foot, at times, and then on horseback, until he arrived in Plattsmouth, in 1869, in the month of March. He then went to work for Captain Palmer of Plattsmouth, and was engaged in buying grain, remaining with him until the 20th of April, when he went with Col. Peck to assist in surveying the route for the Burlington and Missouri River Railway, from Plattsmouth to Lincoln, and while with the colonel he took up his present homestead, then comprising eighty acres of unbroken prairie land. May 14, 1869, he went to Nebraska City, and after working there two or three months, came back to try and dispose of his land, but could not get rid of it, except at a sacrifice, so concluded to improve it. He set out a grove of four or five acres of forest trees, an orchard of 300 choice fruit trees, and made many other improvements. He drew lumber from Plattsmouth, and himself erected a house, one of the first built in the precinct. In common with other pioneers, he experienced many trials before prosperity smiled on him, suffering much from grasshopper raids, drouths, etc. But amid all these discouragements he was cheerful and hopeful, and kept steadily at work, and as a result no man in his neighborhood can boast of a more productive or desirable farm than he. He has done so well financially that he has been able to buy 160 acres of land adjoining his homestead, and now has 240 acres of land, well fenced, well cultivated, and in every way well improved, with ample buildings. On his land is a fine spring, a fountain spring, the head waters of the middle fork of the Nehama, bubbling above the ground. Mr. Williams pays special attention to raising stock, and has a fine little herd of Polled Angus cattle, and twelve head of well graded horses.

Our subject has been twice married. His first marriage, which took place in Leon, Iowa, Jan. 7, 1875, was with Miss Delilah E., daughter of Jacob and Jane E. (Beavers) Lentz. Her father was born in Hardy County, Va., July 14, 1829; and her mother was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, Sept. 3, 1833. Her father was of German descent. He moved to Ohio in 1840, and was married in Pickaway County in 1850, he having been a farmer and pioneer settler of that part of Ohio. In 1853 he moved to Leon, Decatur Co., Iowa, becoming one of the first settlers. He purchased 160 acres of government land, and has been farming there ever since, with such success that he now owns 700 acres of well improved land, with good buildings, and everything for carrying on agriculture to the best advantage, he superintending the whole thing himself. He is a Democrat, dyed in the wool, cannot fade. To him and his wife have been born eleven children, namely: Delilah E. and Lewis C., deceased; Oolita I., Caroline C., Mary N., Josephine E., James E., Ellen J., Adelia D., Osphia F., Clara C. Mrs. Williams was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, March 20, 1852, and died Jan. 31, 1880. She left three children, all of whom are at home: William J., Axia J., Delilah A. Mr. Williams' second marriage, which occurred Feb. 7, 1884, was to Miss Laura E. Cane, who was born in Dubuque, Iowa, Feb., 1858. August 9, 1887, our subject was a second time bereaved of a devoted wife.

Our subject is a veteran of the late Civil War, giving the best years of his youth and early manhood to the service of his imperilled country, and as the citizen then proved a good soldier, so has the soldier since proved a good citizen. He is a man of wide and varied experience, as from the time he was a little newsboy in the streets of a great city until he settled down on his present

homestead, to the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, he has seen much of life, and with keen perceptive qualities and a quick mind has profited by what he has seen. Early becoming self-reliant, self-helpful, active and enterprising, to those characteristics his success is largely attributed. Socially, he is identified with the A. O. U. W. of Elmwood. Politically, he is a republican, earnestly believing that in his support of that party he is promoting the best interests of our country.

MARTIN W. WALTZ, farmer, is pleasantly located on the northeast quarter of section 13, Stove Creek Precinct, is a man of genuine worth, highly esteemed for his many sterling qualities, having the entire trust and confidence of his neighbors and a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was born in Lebanon Township, Lebanon Co., Pa., Nov. 17, 1845. Martin Waltz, paternal grandfather of our subject, was of German descent, though American born, and followed the occupations of farmer and carpenter through life. David Waltz, father of our subject, was born in 1816, in Lebanon County, Pa., and married Miss Elizabeth Shreckengost, a native of the same place, born in 1818. After their marriage they settled on a small farm in the place of their nativity, and remained there until 1859, when they removed to Randolph County, Ind. There Mr. Waltz established himself in the carpenters' trade, at which he had formerly worked with his father, who is still there engaged in the same business. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Church, and are leading consistent, Christian lives. To them have been born ten children, namely: Caroline, deceased, Mary deceased, Kate, Martin W., Leah, Samuel, Adam, deceased, Lizzie, Rebecca and Sallie.

Martin, of whom we write, was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, remaining in the town of his birth until 1859, when he moved with his parents to Indiana. From then until eighteen years of age he worked at anything that he found to do. But in 1863, when only eighteen years old, he enlisted in Company G. 124th Indiana Infantry, and was mustered into service at Winchester; his regiment forming a part of the division under Generals Harvey and Cox, his division being known as "Harvey's Babies." Our subject was with the Army of the Cumberland, and during the siege of Atlanta took part in the following battles: Dalton, Resaca, Allatoona Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee Run, Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta, Ga. He subsequently formed one of the number who went back with Thomas to assist him in his unsuccessful attempt to capture Hood, taking part in the battles of Columbia, Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. The command to which Mr. Waltz belonged was ordered to Newbern, N. C., to meet Sherman, and there take charge of the officer's baggage. Two weeks later they rejoined their regiment. But as a package of books had been left at Kingston, N. C., while moving the baggage, he and a comrade were sent back to get them. While returning they were met by six guerillas, who stopped them and ordered them to dismount. They then burned the books and took Mr. Waltz and his comrade toward Richmond on foot. Twenty-one days later they were parolled at Halifax, N. C., and at the close of the war were turned loose. They immediately started for Petersburg, thence for Columbus, Ohio, where they were mustered out of service and honorably discharged, having been in the army twenty-two months. Our subject then returned to Indiana and began working for himself, first renting land, then bought a small farm and continued farming and milling for some years. In 1878 Mr. Waltz determined to come to Nebraska and establish a permanent home for himself and family under its clear and sunny skies. He came by rail to South Bend, thence to Stove Creek Precinct, where he worked on a farm for one year. He then purchased an improved farm in Syracuse Precinct, Otoe County, and operated it three years. Disposing of that property, Mr. Waltz bought his present homestead of 160 acres, twenty-three of which had been broken, but no improvements made. He has labored unceasingly and now has it all under a high state of culture, with beautiful groves of trees, a fine bearing orchard, fields well fenced, a wind-mill and water tank, and all other necessary improvements. He has erected a neat and pleasant dwell-

ing, 24x28 feet, and built a comfortable barn for his cattle. He has a large herd of cattle of the Polled-Angus breed, eight or ten horses of fine grade, and keeps a large number of Poland-China hogs.

On Aug. 3, 1871, our subject was united in marriage to Margaret Mendenhall, in Ridgeville, Randolph Co., Ind. She is a native of that place, born April 15, 1850, being a daughter of Pennel and Mariah (West) Mendenhall. (For further parental history see sketch of D. G. Mendenhall.)

In the household of our subject and his wife have been born five children, namely: Albert H., Lizzie B., Charlie W., Myrtle B. and Thomas H.

Mr. Waltz is an ambitious, energetic man, and an influential citizen, always aiding to the full extent of his power all beneficial schemes for the advancement of his town's interests, and is now a member of the School Board and has served as Road Supervisor. He is a member of the G. A. R., Kenesaw Post, No. 123, at Elmwood, also a leading member of the Farmers' Alliance, being President of that society. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and has been delegate to County Conventions. Mrs. Waltz, a woman of lovely character, gentle and unassuming in her manner, shares equally with her husband the esteem of the neighbors, who appreciate her fine qualities of heart and intellect. She is a member of the Baptist Church.

WILBURN L. BARRETT is prominently identified with the stock and dairy interests of Cass County, owning as he does a valuable farm, finely located one and three-fourths miles from the city of Weeping Water, and comprising 200 acres, a quarter of section 25, and forty acres on section 36.

Our subject was born in Illinois in 1854 to Lockhart and Nancy J. (Carter) Barrett, natives of Jefferson County, N. Y. and Illinois respectively. His father grew to manhood in his native State, and when twenty-one years of age went to Michigan. After living there awhile he took up his residence in Illinois, becoming one of the early settlers of the State, and living to see it developed into an important and wealthy commonwealth. He was a farmer, and took an active part in developing the rich agricultural resources of the Prairie State. He married there, and to him and his wife were born eight children, five of whom grew to maturity. He was a man who was highly respected for his sterling worth, and his death in 1862 was a blow to the material interests of the community where he had spent so many of his years. His widow, a woman of great worth, survived him until June, 1876. Mr. Barrett was much interested in politics, and all his days was a strong advocate of the Democratic party.

Our subject resided in Jo Daviess County, Ill., until he came here, and on his father's farm gained a good, practical knowledge of agriculture. While there he was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie McGrath, Dec. 22, 1875, being the date of that auspicious occasion. To them have come six children, all of whom are living, namely: Elmer E., Leroy A., Haney F., Jesse D., Jay L., Bulah M. These children are being carefully trained, and will be given every advantage for obtaining an education. Mrs. Barrett was born in the same county as her husband, her birth occuring there in 1856, and she lived with her parents until her marriage.

Dr. D. D. and Elizabeth J. McGrath, the parents of Mrs. Barrett, were natives of Pennsylvania and Illinois respectively. Her father came to Illinois when a small child, and grew to manhood there. He served as a soldier during the late war, having enlisted Sept. 14, 1861. He held the office of Lieutenant, and was mustered out Oct. 29, 1864. He moved to Kansas, where he practiced medicine for several years. His health failing he went to Florida, and died at Pensacola in 1873. In October, 1875, the mother went to American Falls, Utah, for her health, and in June, 1876, died and was buried there.

Mr. Barrett came to Nebraska with his family in 1880, and bought his present farm. It was then only slightly improved, and he immediately set about the work that lay before him, to transform it into the valuable estate that it now is. He has put up all the buildings, and has a good and substantial set for all requisite purposes, and has the farm neatly fenced, and keeps it well stocked with all the cattle that it will keep. He has a grove,

apple orchard, and also small fruits of all kinds. He has a windmill that he erected himself, also large hay scales, and all other needed conveniences for carrying on farming profitably. Everything about his place is neat and well kept, and it compares favorably with others in the neighborhood.

Mr. Barrett is a practical, skillful farmer, as is shown by the high state of cultivation to which he has brought his farm, and the success he has had in raising grain and stock. His neighbors speak highly of him as to his manly, upright conduct in every department of life. He devotes his whole time to his work, and cares not to hold office. He is a true Republican in his politics, and never fails to support his party by voice and vote.

FREDERIC GOOS, proprietor and manager of the City Hotel of Plattsmouth, is well known throughout Cass County in the capacity of "mine host," and he is quite popular, as he is always pleasant and obliging, and looks carefully after the comfort of his guests. His hotel is a handsome and substantial brick structure, three stories in height, 44x70 feet in dimensions, with a good basement under the whole; it is supplied with modern conveniences, is neatly and comfortably furnished, and is, in fact, a first-class hotel in all its appointments.

Mr. Goos was born in Sleswick-Holstein, Germany, Sept. 16, 1829. His father, George Goos, was a native of the same place, where he followed farming, and spent his entire life. His wife, whose maiden name was Celia Gosch, was also born in Sleswick-Holstein. They had three sons who came to America—Peter, George and Frederich. Peter keeps a hotel in Omaha, and George has a farm two miles south of Plattsmouth. Another son, named Franz, married and reared a family in the old country. After his death four of his sons came to America—Peter, Franz, Hans and Fred.

Our subject passed his youth and early manhood in the Fatherland. He gained a substantial education, attending school quite steadily until he was sixteen years of age, and he then commenced life for himself, finding employment in a gristmill, where he worked four years. Then, in accordance with the customs of his country, he had to enter the military service. He was a soldier for four years, and he then retired from the service, and resumed milling at his old home, continuing in that business a short time, and then engaged in farming until 1871. He then resolved to try life in the United States, the Mecca of so many of his countrymen, and see if he could not improve his financial condition by a change. After coming here he was profitably engaged at his old trade of milling the following eight years. He accumulated a goodly amount of property by his industry and prudence, and he then turned his attention to his present business. He bought the City Hotel, which was then a frame building, and was doing very well in his enterprise when, on the 2d day of January, 1882, it was destroyed by fire. Not at all disheartened by such a serious loss, he at once set about the erection of his present building, which he has managed with great financial success since its completion. It is well patronized by a good class of people, and its guests are made to feel at home in comfortable rooms, with their appetites appeased by good and well-cooked food.

Mr. Goos was married, in 1860, to Miss Mary Tams, a native of Sleswick-Holstein, and to her energetic and able assistance in his undertaking he is greatly indebted for his success. Six children have been born to them, namely: Celia, Mary, Katherina, Henry F. and Alvena, George, the third child, died at the age of twenty-two years.

HON. H. C. WOLPH. The subject of this sketch, one of the oldest settlers of this county, arrived here May 27, 1854, and from the first distinguished himself as a man of more than ordinary ability. He has been in every respect a most useful citizen, and one who from the start evinced a warm interest in the growth and development of the county which he had adopted as his future home. He now occupies an enviable position among his fellow citizens by whom he is held in the highest esteem as one who

has been instrumental in the maintenance and establishment of schools, and the encourager of the various other enterprises calculated to advance the general welfare of the people.

Struggling up through his youth under many disadvantages, Mr. Wolph by his own persevering efforts secured an excellent education, while his natural love of reading and study resulted in the acquirement of a large fund of useful information. He is in fact considered one of the most learned men of Cass County. The bent of his thoughts may be guessed from the fact that as soon as its population and means justified the step, Mr. Wolph began to agitate the question of establishing a permanent institution of learning, the result of which is the well-known Doane College, located at Crete. Over this college he has exercised his fostering care from the beginning, finally renting his farm and moving to that vicinity in order to oversee its management and push the enterprise to a successful issue. He not only gave his time and influence but donated liberally of money, and takes a pardonable pride in its success.

The people of this county were not slow to recognize in Mr. Wolph those qualities which would be of service to them in public places. He was at an early day called to various positions of trust, serving as County Commissioner and in other offices, and in due time was elected to represent the county in the Territorial Legislature, serving in this capacity also after Nebraska had become a State. In the meantime he invested a large proportion of his capital in land, and is now the owner of a 400 acre farm finely situated on sections ten and fifteen in Tipton Precinct. Here he has effected all the improvements which are beheld with admiration by the passer-by, and which comprise a neat and commodious residence, large and substantial barns and other out-houses, with windmill, water tanks and all the machinery required for the successful prosecution of agriculture. He makes a specialty of live stock, feeding large numbers of cattle and swine, and keeping a number of fine horses. He has ten acres planted to forest and fruit trees and the whole premises comprises one of the most complete country estates in the county.

Mr. Wolph was born in Richland County, Ohio, March 7, 1823, and is the son of John and Mary (Crum) Wolph who were both natives of Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather, Sebastian Wolph, was a substantial Pennsylvania farmer during the early days of the Keystone State. The family suffered severely during the progress of the Revolutionary War and became almost extinct, Sebastian being the only one left to perpetuate the name. He lived to be a very old man and spent his last years in Ohio. Grandfather Henry Crum was of German descent and spent his last years on a farm in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

The father of our subject, when a youth of sixteen years, left his native State, removing with his parents in 1814, to Ohio. The latter was then a wilderness. The elder Wolph took up a tract of Government land for which he paid $1.25 per acre and felling the trees prepared the soil for cultivation. Prior to the removal to Ohio he had preffered his services as a soldier in the War of 1812, but the conflict terminated before he was mustered in. Afterward he occupied his farm in Ohio until the most of his children were grown and had moved to Nebraska. In the fall of 1859, coming to the Territory on a visit, he died at the home of our subject, in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County, and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery of Nebraska City. Both parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the father was prominent in its councils. He officiated as Class Leader and contributed liberally to its support. The old homestead in Ohio was familiarly known as "The M. E. Home." The mother about 1859 left the Buckeye State and thereafter made her home with her children in the West, dying in Nebraska City in 1875, at the advanced age of eighty-years.

The parental household of our subject included ten children namely: Eliza who died when about seventy years old; Esther a resident of Nebraska City; Catherine deceased; Henry Clay our subject; Christina and Sebastian both deceased; Sarah and Mary, residents of Iowa; Lucretia of Montana and Hulda of Washington Ty. Henry C., of our sketch, remained at the home farm with his father until twenty-seven years old, his education in the meantime being conducted in the district school about

six weeks in the year. He was seventeen years old when he learned to write his name. During the administration of President Van Buren he worked at all kinds of labor for twenty-five cents per day. It took him two years to save $5, and with his capital in hand he entered Norwalk Seminary, Ohio, through which he worked his way laboriously, but successfully, improving every opportunity to gain useful information and in the meantime, in addition to his school studies, reading the books which would be of the most value to his mental training. Such good headway did he make that he developed into a very efficient teacher, which profession he followed during the winter season, a period of seven years, and in the meantime continued his uses of candle light and books. His summers were employed working for his father on the farm.

In the spring of 1850 Mr. Wolph was seized with the California fever, and in company with a number of his young associates started for the Pacific slope. They made their way by water to Independence, Mo., then purchased an outfit of thirteen wagons, and between thirty and forty yoke of oxen, and proceeded on their journey. They had several narrow escapes from the Indians and at the end of 100 days arrived in Sacramento City. Mr. Wolph spent a few days mining and then purchased the necessary implements and began prospecting in the vicinity of Hangtown. The year following he engaged in butchering and also built a dam to drain the North American River. The meat business, at which he operated with a partner extensively, finally proved a total failiure and he lost everything. In addition he was taken ill and unable to do anything for several months. He finally recovered, however, enough to resume mining at which time he made some headway again, but in 1853, resolved to return home. There was more than one reason which drew him Eastward which as he was still a single man, may easily be guessed.

Mr. Wolph made his trip homeward by water from San Francisco to New York City and thence by rail to Ohio. That summer he provided himself with a wife and helpmate and in the fall started out once more Westward overland for Glenwood, Iowa. He spent the winter in that vicinity, but in the spring of 1854 crossed the Missouri into this county. Prior to this he had intended to settle in Oregon, but the outlook in Nebraska Territory appearing favorable, he finally resolved to locate in this county. He arrived within its limits on the 27th of May, and settled first upon the land now owned by Stephen Hobson, of Liberty Precinct. Here he took a claim of 320 acres, but in the summer of 1856 sold out and purchased 520 acres of land, a part of which lay in Otoe County. He put up a residence on the banks of the Weeping Water and gradually gathered about him the comforts and conveniences of modern life. His land was mostly prairie, although there was considerable timber in places.

Mr. Wolph in the meantime had interested himself in the welfare of the rapidly developing country in this section and was welcomed by its people as a man worthy of their confidence and esteem. After serving in various other positions of trust, he was, in 1856, elected to the Territorial Legislature, serving his term with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In his farm operations he found that the feeding of live stock yielded the quickest returns, and accordingly to this gave his principal attention. He lived on his farm until 1872, then rented his land and moved to Crete, being in the meantime a Trustee and one of the builders of Doane College. He purchased a modest home and lived there untii the spring of 1873. We must not omit to state that after his term in the Legislature, he served as Judge of the Probate Court. Upon leaving Crete in the spring of 1875 he took up his abode in Tipton Precinct, this county, where he had purchased eighty acres ot land. In the meantime he had left his children in Crete, resolving that they should receive the advantages of a thorough education and not be subjected to the difficulties which he had experienced in his youth.

The marriage of Henry Clay Wolph and Miss Esther Bevier was celebrated at the home of the bride in Bucyrus, Crawford Co., Ohio, Aug. 14, 1853. This lady, the fourth child of her parents, was born in Broome County, N. Y., April 8, 1822, and received a good education occupying herself thereafter as a teacher for a period of eight years. She is the daughter of Elisha and Rachel (John-

son) Bevier, who are both natives of the Empire State. The Bevier famity is of French descent while the Johnsons trace their ancestry to England. The maternal grandfather served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War and after it was over settled on a farm in New York State, where his death took place in 1868, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife is still living, making her home with her son William J. in Ohio, and has now arrived at the advanced age of ninety-three. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church and is able to tell many an interesting tale of pioneer life. The parental family included twelve children, seven of whom are living.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wolph there were born three children, the eldest of whom, a son, Bucephalus, operates the old homestead both in Otoe and Cass Counties. Bucephalia is the wife of Prof. A. B. Shaw of Doane College. They reside in Crete and have two children, Stewart B. and Esther W. Shasta is the wife of Rev. G. W. Mitchell of Arborville, York Co., Neb., and they have one child, a son, Glendennin W.

In the fall of 1882 Mr. Wolph was elected to the State Legislature on the Republican ticket, serving a term of two years and introducing various measures calculated to benefit the State at large. Whatever has been his position he has characterized himself as a man of industry and probity, and has labored conscientiously to encourage the enterprises calculated to do the greatest good to the largest number. He assisted in the organization of the Congregational Church at Eagle, being a charter member and for many years was actively engaged in Sunday School work, only withdrawing when the accumulation of years compelled him. Politically, he is a sound Republican and during the war assisted in the organization of the Union League in Otoe County, the object of which was to oppose the workings of the Golden Circle in Nebraska City. He is justly proud of his labors at this period of his life and especially of the occasion when less than twenty men, himself among the number, held at bay several hundred of the members of the Golden Circle. He was frequently chosen as delegate to represent his party in the State and County conventions and was ever a cheerful worker in behalf of the principles which he espoused at an early period in his life. In Otoe County he was likewise prominent in public affairs, serving as Commissioner and in the various minor offices. His career has been one eminently deserving of record, and one to which his children will revert with pride in years to come.

GEORGE P. HORN. This gentleman, one of the leading farmers of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, crossed the Mississippi from Tazewell County, Ill., in the spring of 1881, and coming to this county purchased 320 acres of land lying on sections 15 and 22 in this precinct, for which he was to pay at the rate of $10.50 per acre. He did not tarry long in Nebraska, however, at this time, considering that he had made a good investment which would naturally increase in value as time passed on. In the course of some seven years, revisiting it, he began making arrangements for its improvement and cultivation, renting it thereafter to other parties a number of years.

Finally, noting the fact that Nebraska was becoming a State rapidly developing in rich resources and likely to be a desirable place of residence, Mr. Horn left his old home in Illinois and took up his abode here in the spring of 1885. He had the year prior to this erected a substantial residence with other necessary structures, and now took possession. His standing in the community to-day is that of a self-made man, whose thrift and industry have been richly rewarded. He set out in life a young man without means and no resources but his strong hands and courageous heart. Of substantial German ancestry, he was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Feb. 6, 1831, and is the son of Peter and Catherine (Kumph) Horn who were natives of the same Province as their son, and who spent their lives on their native soil. Their family consisted of nine children, six of whom are living and located mostly in Illinois and Nebraska.

Mr. Horn in common with the youth of Germany was placed in school when a lad probably of six years and received a practical education in his native tongue. His father was a farmer by occupa-

tion and George at an early date was trained to habits of industry, making himself useful around their modest home. Upon obtaining his majority, however, he became ambitious for something more than he believed he could attain in the Fatherland, and decided to emigrate to America. Bidding adieu to his early friends and the associations of his boyhood he repaired to Antwerp and secured passsage on a sailing vessel which after encountering some storms, finally landed him safely in New York City, after an ocean voyage of forty-seven days. Proceeding directly westward he took up his abode in Tazewell County, Ill., where he was somewhat of a pioneer. Not long afterward he purchased a tract of land in Tazewell County and bent his energies to its improvement. In the meantime he made his home with a neighbor, but having formed the acquaintance of a very estimable young lady, finally persuaded her to share his home and fortunes. With Miss Eva Volk he was united in marriage Oct. 9, 1856. Mrs. Horn was a native of the same country as her husband and born Sept. 30, 1836. Her parents, John and Catherine (Meisenger) Volk had emigrated to the United States and settled in Tazewell County at an early day, where she was reared to womanhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Horn began their wedded life together on the new farm and their mutual labors in the course of years resulted in the establishment of one of the most comfortable homesteads in that region. This most estimable lady became the mother of nine children and departed this life at her home in Illinois, Nov. 11, 1875. She was greatly mourned by her family and friends and her death left a void in the home circle which can never be filled. Of the offspring of this union the record is as follows: the eldest daughter, Catherine, is the wife of George Nickel and lives at Plattsmouth, where also the eldest son, George, makes his home; Henry married Miss Emeline Hild and lives with our subject; Mary, Philip, Jacob, Isaac N. and Conrad continue at the homestead with their father.

Our subject, while a resident of Tazewell County, Ill., was quite prominent in local affairs, holding the various offices of his township and being closely identified with its agricultural and business interests. In his removal Tazewell County lost one of her best citizens and Cass County has been so much the gainer. Each year adds something to the value and beauty of the Horn homestead, which stretches over a goodly portion of the landscape and with its substantial buildings, its livestock, its groves of forest and orchard of fruit trees presents a picture goodly to the eye. Mr. Horn after becoming a naturalized citizen identified himself with the Democratic party, to which he has since given his support. His has been a large and ripe experience, in which he has made the most of his opportunities and he deserves a position in the front ranks among the solid men of Cass County. About 1870 he identified himself with the I. O. O. F.

HARRY D. REED. The Reed family have for many years been prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Weeping Water and vicinity. The subject of this sketch, a member of the firm of Reed Bros. & Co., is a young man of fine business capacities, and is contributing his full share in keeping up the reputation of the house. He is only a little over twenty-five years of age, having been born Aug. 31, 1863, within the precincts of the town where he now lives, and where he has spent his life thus far with the exception of the two years in school at St. Johnsbury, Vt. Mr. Reed upon leaving school commenced his mercantile career in the store of his brother, in Weeping Water, where he acquitted himself creditably two years, and was then admitted to the firm as a partner. He was married, Oct. 5, 1887, to Miss Antoinette Bierce, who came to this place as a teacher of vocal music about 1886, and followed this profession until her marriage.

Mrs. Reed was born June 26, 1862, in Tallmadge, Ohio, and is a daughter of the well-known Lucius V. Bierce, of Summit County, Ohio, now residing on a farm near Tallmadge. Mr. Bierce is one of the prominent citizens of that locality, a man of high standing in his community. He is a native of Ohio, and married Miss Hattie Kemp. Their family consisted of six children, all of whom are liv-

ing, mostly in Summit County. Mr. and Mrs. Reed occupy a snug home in the southern part of town, and enjoy the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances. Our subject, politically, is a Republican, and from present appearances is destined to become a leading citizen.

William H. Reed, the father of our subject, and also at one time a member of the firm of Reed Bros., in company with his brother, E. L. Reed, whose biography appears elsewhere in this work, assisted in building the first mill on the Weeping Water, and put up several structures of the same kind on Blue River and other places. They were the pioneer merchants of Weeping Water Precinct, and prominent in its early growth and settlement. William H. after first settling here removed to Milford, where he enjoyed a period of seven years with his family, then returned, and has since made his home in Weeping Water. The mother, Mrs. Nancy (Watson) Reed, was born in Brighton, Iowa, and is still living. She is a lady highly respected, and a member in good standing of the First Congregational Church. The parental family includes three children, two sons and one daughter, of whom Henry D. is the eldest of the third marriage.

JOHN CHALFANT, a prominent and skillful agriculturist of Cass County, occupies a leading position among the intelligent and respected citizens of Liberty Precinct, where he owns a fine, well tilled farm of ninety acres on Section 1, Township 10, range 13, on which he has lived since 1867.

He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Greene County, Oct. 9, 1838. James M. Chalfant, father of our subject, was born in Monongahela County, Virginia, where he was reared and educated. When a young man he left the State of his nativity and established himself in business in Pennsylvania. He was twice married. The maiden name of his first wife, to whom he was united in Pennsylvania, was Barbara Galloglly. She died in that State, leaving her husband with two children. Mr. Chalfant again married, taking for a wife Miss Nancy Ketchum, a native of the Keystone State, who bore him four sons and four daughters, all of whom lived to be married, but one has since died. In 1857, taking advantage of the Pre-emption law, they came to Nebraska and took up a claim near the Missouri River, in what is now Rock Bluff Precinct, where Mr. Chalfant improved a farm and is still living. His wife, mother of our subject, died on the homestead in 1879, having lived a useful and honored life of more than three score years. She was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Chalfant has been an officer for more than half a century.

John Chalfant, of whom we write, was the eldest of the children born of his father's second marriage. He was reared in his native State, and there received a good education in its publie schools, and a sound moral training from his parents, who endeavored to instil into the minds of their children those principles which would make them true and honored citizens of this great Republic. He was eighteen years of age when he came with his parents to Nebraska, and for a few years thereafter remained under the parental roof assisting his father in the work of improving a farm. When desiring to establish himself in life, our subject purchased his present farm, consisting of ninety acres of wild land, and at once commenced the work of improvement. He has labored hard, oftentimes under difficulties, but all obstacles have been overcome, and he has now a homestead that compares favorably with any in the vicinity, and shows to the observing eye the ability and judicious skill with which he manages it. Besides farming our subject carries on an extensive business in stock-feeding and raising, finding that both a pleasant and profitable occupation.

Mr. Chalfant was united in marriage in Omaha, April 19, 1868, to Miss Lena M., daughter of the late Chief Justice Gantt, of Nebraska. She was born in New Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa., June 1, 1848. Her parents, Daniel and Agnes (Fulton) Gantt, were both natives of Perry County, Pa., being of Pennsylvania Dutch-English origin and Scotch-Irish origin, respectively. Judge Gantt was a descendant of a prominent Pennsylvania family, and a man of superior intellect. After acquiring his education, he entered upon the practice of law

in his native State. He subsequently removed to Nebraska in territorial days and located in Douglas County, where he identified himself with its interests, and took such an active part in all matters pertaining to its government that he was elected to represent his county in the territorial legislature in the winter of 1863–64, and while a member of that body he assisted in forming the State Constitution. In 1864 he was appointed by President Lincoln United States Attorney for the territory, an office which he filled for several years. In 1857, soon after his settlement in Douglas County near Omaha, he had the misfortune to lose his wife, who was then only thirty-six years of age. She was a most estimable woman, of a kind and amiable disposition, and was a devoted wife and faithful mother. In 1868 Judge Gantt removed to Nebraska City, and three years later was elected District Judge, a position requiring arduous toil, and, doubtless, the extensive traveling and work connected with his circuit was the primary cause of his failure in health. In 1875 he became a member of the Supreme Court, where he distinguished himself as a lawyer and jurist, and at the time of his death he was ably serving as the Chief Justice of the State. He was born in Perry County, Pa., June 29, 1814, and died in Nebraska City, May 30, 1878. The brief limits of a biographical sketch forbids our mentioning all of the high tributes paid to his revered memory by the press of Omaha, Lincoln and neighboring cities, but we insert the following preamble and resolutions adopted by the Lancaster County Bar, which were spread upon the journals of the district court, which was in session at the time of his death: "Chief Justice Daniel Gantt, a friend, a brother, has been suddenly smitten by the stroke of death, to our great affliction and bereavment.

"For nearly a quarter of a century he has been with us; all this time commanding the respect of the community, and the affection of a large circle of friends by a blameless, useful and honorable life.

"Having gone through a professional career of success, both as a lawyer and judge, at the zenith of his fame and in full possession of ripened intellectual power, he has passed away.

"In memory of him we make this record of our sense of his merit and of our loss; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That we deeply deplore the removal from his sphere of usefulness of our beloved brother, Daniel Gantt, by the hand of death, and regard the event as a calamity to his profession, to the interests, social and public, of the community in which he lives, to the State, and to the country.

"*Resolved*, That we entertain great satisfaction and pride in the memory of his attainments as a legal scholar and thorough lawyer, the laborious hours he gave voluntarily to the service of the State in the discharge of his duty as a legislator and judge.

"*Resolved*, That we recognize among the traits which ennobled his character, his rectitude of purpose, his severity of conscience, and, above all, his truth as a man, all tempered with courtesy and illumined by the light of Christianity.

"*Resolved*, That we sympathize most profoundly with the family of the deceased, in this, their great bereavment and affliction, and offer our condolence and earnest prayers and wishes, conscious still that their highest consolation in the greatness of their loss is the history of a life well spent, a reputation without a spot or blemish, and the celestial hopes which spring from the grave of an upright man."

Judge Gantt's name will ever be connected with the history of Nebraska, he having taken an active part in all its early law-making, and to him, as much as to any one individual, is the State indebted for its advancement and present prosperity. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and an earnest worker in that denomination.

His daughter, Mrs. Chalfant, was quite young when she came with her parents to Nebraska, and in 1857, after her mother's death, returned to Pennsylvania to take up the higher branches of education, where she remained six years. She subsequently became a student at Brownell Hall, Saratoga, Douglas Co., Neb., an Episcopalian College, and the first sectarian school established in this State. She is a woman of rare intelligence and much force of character, and previous to her marriage with our subject taught school very successfully for several terms. To her and her husband have been born six children, namely: Alice, Nellie, Daniel G., Harriet, Hugh, John, Jr. They are a

bright, interesting family, and are receiving exceptional educational advantages. Our subject and his wife occupy a high social position in their community, where they command universal respect and esteem. Mrs. Chalfant is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Chalfant is a stanch Republican, working with that party for the highest interests of the country.

ANDREW E. HESS, a well-to-do farmer of Tipton Precinct, has been a resident of Nebraska since 1869. His experience of twenty years on this side of the Missouri has been one of many vicissitudes and changes, and during the first years of his residence here he endured more than ordinary hardships and difficulties. He proved himself, however, a man of stern stuff, and as long as he could put one foot before the other never for a moment admitted the possibility of any such word as "fail."

The present surroundings of Mr. Hess are sufficiently indicative of the manner in which his perseverance and industry have been rewarded. We find him the occupant of one of the finest farms along the southern line of the county, improved with neat and substantial buildings, the residence one of the best in the precinct, and the farm machinery and live-stock first-class in every particular. Mr. Hess has kept his eyes opened to the various improvements of the day, having the requisite machinery operated by hydraulic pressure which conveys water to whatever point needed, into the house as well as to the tanks for watering the cattle. A living spring furnishes this indispensable element and the land is amply watered by a branch of the Nemaha. The cattle yards are all supplied with tanks and Mr. Hess feeds and ships a carload of cattle each year. He also makes a specialty of Poland-China swine, in which industry he has been more than ordinarily successful, having never lost any even at the cholera season. He has a few very fine Short horns, while his horses are of graded stock and will bear comparison with anything of the kind in this part of the country. Two of these are full-blooded, famous for their speed and endurance, and have made a good record on the tracks of the State and County fairs. His stables contain in all about thirteen valuable specimens of the equine race.

The subject of this sketch first opened his eyes to the light at the homestead of his parents in Oldtown Township, Clearfield Co., Pa., May 25, 1851. Twelve months later his parents, leaving the Keystone State, took up their residence in the vicinity of Freeport, Illinois, where they resided seven years or there about, then moved to a farm on the Pecatonica River, where they sojourned until Andrew E. was a youth of seventeen years. He had up to this time been the assistant of his father in the various enterprises of the latter, but now started out for himself. Crossing the Father of Waters in the spring of 1868 he came to this county, driving a team through with his father. They crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth and made their way to Tipton Precinct, Andrew remaining with his father until the latter went to Texas. In the spring of 1872 our subject settled on his present farm, which was then an uncultivated tract of prairie land, and began breaking sod with a team of oxen. In the meantime he was sheltered in a sod house and was otherwise subjected to the discomforts of pioneer life.

In the fall of 1873 occurred the death of his father, and our subject went to Kansas and brought back with him to this county his mother and her family. Then followed a season of misfortune, accompanied by the grasshopper plague, in which the farmers of Southern Nebraska suffered the loss of their crops, and Mr. Hess, in common with his neighbors, had nothing to sell, no money with which to buy, and could get scarcely any work. There was no hay, corn, flour or meat in this section of the country. Mr. Hess finally went over into Iowa in search of work and secured a job of husking corn, at which he worked all winter, and earned enough to keep the family.

The year of 1875 proved more prosperous, crops being good, and Mr. Hess was enabled to proceed with the improvement of his property. He put up a few of the necessary buildings and set out forest and fruit trees, continuing to live there until 1878. He then leased the farm. Later he purchased eighty acres adjoining. In 1883 he bought 120 acres

additional and thus has now 280 acres of good land, which has been brought to a high state of cultivation. Twelve acres of this is devoted to an orchard of 450 trees; a fine grove forms an ample windbrake and the fields are neatly enclosed with board fencing, separated by wire cross-fencing. Mr. Hess, in the spring of 1888 completed a very handsome modern residence, the largest in the precinct, covering an area of 28x36 feet. This dwelling forms a most attractive and inviting homestead. Water is conveyed to the house by means of 11,000 feet of pipe.

Our subject found his bride in Tipton Precinct, being married March 30, 1874, to Miss Ida, daughter of Darius and Abigail (Bromley) Whitney. Mrs. Hess was born near Dresden, Iowa Co., Iowa, April 25, 1861. Her parents were natives of Indiana, and the mother died in 1866 at the homestead in Iowa when a young woman only thirty-five years old. The father later sold out and removed to Rawlins County, Kansas, where he now lives. He owns a large tract of land, and although sixty years of age is looking after his important interests with much of his old time energy. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Hess spent his last years in Ohio. When in his prime he operated extensively as a lumberman and owned a sawmill in partnership with a Mr. Hobbs. He accumulated a good property, but through the rascality of Mr. Hobbs finally lost the whole of it. His son Darius also engaged in the lumber business in his early manhood. Upon removing to Iowa he purchased a tract of Government land and settled among the earliest pioneers of Iowa County. He effected good improvements, but in 1867 sold out and came to Otoe County, this State, settling in Nebraska City. He was not as well pleased with the country as the majority of the people who came here and only staid one week, coming then to Cass. In the spring of 1868 he came to Tipton Precinct, this county, and homesteaded eighty acres of land from which he built up a good farm, then selling out removed to Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Whitney were the parents of seven children, who were named respectively: Emma, who is now married and lives in Dundy County, Nebraska; Ella, Albert and Adele, all three deceased. Ida A. (Mrs. Hess), William living in Kansas, and Dell, living in this county.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born six children, namely; Alexander, John, Abbie, Early, Eva and Cleveland A. The eldest is eleven years old the youngest two years. They are all at home with their parents, receiving careful training and a practical education in the common school. Mr. Hess votes the straight Democratic ticket, and is usually a member of the School Board of his district. Mrs. Hess is a very estimable lady, conscientious and careful in the performance of her duties as a wife and mother, and believes in making home the most attractive spot on earth for the husband and the children. She furnishes a fine illustration of the influence which a woman may exert within the household circle—an influence in her case which has been good and only good.

Alex. Hess, the father of our subject, was like our subject, also a native of Cleveland County, Pa., and married Miss Nancy J. Kephart, who was born in the same locality. The paternal grandfather, Abraham Hess, a native of Germany, crossed the Atlantic at an early day and settled in Clearfield County, Pa., where he carried on farming and lumbering combined. He was the first man to put a raft on the Susquehanna River, and in connection with his lumber business operated a sawmill on his own land which stood convenient to the river. He was one of the pioneers of Clearfield County, a man of strong character, of splendid physique, robust and handsome, and came to be one of the richest men in the county. He died at the age of sixty years. Grandfather Kephart was of German descent, and was also rated among the well-to-do farmers of Clearfield County.

The father of our subject was reared to manhood on the banks of the Susquehanna River and assisted his father in lumbering and rafting. In due time he became owner of a half-section of land which he cleared and upon which he effected first-class improvements. In 1852, however, he disposed of his interests in the Keystone State and started overland for Illinois. He made settlement in Stephenson County and resumed lumbering, at the same time clearing up a farm.

The elder Hess, however, possessed of a consider

able spirit of adventure, sold out once more, in 1868, and again set out on an overland journey westward, coming this time to this county and settling on a disputed claim in Tipton Precinct. He lived upon it for four years and in 1872 emigrated to Texas and commenced lumbering on the Red River. He stayed there less than a year, then proceeded to Joplin, Jasper Co., Mo., and finally to Cherokee County, Kan. There he was seized with malaria and died Feb. 3, 1873, when fifty-one years old. He was a Democrat, politically, a man of decided views and one who generally commanded respect. The mother is still living, and is a resident of Garfield County, Nebraska, and is sixty years of age. She is a good woman and an active member of the M. E. Church.

In 1858 the father of our subject crossed the plains to California with a cattle train. He operated in the mines near Sacramento about two years with indifferent results, and being dissatisfied returned to Kansas.

HENRY WOLFE, a well-known citizen of Cass County, is numbered among its successful farmers, and his homestead on section 2, Liberty Precinct, with its many valuable improvements, is, in many of its appointments, a first-class farm, and there is none more productive in the neighborhood. It comprises 140 acres of well cultivated land and four acres of timber land in another part of the precinct. Mr. Wolfe has lived in this county and precinct since 1867, and has lived on his farm since 1870, having purchased it, however, in 1868. It was then unbroken prairie land, and in the pioneer task of improving it he has also done his share towards developing this part of Cass County.

Mr. Wolfe came to Nebraska from Des Moines County, Iowa, having lived six miles west of Burlington, Iowa, thirty-two years and six months previous to his arrival here. When he was a boy of eleven years he had accompanied his father, Jacob Wolfe, from Morgan County, Ill., crossing the Mississippi River in a flatboat May 12, 1835, and thus going into Iowa in the days of its earliest settlement. His father pre-empted a farm at once near Burlington, when that place had but one store, kept by little Jerry Smith. Jacob Wolfe thus became an honored pioneer of Iowa, and from that time until his death, April 6, 1843, at the age of sixty-seven years, he took a keen interest in its advancement, and worked hard to promote it. He was born within five miles of York, Pa., the very year that the American colonists made the famous Declaration of Independence. When he was yet a child he accompanied his father, Henry Wolfe, to Greenbrier County, Va., and there lived for some time. Later the family all moved to Ross County, Ohio, and there Jacob Wolfe became of age, and there his father died at an advanced age. His mother died in Morgan County, Ill. Her maiden name was Louisa Miller. Jacob Wolfe was married in Ross County, Ohio, to Miss Mary Cleber. She was born of German parentage in Yorktown, Pa., and moved with her parents, John and Elizabeth (Schriver) Cleber, to Ross County, Ohio, when she was young. Her parents both died in Ohio, having previously moved to Fayette County. After their marriage Jacob Wolfe and wife settled on a farm in Ross County and had three children born to them there. In the fall of 1828 they took up their abode in Morgan County, Ill., and after the birth of three more children moved from there to Des Moines County, Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the mother dying in August, 1863, aged sixty-three, she having been born Jan. 1, 1800. Mr. Wolfe was a man of marked force of character, and he was strong in his religious beliefs, being a Methodist, and in his political views held equally strong opinions, being a stanch Whig.

His son, of whom we write, was born in Ross County, Ohio, Oct. 29, 1824, and was but a boy when his parents moved to Iowa, where he was reared to manhood. He was married in Des Moines County, that State, to Elizabeth Bridges. She was born April 30, 1831, in Indiana, and is the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cure) Bridges. Her parents emigrated to Oregon Territory in 1852, and were among its earliest pioneers. The father died there in 1867, rounding out an unusually long life of nearly a hundred years. The mother died

there in 1866 at the advanced age of eighty. Mrs Wolfe was reared in Indiana, and subsequently moved to Missouri with her parents, and later went with them to Des Moines County, Iowa, where she was married to our subject. Of this marriage twelve children have been born, four of whom are deceased. The following is the record of those living: Milton, married to Lucy Chalfant, and living in Liberty; Thomas, a farmer in Bradshaw, York Co., Neb., is married to Mary Baum; Madison is at present at Fort Morgan, Col.; Laura is the wife of Simon Gruber, a farmer in Liberty; Henry, a farmer in Liberty, married Sarah Rakes; William W., a blacksmith in Union, is married to Lavinia Frans; Jennie and Charles W. live at home with their parents.

Mr. Wolfe, during his residence of many years in Cass County, has proved an invaluable citizen, and his counsel and assistance have been solicited in the direction of county affairs, and as County Commissioner, County Assessor and Justice of the Peace, he has done good service and won warm encomiums from his fellow-citizens. He and his wife are among the most prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in our subject the Republican party finds an earnest supporter.

GEORGE H. WOODS, one of the substantial citizens of Weeping Water Precinct, was born near Sterling, Whiteside Co., Ill., Jan. 13, 1844, where he lived, helping his father on the farm until he attained the age of twenty years. He attended the public schools of his neighborhood. At the age of twenty-four he enlisted in Company A, 140th Illinois Infantry, was mustered into service at Camp Butler, near Springfield, Ill., in June, 1864. The regiment of which he was a member went South and joined the Army of the Cumberland, then under the command of Gen. A. J. Smith. He took part in the expedition sent against the rebel General, Price, at St. Louis; he served in the army until November, 1864, when he was honorably discharged. He returned to Whiteside County, Ill., where he worked for himself until the spring of 1866. He then went by rail to Des Moines, Iowa, thence across the country by stage to Nebraska City, where he remained about one year. When he came to this county he took up a homestead of 160 acres on section 32 of Weeping Water Precinct, and devoted himself to the improvement of his land and making a home. He set out groves, an orchard and vineyard, and made other necessary and valuable improvements.

Our subject did not prove up his claim to the homestead until 1874, and when the grasshoppers destroyed his crops for three years in succession thereafter, the prospect was very discouraging, but with the indomitable Yankee pluck with which he is endowed he continued farming, with very successful results. In 1876 he bought another quarter on section 7, Weeping Water Precinct. He retained the old farm, but moved to the new place, where he made large and valuable improvements, set out a grove of fifteen acres and a large orchard. The first two houses he built there he had to haul the lumber by teams from Nebraska City, which was no slight task, as there were no bridges over any of the streams he had to cross, he having to ford them. He hauled his first grain crop to Nebraska City with ox teams, and the breaking of land on the first two places was done with oxen. He continued to reside on section 7 until the spring of 1886. As he was prospered in his business he extended his possessions by the purchase of other lands in the neighborhood, until he now owns over 500 acres on sections 7, 18 and 32, of Weeping Water Precinct. The most of this is rented.

In the fall of 1885 Mr. Woods bought his present place, which is on section 12 and contains 400 acres, in partnership with his brother-in-law, T. K. Clark. He moved onto it in the spring of 1886, and built the most elegant dwelling in Weeping Water Precinct, outside the town. The main part is 2830 feet, and the wing 16x16 feet. It is complete in all its appointments, both inside and out, for a comfortable home. The farm has all the other buildings necessary for the protection and comfort of the stock, and the care of the crops he raises. A windmill with a large tank supplies the premises with water.

While Mr. Woods takes great pride in everything pertaining to his home and farming in general, his

chief delight is in fine horses, of which he has forty-eight on the farm. This stock he raises for the general market. He also gives considerable attention to cattle, raising from fifty to seventy-five head annually. A large herd of Short-horn and Durham cattle, and 100 head of thoroughbred Poland-China hogs, attract the attention and challenge the admiration of all visitors to the farm. The Cascade Creek, a branch of the Weeping Water, supplies an abundance of water for all purposes.

The father of our subject was James W., who was born in Greene County, Pa. His mother, who was Henrietta Thummel, was born near Bremen, in Germany. Grandfather Woods came from Ireland. The father, James W., was a carpenter by trade, and when twenty-five years of age he migrated from Pennsylvania to Whiteside County, Ill., and there followed his occupation. He bought a farm of 120 acres in this county, which he retained but a short time, when he disposed of it and removed to Otoe County, Neb., where he purchased another farm, which he sold, and moved to near Syracuse, where he had purchased other property, and where he died in 1870, at the age of sixty-four. The mother is still living in Berlin, Neb., sixty-six years of age. George H. is the eldest child in a family of eight: Alida, the next in order, resides in Indian Territory; the other children, Adela, Evaline, Augusta, Laura and Fred, are in Nebraska. Frank is dead.

Our subject was married in Weeping Water Precinct, Aug. 29, 1872, to Miss Edetha Clark. This lady was born near Pekin, Ill. The couple have six children born to them: Grace, Elmer, Elkin, Annette, Myrtle and Harlan, who are all at home with their parents. This gentleman is the most extensive land-owner in Weeping Water Precinct, and is an example of what pluck, perseverance and economy can accomplish. His present holdings are the result of his own efforts, as he has accumulated his entire property during the last fifteen years, overcoming many difficulties, not the least of which was the destruction of his crops by the grasshoppers, which left him, like many others, with nothing but their land. But by the good management of himself and wife they now find themselves comfortably situated, possessing the most elegant and conspicuous residence outside of Weeping Water City. The home is surrounded by a large, beautiful, well-kept lawn, watered in seasons of drought by water from the farm tank.

Mr. Wood is one of the most prominent men in Weeping Water Precinct; he is highly esteemed and trusted by all who know him. He is a member of LaFayette Post No. 61, G. A. R., at Weeping Water, was Supervisor for two years, and was a member of the School Board for six years. In politics he is unswervingly Republican, and he is also a consistent member of the Congregational Church.

EDWIN DAVIS, a gentleman who is numbered among the older residents of the city of Plattsmouth, possesses a family history of more than usual interest. His birthplace was Watervliet, Albany Co., N. Y., and the date thereof Jan. 23, 1812. His father, Stephen Davis, was born in Merrimack County, N. H., and the paternal grandfather, Jonathan Davis, a native of the same State, carried on agriculture successfully and operated a sawmill on his farm, which was driven by a fine water power. He spent his entire life in the Old Granite State and from his farming and milling operations acquired a competence. He married a Miss Geddes, of New Hampshire.

Stephen Davis, the father of our subject, was reared among the hills of New Hampshire, and when a young man left New England on foot, before the days of railroads, making his way to Albany County, N. Y., being assisted in the latter part of his journey by getting a stage-ride. He was already master of the trade of cabinet-maker, but there being little call for the exercise of his skill in this direction in the new country to which he had come, he employed himself as a carpenter a number of years Finally he purchased a farm in the vicinity of Niskayuna, in Schenectady County, the cultivation of which he carried on continuously, and also worked at his trade, remaining a resident of that locality until about 1837. At this time, leaving his son in charge of the farm, he removed to Coshocton County, Ohio, where he lived retired from active

labor until his death a few years later. He had married in Albany County, N. Y., Miss Catherine Shafer, who was born there and is the daughter of Peter Shafer. The latter was of German parentage and was born on the ocean during the passage of her parents to this country. The mother of our subject died in Albany County, N. Y., about 1820. The parental household included four children, namely: Hannah, John, Edwin and Maria, all of whom grew to mature years.

Edwin Davis was a lad eight years of age when he was deprived of the affectionate care of his mother by death. He was then sent to his paternal grandparents in New Hampshire, with whom he remained until approaching manhood. In the meantime he commenced when fifteen years old to learn the trade of brick and plaster mason at Great Falls. When past eighteen years old he set out for the Empire State and was occupied at his trade thereafter in Albany and Schenectady Counties until 1838, then joining his father in Ohio.

In making the journey from New York to the Buckeye State our subject was accompanied by his family and he purchased a tract of land ten miles from Coshocton. Sixty acres of this had been cleared and there was upon it two log cabins. The family took possession of one of these, occupying it until able to build a frame house, and in the course of time this latter structure was supplanted by a handsome brick residence which at that time was considered something very fine. Mr. Davis also put up good barns and all the other outbuildings necessary for the carrying on of agriculture in a successful and profitable manner.

Our subject, however, was desirous of going into the more western country, and accordingly in the spring of 1851, sold his Ohio farm, and accompanied by his wife and nine children started overland for Iowa. They traveled in true pioneer style, cooking and camping by the wayside wherever night overtook them. After twenty-eight days' travel they landed in Oskaloosa, then a place of about 1,000 souls. They sojourned there from July until April following, when Mr. Davis purchased land one mile from Knoxville, Iowa, and repeated the experiment of life in a new settlement. Upon this land also a few acres had been broken and there was a double log cabin. After a two years' residence on this farm he removed with his family to Knoxville. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Davis started overland for Pike's Peak, where he remained during the summer following, and in the fall returning to Knoxville, resumed his trade of mason and bricklayer and employed himself at this until after the outbreak of the Civil War.

In August, 1862, Mr. Davis proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in the 15th Iowa Infantry, being mustered in as a private. He assisted in recruiting the regiment, taking forty-four recruits with him to enlist. Not long afterward he was promoted to Second Lieutenant, but on account of ill-health was obliged to resign his commission in 1863 and return home. Upon his recovery, after about three months, he raised part of a company which was designated as Company E, and assigned to the 37th Iowa Infantry. Mr. Davis again entered the ranks as a private, was again promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant, and remained in the service until the close of the war.

After being mustered out and receiving an honorable discharge Lieut. Davis returned to his old haunts in Iowa, but in the fall following decided to change his residence to Nebraska, and removing to Plattsmouth with his family has since been a resident of that city. He had been married in June, 1832, to Miss Ann Maria Richardson, who was born in Albany, N. Y., July 18, 1816. Her father, David Richardson, was a native of Vermont, where he was reared and married, and emigrated to New York State, settling in Albany County. He followed the trade of carpenter a number of years, then removed to Coshocton, Ohio, about 1839, where his death took place, Feb. 20, 1866. The mother of Mrs. Davis was in her girlhood Miss Lucy Stowell, also a native of Vermont. She accompanied her husband in this removal to New York and Ohio, and died in the latter State Dec. 5, 1859. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Davis there were born twelve children, nine of whom lived to mature years. These were Joshua, Euseba C., Rebecca P.; Lucy C., now deceased; Lamira J., deceased; Rosetta; Jerome, deceased, Lora and Laura, twins; and three who died in infancy unnamed. Joshua, the eldest son, during the Civil War enlisted

in Company G, 15th Iowa Infantry, and was killed on the battlefield before Atlanta. Jerome enlisted the year following in the same regiment as his brother, and both started from Chattanooga with Sherman's command. Jerome was mortally wounded in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain and died four days later. Rebecca married William Kennedy, who served as a Union soldier in the 1st Nebraska Infantry and died in the service. Euseba C. married George W. Colvin and is a resident of Arrapahoe, Neb. Rosetta married Joseph Keeney and lives in Central City, Neb. Laura is the wife of Rasmus Petersen, of Plattsmouth. Mr. Davis and wife have both been members for over fifty-five years of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he is a Prohibitionist and is usually recognized as an upright man and good citizen.

HON. LAWSON SHELDON, whose name stands at the head of this sketch, is numbered among the largest land-holders of Cass County, owning 3,000 acres of land, lying mostly in this county, and divided up into ten farms. Mr. Sheldon had at the beginning little aside from the substantial elements of character inherited from his sturdy New England ancestry, and these have, in his case, proved amply sufficient for success.

Our subject first opened his eyes to the light on the mountain side in Ludlow Township, Windsor Co., Vt., Sept. 28, 1827. He received the education common to the youth of that day, and remained a member of the parental household until a young man of twenty-four years. He had, however, for some time nourished a desire to see something of the country beyond the Mississippi, and, accordingly, in September, 1851, set out in company with two of his acquaintances, Perry Walker and Isaac Pollard, for California. They made the journey from New York City by the water route, across the Isthmus of Panama. They staked a claim in the Placer mines, where they operated four winters, mining also around Mormon Island on the American River. They met with fair success, and after a sojourn of a little over four and a half years on the Pacific Slope, returned to New England in the same manner in which they had departed from it, landing at home in May, 1855.

Mr. Sheldon sojourned at the old homestead that winter, but the year following he and Mr. Pollard set out to repeat their migrations, but after crossing the Missouri at Omaha, made their way to this county, landing in what is now Liberty Precinct on the 7th of June. Mr. S. at once located a homestead claim in close proximity to the Weeping Water, and on section 20 in Liberty Precinct. This comprised 160 acres of land, of which he took possession in June, 1856. Soon thereafter, however, he changed his abode to section 19 as a more desirable spot, and here he proceeded to build up a home. To this spot he has persistently clung, enjoying here his roof tree, while in the meantime he has been gradually gathering together the possessions mentioned, and which lie mostly in this county, although he has a half section in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County. Mr. Sheldon has made it a point from the beginning to live within his income and avoid mortgages.

Nebraska remained a Territory eleven years after the settlement of Mr. Sheldon within its precincts. A large acreage of the land around him was unoccupied, and most of the figures upon the landscape were Indians and wild animals. Possessed of the genuine pioneer spirit, however, Mr. Sheldon was not to be dismayed by this condition of affairs, but having abundant faith in the future of this region, determined to stay and "grow up with the country." It is hardly necessary to say that the improvement of the vast area of land owned by Mr. Sheldon has been effected only by the most incessant industry, and it has employed a large part of his time merely to superintend the operations carried on. Most of it is under cultivation, and stock-raising forms an important feature in connection therewith.

Our subject assisted in the building of one of the first sawmills in the county, and a mill for grinding corn, which was constructed on the banks of the Weeping Water, in the spring of 1857. To this there came for miles around the people, who hailed it as a real blessing. The first dwelling of Mr. Sheldon was a log house, and the first set of buildings

was in keeping with the means and requirements of the pioneer farmer. In 1857 he erected his present residence—sawed the frame and most of the wood-work from lumber on the farm; the pine lumber he hauled from Nebraska City. The passage of years has effected a marvelous change, and the home farm, which is now transformed to one of the finest estates along the southern line of the county, is embellished with comfortable buildings, fruit and shade trees in abundance, convenient barns and outhouses, and everything which fulfills the modern idea of the well-regulated homestead. He has kept his eyes open to what is going on around him in the world, and is close and correct in his business transactions, one giving and requiring what is due, aiming to do unto his neighbor as he would be done by. He labored most earnestly for the passage of the Missouri Pacific Railroad through his region, foreseeing that it would be the making of it. He put up the first store building in Nehawka. His son Frank P. opened it with a stock of general merchandise, and it is the only store of the kind in the place today.

Joel Sheldon, the father of our subject, was also a native of the Green Mountain State, and was born in Andover, Feb. 2, 1801, and was reared to manhood among the New England hills; he died March 19, 1875. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Sheldon, was a native of Massachusetts, and, when reaching manhood, was married in Wilton, that State, to a Miss Lovejoy. They removed to Vermont afterward, and located on a farm which continued their home the remainder of their lives. The wife and mother died when in middle life, but Jacob Sheldon attained to the ripe old age of eighty-seven years.

Joel Sheldon was only a child at the time of his mother's death, and continued on the farm with his father until reaching manhood. He was then married to Miss Fidelia Pettigrew, a lady of Scotch and German ancestry. They settled in Ludlow, Windsor Co., Vt., where they lived until about 1869, becoming in the meantime the parents of six children. In the year mentioned, at the solicitations of their son Lawson, they joined him in Nebraska, and the father died March 19, 1875, when seventy-four years of age. He was a member of the Baptist Church, a man of decided ideas and one whose opinions were generally held in respect in the community where he spent the years of his active life. Originally a member of the old Whig party, he later identified himself with the Republicans, whose principles he supported to the end. The wife and mother is still living, making her home with our subject, and has now arrived to the advanced age of eighty-three years. She is still stout and hearty, retaining a large portion of her natural activity. She, like her husband, identified herself with the Baptist Church long years ago.

The subject of this sketch was the eldest of a family of five sons and one daughter born to his parents, and with his younger brother, Amsdel, forms one of the three survivors of the family. He was early in life taught to make himself useful, becoming at an early age acquainted with hard work, and grew up imbued with those principles of honesty and integrity which have made him a man among men. He was married March 19, 1857, after his first visit to the West, in Plymouth Township, Windsor Co., Vt., to Miss Julia Pollard, who was born there Nov. 20, 1827. Her parents, Isaac and Sally (Conant) Pollard, were natives of Vermont. The mother died about 1880. Mr. Pollard is still living, making his home in Ludlow, Vt., and has now attained the ripe age of eighty-nine years. The Pollards are of substantial English ancestry, the first representatives in this country crossing the Atlantic as early as 1692. They have been for generations widely and favorably known in Massachusetts and Vermont.

Mrs. Sheldon was carefully reared and educated, being a student at the Seminary at Townsend, Mass., and taught school for some time before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. S. made their bridal tour to their new home in the West, journeying from New England to St. Louis, Mo., by rail, and thence up the Missouri River to Nebraska City, bringing with them their worldly possessions. Mr. Pollard had given his daughter $100 in cash to set herself up in housekeeping. Their first dwelling was built of logs, and covered an area of twelve square feet. The only place within it in which our subject could stand up straight was in the middle. In the furnishing of this there was only required an outlay of

$20, and thus Mrs. Sheldon was enabled to place her remaining $80 at interest at forty per cent. Money at that time was very scarce in this region. Mrs. Sheldon labored equally with her husband in the building up of their homestead, and he acknowledges that he owns a large measure of his success to her wise counsels and efficient household management. In due time they became the parents of six children, two of whom are now deceased, an infant unnamed, and Florence, who lived to womanhood, and became the wife of Louis Todd, of Mt. Pleasant Precinct. Mrs. Todd died at her home in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, April 9, 1888, leaving one child, a daughter, Florence. Another daughter, Gertrude S., is the wife of Bucephalus Wolph, and they live on a farm in Berlin Precinct, Otoe County. Frank P. is the successful manager of the institution familarly known as the "Sheldon Store" of Nehawka. He makes his home with his parents. George L. is a student of the State University at Lincoln. Vilas P. is also at home.

After holding the various local offices Mr. Sheldon was chosen by the Republicans of his county to represent them in the Legislature, and twice thereafter was made a State Senator. He was reared, as it were, under the wing of the Republican party, and, like his honored father, is a stanch supporter of its principles.

J. E. LEESLEY. The subject of this biography, a man of more than ordinary intelligence, distinguished himself at an early day as possessed of the qualities most needed in the settlement of a new section of country, and occupies a position in the front ranks among the pioneers of this county. He comes of substantial English stock and was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in Lincolnshire, where he first opened his eyes to the light Sept. 12, 1850. His father, Joseph Leesley, was a native of the same county, and the paternal grandfather was probably a native also of Lincolnshire.

Grandfather Leesley emigrated to America in 1851, and settled on a tract of land now included in the city of Chicago, Ill. He operated as a renter for a time and remained in that locality the balance of his life, spending his last years in Ravenswood. His remains were laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery. His son Joseph, the father of our subject, learned the trade of plasterer and stonemason in his native shire, and emigrated to America the same year as his father, but located at St. Catharine's, Canada. During his residence of two years in the Dominion he assisted in the construction of the first bridge across the Welland Canal and was also employed upon other important works. He then joined his father in Chicago, living there and at Ravenswood until 1859, when those places bore little resemblance to their present condition.

During the year above mentioned the father of our subject made his way to Nebraska Territory and located at Oreopolis, one and one-half miles above the now flourishing city of Plattsmouth, which forty-nine years ago gave little evidence of its present growth and prosperity. The two towns started up together, and Oreopolis at that time began to push ahead of its sister hamlet, having already quite a number of good buildings, a bank, stores and seminary. In a few years, however, all these passed away, and Oreopolis is a thing of the past.

Upon coming to this section Joseph Leesley purchased a lot and erected a house near the latter-named town, where he lived four years engaged at his trade, then changed his residence to the city, which gave evidence of undoubted progress and prosperity. Again purchasing a lot he erected another house, in which he lived until his death, which occurred in Nov., 1881, when he was sixty-three years old. He had lived to witness the wonderful development of Eastern Nebraska, and contributed as he was able to the encouragement of the enterprises tending to this end. He was a man of decided ideas and in all respects a worthy citizen.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Caroline Allis and was also born in Lincolnshire, England. She accompanied her family to America and died at the home in Plattsmouth in 1881, three months prior to the decease of her husband. The parental household included eight children. The eldest son, Albert, is a resident of Greenwood, as is also the second son, William; J. E., our

subject, was the third in order of birth; Sarah is the wife of John Devore, also of Greenwood; Lottie became the wife of J. P. McPherson and died in Nebraska City in 1887; Hattie, widow of C. W. King and lives in Hastings, Neb.; Robert in Kansas; Lizzie, wife of C. E. Harris of Nebraska City.

Our subject was the youngest child of the family born in England, and was an infant of a few months when his parents came to America. He was a lad of eight years when they emigrated to Nebraska Territory, and secured his education in the imperfect schools of Oreopolis and Plattsmouth, winding up with an attendance of several terms in the State University at Lincoln. When a youth of sixteen he began working with his father as a mason during the school vacations and upon reaching manhood turned his attention to the nursery, which had been established at the homestead adjoining the corporation. At this business he is still occupied, having twenty acres of land in a highly cultivated condition. His stock obtains a ready sale throughout this and other counties.

Mr. Leesley was married, May 30, 1882, at the home of the bride in Plattsmouth, to Miss Lulu Shannon, who came to Nebraska with her parents in 1866. Mrs. Leesley was born Aug., 19, 1859, in Paulding County, Ohio. Of her union with our subject there are two children, Earl and Irene. Mrs. L. is a very estimable lady and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Leesley, politically, gives his support to the Republican party.

ROBERT SHERWOOD, who is the leading shoe dealer in the city of Plattsmouth, with a large and well appointed store on the corner of Fifth and Main streets, is a man whose enterprise and marked aptitude for business have placed him among the most substantial and wealthy citizens of this community. His personal integrity is of a high order, and he is justly accorded the respect of his fellow-citizens.

His father, John Sherwood, was born in Kensington, London, as was also his grandfather, who was likewise named John. The latter held the position of Quay Captain, or Superintendent of the West India docks in London, and was a lifelong resident of that city. The father of our subject was reared and married in his native city, Sarah Adams, who is supposed to have been born in London also, becoming his wife. When he was a young man he entered the English army, and fought in the Spanish War. He served four years and a half, and then returned to London to engage in the shoe business, which he is still carrying on there. His wife, a most estimable lady, died in 1870. Seven children had been born of their marriage, namely: William, John, James and Charles are deceased; Robert, Samuel and Elizabeth.

The subject of whom we write was the only member of the family to come to the United States. He was reared and educated in his native city, and at the age of thirteen began learning the trade of shoemaker in his father's shop, becoming a thorough master of his trade. He continued to live in London until 1871, and then, ambitious to see something of the world and to better his fortunes, he crossed the Atlantic to take up his residence in this country. After landing he made his way to Plattsmouth, and commenced life here as a journeyman in a shoe store, and was thus engaged for four months, when he was promoted to the position of foreman in the shop. He looked after his employer's interests for four years very faithfully, and then by wise economy had saved up a sufficient sum of money to establish himself in business, and he bought a frame building on Main street, and commenced the manufacture of shoes, employing a number of hands. This enterprise met with marked success, and he carried on his business in the same building for some years, until it was burnt Feb. 17, 1883. During that time he had bought a lot, and with characteristic energy he immediately set about erecting his present building upon it. It is two stories in height, and is commodious and well built; it is located on the corner of Fifth and Main streets, fronting on the former street, its dimensions being 22x130 feet in depth. He keeps a large and fine stock of boots and shoes, and does custom work.

Mr. Sherwood was married Dec. 25, 1867, to Amelia Hitchcock. She was a native of London, and a daughter of Herbert and Mary (Lunt) Hitch-

cock. Eight children complete the family circle of our subject and his wife, namely: Robert, Thomas, Herbert, George, Amelia, John, Nellie and Victor.

Our subject was reared to believe in the doctrines of the Episcopal Church, and is an active member of the Plattsmouth church of that denomination. He is generous and charitable to a degree, quietly and unostentatiously contributing of his wealth to the support of any worthy object. He is also public-spirited, and all schemes that he believes will in any way benefit the city, meet his cordial approval and substantial support. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity, and is a prominent member of Lodge No. 6, at Plattsmouth. He and his family move in the highest social circles of this community, and they entertain their numerous friends in a delightful manner in their attractive home.

JOHN G. HAYS, a venerable and honorable citizen of Plattsmouth, was one of its earliest pioneers. When he located here in the days of '56 even a man of his discernment could scarcely have foreseen the busy and thriving city of to-day with upwards of 10,000 inhabitants, in the little hamlet that he then found here, consisting of perhaps a half-a-dozen board shanties and log buildings on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River on the one hand, and the wild, lonely prairies, rolling away to the distant horizon on the other. The squatter's claim that he bought from the original owner, and entered at the land office when the Government threw the land on the market, is now included in the city and is very valuable property.

Mr. Hays was born in Dauphin County, Pa., July 15, 1806. Patrick Hays, his father, was, it is thought, a native of the same county, and it appears, from the best information at hand, that his father, David Hays, was born in Ireland and came from there with two brothers to make his home in this country. He settled in Pennsylvania, and was there married to Miss Martha Wilson. He subsequently moved from Dauphin County to Franklin County, in the same State, and bought a farm there, on which he spent the remainder of his life. The father of our subject was reared and married in his native county, and in 1807 moved with his family to Cumberland County, Pa. He bought a farm there and until his death carried on agriculture. The maiden name of his wife was Miss Elizabeth Galbraith. She was also a native of Dauphin County, and a daughter of John and Mary (McCulla) Galbraith. She spent her last years on the home farm in Cumberland County. She and her husband had nine children, all of whom grew up, and the following are their names: Mary M., David S., John G., James W., Robert, Martha, Elizabeth, Jane, William. Of this family our subject and his brother Robert are the only ones living.

The former was the third child in order of birth and the second son of his parents. He grew to a sturdy manhood in Cumberland County, whither his parents removed when he was about a year old. There were no free schools in his youth and he was educated in schools taught on the subscription plan, his attendance being limited to the winter sessions, as at other times of the year he had to assist in the farm work as soon as large enough. He remained an inmate of the parental household until he was nineteen years old, and was then apprenticed for three years to learn the trade of tanner at a place now known as Orrstown. After the expiration of his term of apprenticeship he did journeywork for six months, and then went to Ohio and established a tannery near Dayton, which he operated for two years. He next owned and managed a tannery in Springfield, buying hides of the butchers in that neighborhood, and then selling the leather at Cincinnati. That city was a distance of eighty miles from his home, and the leather was transported by teams. He carried on the business there until 1853, and then located in Greenfield, Highland Co., and conducted the same business there, having bought a tannery. In 1856 he sold his property in Ohio and came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by stage across Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to Fort Des Moines, where he had an opportunity to finish the journey in a wagon with other parties that resided there and were bound for Plattsmouth. On his arrival he took in at a glance

the insignificant little town by the Missouri, with its two log buildings, half-a-dozen or so plank shanties, and one store, kept by Messrs. Slaughter & Vallery, pioneer merchants of Cass County. On the land that he purchased of a squatter he erected a temporary shelter in the shape of a small plank house, in which he lived for a time. He soon platted a part of his land, as it was in a desirable residential quarter of the embryo city, and he disposed of it at good prices.

Mr. Hays has been twice married, the first time in Montgomery County, Ohio, to Amanda Weakley, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Alexander) Weakley. This wife of his early manhood died while yet in the prime of life in Springfield, Ohio, in 1848, and her death was lamented by many who esteemed her for her worth. There were four children: Annie, widow of James Gibson, lives in Springfield, Ohio. He was born in Clarke County, Ohio, and had been married to Miss Ladiska Marshall. He had started the Fremont *Tribune*. He had a good military record as a gallant soldier in the 1st Ohio Infantry, in which he served three years and one month. Mrs. Gibson has one child living, Horace. Her eldest son, George, died at the age of twenty-one years. Thomas W. married Mary White, and lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.; Thomas has two children, James W. and Nettie. Mary J., the widow of William Mathison, lives in Dayton, Ohio; John Newton died at Fremont, Nebraska, leaving a widow and one daughter. Mrs. Mathison has one son, named Hays. Mr. Hays was married a second time in 1850, in Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Lydia Fields. She died at Greenfield, Ohio, in 1853, after a brief but happy married life.

It will be seen that Mr. Hays has been a resident of this State since early territorial days, and has been a witness of its wonderful progress. He has assisted in promoting the material prosperity of Plattsmouth, and also its moral elevation by the influence of a manly, honest, sober, Christian life. He has witnessed its growth from its infancy, when it did not number more than fifty or a hundred inhabitants at the most, to its present size and importance, with a population of upwards of ten thousand people. In his political views our subject, who was in early life a Whig, has been a Republican since the formation of that party, and is still a stanch supporter of its policy. Mr. Hays has for more than fifty years been a member of the Presbyterian Church and has served since 1835 as Elder, and has always been a worker in the Sunday School. He is a man of deep religious faith, and is calmly awaiting life's great end in the sincere belief of a happy future in a world without end.

ZACHARIAH W. SHRADER. Among the men who have most worthily filled their appointed niche in the world's great temple, the subject of this sketch deserves more than a passing mention. He settled on section 25, Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and since that time has given his attention mainly to the construction of a homestead, and the development of his land, but at the same time has contributed, as opportunity offered, to the various enterprises arising from and closely connected with the well-being of the people around him. He is a man well spoken of by his neighbors, and one who has made for himself a worthy record.

The Old Dominion is accredited with the birth of our subject, which took place in Tazewell County, Dec. 26, 1848. Henry and Edith Shrader, his parents, were also born there, but traced their ancestry to Germany. It is believed that the first representatives of both families in this country crossed the Atlantic during the colonial days, and were among the first people to till the soil of Virginia. They prospered and multiplied, and were people notable as being of more than ordinary industry and honesty, good citizens in the highest sense of the term. As far as can be learned their record is eminently worthy of preservation.

To the parents of our subject there were born eleven children, only one of whom has been called from the household circle. The remaining ten are located as follows: George W. is now carrying on farming in Rock Bluff Precinct, this county; Gilly A. is the wife of William Yost, and they reside in Virginia, as do also Christina, the wife of James Holbrook, and Tirittia (Mrs. Jacob Absheer). Andrew J. migrated some years ago to the Indian

Territory; Zachariah W., of our sketch, is next in order of birth; Joseph L., in this county; Marion F., Joshua V. and Naomi (Mrs. James Day), continue upon their native soil in Virginia; Melinda is deceased. The mother died at the old homestead in the spring of 1887, and the father in the fall of that same year.

Mr. Shrader remained a resident of his native State until a young man of twenty years, and in 1868 turned his steps westward toward the young State of Nebraska. In this venture he was accompanied by his brothers George and Andrew J., and for a number of years thereafter he farmed on rented land. In 1870 he returned on a visit to Virginia, remaining there about four months, and then resumed operations on this side of the Mississippi. He made his first purchase of land in 1882, where he settled soon afterward and began the construction of a homestead. His diligence and industry were amply rewarded, and in due time he added eighty acres to his first purchase, having now a fine estate of 240 acres, with good buildings, livestock and machinery. Although in the main he has been prosperous he has met with some losses, especially in 1874, when about $700 worth of property was destroyed by fire, including a valuable span of mares, and other things which could not be replaced.

The 2d of February, 1871, witnessed the marriage of our subject with Miss Rachel Murray, who was born April 10, 1853, in Jackson County, Mo., and is the daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth Murray, the former deceased, and the latter now living in Smith County, Kan. The family left Missouri about 1854, taking up their residence in Mills County, Iowa. After a two years' sojourn in that region they came to this county and settled in Rock Bluff Precinct at a time when it was thinly settled, and Indians still roamed over this part of the country. The parental household numbered thirteen children, of whom the following survive, namely: Alvers, of Smith County, Kan.; Joshua, of this county; Mary (Mrs. Thomas Sullivan), of Rock Bluff Precinct; Adeline, the wife of Andrew Taylor, of Plattsmouth Precinct; William, also living there; Maggie (Mrs. Leonidas Quinn), of Smith County, Kan.; Leonard, a resident of Eight Mile Grove Precinct; Nancy, the wife of William Barnes, of Smith County, Kan., and Mrs. Shrader. The deceased are James P., Lovina, Mitchell and Sarah.

To our subject and his estimable wife there were born the following children: Olio, Edith, Jonathan (deceased), Capitola, William R., Robert M., Josephine and Grace. Mr. Shrader has been a uniform supporter of Democratic doctrines. Although by no means an office-seeker, he has held various positions of trust and responsibility, serving as Judge of Elections and on the School Board. He, with his wife and their two eldest children, are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church. To this Mr. Shrader has given his cordial support, and officiates as a Trustee. A man decided in his views, and fearless in upholding what he believes to be the right, he is one of those who form the bone and sinew of all well-regulated society, one whose career has been praiseworthy in the extreme.

MRS. AMELIA BEIN, a very estimable lady, lives at her farm on section 29, in Plattsmouth Precinct. She was born in Germany, Aug. 6, 1843, and is the daughter of Frederick and Amelia (Wehrbein) Bein, who were also of German birth and parentage, and emigrated to the United States in 1855.

The subject of this sketch was a girl of twelve years when she crossed the Atlantic with her parents, and remembers many of the incidents of her childhood in the Fatherland. She attended the common schools, and was taught habits of industry at home, and before reaching her nineteenth year was united in marriage with Mr. August Bein, who was also a native of Germany, and emigrated to the United States with his brother Henry in 1860, locating at once in Jefferson County, Wis., where they were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Bein remained residents of the Badger State about six years after their marriage, coming to this county in 1868. Mr. B. purchased 140 acres of land, embracing a portion of sections 29 and 32, in Plattsmouth Precinct, from which he

improved a good farm, and where his family still live. At the time of taking possession there was a small house, but little attempt had been made at other improvement, Mr. Bein having put up the present residence. This is a neat and substantial structure, and adjacent is a good barn and all other necessary out-buildings, together with a flourishing orchard and the smaller fruit trees.

August Bein departed this life at the homestead in Plattsmouth Precinct, March 11, 1881, when in the prime of life, being forty-four years old. He was the son of Henry and Kate (Sprute) Bein, who were also natives of Germany, born and reared not far from the early home of the Wehrbein family. They spent their entire lives in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Bein identified themselves with the Presbyterian Church many years ago, and of this Mr. B. was a consistent member until his death. Mrs. Bein and her children still adhere to this faith. Of these latter there are eight living, namely: August, Ida (Mrs. William Hull), Anna, Minnie, Henry, Mollie, Frederick and Edward.

The Wehrbein family in coming to this country made the voyage on a sailing-vessel, landing at New Orleans after having been on the ocean seven weeks. Thence they went up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Mo., and from there by rail to Watertown, Wis.

ROZZEL MORROW, of Rock Bluff Precinct, was born in Jackson County, Ohio, April 9, 1847, and is the son of Andrew and Sarah (Dill) Morrow, also natives of that State. The paternal grandfather, James Morrow, was born in County Down, Ireland, whence he emigrated to the United States when a young man, and was married, it is believed, in Virginia, of which his wife, Jane Ludinton, was a native, probably of Greenbrier County.

To the parents of our subject there were born fifteen children, of whom Rozzel was the seventh in order of birth. Nine of these are still living, located mostly in Iowa and Nebraska. The parents left Ohio in 1857, turning their faces toward the Far West, and located in Page County, Iowa, where they lived until 1860. Thence they removed to Mills County, that State, and from there came to Nebraska, settling in this county in the spring of 1868, where they lived until the spring of 1873. Then, returning to Iowa, they took up their abode in Harrison County, where they still live. The father has been a lifelong farmer, but in 1883 retired from active labor, and is now engaged as a land speculator and in the loaning of money.

Our subject came to Nebraska with his parents, locating with them in Rock Bluff Precinct, of which he has since been a resident. He was married, March 25, 1874, to Miss Adela, daughter of Alexander and Anna (McNurlin) Frizzell. The father of Mrs. Morrow was a native of Vermont, and the mother of Pennsylvania. The maternal grandfather, James McNurlin, was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Frizzell are now living in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Morrow commenced their wedded life in this county, taking possession of their present farm in the spring of 1876. This comprises 227 acres of well improved land on section 6, where Mr. M. has erected substantial buildings, planted fruit and shade trees, and gathered around him all the comforts of life. He has been prominent in local affairs, and is well posted upon current events. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1879, which position he still holds, and, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. Mrs. Morrow is a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church. They are the parents of seven interesting children, namely: Viola, Edmund, Hallie, Catherine A., Rozzel, who died in January, 1888, aged eight years; Wrenn and Lilly.

Mr. Morrow and six of his brothers enlisted as Union soldiers during the late Civil War. Mr. M. was first a member of the Iowa State Militia, in the fall of 1862; later he enlisted in Company I, 15th Iowa Infantry, served with his regiment until May, 1864, and was then transferred to the United States Patrol Guards, with whom he operated until the close of the war. His brother George was in Company G, 15th Iowa Infantry, as a fifer, serving thus three years, and afterward shouldering a musket, served in the ranks until the close. His brother Allen was in the same company and regiment as Rozzel. His twin brothers, John and Thomas, were members of Company A, 29th Ohio Infantry; John

died near Shell Mound, Miss., in 1863; Thomas returned home in safety, and is now dead; Amos was in the 4th Iowa Battery, serving two and a half years, and is also now dead.

Mr. Morrow is a member of the G. A. R., belonging to McConnahie Post No. 45, of Plattsmouth, being the fifer, and was also connected with the Good Templars' Lodge at Mt. Pleasant during its existence. He is one of the solid men of his precinct, prompt in his business transactions and a thorough and skillful farmer, and had some experience as a pioneer in early days, when the scalp lifters were plentiful.

JOSEPH V. WECKBACH. Cass County numbers among her citizens many men of great executive ability and business talent, by whose force and enterprise her commercial interests have become very extensive, and her various resources have been developed to a wonderful degree. One of these gentlemen (he whose name stands at the head of this sketch) is one of the leading citizens of Plattsmouth, of which he has been a resident many years, coming here in 1865, when the city was but a small village, and with the exception of two years elsewhere, has lived here ever since. He is a prominent figure in business circles, being one of the most prosperous merchants in the city, and an active member of the Board of Trade, and he has also added another to the various industries of this city in the establishment of the Plattsmouth Brickyard, where he is extensively engaged in the manufacture of a fine quality of brick, thus giving work to a number of men. He has also been prominently identified with the civic life of this city, and has held the most important offices connected with the management of its affairs. He was Mayor of the city one term, and has been a member of the City Council over twelve years.

Our subject was born in the village of Wauldhausen, a few miles from Buchen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, June 5, 1844. His father, Michael Weckbach, was a native of the same place, and there he worked at his trade of blacksmith until 1866. His wife, the mother of the subject of our sketch, was Elizabeth Wiedemann. She was also born near Wauldhausen, in a neighboring village. She now makes her home with her children, mostly in Omaha. In 1866 Michael Weckbach came to America and located in Plattsmouth, and from there went to Omaha and spent his declining years. He had a family of five children who grew to maturity—Joseph, William, Henry, Gustave and Isadore, all of whom came to America. William and Gustave live in Omaha, and Henry in Plattsmouth. Isadore died in this city.

Joseph V., of whom we write, acquired a good education in the Fatherland, attending school quite regularly until he was fourteen years old. He then went into the shop with his father and gained a practical knowledge of the blacksmith's trade, and he continued to work at that trade in his native land until 1865. He was then a wide-awake, energetic young man of twenty-one years, and he desired to see something more of life than was possible in the village where his days thus far had been spent, and he was also ambitious to become a rich and prosperous man. Thinking that the United States of America held out more inducements than any other country, he emigrated to these shores with his parents, landing in New York, and came directly to Plattsmouth. His only capital was good health and willing hands, but a youth of his capabilities was not long finding employment, and he worked in a blacksmith-shop for a time. He then set up a smithy and did business on his own account until 1870. He then sold out and interested himself in agriculture, buying a farm in Eight Mile Grove Precinct. He carried it on successfully for two years, and then traded his farm for a stock of groceries, and since that time has conducted mercantile business in Plattsmouth. Two years after his first establishment in the business he added dry-goods to his stock. Oct. 1, 1887, he sold his grocery department to his brother Henry.

Mr. Weckbach and Miss Mary Katarina Guthmann were united in marriage July 9, 1865, and of their wedded life eleven children have been born, namely: Anna E., Charles W., Mary R., Lydia J., Edward, Eugene H., Lewis G., Matilda L., Katie F., Joseph V. and Agnes. Mr. Weckbach erected

his present residence, one of the finest in the city, in 1884, and in their beautiful home he and his estimable wife dispense a charming hospitality to numerous friends. Our subject is a fine specimen of the "self-made man," as he has acquired his fortune with no other capital than a sound mind in a sound body, and his example should stimulate others in like circumstances. He has ever been active in promoting the best interests of his adopted home, and has been among the foremost in securing the establishment of institutions for the furtherance of its material prosperity, such as the Board of Trade for example, of which he was a charter member. He is also a stockholder and director in the canning factory. He is one of the leaders of the Democratic party, and enthusiastically supports its measures. Mr. and Mrs. Weckbach and family are members of the Catholic Church.

JAMES O'NEILL, deceased. This name will be held in reverence as long as Plattsmouth shall stand, as that of one of the gentlemen to whom belonged the honor of having been its founders. And perhaps we may justly assign to his wife the honor of suggesting this attractive spot as a fine place to locate a town.

While Nebraska, then considered a part of the "Great American Desert," was still the home of the Indian, shared by the buffalo, the deer, the antelope and other wild animals, with scarcely a white settlement within its borders, there came the cry, heard around the world, of the discovery of gold in California (that event which was, perhaps, one of the means of bringing about a change here, "the old order yielding place to the new,") and soon the sound of the tramp of thousands echoed across these vast, lonely prairies, as they hurried on, eager to reach the goal of wealth. While thus passing through the country they could not fail to note what a goodly heritage lay in this fair land, with its sunny skies, genial clime, and fertile, well-watered soil, although they little dreamed that the wealth they were seeking was obtainable here. Taking advantage of the rush of emigration across the border, James O'Neill, a pioneer of Mills County, Iowa, where he owned a large tract of land, moved to the east bank of the Missouri River to a point called Platteville, for the purpose of establishing a ferry to convey the emigrants across the stream; he had three flatboats, and made that his principal business. One day, while looking across the river to the opposite bank, Mrs. O'Neill remarked to her husband that it would be a good place for a town. He replied that as soon as the Indian treaties were ratified and the land thrown on the market, he would cross the stream and lay out a town. Early in the spring of 1855 he put his plan into execution, he and his friend Mr. Martin, with whom he carried on a mercantile business in Platteville, crossing the Missouri on the ice and making a claim to the land on which Plattsmouth now stands. They built a log house on the hill, southeast from the present site of the depot, the house being a rude structure, with an earth and stick chimney at one end on the outside. That spring Mr. O'Neill's family came over and occupied the house, and immediately planned a village, and commenced to sell lots, and during the summer there were probably a dozen houses erected here. Thus originated the thriving city of Plattsmouth. But while it is flourishing, and every day extending its interests and increasing its wealth and prosperity, the brave old pioneer of whom we write is numbered among the dead. Long may his memory be cherished, and his name be handed down from generation to generation for his share in laying the foundation of this city.

Mr. O'Neill was born in Hocking County, Ohio, Sept. 24, 1815. His father, James O'Neill, was a native of Ireland, who came to America when a young man, and settled in Ohio, being an early pioneer of Hocking County. He became the proprietor of quite a large tract of land there, and there was extensively engaged in farming the remainder of his life. His wife was born in Scotland. She came to Nebraska with her son, and died at his home in Plattsmouth. She was the mother of ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity. The father was reared in the Presbyterian Church, and was ever a faithful member.

The subject of this sketch passed his early life in his native county. He was reared to the life of a

farmer, and though he never learned a trade, he was very proficient in the use of tools and did the most of his own carpenter work. He married in his native county, and continued to reside there until about 1848, when he sold his farm and moved to Iowa in the month of August, with a wagon and three horses, accompanied by his wife and four children. They had their cooking utensils with them, and when the shades of evening fell, or the sun marked the hour of noon, they camped and cooked their meals, and obtained needed rest. At length they reached their destination in Mills County, and there our subject took up a large tract of land. The country was sparsely settled, and but few improvements had been made in any direction. There were no railways, and all travel was done with wagons. We have spoken of the removal of our subject to Platteville not long after, and of his connection with the foundation of Plattsmouth. Besides attending to the ferry, which he established in the former place, and looking after his mercantile business, which he carried on in partnership with Mr. Martin, our subject was also associated with his brother William in raising stock, of which they owned a large herd. In the fall of 1855 Mr. O'Neill returned to his Iowa farm, and lived there for a year. He then came back to Cass County, and was a resident here the remainder of his days. He and his family settled west of the city, and he improved a valuable farm, on which he made his home until 1879. He then came to Plattsmouth, where he lived retired from the active duties of life until his death in 1880.

Our subject undoubtedly was greatly indebted for his prosperous circumstances to the fact that he was blessed with a good wife, whose judicious counsels strengthened and encouraged him, while her helping hand was never withheld when he needed her assistance. Mrs. O'Neill's maiden name was Rachel Avery, and she was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Oct. 27, 1824. Her father, Hugh Avery, was, it is thought, born in Virginia, and he was a pioneer of Belmont County, where he died in 1826. The maiden name of his wife was Rachel Gillen. She was a native of Belmont County, Ohio, but spent her last years in Hocking County, that State. Mrs. O'Neill's pleasant wedded life with our subject was blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows: Elizabeth (now the wife of William Herold, of whom see sketch), John H., William Albert, Lafayette, George, Lydia (now the wife of Theodore Bodine), Frank and Lewis.

Mrs. O'Neill is one of the few first settlers of Nebraska now living, and her lively reminiscences of pioneer days are well worth listening to. She has witnessed the development of this great and prosperous State from a few struggling settlements on the wild, uncultivated prairie, sometimes threatened with extinction by hostile Indians, or from other causes. And the entire growth of the city of Plattsmouth, from one rude log cabin to hundreds of dwellings, some of them elegant and costly, and numerous fine business buildings that would do credit to many an older city, has all gone on under her eyes. She is well known, and is deservedly held in respect, not only as a pioneer, but for her own sake, as a woman of great sense and goodness.

SAMUEL M. HOLDEN is an energetic farmer and stock-raiser, and operates a splendid farm of 160 acres on section 9 of Elmwood Precinct. He was born in Casco, Maine, March 27, 1840, where he resided with his father, attending the common schools of the town and three terms in the Academy. His earliest experiences in life were in the mercantile business, which his father pursued successfully in Casco. At the age of twenty-one, in answer to the first call for 75,000 troops, made in 1861 by President Lincoln, for the suppression of the Rebellion, he enlisted in the Union service December, 1861, and was assigned to duty in Company B, 1st Maine Cavalry, as farrier. He joined the regiment in camp at Augusta, where they remained three or four months, and in 1862 they started for the South and were attached to the Army of the Potomac. It is a historical fact that the 1st Maine Cavalry took part in more battles then any other cavalry regiment in the Army of the Potomac, participating in thirty-six engagements, being nearly all in which that army was engaged. His first term of service expiring, he re-enlisted for three years. At the end of two years

he again re-enlisted as a veteran in the same regiment. In July, 1863, he was transferred into the Navy, where he served until the close of the war. His duty in the latter service was in the Revenue Marine, and confined principally to the Delaware River.

After the assassination of our beloved President, Lincoln, the Commander of the Navy at Philadelphia was advised that Booth, the murderer, would attempt to make his escape by the way of that port, from the country on a British vessel. Our subject was one of the men who were detailed to capture him. They succeeded in capturing the boat, but Booth was not there. At the close of the war our subject was mustered out of the service and honorably discharged, when he returned to his home in Casco, where he remained about six months, when he determined to try his fortunes in the West. He went to Iowa County, Iowa, and engaged in farming. His first venture in Iowa was not a success, for there he lost $700, all he had in the world. Believing that Nebraska offered greater advantages than Iowa he had decided to make one more venture, and in December, 1868, he unloaded his wife, for he had married during the sojourn in Iowa, and worldly effects, which were few enough, on section 4, Elmwood Precinct, where he had homesteaded eighty acres of land in the spring of that year. After they located on their new home they suffered many hardships and endured many privations.

While living in Iowa our subject met a young lady of eighteen, Miss Harriett E. Swyer, who became his wife in 1867, and removed with him to Nebraska. The union has proven an exceptionally happy one, and five children have been born to them: Abbie Eldora, Willie M., Helen, Ernest Lee and Frank. The daughter Abbie is now teaching school in Buell District; Willie attends the Academy at Weeping Water. The father of our subject. Samuel M., Sr., was born in Otisfield, Cumberland County, Maine. He was engaged in the mercantile business in Casco, Me., until 1888, when he retired from the business and still resides in Casco. The mother was Abigail Hayden, and was born at Gray, Cumberland Co., Me. She died in 1887, aged seventy-nine years. A family of four children were born to his parents, named: Clara; Harriet, who died at the age of thirty-nine years, Samuel M. our subject, and Helen. Clara is now the wife of Frank Cook, Esq., and resides in Casco, Me.; Helen is a widow of a soldier who was killed in the late Rebellion and resides in Portland, Me. The ancestors of Mr. Holden were from England and originally settled in Massachusetts, from which State they removed to Maine.

During the first year of his residence in Nebraska our subject, in common with a large number of other pioneers of the State, found many difficulties in his path, and he remembers particularly and refers with a grateful feeling to the favors and assistance extended him at that time by Mr. Horton, a citizen of Weeping Water who had preceded Mr. Holden to that locality. Owing to his losses in Iowa our subject did not have the means to pay cash for all his supplies, and had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Horton, who let him have necessary provisions on credit, he thinks he would have died from starvation. The payment for the supplies received was made afterward.

Our subject takes a deep interest in the educational, religious and political advancement of the precinct and county. Every proposition that has for its purpose the prosperity and well-being of the people finds in him an earnest and hearty supporter. His farm with all its improvements is the legitimate result of his intelligence and industry. He is an excellent judge of stock, and in addition to his general farming he pays especial attention to raising thoroughbred cattle and hogs, and he is becoming well and widely known throughout the State as a breeder of Hereford cattle, of which he has a fine herd, at the head of which is the celebrated bull Gen. Terry. He usually ships to market one carload of hogs per year. He claims to own the finest herd of hogs in the precinct, and it must be admitted that he bases his claim on good ground.

The good wife of our subject is a most excellent housekeeper and she ably seconds her husband in all his undertakings. Herself and husband are earnest and consistent members of the Congregational Church at Mainland. The gentleman is an active member of the School Board of district 65 and was active in the organization of that district as well as

No. 46. He has discharged in an acceptable manner the duties pertaining to the office of Justice of the Peace. He is widely known for his devoted support of the interests of the Democratic party. His record as a soldier is above reproach, and is a source of pride which is pardonable in him.

JAMES W. BROOKS. As the village of Avoca moves on in the process of development there are inaugurated, one after another, the various interests which are calculated to insure its future. The subject of this sketch established himself as a grain dealer at this point in the fall of 1884, buying mostly for O. T. Hubbard, of Hiawatha, Kan., and handling usually on an average 150,000 bushels per annum. Mr. Brooks is a stirring business man, possessing the qualities required in the building up of a new farm.

Prior to settling in Avoca our subject had operated as a lumber dealer at Allerton and Clio, Iowa, two years. He became a resident of the Hawkeye State with his father, in 1844, the latter taking up a tract of new land in the wilderness of Mahaska County while Iowa was still a Territory. To this point they had migrated from Orleans County, N. Y., where James W. was born Feb. 5, 1838, and was consequently but a child of six years when his parents emigrated to Iowa Territory. Thomas Brooks, the father, was a native of Virginia, born of parents who were also natives of the Old Dominion, and had been familiar with farming from his youth up. Upon leaving Virginia he settled in Adams County, Ill., and was there married to Miss Mary McMurray, a native of Kentucky. Her parents had left the Blue Grass regions when she was quite young, locating in Adams County, Ill., where later Mr. and Mrs. Brooks began the journey of life together on a farm.

To the parents of our subject there were born five children, of whom he was the youngest. After the removal to Iowa they lived in Mahaska County until 1853, then changed their residence to Wayne County, where our subject attained his majority. The parents there spent the remainder of their days, both dying at the age of sixty-seven years. They were Methodists in religious belief, and most excellent and worthy people, respected by their neighbors, and conscientious in their lives. There were born to them in Illinois two children, while the other three were natives of the Hawkeye State.

James W. Brooks received a good practical education in the public schools of his native county, and upon the outbreak of the Rebellion, with his two brothers entered the ranks of the soldiery, himself and his brother John in the Union Army, and the other brother, Joseph, in the service of the lost cause. James W. was a member of Company M, 3d Iowa Cavalry, under Capt. Warner and Gen. Curtis, and fought with his comrades at the battle of Pea Ridge. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he was discharged, in November, 1862, from the cavalry, and at once re-enlisted in the 46th Iowa Infantry. After 100 days he received his second honorable discharge by special order, and returned home. Although experiencing many hairbreadth escapes, he was neither wounded nor captured. His brother John F. was a member of the 2d Illinois Cavalry, and in one engagement was wounded and suffered amputation of his leg twice thereafter, which proved such a shock to his system that he finally died from the effects of it in the hospital at Memphis, Tenn. He was brought home, and now fills a soldier's grave with many of his comrades in Corydon Cemetery, Wayne County, Iowa.

After leaving the army Mr. Brooks, returning to Wayne County, Iowa, taught school during the winter season, and farmed in summer until 1880. He then embarked in the lumber trade, and has been associated with lumber and grain since that time. He was married in Wayne County to Miss Eleanor Weagley. Mrs. Brooks was born in 1842, in Pennsylvania, where she was nearly reared to womanhood, and then went with her parents to Iowa. The latter were of German ancestry, and the father a farmer by occupation. Upon their removal to the Hawkeye State they located upon a tract of land in Benton Township, Wayne County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Brooks was a lady of many estimable qualities, and had received careful home training. After being the devoted and faithful companion of her husband

a period of twelve years, she departed this life at their home in Benton Township, Iowa, in the winter of 1875. Of this union there had been born six children, two of whom are deceased—an infant who died unnamed and Nellie. Of the survivors the record is as follows: George A., a baker by trade, is located in Central City, this State; Jessie is the wife of D. D. Callew, a farmer, of Clio, Iowa; Harry and Otto make their home with their father, the latter officiating as clerk for the firm of Graham & Wilkison, hardware dealers of Avoca.

Our subject in 1877 contracted a second matrimonial alliance in Washington County, Iowa, with Mrs. Sarah (Guinn) Sanders. The present wife of our subject was born in East Tennessee, in 1849. When she was quite young her parents, leaving the South, crossed the Mississippi and took up their abode in Washington, Iowa, where the father carried on farming, but later removed to Louisa County. He is now, with his estimable wife, living at Columbus Junction. Of this union there were born two children, one of whom, Roy D., died in infancy; Hattie makes her home with her father. Mrs. Sarah Brooks died at the residence of her father in Washington County, Iowa, Aug. 16, 1887.

Mr. Brooks, without making any claim to be a politician, keeps himself informed upon State and National affairs, and uniformly votes the straight Republican ticket. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., Avoca Lodge No 29, and is also a member of the Masonic fraternity.

ORSEMUS M. ANDRUS, Postmaster of the new town of Andrusville, is a man of note in the southwestern part of this county, and one who has entered largely into its growth and development. He owns and operates 320 acres of valuable land, and also conducts a country store, carrying a stock of probably $1,000 worth of miscellaneous goods suited to the wants of both town and country people. He has figured largely in local affairs, discharging the duties of the various offices, and has gained a reputation for energy and enterprise possessed by few. Politically, he is a sound Republican, and in the earlier years, during the progress of the Civil War, enunciated his principles in a substantial manner by enlisting in the ranks and assisting in fighting the battles of the Union. He has, in short, made for himself a record which his descendants may look upon in after years with pride.

Of New England ancestry, our subject is the son of Darwin and Elizabeth (Andrus) Andrus, who were both natives of Rutland County, Vt., the father born in 1811. The family traces its ancestry to three brothers who crossed over from England during the colonial days, and from which sprang all the people of this name in America.

The father of our subject when quite young left the Green Mountain State and settled with his father in the vicinity of Horseheads, Chemung County, N. Y. There he was reared to manhood on a farm, and after reaching his majority started out for Bradford County, Pa., where he decided to settle. He took up a tract of Government land, upon which he labored successfully, opening up a good farm, which he sold in the spring of 1869, anxious now to see something of the farther west.

Darwin Andrus upon leaving Pennsylvania migrated to Iowa County, Iowa, but only sojourned there three years, engaging in the meantime in agricultural pursuits. In 1871 he joined his children in Nebraska, where he spent the remainder of his days, passing away in March, 1883. The wife and mother had died in 1852 in Bradford County, Pa. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: Jerome H., who died when forty-five years old; Huldah L., now living in this county; Mary L., deceased; Orsemus M., our subject; John E., of this precinct, and Sarah M., also deceased.

Bradford County, Pa., was the early tramping-ground of our subject, where his birth took place March 3, 1844. He was but a lad of eight years at the time of his mother's death, and two years later he was taken into the home of his sister in the same county. With her he remained until twenty years of age. In the meantime the Civil War had been in progress three years with little prospect of a cessation of hostilities, and in the fall of 1864, before he was twenty-one years old, young Andrus enlisted as a Union soldier in Company H,

45th Pennsylvania Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, under command of Gen. Grant.

Our subject first saw the smoke of battle at Petersburg, and later, while assisting to hold the fort at that place was wounded in the shoulder by a minie ball, April 2, 1865, and laid up in the hospital until the 23d of June. The conflict being now ended he received an honorable discharge and returned to the old home in Pennsylvania. Not long afterward he purchased fifty-four acres of forest in his native county, cleared off some of the timber and carried on farming in a small way, while at the same time he also occupied himself at carpenter work. He retained possession of this land for some years. In the spring of 1868 Mr. Andrus was seized with a desire to cross the Mississippi and consequently migrated to Iowa. His sojourn, however, was but short, six months or so, and returning to Pennsylvania he occupied himself at farm work in his native county until February, 1869. Then returning to Iowa he operated on a farm a couple of years, in the meantime returning once more to Pennsylvania and selling his property there.

Mr. Andrus first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska in the fall of 1871, journeying hither from Iowa with an ox team. He crossed the Missouri at Plattsmouth, and proceeding directly southward to Tipton Precinct, this county, commenced farming on rented land. In the fall of 1872 he purchased the land included in his present homestead, 160 acres, of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company. Upon this a furrow had not been turned and there was no sign of a habitation, and he came here alone.

The first business of our subject was to break his land. As time passed on he began planting forest and fruit trees, and the result is a flourishing grove of five acres, with an orchard of three acres. The present residence was completed in 1877. Two years later a post-office was located on section 35, and Mr. Andrus was appointed the officiating agent. His labors as a tiller of the soil were abundantly prosperous, and in 1880 he added to his real estate by the purchase of eighty acres adjoining his first land. In 1886 he became owner of an additional eighth section, and now owns the whole north half of section 35. This land is very fertile and amply watered by a branch of the Nemaha. The fields are neatly enclosed with hedge and wire fencing. The buildings adjacent to the residence comprise a good barn and the other structures necessary for the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. The whole is indicative of the industry and energy which must have been exercised in the construction of so valuable an estate.

In 1883 Mr. Andrus established a store of general merchandise in connection with the post-office, putting in at first a very modest stock of goods. The increased demand for these by the people around has compelled him to enlarge his facilities for trade, and he is now in the enjoyment of a good patronage. In his farming operations he makes a specialty of live-stock, usually buying and feeding annually two cars of swine and breeding high-grade Durham cattle. He utilizes three teams of horses for his own travel and farm purposes.

Miss Mary A. Fuller, at that time a resident of Iowa County, Iowa, became the wife of our subject Nov. 15, 1877, the wedding taking place at her home in Genoa Bluff. Mrs. Andrus was born Oct. 24, 1852, in Tuckerton, N. J., and is the daughter of James and Hannah (Mathis) Fuller, who were natives of Vermont and New Jersey, respectively, and are now living in Iowa. Of this union there are four children living, namely: James D., George E., Flora L. and Harrison W. One son, Horace, died when one year old. Both our subject and his estimable wife are interested in religious matters, Mr. A. being a member of the Christian Church and Mrs. A. identified with the Congregational at Eagle. The Sunday-School has found in Mr. Andrus an industrious worker, he officiating as Superintendent and Secretary and otherwise laboring for the pious training of the rising generation. He is also one of the Sons of Temperance and belongs to Mansfield Post No. 54, G. A. R., at Palmyra. He has served as Assessor of Tipton Precinct two years, and represented it in the County Board of Supervisors three years. He has been a member of the School Board of his dis-

trict for fifteen years. In the spring of 1886 he was appointed a Notary Public for a term of six years. It would thus seem that he has few idle hours in looking after the various interests, both public and private, which have been assigned him. His career has certainly been that of a most useful and praiseworthy citizen, one who will leave his ineffacable mark upon a community who have learned to esteem him at his true value. His home is shown in a view on another page.

ASHFORD H. MAGEE, President of the Village Board of Greenwood, is a man prominent in the affairs of his community, and one who has signalized himself as a public-spirited citizen, interested in the various enterprises calculated for the highest good of the people. He has been instrumental in the establishment and maintenance of schools, officiating as a member of the Board of Education, and there are few projects of this nature to which he has not given his cordial support. In the business world he operates as manager of the South Platte Lumber Company.

We glance back at the family history of our subject and find that his parents, George and Delilah (Hardy) Magee, were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation and upon leaving the Buckeye State settled in Peoria County, Ill. There the mother died in 1852, at the early age of thirty-six years, leaving a family of five children, namely: William H.; Ashford H., our subject; James E., Noah T. and Harriet J. J. E. is a resident of Ashland, this State; Noah is farming in Elmwood Precinct, this county; Harriet J. is the wife of S. W. Foster, of Weeping Water.

The subject of this sketch was born Sept. 6, 1844, at Smithville, Peoria Co., Ill., during the pioneer days of that section. His educational advantages were such as the common schools of that day afforded, and to the rude temple of learning he journeyed quite a distance from his home in the woods. His education was completed when he was a youth of sixteen years, and a year later the outbreak of the Civil War turned his thoughts in an entirely new direction. He had been imbued with patriotic principles from his birth, and it was not long until he made up his mind to assist in the impending struggle for the preservation of the Union. On the 9th of August, 1862, in response to the call of President Lincoln for 600,000 men, young Magee enlisted in Company E, 77th Illinois Infantry, under command of Capt. Edmund Stevens. They drilled at the camp in Peoria for a short time, and then went to Covington, Ky., departing Oct. 2, and reaching there four days later. Thence they marched to Louisville, where they embarked on a boat from Memphis and from there proceeded on down the river on boats to Vicksburg. Mr. Magee participated in the siege and capture of that city, and served under the command of Gen. Sherman, but being repulsed by the rebels were obliged to abandon the attack at that time. They then journeyed up the White River to Arkansas Post, until this division of the army could be reinforced by the troops of Gen. Grant, when they reopened the siege which resulted in the capture of the city.

From Vicksburg our subject and his comrades moved upon Jackson, Miss., and after its capture returned to Vicksburg, proceeding thence in August to New Orleans. At this point the army was reorganized for the Red River expedition, and a part of it, our subject among the number, journeyed up the Red River to Brazos City and thence marched 400 miles, engaging along the way in numerous skirmishes with the enemy. At Vicksburg Mr. Magee distinguished himself for his bravery and was promoted to be a Corporal. In the battle at Mansfield he had a strange and dangerous experience. It had always been surmised that the regimental color bearer was a coward, and Mr. M. believed this to be true. Being himself one of the color guards, he foresaw that there would be hard fighting, in which his services might be needed. He was the only color guard of his regiment who served in this capacity during the battle of Mansfield and, strange to relate, he was the only appointed color guard that escaped capture or death.

This battle was waxing hot when a retreat was ordered. Our subject, waiting until the last mo-

ment, finally much against his inclinations was obliged to run, but in doing so his gun became entangled in a bramble and in turning around to extricate it he found that the regimental flag had been deserted. Quick as a flash he sprang back, seized the standard, and while thousands of rebel soldiers shouted, "drop it," and while the deadly missiles from their guns flew thick around him, he miraculously escaped and in a few moments was safely by the side of his comrades. After this engagement they retreated to Pleasant Hill and thence to the mouth of the Red River, where the expedition was abandoned.

Mr. Magee, soon after this affair, was promoted to Sergeant and at New Orleans was assigned to provost duty. Later on, after participating in the siege of Mobile and the capture of Spanish Fort, they journeyed up the Tombigbee River, where the news of Lee's surrender told them that the war was practically ended. Mr. Magee received his honorable discharge at Mobile, and soon afterward returned to his old haunts in Illinois. In all his army career he never missed a ration or a roll call. Being young, stout, careful and willing, he was enabled to bear up bravely under the most trying circumstances. On the march from Vicksburg to Jackson, July 5, 1861, he was one of the four men able to stack guns at the close of the day's engagement. He was promoted to First Sergeant in the spring of 1865.

The patriotism of our subject did not end with the close of the war. Coming home he had scarcely yet attained to a complete manhood and realized the advantage which a more thorough education would be to him. He accordingly resumed his studies in the district school a few months after his discharge. Among those in attendance was a rude and boisterous fellow, a rebel in his instincts and expressions, and who one day stood up and hurrahed for Jeff Davis. No sooner had the words left his lips than Mr. Magee laid him low with a "left-hander," and mounting his prostrate form administered to him a first-class thrashing. Later, Mr. M. pursued his studies in another school under the instruction of one of his former commanders, Lieut. Smith.

Mr. Magee entered upon the more serious business of life as a farmer in Peoria County, Ill., and when ready to establish a fireside of his own was united in marriage with Miss Mary Miller, in 1870. Mrs. Magee was born in Peoria County, Ill., and was the schoolmate and playmate of her husband during their childhood years. They made their home in Illinois for some time, then came to this county and settled on a tract of uncultivated land in Greenwood Precinct, from which was built up by their united efforts a good homestead, which they occupied until in 1884. Mr. M. had been for some time prior to this suffering from nervous prostration, the result of arduous and continued labor, and was advised by his physician to try a change of occupation. He then left the farm to engage in the lumber trade. In his dealings with his fellowmen he has gained their friendship and respect, and is to-day one of the most widely known and popular men of Greenwood.

Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of two children, daughters, Lily and Henrietta. The family residence is pleasantly situated in the northwest part of town and is as attractive in its surroundings as it is pleasant and congenial within. Mr. and Mrs. M. are members in good standing of the Christian Church, in which our subject officiates as Steward and Trustee. He is prominently identified with the G. A. R. and it is hardly necessary to state that, politically, he is a solid Republican, "dyed in the wool." He represents a goodly amount of property and is a man whose career has been distinguished by the strictest honesty and integrity—one whose word is as good as his bond.

SAMUEL CARTER, an intelligent and enterprising farmer of Elmwood Precinct, was born Oct. 29, 1824, in Maine, and among the younger members of a family of nine namely: Mary, Joseph, Shuah M., Ruth T., Eliza T., Martha S., Sarah A., Samuel, our subject, and Monroe. Of this number all are deceased excepting Ruth and our subject. Ruth is a widow, and living in Nebraska. In his early days he was favored with good educational advantages, which he improved to the fullest extent, attending the public school

until at the age seventeen he entered the academy at Fryeburgh Village, where he continued a student for one term. After this he learned the trade of a painter, which he followed in his native State and in Massachusetts.

Mr. Carter was united in marriage, in 1855, to Miss Sarah Webster, the daughter of John S. and Hannah Webster. Her father was born in Brownfield, Me., and the mother was born in New Hampshire, near the Maine State line. Her maternal grandfather, John, was in the Revolutionary War, and was one of the pioneers in the settlement of New Hampshire. Her paternal grandfather, William Webster, was a distant relative of Hon. Daniel Webster, the renowned statesman. Her girlhood days were passed in Maine; she attended the same school and academy which Mr. Carter, her present husband, attended, so that their acquaintance and companionship have been lifelong. After their marriage Mr. Carter cultivated the old Carter homestead. Mrs. Carter is a member of a family of nine children, consisting of: Mary; Sarah, the wife of our subject; Carrie, Hannah E., Elvira C., James Edward, Mary A., John Alden and Josiah C. The children are scattered from Maine to Nebraska. Of the six surviving members of the family Mrs. Carter is the only one in Nebraska.

Mr. Carter came to Elmwood Precinct in 1869, when he settled on his present farm on section 8, where he has lived continuously from that date to the present, devoting his time exclusively to the cultivation of the broad acres under his ownership. An orchard of the choicest varieties of fruit yields its store of luscious fruits, and the various small fruits adapted to the climate contribute materially to the pleasure and profit of the owner. Shrubbery and ornamental trees lavishly planted lend a most inviting appearance to the homestead, which of itself is most eligibly located. Eight children have been born to this worthy couple, named respectively: Charles S., Mary E., John W., George, Wallace, Samuel F., Carrie W. and Frank T. Of this number Mary E. is dead. She, among many others, was attending the school of her neighborhood when one of those terrible scourges of the Western country, the cyclone, came and demolished the schoolhouse, and Mary rendered up her young life to its destructive power. The blow was indeed a sad one to her fond parents, and her memory is held sacred by the survivors of the family; Carrie and Frank are also dead; Charles S., the eldest, is living in Dawes County, Neb.; the sons John W. and George are residents of Custer County, Neb.; Wallace is teaching, and Samuel is at home.

The father of our subject, Samuel F., was born in Oxford County, Me. His mother, Mary (Thompson) Carter, was born in New Hampshire. The father served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was a farmer, and was born and died in the same house. His death took place in 1866, when he was eighty-three years of age. The mother died in 1853, aged sixty-six years. The paternal grandfather, Solomon Thompson, came from England. Grandfather Ezra Carter settled in the State of Maine.

In his coming to and settling in Nebraska Mr. Carter did not escape any of the trials incident to the life of the pioneer. To build his home he drew the lumber with teams from Plattsmouth, his nearest market at that time, but with a strong determination native to the man he accepted no discouragements, but pushed the improvement of his farm as rapidly as time and circumstances would admit, until to-day his broad, well-tilled acres are a continuous comment on the energy and ability inherent in the man. Highly educated, possessing a spirit of rare refinement, he is especially sensitive to disappointments and crosses, yet his will does not allow him to surrender to them. He has not been as successful in a financial sense as some of his neighbors, yet he is in easy circumstances and in a fair way to realize his full complement of wealth. Generous and intelligent, he is one of the men who have made Elmwood Precinct what it is. He is always ready to assist the poor and relieve the needy, possessing a noble appearance and carrying the stamp of nature's true nobility, he has and deserves the friendship and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact. Living soberly and uprightly he carries his age remarkably well. He steps as lightly as a man of thirty. His noble wife is all that a wife should be, thoughtful, patient in all things, she has contributed no inconsiderable part to her husband's success in life. Educated and refined, she is an

ornament in the social circles in which they move; she is a lady who is practical in her life, and it is her hand that supplies the cellar and pantry with many of the delicacies which are foreign and entirely unknown to the denizens of a large city. A few years since she made an exhibit of canned fruit at the Weeping Water Fair, including seventeen varieties, when she received all the highest premium. To her other many excellent qualities it may be said that she is an excellent cook.

Mr. Carter has served his fellow-townsmen as School Treasurer, Director, Moderator and Justice of the Peace, is a Deacon in the Congregational Church, of which himself and wife are members. In politics he is unquestionably Republican.

EDWIN DIMMITT is a progressive farmer of Elmwood Precinct, where he owns and operates a splendid farm of 360 acres of land. He was born in Clermont County, Ohio, where he lived with his parents until he was thirteen years old, when he came with them and settled in Tazewell County, Ill., working on the farm and attending the public schools of the neighborhood. His earliest recollections of life date back to the time he lived in the old Buckeye State, and he remembers distinctly when he attended the school at "Porter's Tavern," in that State.

Mr. Dimmitt is the eldest of a family of five children born to his parents: Sarah L., Beal Harvey, Ezra and Henry, all being younger. In 1862 our subject and Hannah M. Skinner were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. This lady was one of a family of eight children—John, Alfred, Sarah; Hannah M.,the wife of our subject; Nora, Trumbull, Daniel and Harriet. Her parents removed to Peoria, County, Ill. A family of six interesting children have been born to our subject and his worthy wife. They are named Joseph Lincoln; Alfred who died in infancy; Anna L., Mary, Cora and Jessie. Those living are with their parents at home.

Mr. Dimmitt says that his coming to Nebraska was the turning point in his life, that ever since he has been a resident of the State he has been very successful in all his undertakings. It is true he has borne his portion of the hardships and toils experienced by every pioneer, but the result has amply recompensed him for all the trouble that has come to him. Possessing an extremely sanguine temperament he has always been able to meet reverses with a hopeful heart. This ability to look on the bright side of things has been a source of great comfort to him. His good wife has borne her share of the trials and discomforts of frontier life with a happy and cheerful heart. When the days were darkest and the outlook most dreary, then never a murmur of repining or regret passed her lips, and now that the angel of peace and plenty has settled herself down and taken up her abode in the midst of this happy family the wife and mother feels that her life has not been in vain. Their eldest daughter, Anna L., is one of the social leaders of the neighborhood and is a most estimable young lady. Possessing the genial feelings inherited from her father, she is the life of every social gathering.

The father of our subject was considered one of the pillars of the church of which he was a member, and took a lively and substantial interest in every institution for the advancement of knowledge and progress in Elmwood Precinct. Mr Dimmitt has served the community in which he lives as Justice of the Peace, discharging his duties in a very efficient manner. In politics he is a Republican and is proud to say that he cast his first vote at the first election of Abraham Lincoln. For the genealogy of our subject's parents refer to the biography of Beal Harvey Dimmitt, upon another page of this work.

PETER ROLOFSZ was the first man to take up and improve a homestead in Tipton Precinct, which he did in the spring of 1868. He had been renting farms in Monona County, Iowa, and feeling that he could do better by making a home for himself he started overland with teams and wagons to Nebraska, crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City, continuing on to Tipton, where he took up his present home, and immediately began improving the same. He built a small house, and spent the summer

there, and in the fall he went back to Iowa for his family; he remained there until the winter came on, then moved to Glenwood, Iowa, where he obtained work. He returned to his homestead the following spring, and resumed the improvement of his claim by setting out groves and planting an orchard. At this time it was rather a lonely life, as it was four miles to the nearest neighbor.

When not engaged in improving his farm he followed freighting between Nebraska City and Lincoln. Under no circumstances could he be induced to part with his homestead, but continued to improve it in all directions, dividing it up into fields by well-kept fences of hedge and wire. In 1879 he built a new and comfortable residence. He devotes his attention to general farming and the raising of thoroughbred stock, graded Short-horn cattle and full-blooded Poland-China hogs. This gentleman's pride in his stock is certainly justifiable, and does him great credit. He is also an adept in the art of dehorning cattle. Seven horses are required to perform the labor of the farm.

The land selected for the homestead is very eligibly situated, and the broad expanse of cultivated fields, well-kept hedge and fence rows, and the neat and tastefully designed farm buildings, presents a very pleasing picture, and speaks highly of the genius and enterprise that have brought them into their present perfect form.

The subject of this sketch was born in Gallerland, Holland, Aug. 8, 1839. His early life was spent on the farm, and he attended one of the excellent schools of that country. At the age of fourteen he began to learn the weaver's trade, which he followed until he left Holland for America. When fifteen years of age, in the fall of 1854, he came to America with his parents, by the way of Havre, France, and Liverpool, England, thence by sailing-ship to New York, where they landed in Castle Garden after a voyage of twenty-three days. The whole family continued their journey to Iowa, where they settled on a tract of forty acres of raw land in Monona County.

Our subject remained there until he was twenty-one years old, when he began to engage in business for himself. In October, 1862, he enlisted in the 3d Missouri Cavalry, Company C. He was mustered into the service at Palmyra, Mo., and saw service under the command of Gen. Prentiss, Col. Glover and Capt. Black. The regiment was largely employed doing guard duty along the line of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad. When they were relieved from this service the regiment was ordered to Rolla, Mo., where our subject was taken sick, and was sent to the general hospital at St. Louis, Mo., where he remained until he recovered, and was honorably discharged at St. Louis on account of physical disability. The bulk of his army service was in chasing bushwhackers and squads of Gen. Price's men; he participated in the battle of Sturgeon, Mo. Returning home after his discharge he went to work on a farm in Linn County, Iowa, and drove an omnibus for a season in Cedar Rapids, which engaged his attention up to the time we find him located on his homestead at Tipton.

This gentleman is one of a family of ten children —Elizabeth, Henrietta, Chauncey, Corrina, Johannah, Josina, Joseph, Cora and Henry younger; all living except Chauncey and Corrina, who were drowned, and Joseph, deceased. The brother Joseph was a Captain in the Netherlands army, and was stationed in the East Indies. He was killed by the giving way of a veranda.

Peter Rolofsz, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in Amsterdam, Holland, and was clerk in a large wholesale establishment. After marriage he moved into Gallerland, and went into stock-raising, also operating a grist and oil mill until he became very wealthy. At one time he was worth more than $100,000, but going security a great deal for his friends he finally failed. In the fall of 1854 he came to America and settled in Monona County, Iowa, and began improving his home. At the same time he engaged in the mercantile business in Pella, Iowa. In this venture he did fairly well for awhile, but going security for his son-in-law he failed a second time. He then moved to St. Louis, and lived with one of his daughters until he died in September, 1880, at the ripe old age of seventy-nine years. The mother had died in Iowa in 1862, being then fifty-two years old. She was Miss Elizabeth G. Phillips, and was born in Germany.

Grandfather Rolofsz was a banker in Amsterdam and was very rich. Our subject was married in

Linn County, Iowa, Oct. 9, 1863, to Miss Julia Hawks, daughter of James and Annette (Dunckler) Hawks. Grandfather Dunckler was a cooper. He went to Chicago when there were only two or three houses, and bought 900 acres of land, a few miles from the present site of the city. He built a residence in Chicago, and his decease occurred there in 1861, when he was sixty-nine years of age. The father of the wife of our subject was a farmer and also a merchant of Grand Rapids, Mich., and removed from there to Chicago. He owned a farm west of that city, and operated it until 1861, when he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and operated a hotel.

The family next moved to Kingston, again engaging in the hotel business. Leaving Kingston they went to Nebraska, where they took up a homestead in 1869. They operated this farm until 1881, when they sold the property and went to Howard City; he is now living with his daughter at Buffalo, Neb. The father is seventy years of age, and the mother sixty-seven. Julia A.. the wife of the subject of this sketch, was one of a family of twelve children: Mary E., Laura A.. and William B. are older; Alonzo A., Hiram, Vincent R., Chase M., Ebin, Frank, Jennie and Carrie E. Of this number Hiram, Ebin, Frank and Jennie are deceased. The brother William B. served three and a half years in the Rebellion, enlisting when only sixteen years of age.

Julia A., the wife of our subject, was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 8, 1849. She was thirteen years of age when the family removed to Iowa. She received a good education, is a kind and considerate wife, and is a joy and comfort to her husband and family, and very hospitable, striving to make the stranger within her gates happy and contented. Twelve children have been born to this couple—Elizabeth A., Christma J., Anthony D., Peter, Jr., Josina, Maud, Arthur, Ralph, Blanche, Grace, Ray and Ethel. All are living except Elizabeth, Anthony, Peter, Jr., Maud and Arthur. Josina is at school in Weeping Water; the rest are at home.

Our subject has been in America so long, and has become so thoroughly identified with the country that he feels perfectly at home. He has never entered largely into public life, preferring to attend strictly to the improvement and care of his farm. He has been a member of the School Board for a year, Postmaster at Sunlight for two years, and Constable. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and he has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school at Tipton Schoolhouse. In politics he is a strict Republican.

SPENCER S. BILLINGS, a worthy representative of the intelligent business men of Cass County, who have materially aided in its growth and development, is an honored resident of Plattsmouth, where he has lived since 1861. He is a native of New England, and was born Dec. 8, 1816, in the same house, in the town of Somers, Tolland Co., Conn., that his father, Samuel S. Billings, was born in. He is of English descent, his grandfather, Samuel Billings, having emigrated from England before the Revolutionary War, and settled in Somers, where he spent his remaining years. He built a fulling mill in the locality, known as Billings' Mills, it having been one of the first mills erected in New England. It has been enlarged, and there are large woolen mills on the site, which are now owned and operated by some of his descendants.

The father of our subject was reared and married in Somers. He, in company with his brother Elijah, succeeded their father in the ownership of the mill. After working them for some years he disposed of his interest to Elijah, and, removing to Cherry Valley, N. Y., engaged in the mercantile business. There were neither railways nor canals in those days, and his merchandise, which came by the Hudson River to Troy, was drawn by teams to Cherry Valley. He remained in business there several years, and then moved to Little Falls, and later to Batavia. While in that city he had the misfortune to lose his wife, and after her death he returned to Connecticut, and spent the remainder of his life at Billings' Mills. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Irene Spencer, and she also was a native of Somers, Conn.

Their union was blessed by the birth of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity, and seven of them are still living.

The subject of this sketch was but three years of age when his parents removed to New York State, where he grew to manhood. He attended the district school as opportunity offered, and being studious and ambitious, made good progress in his studies. At the age of eighteen years he returned to his native town, and there studied medicine with Horatio Hamilton, M. D. When ready to establish himself as a physician, some newer country, where men of his profession were less plentiful, seemed preferable to New England; accordingly, accompanied by his brother, he traveled across the country to Illinois. The now thriving city of Peoria was then a small town, and there he located. He formed a partnership with Dr. Mossman, and practiced there for one year. He then removed to Knoxville, the same State, and there took a contract to manufacture the brick to be used in building the first court-house ever erected in Knox County. Very soon after the organization of the Territory of Iowa, our subject went there and located in Bonaparte, where he remained about five years. He then changed his place of residence to Keokuk, where he established himself in the mercantile business, being one of the first merchants of the place. Mr. Billings did not, however, confine himself to that business only, but bought many land warrants and entered large tracts of land. Subsequently he built a large hotel in the place, and bought other buildings, and was for some time the second largest real estate owner in the State. He met with great financial prosperity while there, but during the hard times of 1857 he lost a great deal of money by endorsing for friends. In 1859 our subject came to Nebraska, and established a store at Nebraska City, and during the same year opened another one at Plattsmouth, and a third one at the Indian Agency at Columbus, operating them all in 1867. During this time Mr. Billings entered quite a tract of land in Nebraska. In 1861 he moved with his family to Plattsmouth, where he has since resided. He owns much real estate here, having bought 100 acres of land adjoining the city, and, since disposing of his mercantile interests in 1867, his only business has been the improvement of this land, on which he has built more than a hundred houses, nearly all of which he still owns. Our subject has been a confirmed invalid for the past nine years, but, though physically weak, he is strong intellectually, and his brain is as active, his mind as clear, and his judgment as shrewd, as when he was in his prime. He was formerly a great reader, and kept himself well informed on all subjects of the day, and he is a most excellent counselor, an interesting companion and entertaining conversationalist. He has always been a temperate man, and an ardent advocate of temperance principles.

The marriage of our subject took place in Bonaparte, Iowa, in January, 1845, when he was united to Lucinda Johnston. She was born in Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of John and Rachel Johnston. She died at the homestead July 12, 1873, leaving a vacancy never to be filled. To her and her husband were born six children, of whom the following is the record: Elizabeth is the wife of Edward Murphy, of Arrapahoe, Furnas Co., Neb.; Clinton, at home; Ella married Allen C. Spencer, and she lives in her father's home; Harriet is the wife of James Hunter, of Plattsmouth; Grace married Grant W. Luper, of Horton, Kan.; George lives at home.

Mr. Billings has for over forty years been a member of the Presbyterian Church, and, politically, a Democrat up to the breaking out of the late war; since then he has been a stanch Republican. He has also been a member of the Masonic fraternity for nearly forty years.

REV. GEORGE R. MURRAY, pastor of the Fairview United Presbyterian Church, of Murray—the post-office and village are named in his honor and are situated in Rock Bluff Precinct—is very pleasantly located on section 2, Liberty Precinct, where he has a comfortable homestead, consisting of 120 acres of good land. He came to this State in 1880, and since that time has had charge of the Fairview Church, which has prospered well under his zealous care, and has prospects of a bright future before it. There are now

thirty-four communicants in the church, and a flourishing Sunday-school is connected with it, which is under the supervision of the pastor. Its weekly sessions are well attended by interested groups of children, youth, and adults.

Mr. Murray is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Cannonsburg, Washington County, June 25, 1845. He has reason to be proud of his ancestry, which originated in Scotland many years ago, and were intelligent, thrifty, Christian people. One of the progenitors of our subject, John Murray, was sent from his native country to America as a missionary, and that he was not the only ordained divine in the Murray family is shown by the old tombs in Scotch churchyards. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a Scotchman of American birth, and T. J. Murray was a physician; the father of our subject was of Scotch-Irish antecedents, born in Cannonsburg, Pa., where he received a substantial foundation for his future education. When a young man he was graduated from the classical department of Jefferson College, and later from the School of Medicine at Philadelphia. He subsequently entered upon the practice of medicine and surgery in his native town, where he established an extensive practice, and in the few short years he lived won an enviable reputation as a skilled physician and surgeon. His early death at the age of thirty-three years was a loss to the community and to the profession. The maiden name of his wife, and mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Callahan, a native of Pennsylvania, who survived her husband but three years, dying when our subject was but nine years of age. She was an intelligent, Christian woman, of good old Presbyterian stock, and instilled into the minds of her young children those religious principles that have been their guides for life. After his mother's death Mr. Murray, with a younger sister, Anna K., now the wife of J. W. Thomas, of Thomas, Washington Co., Pa., remained in their native State and received good educations. When only seventeen years old Mr. Murray nobly responded to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 more men to defend the country in the time of her peril, and Aug. 13, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry, under the command of the regimental officers, Prof. John R. Frasier and Col. R. P. Roberts. The regiment was assigned to the 1st Division of the 2d Corps of the Army of the Potomac under command of Gen. Hancock. Mr. Murray was with his regiment at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, through the campaign of the Wilderness, on to Petersburg, and was present at Lee's surrender. He was on duty all the time, but escaped with only a slight wound, and was never taken prisoner. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged at Pittsburgh, Pa., and then returned home. He subsequently decided to study for the ministry, and with that end in view entered the Westminster College at New Wilmington, Lawrence Co., Pa., from which he was graduated in 1871. Two years later Mr. Murray further pursued his studies at the United Presbyterian Seminary of Newburg, N. Y., and later was graduated from the theological department of the college at Princeton, N. J. In the spring of 1874 he was licensed to preach, and for one year thereafter he was an itinerant in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania. In 1876 Rev. Mr. Murray became the pastor of the United Presbyterian Church at Centerville, Appanoose Co., Iowa, which was his first charge. After four years of successful labor in that place, our subject accepted a call to his present church, where he is faithfully carrying on the work of his Master. He is a man of good intellectual ability, whose active mental powers have been developed by a thorough education, and he is well grounded in all doctrinal points, standing high among his ministerial brethren of this State for his record as a pure, whole-souled man. In politics he is a sound Republican, and takes some interest in local and general affairs.

The marriage of Mr. Murray with Miss Mary McClees was solemnized at Taylorstown, Pa., Oct. 7, 1875. She was born in Washington County, Pa., and is the daughter of A. E. and Matilda (Hodges) McClees, both natives of Pennsylvania, and of Sootch-Irish descent. Mr. McClees was for many years a general merchant of Taylorstown, where his death occurred Oct. 31, 1877, in the sixty-second year of his age. His first wife, mother of Mrs. Murray, died in 1859; both she and her husband were consistent members of the Presbyterian

Church, and lived honest Christian lives. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are yet living, namely: James, a clerk in a book-store, at Spokane Falls, W. T.; Lizzie, wife of Rev. J. A. Donahey, pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Washington County, Pa., and Mrs. Murray. The latter was reared by her father and stepmother, receiving a good education, and previous to her marriage acted as clerk in her father's store. Of her union with our subject five children have been born, namely: Harry A.; George R. died when eight months old; T. J. Arthur, James M. and Lou B. Mrs. Murray is held in high esteem, and has proved herself a fitting helpmate for her gifted husband. She is a working member of the Presbyterian Church and earnestly interested in its welfare.

MARTIN RUBY is a fine representative of the sturdy young farmers of Nebraska, who, native-born citizens of the State, sons of the pioneers, are now taking an active part with their fathers in developing its resources and sustaining its many interests. He owns a farm on section 30, Plattsmouth Township, which ranks with the best in the vicinity,

Our subject was born in Plattsmouth Township, Cass Co., Neb., Dec. 13, 1859, a son of George S. Ruby, an early pioneer of Cass County, with whose agricultural interests he has ever since been identified. His father was born in Harrison County, Ohio, Dec. 28, 1828, to Isaac and Mary (Smith) Ruby. In 1835 his parents moved to Holmes County, in the same State, and settled among the pioneers. They were natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively, the father of English ancestry and the mother of German descent, it is supposed. In 1852 they removed to Jackson County, Ind., where the father bought and improved a farm. About 1858 he sold his Indiana home, and with his family removed to Madison County, Iowa, where he still lives. His wife died in that State in April, 1877.

The father of our subject passed the most of his boyhood and youth on his father's farm in Holmes County, Ohio, and when his parents removed to Indiana he accompanied them. He subsequently went to Iowa, and from there came to Nebraska in the year 1857, and thus early identified himself with the pioneers of Cass County. He then located on the farm where he now lives, and commenced the task of improving it from the wild prairie. The country round about was then sparsely settled, with but few improvements, giving but little indication of its present high state of civilization. Indians were plentiful, and there were only a few white people in the neighborhood, and not a white family between here and Plattsmouth. Mr. Ruby and his family lived for a few years in a log house, and then he built a substantial frame house, which forms his present residence. He has his farm under good tillage, and it yields fine crops in repayment for the care and labor he has expended on it. He broke the prairie with cattle when he first came, and paid his help in harvest time at the rate of eight bushels of wheat for one day's cradling. His first crop of wheat he sold at fifty cents a bushel, but only after keeping it for two years, the price previously being thirty-five cents a bushel. Before he raised his first crop of wheat he paid $12 a barrel for flour, the nearest mill being, perhaps, at St. Louis, at all events the wheat was shipped down the river to that city, and thence to this place. Mr. Ruby has taken an active part in public affairs since becoming a citizen of this township, and has served with great satisfaction as Township Assessor, being first elected to that office in 1865, and continuing in that capacity for seven years.

Mr. Ruby has been three times married. The maiden name of his first wife, to whom he was married in Hancock County, Ind., May 2, 1855, was Caroline Black, a daughter of James Black, of that county. Mrs. Ruby departed this life Oct. 4, 1868, leaving six sons, namely: William H., of Fairmount, Neb.; Isaac M., of Kansas; Martin L.; George N., of Aurora, Ill.; Ulysses Grant, of Adams County, Neb.; and George M., of Washington Territory. Mr. Ruby's second marriage was May 30, 1869, to Miss Isabella Jones, daughter of Riley Jones, of this county. She passed from the scenes of earth Dec. 12, 1880, leaving two sons: Elmer V., who is attending school in Beatrice, and Charles W., who lives with his father. Mr. Ruby was mar-

ried to his present wife, formerly Mrs. Catherine (Alhands) Skiles, Feb. 10, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Ruby are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. Ruby's other wives also belonged.

Martin L. Ruby, of whom we write, was reared on the paternal homestead, and received his education in the district schools of his native town. He continued to reside with his parents until his marriage, when he bought his present farm, comprising the northeast quarter of section 30, Plattsmouth Township. The land had been broken, but there were no buildings upon it. By incessant and well-directed energy Mr. Ruby has brought about many valuable improvements; having erected a substantial set of frame buildings, placed his land under excellent tillage, fenced it, and planted a good orchard of choice fruit trees.

Our subject was married, Feb. 14, 1883, to Miss Ella Fry, a daughter of Andrew and Clara (Davis) Fry, whose biographies appear in this volume. Three children were born of this marriage, namely: Thomas F., Lawrence R. and Nellie May. The latter died Oct. 2, 1888.

Mr. Ruby early in his career showed the requisite qualifications of practical skill, energy and judgment necessary to the complete success of an agriculturist, and it is predicted of him that he will one day be numbered among the solid and wealthy farmers of Cass County. He is a young man of sound habits and exemplary character. He takes an intelligent view of the political questions of the day, and fully sympathizes with the policy of the Republican party.

WILHELM JASPER, a worthy citizen of Plattsmouth Precinct, is identified with the agricultural interests of Nebraska. He is a native of Germany, born July 24, 1855, and a son of Frederic and Johanna (Bornemear) Jasper, likewise born in that great Empire across the sea. Our subject came to the United States in 1880, arriving in Plattsmouth March 1. He was married, Jan. 24, 1882, to Miss Anna Evers, a daughter of Henry and Marguerita (Alden) Evers, who came to the United States in May, 1884, from Germany, and located in their present home in Cass County. The parents of our subject came to this county in August, 1874, and settled near Kearney, in Buffalo County, Neb., where they are still living. Mr. Jasper owns 640 acres of valuable land in that vicinity, and is extensively and successfully engaged in farming.

The entire family are Presbyterian in religion, and solid Democrats in politics, in which they take great interest, eagerly reading all the literature that throws any light on the subject, keeping themselves well informed on the issues, and thus qualifying themselves to vote intelligently at the ballot box. The subject of this sketch is a man of more than ordinary keenness of intellect and strength of character; he is active and industrious, and through these traits has prospered much since coming to this country, and he is well regarded by his neighbors, and has proved an invaluable citizen of Plattsmouth. He and his wife have had born to them three sons—Martin, Fred and Otto.

WILLIAM M. TUCKER, one of the most practical and thrifty farmers of Liberty Precinct, owns and operates 153 acres of good land on section 6. A stirring, wide-awake man, he is skillful as an agriculturist, prompt in business matters and popular among his neighbors. Although not long a resident here, his proprietorship of this farm dating from February, 1883, he has made for himself a good record and is a leading light in his community.

The first recollections of our subject are of a modest homestead in Perry Township, Tippecanoe Co., Ind., twelve miles from the scene of the famous battle wherein the grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison achieved his national fame. Here the birth of Mr. Tucker took place July 20, 1837. Later in life he removed to Warren County, that State, where he sojourned for a period of seven years, and thence came to this county.

Moses and Louisa (Gerard) Tucker, the parents of our subject, were natives of Ohio, where they spent their early years, but removed before their marriage to Indiana and were married in that

State. They settled on a farm in Tippecanoe County, and the mother died in Perry Township about 1863, at the age of forty-seven years. Her father, Elias Gerard, also a native of Ohio, migrated to Tippecanoe County, Ind., in 1829, and was married to Miss Hester Burns. Soon afterward they removed from the Buckeye State to Tippecanoe County, Ind., when the country was wild and new and their neighbors were few and far between. There the father spent the remainder of his days, dying when well advanced in years, aged sixty-nine. The mother later went to Illinois and died at the home of Thomas Virgin in LaSalle County, when about seventy-eight or seventy-nine years old. She came of a long-lived family, her mother having survived to be an extreme old age.

Moses Tucker, the father of our subject, after the death of his first wife was married to Miss Mary Hutchinson. They lived in Indiana until the year 1883, and then coming to this county located in Liberty Precinct on a farm of 120 acres, where they are still living in the enjoyment of good health. Mr. Tucker is now seventy-two years of age. He is the son of Ephraim Tucker, a native of Pennsylvania, of unusually strong and rugged frame, and who was all his life engaged in agricultural pursuits. The latter left the mining regions while a single man and going to Hamilton County, Ohio, was there married to Miss Sarah Master. About 1830 they moved to Indiana, settling among the pioneers of Tippecanoe County, where they spent the remainder of their days. Grandfather Tucker and his excellent wife were widely and favorably known throughout that section for their hospitality and kindness of heart. The record of their children is as follows: David C. is a resident of Nebraska; Nancy J. is the wife of James E. Ballis, a farmer of Lincoln Precinct, living about four miles south of the city in Lancaster County; Charlotte married Buel Virgin and is living on a farm in Perry Township, Tippecanoe Co., Ind.; William M. was reared to man's estate and married near the place of his birth, in 1859, Miss Sarah E. Staley. This lady was also born in Perry Township, Ind., Feb. 6, 1841, and is the daughter of Meredith and Mary (Sense) Staley, who are now both deceased, having spent their last years in Perry Township. They were natives of Ohio, and removed to Indiana in 1829, experiencing with the people around them the privations and hardships incident to pioneer life.

Mrs. Tucker was the elder of the two daughters born to her parents and is the only surviving member of the family. Her sister, Melinda J., became the wife of Thomas Collins of Tippecanoe County, Ind., and died in February, 1888, leaving four children. To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born six sons and three daughters, three of whom are deceased. Cephas and William C. died at the age of three years; Jessie died when an interesting little girl of seven years; their eldest son, Willis O., married Miss Minerva Schlestemyer and they live on a farm in Mt. Pleasant Precinct. Benjamin O., Alphia A., Mary L., Lilly J. and Arthur B. are at home with their parents.

Mr. Tucker has always maintained a warm interest in the temperance work and is now identified with the Prohibition party. Both he and his wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, with which their families have been connected for some time back. Mr. Tucker in 1883 was nominated for County Commissioner for the Second District by the Prohibitionists and has been four times sent as a delegate to the State Conventions. He works as he votes, and forms no unimportant factor in the temperance cause of this region.

JOHN GILMORE. This representative pioneer of Cass County is the owner of 640 acres of land, and his homestead on section 26 in Mount Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Highland County, Ohio, Nov. 12, 1824, and is the son of Andrew and Jane (Work) Gilmore, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The grandparents were natives of the North of Ireland, whence they emigrated to America in the latter part of 1700.

To the parents of our subject there were born seven children, of whom the following survive, namely: James, a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct, this county; Martha, Mrs. Wright, a widow

and a resident of Jefferson County, this State; George, who continues in Highland County, Ohio; Alexander, of Jefferson County, Neb., and John, our subject. The parents settled in Highland County, Ohio, during its pioneer days, and there our subject was reared to manhood, receiving his education in the subscription schools. These were carried on in a log house with greased paper for window panes and the other furnishings popular at that time and locality. Mr. G., however, has gained the greater part of his education by reading.

Upon reaching man's estate Mr. Gilmore was married, in Ohio, in March, 1841, to Miss Rachel Anderson, a native of Highland County, and the daughter of James and Rachel Anderson, who were also early settlers of that region. Mr. A. served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and by his first wife was the father of three children—Rinehard, now a resident of Mt. Pleasant Precinct; Lafayette, in Highland County, Ohio, and Columbus, also in this county. The mother of these died in 1855. His second marriage in 1859 was with Miss Nancy Massey, daughter of Joseph Massey. The issue of this union is recorded as follows: Emma is the wife of Asa Davis, of this county; George, John E.; Ida and Thomas are attending the State Normal School at Peru.

About 1853 Mr. Gilmore came to this county and pre-empted 160 acres of land on section 32, Mt. Pleasant Precinct, and himself turned the first furrow. It had not then been surveyed. He lived there a number of years, effecting considerable improvement, but about 1868 changed his residence to his present location. All his property has been the accumulation of his own industry, as he started out in life without means. He votes the straight Democratic ticket.

WA. FLOWER. In compiling the biographies of the prominent men of Cass County the volume would by no means be complete without mention of Elam L. Flower, who was the first settler at Weeping Water, and who is now deceased. In March, 1856, he located upon the present site of that now flourishing town, when there was not the remotest indication of its future importance, not even a building to designate the spot, and the nearest neighbor eight miles away, at or near Mt. Pleasant. This scion of a hardy race realized the fact that he had taken upon himself an almost herculean task, but he viewed undismayed the country around him and resolved to stay. The results of his life and labors are depicted, in connection with the career of one of his near descendants, in fact his son, the subject of this sketch.

Elam L. Flower was born in Clayton, Jefferson Co., N. Y., April 11, 1819, and came from a family which traced its ancestry back 800 years, to the year 1105, and to England. The first representative in America was Lamrock Flower, son of Capt. William Flower, third son of Sir William Flower, and who came to America in 1685, and settled in Hartford, Conn. From him descended in a direct line the subject of this record.

We find the Flower family for 600 years prior to their arrival in America prominent in war and the incumbents of public offices, from the borough to the English Parliament. Two of them received direct from their Sovereign titles of nobility for valiant services rendered the Government. One member of the family of that time married a daughter of the Fordhams, who were also people of note, both in peace and war. In "Fox's History of Martyrs" they are spoken of, especially one William Flower, as having been burned at the stake on account of his religious belief. After one hand had been cut off and the fire kindled he would not recant, and thus suffered an agonizing death for the sake of his principles. A descendant of the eldest son of Sir William Flower holds the title of Viscount and Baron; his name is Jeffry Flower, and he lives grandly in Castle Darrow, County Kilkenny, Ireland.

We find various branches of the descendants of Lamrock Flower prominent in the Revolutionary War, and in State, county and local offices. Three of them have been members of the United States Senate at different times. One, Roswell P. Flower, of New York State, aspired to the nomination for the Presidency in 1884.

Lamrock Flower settled in Hartford, Conn., in

1685, over 200 years ago, and was there married the following year. He became the father of eight children, the eighth of whom was a son, Joseph Flower. The latter was born at Hartford, July 24, 1706, and was married, Oct. 25, 1727, to Sarah, daughter of Brigadier Samuel Wright, of the same place. To them were born eleven children. Timothy, the ninth child and fourth son of Joseph Flower and Sarah Wright, was born at Hartford, Oct. 12, 1743, and married Anna Smith, of Lyons, Conn., Sept. 13, 1766. He died at Feeding Hills, Mass., in October, 1834, at the age of ninety-one years. He had been a farmer all his life. They became the parents of seven children, and the mother died. The second wife was Hannah Spencer, and they had three children. Joseph Warren Flower, the seventh child of the first marriage, was born May 10, 1778, at Feeding Hills, Mass., and married Lois Belden, of Weathersfield, Conn.; he was a Methodist minister and a farmer. He died at Clayton, N. Y., in 1834. His first wife, Lois, had died Nov. 28, 1826.

The children of Joseph Warren and Lois Flower were: Henrietta, born at Weathersfield, Conn., Jan. 25, 1799, and who died in infancy; Lorenzo Warren was born at Litchfield, Herkimer Co., N. Y., July 25, 1800, and died at Lockport, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1822; Mahala D. was born at Litchfield, N. Y., in March, 1802, and died at Clayton, N. Y., in 1826; Henry and Henrietta Louise (twins), were born at Lockport, N. Y., in 1805; Henry died in infancy; Henrietta Louise married Rev. Elisha (Pratt) Cook, and died at Oswego, N. Y., Dec. 25, 1876; Timothy Smith was born in Lockport, N. Y., May 22, 1808, and died at Fredericksburg, Iowa, Oct. 13, 1863; Joseph Manley was born in Lorain, N. Y., Feb. 29, 1812, and died in Canada in 1853; Sarah Ann, also born in Lorain in 1814, died in Wisconsin; Elam Lagrand was born in Clayton, N. Y., April 11, 1819, and died at Weeping Water, this county, June 28, 1872.

Joseph Warren Flower married for his second wife Anna Stevens, and they had three children, two of whom died in infancy. The survivor, Stephen Warren, was born in Clayton, N. Y., Aug. 21, 1832, being the youngest half-brother of Elam Flower. He has been twice married, and there were born no children. He is living in Toledo, Ohio, and is the only one surviving of the children of Joseph Warren Flower. He represents the fifth generation of the family in America.

Elam Legrand Flower, the father of our subject, was married, to Sarah (Friend) Fisher, April 27, 1841, at Watertown, N. Y. This lady was the eldest child of Abijah Fisher and Sarah Friend, and was born June 28, 1818. Their first child, Gilbert Manley, was born at Orleans, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Aug. 30, 1842; the second, Louisa Berintha, July 28, 1844, at Orleans, N. Y.; the third, Warren Abijah, was born at Brighton, Iowa, Dec. 10, 1850; Clarence Pratt was also born at Brighton, Feb. 13, 1853; Perl Fisher was born May 6, 1855, in the same place; Florence May was born Nov. 11, 1859, at Millville, Fremont Co., Iowa; Charles Ernest was born May 6, 1862, in Weeping Water, this county. They are all married and residents of Nebraska, and six of the seven are living in Weeping Water Precinct.

The father of Elam L. Flower dying when he was a boy, Elam was left to the tender keeping of a guardian, who put him in a field filled with thistles and wheat, bare-footed, to rake bundles as fast as the guardian could bind them, and to add to his comfort would tramp on his heels if he did not keep out of his way. The youngster naturally rebelled against this treatment, and soon afterward, when a lad of thirteen years, ran away from his cruel taskmaster. At the age of sixteen he had acquired sufficient education to pass an examination for school teacher, at which he employed himself one term. He then enlisted in the army, during a small eruption between Canada and the United States, but peace was soon declared and he was honorably discharged. He received in compensation for his services a warrant for 160 acres of land, which he could not make available until 1859. Three years after he came to Nebraska.

After his discharge from the army Elam Flower attended the academy in Watertown, N. Y., then resumed teaching, which he followed afterward for a number of years. In the meantime he was married, and about 1848 removed to Illinois, where they lived until the spring of 1850. Their next residence was at Brighton, Iowa, where Mr. Flower followed

farming and teaching combined. He became owner of forty acres of land near Brighton, but as it was nearly all timber and poor soil, he sold it for a fair price in gold, and with the proceeds started on a further quest for the land of milk and honey. He journeyed across the Hawkeye State with a team, in the month of February, and not finding anything to suit him within its limits, crossed the Missouri River at Kenosha about the 20th of March, 1856. This place was then a hamlet of five or six log houses.

From Kenosha Mr. Flower was accompanied on his journey by Durell Reed, then a lad sixteen years of age. They passed through the present town of Mt. Pleasant, where a few adventurous settlers had located, and which was ten miles west of Kenosha. No settlers had ventured beyond this point. They finally arrived at the falls of Weeping Water, known in the Indian language as "Keet-so-tee-te-cutt," the water which cries. This section of country greatly pleased the travelers, especially Mr. Flower, and he staked out a claim, resolving to settle there.

Cass County at this time had not been subjected to the Government survey. Mr. Flower commenced the building of a log house near the falls, and the site of that humble dwelling was four rods west of the west end of I street, north of the coal shutes of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, as it now stands. The house later was used for a dwelling, church, school and stable, and greatly to the regret of the present generation was torn down in 1880, by Dr. M. M. Butler, the present owner of the property.

Mr. Flower and his young companion had been but a week in their new quarters when the Indians made a raid upon them, stealing their horses and taking them to their camp near the present town of Waverly. Mr. Flower and a new comer, Mr. Millagan, followed in hot pursuit on foot. The prairie had recently been burned, and the ground was black and destitute of vegetation. The melted snow and recent rains had rendered the ground soft, so that they could easily track the marauders, and finally overtook them in the neighborhood of what is now Waverly.

The pursuers followed them down the stream of Callahan Creek in hopes of finding a sheltered nook wherein they could encamp for the night. Their surprise and joy may be imagined when they suddenly came upon a camp of Government land surveyors, about sixteen in number, who invited them to partake of their fare, and to whom they related the story of their wrongs.

In the morning the majority of these men volunteered to go with Mr. Flower and Mr. Milligan to the Indian village, about ten miles distant. The Indians had entered into a treaty with the Government, and considered the surveyors its emissaries. Not wishing to be caught in violation of their treaty, when they saw the company coming over the top of the ridge, they whipped Mr. Flower's horses out of their camp, so as not to be caught in possession of stolen horses. This ended the first Indian trouble. Mr. Flower returned to his claim, and went to work on his house, having it in comfortable condition when his wife and five children arrived with a small party of friends, about the 6th of May. He then began breaking the ground, and put in a small crop, from which he obtained a very good harvest, under the circumstances.

On the 1st of July, that year, there occurred an "Indian scare," and about 150 men repaired to Weeping Water, from Plattsmouth, Nebraska City and Omaha, to protect the settlers. They brought a cannon from Omaha, and in a reconnoitre one Indian was captured, and five men occupied themselves in guarding him in an uncompleted log house. During the evening the Indian made complaint of being "heap sick," and a number of them were sent out with him to walk him around in the fresh air. They halted near a small oak shrub, the Indian having a buffalo robe over his shoulder. Their surprise may be imagined when after watching the savage half an hour or more they went up to shake him, and give him to understand it was time for him to return to the house, they found no Indian, nothing but a buffalo robe over a scrub-oak bush. As they had treated him well, and there were no other Indians in the vicinity, the men disbanded and returned to their various places.

Under the claims law then extant Mr. Flower held two 160-acre tracts, one being a part of the western portion of the present city of Weeping Water, the other was subsequently known as

the Hank Hubbard farm. Before the "scare" a party of men, five in number, adventurers, with Hiram Craney as leader, came to the settlement and sojourned a few weeks. Afterward, they coveting one of the claims of Mr. Flower, and others belonging to his friends, conceived the brilliant plan of inaugurating another Indian war, so that the settlers might be obliged to leave the valley and they could then "jump" the claims.

These parties gave the settlers to understand that they were going to leave the country, and it was supposed they were gone, but they returned shortly in the guise of Indians, and skulking around the stony cliffs at a distance, succeeded in making the settlers believe that hostilities were intended. The settlers, being poorly supplied with arms and ammunition, held a meeting, and Mr. F. volunteered to go after the necessary articles if they would gather the five families into one house, and stand guard until his return. In his absence these frontier ruffians tore down his pre-emption shanty, on the place now known as the Hank Hubbard Farm, and others with it, then going to the land office in Nebraska City, made oath, one for another, that Mr. Flower and others had abandoned their claims. These parties were then allowed to file upon them, and under the law there was no redress.

The parties committing this outrage were well armed, and the settlers did not dare to resent their actions. They got the land from the Government, but sold out the first opportunity, and before long the country was rid of them. Hiram Craney later went to Utah and joined the Mormons. In the fall of 1856 Elam Flower commenced building a mill near the site of the present Clinton Mills, digging races and getting out stone for a dam. He cut into logs the best walnut trees he could find, and hauled them to the mouth of the Weeping Water, about seven miles above Nebraska City, and ferried them across the river in a flatboat, where prior to this a sawmill had been started. He had lumber sawed to use in making an overshot water wheel, and other timbers for the mill.

Mr. Flower had come to this section of country with a reasonable amount of capital, but finally found that his expenses were exceeding his income. About this time two young men came into the settlement, one claiming to have money, and the other recommending himself as a fine mechanic. Their names were Fair and Nace. Mr. Flower took them into partnership, but after several months no money appearing, and one of the fellows becoming very abusive and overbearing, he sold his interest in the business, taking notes without security. There being no deed for the land, there was thus no opportunity for placing a mortgage. William Reed and his sons, coming in soon after, the firm of Fair & Nace sold the property to Reed for cash, and skipped for California without paying Mr. Flower.

William Reed & Sons got this mill in operation in 1861, but did not begin grinding wheat into flour until two years later. The principal parts of this structure were later removed to Millford by Mr. Reed. But to return to the winter of 1856–57, which was noted throughout the Northwest for its severity. On the 1st of December the storm commenced, and for ninety days there was continual frost, without warmth enough to thaw the snow on the south side of the most sheltered nooks, only one day in three months. "Lo! the poor Indian," who would steal horses and commit depredations in warmer weather, was now in a starving condition. It was then the forgiving nature of Mr. Flower asserted itself, and it was noticed by his neighbors that he frequently sheltered and fed straggling members of the tribe, until his winter provisions began to run short. In the beginning of winter a crust had formed on the snow, and new snow falling upon this, and drifting by the heavy winds and blizzards made it impossible to get a team through, and in many instances deer were caught and killed with axes or clubs, but as they were almost starved to death, the meat was nearly valueless.

Over these drifts one day Mr. Flower took his hand sled and started for Kenosha, twenty miles away, where had been started a store. He arrived at his destination after one day's travel, and the next morning started homeward, his sled loaded with flour, bacon, coffee, etc. He was obliged to face a Northwestern driving snow storm and thus tugged along all day without road or trail to guide him. By keeping due West, however, with the aid of his knowledge of the lay of the land, he found himself about four miles from home just as

night was coming on. He did not dare to attempt crossing another ridge, as another blizzard was setting in. Mr. Flower had to pull his sled down Cedar Creek, a small stream that emptied into the Weeping Water, and after considerable trouble succeeded in finding a cabin that was located near Jim Sperry's brick kiln. He supposed it was empty, but what was his surprise on pushing the door open to find it was inhabited by a widow, whose husband had died late in the fall. She had living with her two children, aged three and five years, both girls, and a half-witted nephew nearly man grown. The widow and nephew had both frozen their hands trying to kindle a fire with powder and caps, and some cotton from a quilt had been tried, but they had failed on account of so much snow being in the house. Mr. Flower found the cabin dreary and cold, with two inches of snow all over inside the house. A few more hours and all would have been over with these wretched creatures. Mr. Flower, like all well regulated frontiersmen, had matches in his pocket and found plenty of wood close by in the snow, which he brought in and there was soon a glowing fire, He then shoveled the snow out of the house, brought in his provisions, and they had a royal frontier feast all around.

The next day, putting the children in the feather bed, with the blankets over them, and leaving part of the provisions in the cabin, he started out accompanied by the woman, Mrs. Carr, and her nephew, to the cabin of Mr. Flower. This structure, only 16x16 feet square, they found upon their arrival was already full of Indians and storm-bound white men, in all twenty-two persons. Mr. Flower and the other settlers got through with that terrible winter as best they could.

We find the following in regard to the town of Weeping Water, but Mr. Flower held other claims under the claim law. In the United States Land Office at Lincoln is the record of property in the City of Weeping Water, as follows:

Book A., Page 39—(Elam L. Flower, to the public.)—Claim Certificate, filed April 24, 1856.

This is to certify that I have located a claim in Cass County, Territory of Nebraska, for the use of six individuals for town site. Said site comprising the following, to wit: Northwest ¼ of Northwest ¼ of section 1, town 10, range 11 East, with other lands, and containing in all 1,640 acres, more or less. File received the 24th day of April, A. D., 1856. By G. H. Brown, Deputy Recorder of Deeds.

This was a great scheme, and this 1,640 acres of land was platted into three towns, on paper, all adjoining and named respectively, Caledonia, Grand Rapids and Weeping Water—divided into shares. But as it was Government land and not yet in the market no deeds could be given, although some of the shares were sold for a trifle. A few members of the town company inaugurated a scheme to commence East and put the town shares of Caledonia on the market, which would have been a swindle; but Mr. Flower put a stop to this at once; and eventually the whole business was abandoned. There was no town known as Weeping Water until the year 1880, although the first store was started in 1867, when Eugene L. Reed, (of whom a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume,) Frank Wolcott and others organized the village of Weeping Water.

Weeping Water was not formally organized as a city of the second class until the first of May, 1888, and it was then found there were enough inhabitants for it to become a city of the second class. Its growth and development has been detailed elsewhere in this work. In the fall of 1888 the inhabitants numbered 2,200, and by the various additions which have been made from time to time to its area, it now covers nearly as much ground as the "paper town" of 1856 did, with the difference in the number of population. There are now a score or so of frame store buildings, all occupied, several brick blocks, hundreds of fine residences, two main lines of railroad, grain elevators, mills, various industries and the other enterprises naturally belonging to a flourishing and rapidly growing city in the heart of a rich farming country.

Upon the coming of the spring of 1858 Mr. Flower finding difficulty in getting his mill started, and apprehending it would be a long time before it would pay, and in consideration of the dishonesty of his partners, sold out and moved across the river into Millville, Iowa, opposite Kenosha, which was then but a steamboat landing, although there were

slight indications of a village being started. A sawmill had been started by Sidney Treat, and there were about twenty families in the place. Mr. Flower was soon recognized as a substantial citizen and in due time was elected Justice of the Peace; he was also appointed Postmaster, and set up a grocery store. The postoffice was named Buchanan.

The place where this village once stood has long been the bed of the Missouri River. In 1860 Mr. Flower returned to this county, taking up his abode near Mt. Pleasant, where he staid two seasons, then moved to a point five miles west of Weeping Water. In the meantime he received a land warrant good for 160 acres, as the reward of service in the army when he was a boy about sixteen years of age. This was the southeast quarter of section 35, township 11, range 13, of Cass County. He laid his warrant, proved it up and battled with many difficulties for a number of years—drouth and far-away market included. Owing to the expense of fencing his land, which was required by law, and under the general impression of that day that there was no use of trying to farm on a piece of upland, he moved to the land now owned by his eldest son, G. M. Flower. This was then a ranch lying along the great overland Government wagon road to the Western forts and the emigrant road to Pike's Peak and California, and included the southwest quarter of section 31, township 11, range 11, of Cass County.

Here Elam Flower turned his attention to stock-raising, also keeping hay, grain and other supplies for travelers. In 1865 he began freighting with one team to Ft. Kearney. After making one trip he enlarged his facilities to four teams, and with his three eldest boys, Gilbery Manley, Warren A. and Clarence P., made several trips to the forts and Denver. In the spring of 1866, in addition to Denver he took in Salt Lake City, this enterprise occupying a period of eighteen months. He entered Salt Lake City too late in the fall to recross the mountains, and consequently was compelled with his boys to winter in that vicinity on the Severe River, southwest of Salt Lake City 150 miles, and forty miles from any settlement.

Mr. Flower, however, purchased a supply of school books before leaving the City of the Saints and busied himself instructing his boys and hearing their lessons during the winter in a small shanty on the banks of the Severe River. Upon the starting of the grass in the spring father and sons set out eastward with their teams across the mountains. Clarence and his father had an attack of the mountain fever, from which the son soon recovered, but not so with the father. Although he lived until June 28, 1872, he was never able to do any work. He suffered greatly thereafter, although his natural energy sufficed to keep him off his bed most of the time. He returned to Cass County in August, 1867, and lived on the ranch, which began to be settled all around by homesteaders.

The elder Flower took great interest in the Grange movement being agitated at that time, identifying himself with the order and being elected Master. He also occupied other local offices. Considering his career, as heretofore noted, it is hardly necessary to speak of the estimation in which he was held by the people of this county. He was an honest and upright man in all his dealings, and made for himself a record which his descendants may look upon with pride. It was generally conceded that "Uncle Elam," as every one called him, had no enemies, and after his death the last sad rites were attended by the largest gathering of people ever known in Weeping Water. Politically, he is a stanch Republican, and it is believed he was the first man in Nebraska to set about the formation of the Union Club, later known as the Union League. Of this William Reed was the commanding officer and Mr. Flower his lieutenant. Mr. Flower had an intense hatred of anything savoring of disloyalty to the Union, and on more than one occasion forced members of the Rebel element to withdraw their expressions of sympathy with the Confederacy.

As mentioned above, there were five sons and two daughters. These are all living, all residents of Nebraska, and with one exception residing in or near Weeping Water. One son, Clarence, is a resident of Frontier County. Warren A., the third child and second son, was born Dec. 10, 1850, in Brighton, Iowa; P. F., the fifth child and fourth son, was born May 6, 1855, and these two are among the prominent business men of Weeping Water.

Warren A. Flower was a little lad of five and one-half years when his parents came to Nebraska, and young as he was he had already attended school. After that he never saw the inside of a school-house for years and he only studied at home a very little until after he was fifteen years old. He then entered the school at Mt. Pleasant, where he was a pupil. After the trip to Utah he returned to school at Mt. Pleasant, attending three months; then at Weeping Water school a short time, but as his home was five miles from the village he abandoned his studies until a more favorable season. When nineteen years old he resumed his books, but was obliged to give them up soon on account of the illness of his father.

Warren Flower after becoming of age, not satisfied with his lack of education, repaired to Brighton, Iowa, and making his home with his uncle attended the graded school there two terms. He would have continued, but on account of failing health caused by the climate and close confinement was obliged to withdraw once more. He then began learning the photograph business, which he took up readily, and ere long set up a little gallery of his own at Richland, Iowa, where he sojourned a short time, then coming to Weeping Water operated a gallery one winter. We next find him in Syracuse a few months, but he finally abandoned photography for the time and going to Jasper County, Neb., took up a tract of land. Upon this he operated in summer and made pictures in winter at a town a few miles distant.

Like his father before him, Warren Flower, upon reaching manhood, was discovered to possess excellent qualities as a business man and a citizen. In 1873 he was appointed Sheriff, and the following year he was elected Surveyor of Jasper County, Neb., although he did not qualify, as the county was new and the settlers few, so there was little to do in this line. He was also on the Returning Board of Jasper County at the time of the election of Zediker, and the adoption of the State Constitution, when Harmon, a Democrat, tried to steal the ballots of Zediker, the Republican.

Warren A. Flower was married Jan. 21, 1876, at Plum Creek, Dawson Co., Neb., to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph Maycook, at that time Treasurer of Gosper County, Neb. Mrs. Flower was born June 14, 1858, at Buckingham, England. The children of this marriage are Albert Warren, who was born at Stowe, Frontier Co., Neb., May 2, 1880; and Lilly Antoinnette, born in Weeping Water Feb. 18, 1884. Finding the same trouble in Western Nebraska that his honored father had met with when coming to Cass County, Mr. W. A. Flower after an absence of ten years returned to Weeping Water to find it a flourishing railroad town, the farmers raising fine crops, which they were able to convey to good markets, a prosperous artist operating a well-appointed gallery, and other concomitants of an enterprising and intelligent community.

PERL F. FLOWER, fifth child and fourth son of Elam L. Flower, was born at Brighton, Iowa, May 6, 1855, and came to Weeping Water, Neb., with his parents, when a child only one year old. He was left at home with his mother and two younger children when only a lad of nine years (while his father and three older brothers were freighting, on their two years' trip to the great Salt Lake City), looking after the small herd of cattle, doing chores summer and winter, and helping his mother all he could. He was known as "mother's boy" even after he had grown to be a man. His kindness toward his fellowmen, and his honest, upright dealing with all, gained for him warm friends in all who knew him, far and near. His schooling was very limited, as he either worked or herded cattle continually until a man grown. Nevertheless by a few weeks in school and plenty of home instruction he attained a good education, pressing onward and upward.

When our subject became of age he bought a farm near the home place of 160 acres, broke up the raw prairie, farmed and improved until he got it in a high state of cultivation, and owns the same at present date. A few years later we find him buying and shipping stock from Missouri to Nebraska. Perl F. has broken up over 1000 acres of wild land in this vicinity. Therefore he, like his

father before him, has always taken an active part when he could do so, to help others, and has in the last few years induced many Eastern people to migrate to this new and beautiful country.

About the 1st of January, 1887, our subject and W. A. Flower, in company with Dr. Lang, started a drug store. The following August he bought out Dr. Lang, and Flower Bros. have since pursued that business together, and from their widespread acquaintance, winning ways and square dealing with all, they control a generous patronage throughout the surrounding country. He was married, Feb. 9, 1887, to Miss Cora Olive Bellinger, at Clinton, N. Y., eldest daughter of James C. and Arminda (Paige) Bellinger, of that place. She is a descendant of Adam Bellinger, Esq., Col. Christopher Bellinger, Col. Peter Bellinger, Capt. Peter Bellinger and Gen. Nicholas Hercomer, all of old Ft. Hercomer, now Herkimer City, Herkimer Co., N. Y., found in the history of the Bellinger and Hercomer families of that place, and traced back as far as the first settling of the beautiful Mohawk Valley, in 1725. Thus we find again the descendants of two noted families joined together. Cora O. Bellinger was born at Walesville, Oneida Co., N. Y., April 30, 1864. She attended select school at Oriskany Falls for a number of years, and finally finished her education with a four years' course at the Houghton Seminary, of Clinton. She came to Weeping Water with her husband, in March, 1887, and was so well pleased with this place that she induced her father to remove with his family, which he did in September, 1888, and soon after embarked in the business known as The New York Clothing Store, Bellinger & Sons, proprietors.

BEAL HARVEY DIMMITT is a prosperous farmer living in Elmwood Precinct. He was born in Clermont County, Ohio, Jan. 31, 1845. He has very faint recollections of that State, and of the journey by steamboat to Peoria, Ill. His educational advantages were those of the early schools of Illinois, before the admirable school system of that State was introduced. At the age of sixteen his name was enrolled as a volunteer among the defenders of his country, at the breaking out of the Civil War. Being too young he was rejected, but he is none the less deserving of the credit due any soldier, as it was not anything on his part that prevented him from taking an active part in the struggle that ensued.

Mr. Dimmitt and Miss Mary Caroline Robbins were married Oct. 7, 1869. The lady was a native of Tazewell County, Ill., and is a daughter of Jacob and Harriet (Walker) Robbins. In 1877 they removed to Nebraska, where they settled on 160 acres of land on section 29, and have made the improvements which now surround them. Beginning on the wild land, he has by hard work and diligent application secured a farm which, in fertility and productiveness, is excelled by few in the County. He planted groves, and set out an orchard of choice fruit, of the varieties best adapted to the climate, thus securing to himself many comforts, as well as a source of some profit, and he has projected other improvements, which, when completed, will make his farm one of the most complete in the county.

Eight children have been born to these worthy people—Wilson E., Edward A., Bertha L., Charles A., William A. (now deceased), James Roy, Claudius and Louis. They are at home with their parents, and each and every one take a lively interest in the success and well being of the entire family. The father of our subject was James S.; the mother was Sarah Walker. The father was born in West Virginia, near the Potomac River; the mother's birthplace was Ohio. Our subject represents Scotch descent, received from the father, and German descent, received from the mother's side. His father settled in Highland County, Ohio, then removed to Clermont County, where he was married. In 1852 he came from Ohio to Tazewell County, Ill., removing thence to Woodford County, in the same State, where he purchased land and lived until 1877, when he came to Cass County, Elmwood Precinct, and purchased 320 acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, located on section 29, and 160 acres on section 30. He died, aged seventy years, in 1882. The mother is now seventy years old, and makes her home with our subject. A family of five children were born

to the father and mother of our subject, namely: Edwin, Sarah L., Beal Harvey (our subject), Ezra and Henry.

Mr. D. is a genial, whole-souled farmer, very sociable, a good conversationalist, quick to see the humorous side of life, and enjoying to the fullest extent listening to a good story, and in turn can relate one with equal relish and inimitable style. His wife is an excellent lady, good looking and hospitable, having a smile and a good word for all. She is certainly entitled to a first place among the many good wives and mothers of Nebraska. In politics Mr. D. is strongly Republican. He is highly esteemed by all the members of the community in which he lives. Up to this time he has filled no public office except that of Constable, the duties of which he discharged in a very highly creditable manner.

C. J. MARTIN. Among the many fine farms in Cass County, whose broad acres, yielding abundant harvests, affording evidence of skillful and careful cultivation, and with their commodious and substantial farm buildings and neat surroundings, forming a pleasant feature in the landscape, those of our subject, one in Plattsmouth Township, where he makes his home, and the other in Rock Bluff Township, are as valuable as any. Mr. Martin is numbered among the early pioneers of this county, and his fortunes have grown with its growth, as he has risen from poverty to affluence, by the exercise of a steady determination to succeed by thrifty and industrious habits.

The birthplace of our subject was in the north of France, Dec. 12, 1832. His father, Charles Martin, who was born in the same locality, was reared to agricultural pursuits. At the age of twenty-one he joined the army, and served four years, was with his regiment in the war with Spain, and fought in some of the most important battles. In one of these he was severely wounded and was discharged from the service on account of disability. He returned to his native France, and followed farming there for several years, employing his time in the winter season in a woodwork establishment. In 1842, with his wife and six children, he set sail from Havre on an American-bound vessel, and landed at New York twenty-four days later. He located in Stark County, Ohio, buying a tract of partly improved land there, and engaged in farming there for two years. He then sold and moved to Indiana, going by the lake and in wagons, as there were no railways in that part of the country in that day. He bought land in Allen County, seven miles north of Ft. Wayne, then a small village. He built a hewed log house of the most primitive style, there being no sawed lumber or nails used in its construction, split puncheon was used for floor, door and window casings, and the roof was made of shakes, held in place by the weight of poles. In the years of hard labor that followed he performed the pioneer task of clearing a farm, which remained his home until his death in 1862. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Misgny, and she was also a native of France. She now lives on the old homestead, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom grew to maturity, as follows: August, C. J., Lizzie, Delphis, Jane, Mary, Christina. The two youngest were born in America.

Our subject was ten years of age when he left the home of his birth in France, and accompanied his parents to this country. He had attended school in his native land in the winter season, and as soon as large enough he had been set to herding cattle in summer. After coming to America he assisted his father in clearing a farm, continuing to live with his parents until he was twenty-one. He had, however, commenced working out at fourteen years of age, being thus employed the greater part of the year, receiving from $8 to $10 a month in payment for his services. When he attained his majority he commenced to run an engine in a furniture factory, his wages amounting to $7 a week, out of which he had to pay his board. He ran the engine for three years, when the company suspended. He was then engaged as an engineer in a round house at Ft Wayne. In the fall of 1857 he started for the Territory of Nebraska, accompanied by his wife, coming by rail

to St. Louis, and thence by steamer to Plattsmouth. This was then but a little hamlet, with a few habitations, four stores, and a saw and grist mill. The land around here was held by the claimants, who asked exorbitant sums for their claims, and as our subject's means were limited he could not afford to buy a claim and enter it at the land-office, as the men were all banded together to defend their property. As he could not get land he sought employment in a sawmill one winter, and then bought a pair of oxen and engaged at teaming. In 1859 he prepared to go to Pike's Peak, but before he started emigrants returning from there told such discouraging stories of their ill-luck that he concluded not to venture. He rented a farm three miles south of the city, and three years later he had been so prosperous since coming to the Territory that he was enabled to buy it. He continued to reside on that place until June, 1885. During that time he had been more than ordinarily successful in his work, had made money, and invested it in land, and had become the owner of 363 acres in Plattsmouth, all in one body. Besides he has thirty acres of valuable timber land in this township, and a fine farm of eighty acres in Rock Bluff Township. On his Plattsmouth farm he has erected a commodious, conveniently arranged brick house, and a stone barn, besides a good set of frame buildings.

Mr. Martin was married, March 3, 1857, to Miss Lucy Pangnard, and they have four children living; Charles L., May N., Lillie Rose and Ettie Belle. Mrs. Martin was born in the village of Moutier, the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. Her father, Luther Pangnard, was born in Renau, in the same canton, and his father, David Pangnard, was also a native of Moutier, his wife's name Augustine, born in Jocot Guillarnod, where he spent his entire life, working at his trade of watchmaker. Mrs. Martin's father, Luther Pangnard, was reared on a farm, and in early manhood married Jane Susan Frances Achpacker, also a native of the Canton of Bern. Her father, Jean Pierre Achpacker, was born in the same canton, of German parentage. In the spring of 1850 Mr. Pangnard set sail from Havre, with his family, on board an American-bound vessel "Metoka," and in the month of May, twenty-six days later, landed at New York with his wife and four children. He located in Newville, thirty miles south of Ft. Wayne, and renting land there, began to carry on farming. But his health soon failed, and in August, 1851, he passed away from the scenes of earth. Mrs. Martin's mother died at the home of a daughter, Adelia Zemmermann, in St. Joseph, Mo. She had been twice married. By her first marriage she had four children, namely: Lucy, Adelia, Elizabeth and Luther. Lucy was born Jan. 12, 1839, and was eleven years old when she emigrated to America. By her first husband's death the mother had been left in poverty with four children, and as she had not the means to support them properly, she yielded them to the care of strangers, and Mrs. Martin went to Ft. Wayne, and there found good homes with strangers, and earned her own living, residing there until her marriage. She is a most estimable lady, an excellent housewife, who looks carefully after her household and the comfort of its inmates, and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Martin is a valuable and useful member of this community, standing high as a man and a citizen. In his home he is all that a good husband and a kind father can be, and in his relations with his neighbors he is uniformly obliging and courteous.

GEORGE S. CONKLIN is an energetic farmer and stockman, living on a farm of 160 acres of finely located land on section 19, Salt Creek Precinct. He was born in Jasper County, Ind., forty miles north of Indianapolis, Sept. 7, 1853. In the fall of 1854 his parents removed with their entire family to Henry County, Iowa; from here the Conklins went to Des Moines County, the same State, taking our subject with them, where he lived with his parents until he was fourteen years old, when it was necessary for him to support himself, so he began working out by the month. The greater portion of the education which he obtained was, prior to this time, in the public schools near their home.

At the age of twenty-three our subject was married to Miss Ada E. Van Trump, the daughter of Isaiah and Jemima Van Trump. The lady's father

was born in Virginia, and the mother was a native of Ohio. They removed to Eastern Iowa, where they were among the first settlers of that State. Seven children were born to her father by his first union, four sons and three daughters. His first wife died in Illinois, while on their way to Iowa. In course of time he returned to Ohio and married his second wife, to whom there were born eight children: William Harrison, Hiram E., Minerva J., Ada E., the wife of our subject, Frances M., Olive, Andrew Jackson and Charles E. The early home of the lady was in Henry County, Iowa, where she attended the common schools of her neighborhood.

She applied herself diligently to her studies, showing a marked precocity and an unusual ability, distinguishing herself among her classmates by the rapid progress she made. At the age of fourteen she entered the Academy at New London, which she attended for four years. She then engaged in teaching. She entered upon a course in the Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, but the most of her time until the date of her marriage was spent in teaching. She devoted herself so assiduously to preparing herself to enter her chosen profession of teaching, for fourteen months out of sixteen, that she became the proud holder of a first grade certificate, to procure which she passed an unexcelled examination.

Two years after marriage our subject came with his wife to Nebraska. In 1880 he purchased eighty acres of land from the Burlington and Missouri River Railway Company. In 1885 he purchased another forty acres, and in 1888 he purchased his last forty acres. Previous to his removal to Iowa our subject suffered heavy losses among his cattle from disease and exposure. He regards his coming to Nebraska as the most important and providential act of his life; and he has, through his industry and ingenuity, assisted by the natural adaptability of the State for the successful prosecution of his favorite pursuit—raising cattle—became the owner of a large and valuable stock farm. It is supplied with water by the ever ready windmill, and has a commodious new frame barn, comfortable cattle sheds, convenient and roomy corncribs, with other buildings designed to shelter and protect his new and latest improved farming implements. He has set out a young orchard of the choicest varieties of fruits, and groves for shelter and ornament. His dwelling house is new, one and one-half stories high, and is fitted with many of the conveniences adapted to make the home life happy and pleasant.

Three children have been born to our subject and his good wife; they are named: Ira Haskell, James Burton and Estella J. The two first are attending school. Mr. Conklin's father, James Conklin, was born in Pennsylvania. His mother, Lucinda, was born in North Carolina. She was a widow, Mrs. Scott, at the time of her marriage with our subject's father, and had a family of three children by her first union. A family of four children was born to her as the result of her second alliance, of whom George S., our subject, is the eldest; James L., Marcus, who died at the age of one year, and Herman. The two surviving brothers are residents of Greeley County, Neb. The father of our subject was married four times. His first marriage was to Frances Clemmens, by whom he had seven children, six boys and one girl. His second marriage was to Lina Stevens, to whom was born two children, both girls. The third marriage was with Miss Lucina Scott, the mother of our subject, who bore him four children, named above. The fourth marriage was to Mrs. (Rumsey) Fairchild, by whom he had five children.

In the person of the subject of this sketch we have a man of more than ordinary enterprise and ability. He, by hard work and close attention to his business, has caused for a verity the desert to blossom as the rose, and now we see fields of waving grain and herds of high grade cattle, and a cheerful, happy home, where a few short years ago was a profitless waste, which would have so continued had he not touched the virgin soil with the magic wand of his genius, resulting in abounding peace and plenty. It is a matter of congratulation to our subject that he can trace his ancestry back to the early years of our Nation; every name on the roll stands for purity and honor, no stigma of wrong or shadow of suspicion resting on any, but every one deserving and receiving the love and esteem of all with whom they came in contact.

The noble-hearted wife of our subject merits especial mention for the manner in which she has

supported and seconded the efforts of her husband. Highly educated and refined, she had no hesitancy in leaving her home and friends, and sharing with him the many burdens, which are inevitable to the pioneers who seek to develop a new country. She is handsome and good natured, generous to a fault, while her intelligence and education place her among the leading ladies and most devoted wives and mothers of the great State of Nebraska. The home life is a perfect picture of happiness, where the father's strong right arm and the mother's tender, loving heart, and the gentle prattle of children's voices all unite to make it a perfectly happy American home. The children are particularly lovable, and their education and culture is the one subject that lies nearest the hearts of their parents, which will not be satisfied until each and every member has had every available advantage for fitting themselves to occupy with honor and credit the highest positions in the land.

Mr. Conklin is at present serving his fourth term as a member of the School Board, is an active member of the Knights of Pythias; his political allegiance is with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM B. REYNOLDS is an intelligent and thoroughly practical farmer, who is actively and prosperously prosecuting his vocation on one of the finest farms in Southern Nebraska; 120 acres of his land, that on which he makes his home, lies on sections 34 and 35, Liberty Precinct, and the remaining 120 acres in Otoe County, adjoining his homestead.

The subject of this sketch was born in Clay County, Mo., May 11, 1826. He is of Scotch origin, although his immediate ancestry were of Irish birth. The first of the family to make his appearance on American soil was Joseph Reynolds, great-grandfather of our subject, who was a native of the North of Ireland, and a descendant of the Scotch Presbyterians who had settled in that part of Ireland. He came directly from that country to Virginia when he was a young man, and spent the remainder of his life in the Old Dominion, dying there at a ripe old age. William Reynolds, his son, grandfather of our subject, was born in Virginia, and was reared to the occupation of farmer. He married Elizabeth Fugett, also a native of Virginia, and of German parentage. Soon after marriage they moved from Virginia to Kentucky, and became early pioneers of Garrard County, where most of their children were born. In 1810 Mr. Reynolds and his wife, with quite a large family, made another move toward the distant frontier in Missouri, and finally settled in Howard County on a piece of land now the town site of Fayette, it being a wild, unbroken country around there then. After he became quite an old man William Reynolds again took up his pilgrimage, accompanied by all of his family except some of the children who had died during their sojourn in Howard County, and in 1840 went into Andrew County, then a part of Buchanan County, Mo., and there he and his wife abode until their death, he dying in 1850, at the venerable age of eighty-four years, and his wife, who survived him until 1857, dying at the same age. They were stanch Methodists, and led blameless Christian lives. They had ten children, and their son Reuben R., the father of our subject, was their eldest child. He was born in Garrard County, Ky., in 1799, and was a boy of eleven years when his parents emigrated to Missouri. He attained his majority in Howard County, that State, and was there married to Fannie Monroe. She was born in Garrard County, Ky., in 1801, and was a daughter of William and Agnes (West) Monroe, natives of Virginia. Her father was a cousin of President Monroe. He was a farmer, and had gone to Garrard County in its pioneer days when a young man, and was there married. After their marriage and the birth of some of their children, they migrated to Missouri, and were there all through the troublous times with the Osage and Comanche Indians. They finally moved about 1820 to Clay County, in the same State, and were pioneers there, settling on wild, unbroken land. About 1840 William Monroe made another move with his family, and we next hear of him in Savannah, Andrew Co., Mo., and there he and his wife closed lengthy and useful lives. Mr. Monroe had been very successful in life and had accumulated a large fortune. He was a man of many peculiar habits,

but of few words. He was indirectly related to Daniel Boone and Stephen Cooper, the famous pioneers and Indian warriors of Kentucky and Missouri. Reuben Reynolds and wife were married in Howard County, but began their wedded lives in Clay County, where Mr. Reynolds entered land from the Government and engaged in farming. Reuben Reynolds was appointed Colonel of Militia by Gov. John B. Clark, during the trouble with the Mormons in 1837 in Missouri. He took his regiment to the scene of trouble at "Far West," Caldwell County, Mo., where the Mormons were fortified. He ever after was known as Col. Reynolds. He was a man who in his time was prominent in all enterprises of a public nature. He made a number of improvements, and then moved with his family to within six miles of Savannah, in Andrew County; there he carried on farming and he and his wife passed their remaining days there, he dying in December, 1859, and she in August, 1875. They were both members of the old-school Baptist Church, and adhered quite strictly to their religious views. He was a large, strong man, with good mental as well as physical endowments. To him and his wife were born ten children, three sons and seven daughters.

He of whom we write was the first son and fourth child of the family, eight of whom lived to maturity, six of whom married, and three of whom are still living. He was reared by good parents, and grew to a noble manhood, of great strength, fine physical proportions, and a well-balanced intellect. He early selected the occupation to which he had been reared, that of farmer, for his life calling, and on his father's homestead was initiated into the mysteries of agriculture. He was married near Savannah, Andrew County, to Susan Kelly, a native of Pulaski County, Ky, her birth occurring there in 1826. She lost her father in Kentucky, and came to Missouri with her mother, who died in Andrew County. Mrs. Reynolds departed this life in 1854, leaving four children: Henry C., a farmer in California; Joseph, a farmer in Holt County, Mo., who married Miss Nannie Parish; Fanny, wife of G. S. Upton, of whom see biography; Reuben R., who is in the West. Mr. Reynolds was also married to his present wife in Andrew County. Her maiden name was Amanda A. Florence, and she was born in Richland County, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1835. Her parents, James and Emily (Fish) Florence, were natives of Virginia, and there they were both reared and married, and Mr. Florence began his life work as a farmer in that State. He was left an orphan in his babyhood, and nothing definite could be learned of his parentage by his daughter, Mrs. Reynolds. He and his wife, with a small family, ultimately moved from Virginia to Richland County, Ohio, about 1833, and were pioneers there. In 1843 they made another move still further westward, and crossing the Father of Waters settled on a farm in Andrew County, Mo., and there the father died in 1865, at the age of sixty-five, and the mother in 1846, in the prime of life. Mrs. Reynolds was the second child of the three daughters and one son born to her parents. Her brother Robert H. is now dead, as is also her sister Ora. Her sister Mary is the wife of William Thrailkill, of Andrew County, Mo. Mrs. Reynolds made her home with her father after her mother's death until her marriage. She is the mother of four children, one of whom is dead, William H., a promising young man, of good education, who died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty-three years. The living children are: James T., who married Laura Mason, is engaged as postal clerk on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, and has his residence at Lincoln; Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. C. W. Davis, a practicing physician of Bernard, Nodaway Co., Mo.; and Barnett L., at home with his parents.

In 1865 Mr. Reynolds and his family left their old Missouri home and came to Nebraska to reside. For nearly six years they lived in the vicinity of Nebraska City. In the fall of 1871 Mr. Reynolds purchased 160 acres of land in this vicinity, eighty acres of which are still included in his farm. He afterward had a good chance to dispose of eighty acres of his land at a great advance on the original price, and he hastened to do so. Since that he has bought 160 acres more land, and now has 240 acres of exceedingly arable and productive land, all under good improvements, with an excellent set of buildings, which he erected himself.

Mr. Reynolds is a man of sterling worth, whose

good qualities render him one of the best citizens. He and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and all schemes for the advancement of the religious interests of the community find in them cordial and hearty support. Mr. Reynolds is identified with the Democratic party, his political views being well expressed in the party platform.

DR. WILLIAM WINTERSTEEN, a capitalist of Plattsmouth, where he owns an extensive and valuable property, has for more than twenty-four years been a resident of this city. When he came here in 1865 he found this place a straggling village, with little or no indications of ever being the metropolis of a rich and prosperous county. That it has become so is due to the sagacity and far-seeing enterprise of such men as our subject, who, when he cast in his lot with the pioneers and men of business who were developing the resources of Cass County and extending her commerce, having strong faith in the future of his new home, invested his money in city property, and by careful and shrewd management has increased his original outlay many fold, and is now numbered among the wealthy and substantial citizens of this community.

Doctor Wintersteen was born in Lexington, Richland Co., Ohio, Jan. 31, 1824. His father, William Wintersteen, was, it is thought, a native of New Jersey, and his grandfather is believed to have been born in Germany. He was a resident of New Jersey for many years, and there closed his life. The father of our subject when a young man went to Pennsylvania, and was there married to Miss Lucy Everitt, a native of New Jersey. In 1821 they moved to Ohio, and became pioneers of Richland County. Mr. Wintersteen bought land in Lexington, of which ten acres were cleared and the remainder heavily timbered. There was a log cabin on the place in which the family lived for a time, and in that humble abode our subject first awoke to life. There were no nails used in the construction of the cabin; the roof was covered with clapboards, which were held in place by the weight of poles; the floor was of puncheon, and the rude door, with its wooden hinges, was supplied with a large wooden latch, lifted by a string which was always on the outside, in token of hospitality. The country around was sparsely settled, and where the city of Mansfield now stands there were but three or four log houses standing in small clearings, the rest of the town site being heavily timbered. The nearest market was for some years at Sandusky, seventy-five miles away, and seven to ten days were required to make the the trip over the rough roads cut through the depths of the primeval forest, the most of which was still standing. So far from the centres of civilization the luxuries of life were well nigh unattainable, and the pioneers were obliged to live in the most primitive manner. Thus it was that the mother of our subject had no stove for many years, and did all her cooking before the fire in the rude fireplace, and very delicious was the food prepared in that way to those who partook of it, whose appetites had been sharpened by the hard labor of felling trees and preparing the land for cultivation. The busy mother used to spin and weave all the cloth that the family wore. Mr. Wintersteen cleared a farm and bought additional land, and at the time of his death in 1843 had quite a valuable estate. He was a man of good parts, who led a useful and upright life, and was an honored and valued citizen of the community where he lived. His wife, who was held in equal estimation, survived him many years, her death on the old homestead not occurring until 1872. There were ten children born to them, as follows: Nancy, Fanny, Henry, Axeann, Mary, Jackson, Eliza, William, Hannah and Almira.

Our subject received his early education in the pioneer schools of Ohio, the first one that he attended being taught in a log house, in which there were no windows, the dim light penetrating the interior through greased paper, which covered an aperture where a log had been sawed out. Our subject subsequently attended a Seminary in Lexington, where he pursued a good course of studies that amply fitted him for the profession of teacher, which he adopted at the age of twenty-one, receiving as salary $10 a month. He taught several winter terms in his native State, and then went to Ala-

bama in 1846, and engaged in teaching near Decatur for one year. He subsequently returned to Ohio to prepare himself for the medical profession. He studied with Doctors Abernatha and Damsell in Lexington, and afterward attended medical lectures at Starling College, Columbus. The college buildings were not then completed, and the course of lectures was given in a large log building built during the campaign of 1840, and known as the Harrison Cabin. Having received a thorough education in his chosen profession, all that he needed was practice to make him a first-class physician, and that he soon had. He opened an office in Lockport, Williams County, in the fall of 1850, and practiced there successfully until 1858. In that year he went to Iowa and established himself as a physician in Marietta, Marshall County. During the time that he resided there he built up a fine practice, and became one of the leading medical men of that locality. In 1865 he abandoned his profession, and coming to Nebraska, then a Territory, settled in Plattsmouth. He purchased city property here, and has since devoted the whole of his time to its improvement, and in looking after his monetary interests. He has built five houses here, and all excepting his residence are rented, and bring him in a good income.

To the amiable and gracious lady who presides over his pleasant home, our subject was united in marriage in 1854. She was formerly Elizabeth Miller, and Wayne County, Ohio, was her native place. Their wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of a daughter, Olive A., wife of Frank L. Gayle, of Ft. Worth, Tex. Mrs. Wintersteen's father, Samuel K. Miller, was born in Allegheny County, Pa., and her grandfather was, so far as known, a native of the same State, and of German parentage. He removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio and spent his last years near New Lisbon. The father of Mrs. Wintersteen was reared and married in Pennsylvania, and subsequently removed to Ohio and settled in Wayne County. He was a wheelwright and carpenter by trade, and bought water power in that county and built mills which he operated for awhile. He subsequently became a pioneer of Williams County, buying land three miles from Bryan, the county seat. There was good water power there, and he built a saw-mill and engaged in the manufacture of lumber, thus clearing his land, which was heavily timbered. He managed the mill until about 1849, when he sold it and removed to Lockport, where he built woolen, saw and grist-mills, and operated them all until 1856. In that year he disposed of his property and started for Marshall County, Iowa, where he bought a tract of prairie land six miles from Marshalltown, and improved a large farm. In 1865 he came to Plattsmouth and made his home there for three years; then returning to Iowa, he bought and improved a mill site in Greene County, continuing in business there three or four years. His next move was to Guthrie County, where he turned his attention to farming. He also improved a water power on his land there, and at the same time improved a farm. His death occurred there in June, 1886. He was a man of great capability and energy, and his various enterprises always turned out profitably, so that he acquired considerable property. He was conscientious and upright in his dealings, and commanded the respect of those with whom he came in contact. In his wife he had a ready and able assistant, and she was in every way a most estimable woman. Her maiden name was Magdalena Smouse. She was born in Allegheny County, Pa., and died at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, in 1883. There were nine children born to her and her husband, eight of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Rosanna, John P., Rebecca, Sarah, Elizabeth, Catherine A., George C. and Samuel S.

Dr. Wintersteen is a man of fine mental gifts, that have been carefully cultivated; has strong opinions, is broad and liberal in his views, and his expression of them on any topic under discussion carries conviction to the minds of his hearers. He is prominently identified with the A. F. & A. M., having become a Mason in Williams County, Ohio, in 1852; he is now connected with Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6. We cannot close this biographical notice of the Doctor without some further allusion to his wife, who is a woman of infinite tact and kindness, and wields a good influence on all around her. In her the suffering and needy have a true friend, one who consoles them with her sympathy, and re-

lieves them with her bounty. She and her husband occupy a prominent place in social circles, and whenever they choose to mingle in society their presence is always welcome. In politics the Doctor is a stanch Democrat.

NEWTON J. CALKINS. Prominent among the citizens of Cass County, who have been instrumental in developing her rich agricultural resources, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He owns a large and beautiful farm on sections 9 and 16, Centre Precinct, with his residence on the northwest corner of the latter section, and there he is extensively engaged in raising grain and large herds of cattle, horses and hogs. He has developed his farm from the raw prairie, and when he first began its improvement there was no other settlement near, the house of Peter Coon, two miles distant, being the only visible habitation.

Our subject was born in Elizabethtown, N. Y., March 27, 1840, his early home being on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain. His father, Elijah Calkins, was born in the same town, and there lived until our subject came West. He married Miss Mary Bancroft, of Connecticut, and to them were born ten children, five of whom are living. He carried on farming in New York for many years, and at last came to this State to spend his declining years in the home of his son Henry, in Rock Bluff Precinct, and there he passed away in 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow survived him about three years. They were respected members of the Baptist Church in New York, and Mr. Calkins, who was a man of strong character, with the courage of his opinions, was a firm Abolitionist, and always a Republican after the formation of the party.

Newton Calkins attended the common schools in his native town, and continued to reside there until February, 1887, and has made his home in this county ever since. He first settled two miles from Rock Creek, and a year later went to Weeping Water Precinct. Two years after that we find him in Mt. Pleasant, and in those various places he was carrying on farming on rented land. At the close of 1871 he came here and bought forty acres of the land he now owns, paying $7 an acre for it. It was in a complete state of nature, and he at once set about its development into a farm. He put out a grove of forest trees, also an orchard, and some small fruits. He built a small house first, and as his finances would permit added to it from time to time, until he now has a commodious dwelling. He continued to prosper, and in 1875 was enabled to buy the remainder of the quarter of section 9, which was partly improved, and he has purchased other land, until he owns 320 acres, forming one of the finest and best improved farms in this locality, and it is continually subject to improvements and under an admirable state of cultivation, well fenced, and amply supplied with the necessary buildings. He has built a fine horse barn, 48x60, with 18-feet posts, and all of the appurtenances, such as hay fork, etc., for handling hay. Mr. Calkins pays much attention to raising corn, but feeds a good share of it to his cattle, horses and hogs, of which he has quite large herds.

Mr. and Mrs. Calkins were united in marriage July 3, 1863, and of their union have come seven children, six of whom are living, and the following is their record: Howard was born in 1865; Viola, in 1871; Friend, in 1874; Lewis, in 1879; Lena, in 1881; Myrtle, in 1888. Mabel, the next to the youngest, died when two years old. Mrs. Calkins was formerly Miss Margaret McDougal, and was born in Lewistown, Essex Co., N. Y., in 1846, and she lived there until the time of her marriage. She is a daughter of Robert and Margaret (Kilmer) McDougal, natives of New York, where they were married, and there ten children were born to them. Seven years ago our subject visited New York, and on his return brought his father-in-law and mother-in-law with him to make their home with him, and the father is still a member of the household, at the venerable age of eighty-nine years. His wife died here in 1886.

No citizen of Cass County manifests a more genuine interest in its welfare than our subject, or is more liberal and public-spirited in encouraging schemes for its advancement. He has done much for the educational interests of his adopted precinct

while serving on the School Board. He was School Director for nine years, or until he absolutely refused to hold the office any more. He and his family are influential members of the Baptist Church at Wabash. Mr. Calkins by his ability and energy, combined with forethought and prudent management, has made all he now has. He is a conscientious, self-respecting man, with a keen, resolute nature, and a good reputation for just and square dealing. Politically, he earnestly favors the Republican policy.

ELIJAH JENKINS, a prosperous merchant of Greenwood. He was born in La Porte County, Ind., in 1837, where he lived with his parents on a farm until 1852, when he came west to Missouri, where he remained for one winter. From Missouri he went to Glenwood, Iowa, where he conducted one of the first musical conventions ever held in that State. This was in the spring of 1853. While conducting a singing-school at Waughboncy Grove, Iowa, five miles south of Glenwood, he met Miss Amanda Cornes, to whom he was married by the Rev. Dr. Carter. The couple made their home at the above named grove for several years. In 1858 Mr. Jenkins purchased ninety acres of land. His business ventures at this time had proven very successful. He was very comfortably situated on his farm and enjoying the comforts of a good home when the War of the Rebellion broke out. Being actuated by patriotic motives, and feeling that every good man should aid in the defence of the Union, he in response to the call for 300,000 men in the fall of 1861, enlisted in Company A, 4th Iowa Infantry. During the winter of 1861 and 1862 they were in camp at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

While engaged in moving Government stores at that place our subject fell from a wagon and was severely injured by the load passing over him, in consequence of which he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability. Upon his recovery from the injuries received at this time he again tendered his services to his country, enlisting Aug. 11, 1862, in Company B, 29th Iowa Infantry. He was shortly transferred from Company B to Company K in the same regiment. They went into camp at Camp Dodge at Council Bluffs, Iowa, from whence they went south. Their first engagement with the enemy was at Duvall's Bluff, on the White River, in Arkansas, where they defeated the rebels. Their next engagement of importance was Yazoo Pass, Miss., where they were again the victors. Being transferred from here to Helena, Ark., where they again met the Confederates in bloody conflict, as well as at Little Rock; in this latter engagement they met the enemy five miles below the city, where the skirmishing began. It was continued without cessation until they reached the city, where they captured a large number of prisoners, with military stores and arms. In the spring of 1864 they engaged in the now noted Red River Expedition, the regiment being attached to the Seventh Army Corps, under the command of Gen. Steele. On the Little Missouri they engaged with the Confederate forces, who were 6,000 strong, and again at Cross Road they met them 4,000 strong. At Camden the Union soldiers took possession of the rifle pits and forts and heroically held the same against the assault of superior numbers, and in the face of great natural disadvantages.

On the banks of the Saline he with his regiment took an active and important part in the hardest-fought engagement of the expedition, meeting the Confederates, who were under the command of Generals Kirby Smith and Price. Here the loss to the Union forces numbered 2,000 in dead and wounded. The loss to the rebels, owing to the bravery and heroism of the Union troops, was double that number. They thought themselves beaten and gave the Union soldiers an opportunity of falling back across the river and begin their retreat to Little Rock, a distance of eighty miles, It is impossible for one who was not present with the Union soldiers to realize the suffering and hardships they endured. Having no food other than what they could collect from a country which had been traversed by both armies, their sufferings from this cause alone were intense, often having no food except the grain that was supplied for the horses. When six or eight miles distant from Little Rock they secured their first regular rations

since leaving the Saline. After passing the winter of 1864-65 in this city, they started south on 9th of February, 1865, their destination being New Orleans, from where they went to take part in the siege of Mobile.

The 29th Iowa Regiment, of which our subject was a member, took part in the assault and capture of Spanish Fort on March 16, and in the various other engagements on that line, until the fall of Fort Blakeslee gave the Union forces complete possession of the field. Their work being done here they marched to Montgomery, Ala., the capital of the Confederacy, which they captured. From this city Mr. Jenkins was detailed to assist in the transferring of 260 sick and wounded soldiers to the hospital at New Orleans, going to Mobile for that purpose. It was while he was at the latter city the news of the assassination of President Lincoln reached him. His regiment at this time was in Texas and our subject asked to be relieved from detailed duty and assigned to his regiment for active duty, which application was refused. He then applied for a furlough of sixty days, which was granted, which gave him an opportunity of visiting his home and friends in the North.

At the expiration of his furlough our subject reported for duty at headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., when he again applied for a transfer to his regiment, which request was again refused, and he continued on detailed duty until he was honorably discharged at St. Louis, having served his country faithfully and well for three years, having met with many narrow escapes, marching thousands of miles and suffering all the privations and hardships of a soldier's life in time of war. Upon his return home he found that his wife had not been the careful, prudent, devoted woman that he had expected she would be, she having squandered and scattered his property during his absence, and he found himself a financially ruined man, which circumstance led to the divorce of the couple. Almost disheartened he went to Missouri and engaged in various occupations, where he met his present wife, a Mrs. Berry. She was born in Ohio.

After his marriage with this lady, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins came to Nebraska for the purpose of procuring and making a home. In this venture they were indeed successful, and they look upon their coming to Nebraska as the turning point in his life. He has by close attention and a large amount of hard labor become the owner of a very valuable farm in Greenwood Precinct, an elegant and valuable residence and two lots at Louisville, in Cass County, as well as a handsome residence in Greenwood. His business career in Greenwood began in 1885, in which year he engaged in his present business, which he has pursued with untiring zeal and with most excellent results. Previous to locating in this village he was a resident of Louisville Precinct, where he was a successful farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are the parents of seven children: Louis A., Ida M., wife of Mr. Foreman, agent of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, at Nora, Neb.; Emma M., wife of Samuel Lynch, of this county; Juniata and Elijah, both of whom are dead; and Thomas and Otoe.

The parents of our subject are of English descent, their ancestors coming to Virginia at a time when our country was in its infancy, and took an important part in the history of the colonial days of our present prosperous nation. The father of our subject is Benjamin Jenkins; his mother was Catherine Skelton. Grandmother McCarthy was a native of Scotland, an heiress to the old McCarthy estate in Scotland. Benjamin Jenkins, the father, now resides in Eight Mile Grove Precinct, Cass County, and is almost eighty years of age. The mother died in 1844, when but thirty-six years old. A family of seven children were born to the parents of our subject, named respectively: Sarah Elizabeth, Jessie, deceased, Emily, Elijah, our subject, Columbus and Cerina, now deceased. The parents removed at an early day from Virginia to Kentucky, thence to Indiana; from Indiana to Illinois; and when our subject was a lad of seven years of age the family returned to Indiana, where he lived until he reached the age of manhood.

Mr. Jenkins is a man of fine appearance and of excellent business capacities. The exercise of his judgment has enabled him to reach the position he now occupies. He possesses unequalled musical abilities, which in his early life proved to be a great source of profit to him when he devoted the time of his earlier years to teaching the art. His

life has had all the changes which come to the early settlers of a new country, has been diversified with the sunshine and shadows which come to all, and to-day we find him in his bright and cheery home, in the midst of a family of worthy and dutiful children. His record as a soldier is unexceptionable and his career as a farmer and a business man is above reproach. His mother was a lady possessing great musical ability, and she was endowed with an inexhaustible store of motherly affection. She never lost an opportunity to give her children every advantage possible for acquiring knowledge that would prove of value to them in after life. The old home was often turned into a school, while its walls echoed with the happy songs and glees that in joyful chorus express harmony and happiness of hearts beating in unison, and made that home a veritable Heaven upon earth. Amid such surroundings as these, and with such a teacher, our subject naturally chose the musical profession, in which he became widely and favorably known at a very early period of his life.

Mr. Jenkins and his wife take a conspicuous part in the social life about them; they are both conscientious members of the Christian Church, endeavoring to live every day in accordance with the teachings of the Divine Master. Mr. Jenkins is a charter member of the Louisville Post, G. A. R., which he has served as Adjutant.

JAMES S. MATHEW, an able member of the legal profession of Plattsmouth, and a gentleman in the prime of life, was born in Allegany County, Md., Feb. 3, 1841, and is the son of Samuel Mathew, a native of Westmoreland County, Pa. His paternal grandfather, William Mathew, was born in the city of Dublin, Ireland, and crossed the Atlantic when a boy, settling in Pennsylvania, where he was reared and married.

William Mathew purchased a tract of land in Westmoreland County, where he erected a sawmill and gristmill on Tubwell Creek, and there spent the remainder of his life. He married a lady of his own country, and of their children ten grew to mature years, namely: William, Samuel, James, Archibald, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Nancy, Margaret and Sarah. Of these Samuel, the father of our subject, was reared to man's estate in his native county, which he left about the time of reaching his majority, and going into Virginia was there married. Later he settled in Maryland, but after a time returned to his native county and engaged in farming.

In 1849 Samuel Mathew, disposing of his property interests in Pennsylvania, gathered together his family and personal effects and started for Iowa, via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Fairfield, and thence by team to Keokuk, sixty-five miles distant. He entered a tract of land four and one-half miles north of what was then but a village, and commenced to improve a farm from the wilderness. The only market for grain was at Keokuk, and as may be supposed, considering the small number of inhabitants, there was no very great demand for the products of the pioneer farmer. The live-stock was driven to the river, and thence shipped to various points north and south. Pork sold at one and one-half cents per pound. In those days the plows were home-made by the blacksmiths, and the grain was harvested by a cradle. Samuel Mathew resided in Keokuk County a period of twenty years, then selling out, came to Nebraska and located a homestead claim near Greenwood, this county, and repeated the experiment of building up a new farm. He acquired a comfortable property, and is still living, having now retired from active labor, and makes his home in Plattsmouth.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Spencer) Mathew, the mother of our subject, was born in Hampshire County, Va., and was the daughter of James Spencer. There were eight children in the parental family, namely: William L., James S., our subject, Susan J., Archibald, Margaret E., John S., Alexander and Samuel H., the latter of whom died Feb. 12, 1885. The other children are all living.

Our subject was the second child of his parents, and was a lad eight years of age when they made the journey from his native county in Maryland to the wilds of Keokuk, Iowa. There the rudiments of a district school education were completed, and

later he attended one term at the State University in Fairfield. For a time before the outbreak of the Civil War he was engaged in teaching. In July, 1862, he proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in Company D, 5th Iowa Infantry, serving until the 8th of August, 1864. He then veteranized, re-enlisting in Company A, 2d United States Infantry, known as Hancock's Corps, and continued in the service until March, 1866. A history of the 5th Iowa Regiment says that "during the service it marched and traveled in boats and cars a distance of 6,847 miles, an average of more than six miles each day. It assisted in opening up the Missouri River from Cairo to Bruinsburg, and took part in seven campaigns, driving the rebels from Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Northern Alabama and Northern Georgia. In the meantime it participated in the battles of Iuka, Corinth, Jackson, Champion Hill, Vicksburg and Mission Ridge, and was held as a reserve at the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond and Black River; and under fire at New Madrid and the siege of Corinth."

Mr. Mathew did not join the regiment until after the battle of Jackson, but participated in all the battles and marches in which his regiment was subsequently engaged. He had the good fortune to be with the troops which were uniformly victorious, and consequently never experienced the sensations incident to a retreat. It was while a veteran that his regiment was chosen to guard the quarters of Gen. Hancock.

After his return from the army Mr. Mathew entered Bryant & Stratton's Business College, at Burlington, Iowa, from which he was graduated, and then resumed teaching in Richland. In the spring of 1867 he came to the young State of Nebraska and homesteaded the west half of the southeast quarter of section 4, where he improved a farm, put up the necessary buildings and resided a period of ten years. In 1876, selling out, he took up his abode in Plattsmouth, and here has since remained, engaged in the practice of law. He commenced his legal studies under the instruction of Hon. S. M. Chapman, in September, 1876, and was admitted to the bar May 1, 1879. He continued in the office with Judge Chapman until 1881, and since then has been alone. He is a conscientious student, a close reader, and an attorney looking faithfully after the interests of his clients.

One of the most interesting events in the life of our subject, during a rather varied career, was his marriage with Miss Martha Rouse, which occurred Jan. 1, 1868. Mrs. Mathew was born in Ohio, and is the daughter of James and Elizabeth Rouse. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Mathew there have been born the following children: Olive, Luella, Susan, Tillie F. and Ernest. Nettie, the second child, died when about two years old, and Robert, the youngest, died in the third year of his age.

Our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Mathew cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has been since that time an ardent Republican. He has served as Justice of the Peace and Police Judge.

ROBERT W. BLACK is identified with the agricultural interests of Cass County as a prominent farmer of Plattsmouth Township, where he owns a good, well improved farm, pleasantly located on sections 4 and 9. He is a son of the well-known physician and financier, Doctor John Black, of Plattsmouth, and he was born in De Kalb County, Mo., Sept. 21, 1855. His father was a native of England, and came from that country to this when a very young man. He located in Ohio, and being of a studious, scholarly turn of mind, determined to enter the professions, and selecting that of physician, he became a pupil in the medical college at Cleveland. After pursuing the prescribed course with honor he received his diploma, and immediately established himself as a practitioner in Ohio. He was married in Knox County, that State, to Miss Martha Wiley, a native of that county. He continued to practice medicine in Ohio with great success, acquiring considerable local fame, until 1854, when he moved with his family to Missouri. He remained a resident of that State until 1863, building up an extensive practice. In that year the many advantages possessed by the

Territory of Nebraska attracted him hither, and he came to Plattsmouth with his wife and children and opened an office here. He continued in his profession until 1875, becoming very popular, and placing himself among the leading doctors of Cass County. In that year he abandoned his practice to engage in the banking business, founding the Cass County bank, of which he was president for some time. Later he sold his interest in that institution and established the Citizens' Bank, which under his able management assumed an important place in the financial interests of this county. Subsequently he was obliged to give up business on account of failing health and is now living in strict retirement, not being able to have any responsibilities. He is a man of refined tastes and an extensive and varied information, and his talent for business is of a high order, so that he has contributed materially to the upbuilding of Plattsmouth. He and his estimable wife have a family of six children, all of whom are married and settled in life, and the most of them making their homes in Plattsmouth: E. W., James N., Agnes, now Mrs. P. E. Ruffner; Oella, now Mrs. E. A. Kirkpatrick, of this county; Robert W. and Martha C., now Mrs. H. H. Hunt.

Robert Black, of this sketch, was a boy of eight years when his parents brought him to Nebraska from the home of his birth in Missouri, and here he grew to manhood. He had a decided taste for agricultural pursuits, and adopted farming for his lifework. His success thus far has justified his choice of a calling, and he has shown marked skill in cultivating his land and getting the best results from the soil. He moved onto his present farm with another gentleman and boarded in his family until his own marriage, when he took possession of the house. The farm comprises 200 acres of very fertile land in the most productive regions of Cass County, and our subject is continually improving it. He has a fine orchard of sixty choice apple trees, the first ever planted on this farm.

Mr. Black was married Jan. 20, 1885, to Miss Sarah E. Ferguson, of St. Louis. She is a daughter of Hezekiah and Louisa (Wood) Ferguson, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and New York. Mrs. Ferguson departed this life in Warwick, N. Y., April 29, 1868, aged forty-two years, leaving six children to mourn the loss of a devoted mother, namely: Anna, now Mrs. Charles Thompson; Addie, now Mrs. John Miller; Oscar W., Nicholas, Mrs. Black, Alva S. Mrs. Black is a native of New York. She is a valued member of the Presbyterian Church. Of her marriage with our subject one child has been born, John B.

Mr. Black is a man of earnest, intelligent convictions, who uses his influence to promote the good of the community where the most of his life has been passed. He and his wife are important factors in the social life of the township, and the hospitality of their cozy home is well known. In politics he is a Democrat.

MILES W. MORGAN, a well-known citizen of Cass County, has been indentified with the interests of Plattsmouth, and has been an important factor in its upbuilding. He has been connected with the city government at various times since he became a resident of the city, and at present holds the office of Street Commissioner.

He is a Virginian by birth, and a lineal descendant of the ancient Welsh family of Morgan, whose history in this country dates far back in pre-Revolutionary times, when his great-grandfather, David Morgan, came from his native Wales to America to cast in his lot with the Colonists of Virginia. He was a man of strong and vigorous nature, whose iron nerve and high courage eminently fitted him to cope with the dangers and hardships of those troublous times. Indians were plenty and hostile in the Old Dominion, and the settlers were obliged to live in forts for protection. The forts were built of the trunks of large white oak trees, which were stood on one end in the ground. At one time Mr. Morgan had lain down to take an afternoon nap, and he dreamed that his son and daughter, young children, who had gone to the cornfield, were in danger from the Indians. He persuaded himself, however, that as it was only a dream, he had better lie down again, but he dreamed the same dream again, and so vividly did it impress

him that he immediately awoke and started for the field with his rifle. Sure enough, on arriving there, he saw three Indians entering the field from the other side, and stealthily approaching his children, who were unconscious of their danger. He called to the children to come to him and waited to cover their retreat. When the Indians came near enough he fired and killed one of them. The others dodged from tree to tree, getting nearer and nearer all the time. He watched his opportunity and shot another Indian, and as soon as his gun was discharged the remaining Indian jumped from behind the tree and threw his tomahawk, which severed two of Mr. Morgan's fingers. They then grappled and the Indian was thrown in the struggle, but managed to turn Mr. Morgan, and then reached for his dirk. An apron which he had stolen and tied about his waist, covered his weapon so that he could not get it readily, and his white foe succeeded in getting it and drove it into his side. Mr. Morgan then returned to the fort, and the men went out and found the savage, who had crawled away from the scene of the encounter and taken shelter in the top of a fallen tree, and they soon dispatched him to the happy hunting grounds. They then flayed his body, and the skin was tanned, and a member of the Morgan family now has a shot pouch made from a piece of the epidermis of the untutored denizen of the forest who had come so near terminating the existence of their hardy progenitor. That gentleman cleared a farm from the wilds of Monongahela County, Virginia, and there he spent the remainder of his life engaged in agriculture. His son, Morgan Morgan, the grandfather of subject, who was born in Wales, inherited the old homestead, and there passed the remainder of his life.

His son David P., father of our subject, was there born and reared, and after his marriage he bought a tract of land eight miles distant from his early home, and resided thereon until 1839. In 1830 he built a steamboat at Morgantown, Va., on the Monongahela River, designed for a passenger steamer to ply on that river and the Ohio. The boat was named the Osage, and he ran it on those rivers in 1831, and in 1832 went with it up the Mississippi to carry the wounded soldiers, who had taken part in the Black Hawk War, to St. Louis. In 1833 he sold his boat, and followed the river, flat boating, the ensuing seven years. He made many trips down the river, and at one time walked from New Orleans to Morgantown, Va., a distance of 1,000 miles. In 1839 Mr. Morgan moved with his family to Ohio, and lived amidst the pioneer scenes of that State for four years. He then returned to Virginia and settled in that part of Wood County now included in Wirt County, where he bought a farm. In 1850 he sold his property in his native State, and with his family, consisting of his wife, eleven children, and two sons-in-law, embarked on a flat-boat for a voyage to the West, purposing to make their future home in Iowa. They floated down the Kanawha and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and there embarked on the ill fated steamer Belle of the West. They started for Cincinnati at dark, and before midnight the boat was discovered to be on fire, Mrs. Morgan, the mother of our subject, being the first to see the flames and raise the alarm. The steamer was burned to the water's edge, and sixty of the three hundred passengers were lost. The Morgan family all escaped and camped on the river-bank at Florence until another boat came along, and they got on board and proceeded to Keokuk, Iowa. From that town they went with teams to Warren County, Iowa, one hundred and sixty miles distant, there being no railways at that time west of the Mississippi. They found the country in an exceedingly wild condition, sparsely settled, and deer, wild turkeys and other game abundant, so that the larder of the pioneers was kept well supplied. Mr. Morgan lived in Warren County four years, and then became a pioneer of Clarke County, where he bought a farm. Two years later he sold that place and moved to Madison County, where he died in the home of his son in 1868, at the venerable age of eighty-four years. The maiden name of his of his wife was Drucilla McLellan. She died in Madison County, Iowa, in 1859, having rounded out a useful life of sixty-five years. This worthy couple were the parents of thirteen children.

Their son, of whom we write, was seventeen years old when he went to Iowa with his parents. In 1857 he started out in life for himself as a merchant, opening a general store in Osceola. He con-

tinued in the mercantile business until 1860, when he abandoned that and started with an ox team for Pike's Peak, making the journey in forty-five days. He engaged in mining there for six weeks, and then having had enough of the rough life in that region he retraced his steps to a more civilized part of the country, and once more became a resident of Osceola, Iowa. In 1864 he came to Plattsmouth, and in company with his brother bought eight yokes of oxen and two wagons, purposing to go into the freighting business across the plains to Denver, which was then very profitable employment. They carried flour and corn, receiving six cents a pound for teaming. Our subject continued freighing for one year, and then with characteristic shrewdness and foresight invested the capital thus acquired in city lots in Plattsmouth, and built houses, which he afterward sold at a considerable advance. In 1868 he was elected to the responsible office of City Marshal, and the duties thus devolving upon him he discharged with vigor and ability. In 1869 he saw a fine chance for speculation in Lincoln, and he repaired to that city, and purchased city lots, upon which he built houses, which he subsequently sold at a great profit on the original investment. He then returned to this city, and was actively engaged in building for a year. But his fellow-citizens once more called him from private life to the office of City Marshal, bearing in mind, no doubt, his former able administration of the affairs of that position, and he served in that capacity for three years. At the expiration of that time he bought the ferry across the Platte River, and managed that very successfully for seven years. He was then for a third time elected City Marshal of Plattsmouth, and held the position the ensuing year. After that he continued to operate the ferry for a year, and then sold it and bought an interest in the steam ferry across the Missouri River, disposing of his share two years later. In 1885 he was elected Street Commissioner, and is now serving his fourth year in that capacity Our subject and his family occupy a high social position in this community, and he is identified with the A. F. & A. M., belonging to Plattsmouth Lodge, No. 6.

To the estimable wife who presides over his pleasant home Mr. Morgan was united in marriage Jan. 16, 1858. She was formerly Miss Sarah C. Keeves, and was born in Berkeley County, Va., July 22, 1835. Her father, Anthony Keeves, was a native of the same county, and was there reared and married, Miss Mary, a daughter of John and Catherine (Lewis) Brown, and a native of Virginia, becoming his wife. In 1836 they removed to Ohio with their children, and located on a farm in Fairfield County. A few years later they removed to Licking County and lived there until 1855, when they went to Iowa, the removal being made with teams, cooking and camping on the wayside during the journey. They settled in Clarke County, and after a few years Mr. Keeves bought a farm six miles west of Osceola. He died in that town in 1859. His wife preceded him in death, dying in 1854 in Licking County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have four children, namely: Frank, David C., Fred G., and Nettie. In politics he is a stanch Democrat.

JASPER W. CONN, who is an extensive stock-dealer of Plattsmouth, was, as is well known, a pioneer of Cass County, and for many years he was closely associated with its agricultural interests. Coming here in the first decade of the settlement of Nebraska, he has witnessed and aided its rapid development from a sparsely settled Territory, rich only in its natural advantages of an exceedingly fertile soil, genial, healthful climate and beautiful scenery, to a populous and wealthy State, with vast agricultural, commercial and monetary interests, occupying a proud position in the Union of which she is an integral part. Our subject has seen the wild prairies, once the haunt of the Indian, and where the buffaloes, deer, and other wild animals used to roam, converted into fine farms where unnumbered cattle and horses, owned by intelligent and prosperous farmers, graze. He has seen the humble log cabin or dugout of the hardy pioneer give place to more substantial and commodious, and in some instances even to magnificent dwellings; and he has witnessed the growth of prosperous and thriving cities where he found only a few insignificant hamlets when he first came here; and other municipalities of great importance

and wealth have sprung up, where at the time and for some years later there were no traces of a habitation.

Jasper W. Conn was born in Indiana, Feb. 17, 1831. His father, John Conn, was, it is thought, a native of Steubenville, Ohio. He there grew to manhood, and learned the trade of millwright. He moved to Indiana when a young man, and followed his trade in that State until 1840. In that year he removed to the Territory of Iowa, and as a pioneer of North Bend, Johnson County, took his part in developing its interests, entering from the Government about the first land that was entered in that township. He had to travel to Dubuque on horseback to make the entry in the land-office there. There were no railways in that part of the country at that time, and Muscatine was the nearest market for grain and stock. He improved a farm at North Bend, and then sold it and bought land two miles west of Iowa City, which he also developed into a fine farm, continuing to reside on it until his death in 1848. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Champer. She was a native of Baltimore, Md., and spent her last years in Johnson County, and died there in 1873. She was the mother of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: Elizabeth, Frank, Ellen, Jasper, Emily, Mary, Helen and John. Mrs. Conn's grandfather, great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of Germany, who emigrated to this country in Colonial times, and during the Revolutionary War he cast in his fortune with the Continental Army, and did good service at his trade of blacksmith. He was paid in Continental scrip, and the subject now has one of the bills of the denomination of $60. The wife of the old gentleman was a native of England.

Our subject was in his ninth year when his parents moved to Iowa, and there he was reared to the life of a farmer. After his father's death he had charge of the home farm until he was twenty years of age. He then started in life for himself, and engaged in whatsoever his hand found to do, handling stock, breaking horses, threshing grain, breaking prairie land, etc. In 1852 he started with five yokes of oxen and drove to Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, then a small village occupied by Mormons. He sold the cattle and returned home on horseback, and each year thereafter until 1854 he made a trip to Council Bluffs to sell cattle, and the rest of the year he engaged in threshing and farming. In 1853 he went to Page County, Iowa, and selected a tract of Government land one mile from where Clarinda now stands, and entered it at the land-office. In 1854 he erected the second or third house ever built in Clarinda, and became a pioneer merchant there. He resided there until 1857, and in that year came to the Territory of Nebraska, and settled in Cass County, entering a tract of Government land in Rock Bluff Precinct. He built a frame house on his claim. He resided in Rock Bluff Village the three ensuing years, having built a residence there, but in the spring of 1860 he removed to his land, which he continued to occupy and improve for five years. At the expiration of that time he bought two other farms near by in the same precinct, and lived on one of them for a year, and there the wife of his early manhood, who had for his sake cheerfully submitted to the unavoidable hardships of life in a pioneer country that she might assist him in building up a home, departed this life in 1865. She was a native of Indiana. Her maiden name was Mary E. Hutton, and she was a daughter of Baxter Hutton. She left four children to mourn the loss of a devoted mother, namely: Alpha, Ida, Frank and Maggie.

Mr. Conn was married to his present estimable wife May 18, 1876, and four children have been born to them—Harry, Willie, George and Johnnie. Mrs. Conn was formerly Miss Ellen Donnelly, and Ireland was her place of birth. Her parents were Dimmick and Jane (McDougal) Donnelly. The father was born in Ireland, of Scotch ancestry, and the mother in Scotland. They came to this country when Mrs. Conn was very young, so that she was reared in America, and has known no other home.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Conn returned to Iowa with his children, and found them a home with kind friends, and then returned to Rock Bluff, where he continued to reside until 1873. He then established himself in Plattsmouth, where he has most of the time been an active dealer in stock, buying and shipping to Chicago and Omaha markets. His experience in handling stock, his unerr-

ing judgment and shrewd dealings have won him a prominent position among the men of his business in Nebraska, and have secured him a competence. In the same year that he took up his residence in Plattsmouth he went to Saline County, and took a homestead claim, and spent a part of the year there, In 1884 he and his son Frank penetrated the wilds of Wyoming Territory, and his son took a claim 140 miles from Cheyenne, the nearest railway point, that section of the country then being wild and unsettled, and frequented by deer, antelopes, panthers and wildcats. Mr. Conn took up some valuable mining claims in that vicinity, and spent a part of two years there looking after his interests. He owes his success in life not more to his naturally energetic and enterprising disposition than to the fact that he pays strict attention to his business down to the most minute detail. He is a man of solid merit, and stands well with his fellow-citizens.

KNUD HANSON, a well-to-do farmer of Stove Creek Precinct, is a Norwegian by birth and left his native country for America in 1866. He has been a resident of Nebraska most of the time since 1867. He occupies himself in general farming and stock-raising, the latter comprising graded Short-horn and Durham cattle, and he owns a valuable Morgan stallion familiarly known as Billy. His land lies on section 5, occupying its southeast quarter, 160 acres.

The father of our subject was Hans Knudson and the mother before her marriage was Annie Dorothy Larson, both born in Norway, the former in 1801, and the latter in 1809. They spent their entire lives on their native soil, where the father carried on farming and died in 1878. The mother survived her husband until 1886. Both were members of the Lutheran Church. Their six children were named respectively: Knud, Lena, Theodore, Jensine, Ole J. and Laurits. The five elder were born in Norway and the youngest child in France.

Our subject was born near the city of Christiana, Nov. 12, 1832, attended the public school, and was confirmed in the church at the age of fourteen. On account of ill health he did not become a thorough scholar. Upon coming to America he landed at Quebec, Canada, thence proceeded by steamer to Chicago, and from there went to Jefferson, Iowa. He employed himself for a time on the Northwestern Railroad, and later went into Storey County. In 1867 he migrated to Omaha, Neb., and from there to Cass County, where he worked in various places. In the meantime he also traveled considerably through Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Colorado.

In 1870 Mr. Hanson returned to Cass County and pre-empted 160 acres of land in Elmwood Precinct. He hauled lumber for his buildings, secured a clear title to the property, and remained upon it several years. He traded it for his present farm, May 1, 1872. This was raw prairie when he carried on its improvement, while also working around at different places to obtain money. He moved upon it in 1878, and has since set out groves, orchards and trees of the smaller fruits. He erected a house and barn, fenced his fields with hedge and wire, and then commenced the raising and feeding of cattle, swine and horses.

Mr. Hanson was married in Stove Creek Precinct May 14, 1887, to Miss Anna, daughter of Samuel and Ann Bredon, who were natives of England. Mrs. H. was born in Aurora, Canada, Jan. 19, 1866. The other three children of her parents were John H., Mary and Clara. Of her union with our subject there is one child, a son Carl. Mr. and Mrs. H. are members of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a sound Republican.

JOHN ROBBINS is a contractor and builder of much repute, who for some years has been an important factor in the upbuilding of the city of Plattsmouth and other places in Cass County. He was born at Mt. Arthur, in that part of Athens County now included in Vinton County, Ohio, Sept. 10, 1838. His father, James Robbins, was a native of the State of New York, as was also his father. The latter was a farmer, and moving from New York to Ohio he became an early settler of Athens County, where he bought a tract of timbered land and founded the village of Hamden.

He cleared the land in the midst of the primeval forest, and gave the village the name of Charlestown, by which name it was known for some years, before it was changed to Hamden. He remained an honored resident of the place until his death.

The father of our subject was reared there on the old homestead, and there married Miss Minerva Wyman, likewise a native of New York. He learned to make millstones, and worked at that some years. He then bought a farm a mile east of Mt. Arthur, and ever after that devoted his time to its management. He lived thereon until his death in August, 1869. He was well known in that locality, and by whomsoever known was thoroughly respected and trusted. His wife, who shared with him the esteem of their neighbors, is still living on the old homestead in Ohio. She is the mother of five children, namely: Phineta, Harvey, John, Leander and Elihu.

The subject of this sketch was the second son born to his parents. He lived on the home farm, which had been his birth-place, until he was sixteen, and he then went out to see something of the world, first becoming quite familiar with his own State, traversing that and Indiana for about a year. After that he took up his abode in Vermillion County, Ill., in the town of Higginsville, where he learned the trade of carpenter. He worked at that very industriously summers, and in winters attended school, and he was very ambitious to secure a good education. He was so engaged three years, and he then returned to his old home in Ohio, arriving there on the day that John Brown was hanged. He attended school the following winter, and then was employed in building bridges on the Marietta and Cincinnati Railway.

He had watched with intense interest the course of public affairs until they culminated in war, and in August, 1861, he enlisted to assist in fighting his country's battles, becoming a member of the 11th Ohio Battery Light Artillery. He took part in several important battles, among which were those of New Madrid and the Island No. 10 campaign. He afterwards joined Halleck's army and took part in the siege of Corinth, and later in Iuka, where all of the officers of the battery were disabled and fifty-six men were killed or wounded. Twenty days after that his regiment engaged in the second battle of Corinth, and the soldiers of his company were in all the battles and marches, including the siege and capture of Vicksburg, in which the division of the army of which they formed a part were engaged. After the surrender of Vicksburg his company was sent to Helena, Ark., and from there to Little Rock, where they helped to take the city, it being captured Sept. 10, 1863, the anniversary of the birth of our subject. The battery was assigned to garrison duty for six months after that event, and were then ordered to Pine Bluff, Ark., where Mr. Robbins was engaged with his comrades in garrison duty until the expiration of his term in November, 1864, when he was honorably discharged from the service, having won golden opinions from his superiors for his bravery and efficiency, and he returned home in season to vote for Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Robbins resumed his trade in Vinton County, and soon established a home of his own with the assistance of Miss Phebe E. Shriner, to whom he was united in marriage Jan, 20, 1865. She was born in Vinton County, Ohio, a daughter of Peter Shriner, who was born in Greene Township, Ross Co., Ohio, April 18, 1807. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Ross County. The father of Mrs. Robbins was there reared, and was married in Swan Township, Hocking County, the same State, Feb. 18, 1827, Leah Dunkle becoming his wife. She was born in the latter county April 3, 1810. Mr. Shriner was a tanner, and followed that trade in Hocking, Ross and Vinton Counties until about 1854. He then located on a farm near Hamden, Vinton County, and resided thereon until 1880. He then sold his property there and moved to Jackson County, where he died in June, 1882. Mrs. Shriner, the mother of our subject, died in 1854. Her father was twice married, and had four children by each marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins have six children living, as follows: Bushrod W., Katie A., Fletcher A., John D., Euphemia A. and Emma W. Jessie and Bessie, twins, died in infancy.

Mr. Robbins was employed at his trade in Vinton County until 1878. when he came to Plattsmouthwith with his family, and has ever since been identified with the building interests of the city as contractor and builder, except for the first three

years, when he was in the employ of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. He is well patronized and does an extensive business. He erected his present residence in 1882. It is a commodious, well-built house, of a tasty style of architecture, and is pleasantly located on the corner of Eleventh and Main streets. Mr. Robbins is a man of sound common sense, well educated and of marked decision of character. In his business transactions he is prompt, careful and just, and his credit stands high in financial circles. As he was a good and patriotic soldier in the trying times of the late war, when he went forth from his home ready and willing to sacrifice all for his country's good, so in times of peace he has ever been a loyal citizen. He and his family stand well in society, and their attractive home is the seat of true hospitality.

DAVID HITE, a prominent farmer and citizen of Elmwood Precinct, was born July 31, 1830, two and a half miles northeast of Newark, Licking Co., Ohio. In the very early years of his life he was troubled with phthisic to such an extent that he did not enter any school until he was eleven years old. His father was a blacksmith, and our subject divided his time alternately between working in the shop with his father and farming. In 1848 his parents removed with the entire family to Illinois, settling on Indian Creek, near Dayton, LaSalle County. He drove an ox team, freighting between Chicago and Dayton. In 1851 he was married to Miss Mary Ann Curyea. This lady was a native of Staunton County, Va. Her father was born in Union County, Pa. Her mother was a native of Staunton County, Va., in which county the parents of the wife of our subject married. When she was seven years old her parents removed to Lurea, Licking Co., Ohio, where they lived until she was a girl of fifteen, when they removed to Illinois.

Our subject and his good wife are the parents of nine children, named respectively: John M., now dead; James Alva, Theodore J., Flora B., Charles F., Lydia E., Ella M., Laura M. and Alice M. The son James A. resides in Dundee County, Neb., and is married to Miss Jennie Webster; Theodore J. was married to Miss Ellen Downing, and they have two children—Lillie M. and Olive Eva; their home is now in Illinois; Flora B. is the wife of Mr. William Lewis; Charles is married to Miss Rebecca Huefish, and resides in Greenwood Precinct; they have two children—George M. and Lettie; Lydia E. is the wife of Albert E. Lewis, a prosperous and enterprising farmer of Elmwood Precinct (see his biography elsewhere in this book); Nellie married a Mr. Perry Ryan, and is the mother of three children—Cora M., Mary B. and Claude I., and resides in Kearney, Buffalo Co., Neb.; Alice M. is married to Mr. Charles Pinkham, and is the mother of one child, Luella Pearl.

The father of our subject, David Hite, was born in Staunton County, Va. His great-great-grandfather came from Germany, and his wife died during the voyage over, and she was given an ocean burial. The mother of our subject, Elizabeth Stickley, was a native of Virginia. Grandfather Stickley was born in Pennsylvania; Grandmother Stickley was born in Chainey, Germany. The parents of Mr. Hite were married in Licking County, Ohio, where his father farmed and worked at blacksmithing; the father was left an orphan at the age of fourteen, when he was apprenticed to learn the blacksmith trade. Our subject is one of nine children born to his parents: Alexander, Catherine and Benjamin are now dead; David, our subject; James and Isaac, twins, now deceased; Albert, Alcinda and Fidelia. Fidelia resides in Schuyler, Neb.; the remainder of the children are living in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Hite came to Nebraska Nov. 11, 1881, and entered on the improvement of the eighty acres of land which is now their home, on which he has planted a good orchard, a thriving vineyard and a large quantity of shrubbery and ornamental trees. His residence is nicely situated and is very well arranged. The large family of children that have been born to him and his wife are nearly all married, and are husbands and wives in prominent homes in both Nebraska and Illinois. The gentleman is proverbially a good-natured, jovial man, possesses a large store of practical knowledge, accumulated not from books but from wide and varied actual experiences in life. He is an exceedingly

useful member of society, ever ready to assist a neighbor in a practical way whenever called upon. He follows his trade of blacksmithing and manages his farm. His wife is a typical Virginian lady, exceedingly thoughtful, and much more reserved than her husband. They both feel that their coming to Nebraska was the stepping stone to their prosperity, which they duly appreciate and prize. They are both well liked by their neighbors, possessing the confidence and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Hite is a strong Republican in politics, and often recalls the memorable "hard cider" campaign that Gen. Harrison made in 1840. Prior to the late war he was a strong Abolitionist, and during the Rebellion opened he worked hard to raise a fund in LaSalle County with which to hire substitutes.

GEORGE S. UPTON, an energetic, enthusiastic and skillful farmer, stock raiser and feeder of Liberty Precinct, is a fine representative of the young agriculturists of Cass County who have expended time, money and brain power in improving and beautifying their own land, and making more attractive the general features of the landscape. His farm consists of 320 acres of arable land, one-half lying on section 9, and the other half on section 10, which in regard to improvement is second to none in the locality. He has a good set of farm buildings on both sections, both dwellings being finely located. The beautiful residence on section 10, occupied by himself and family, is situated on a rising piece of ground, commanding a fine view of the surrounding country, and the extensive lawns about it are ornamented with fine shrubbery. The farm is well-watered and heavily stocked, he making a specialty of fine cattle of the Holstein breed, and of roadsters of high grade. Mr. Upton carries on an extensive business in stock raising and breeding, and annually ships a car-load of stock, getting the highest market price for it. Besides his own productive farm our subject has an undivided interest in 120 acres of land in another part of Liberty Precinct. He has met with a remarkable degree of success in all his undertakings, and though a comparatively young man, he has made rapid strides in his chosen occupation, and now stands in the foremost rank among the prominent citizens of Cass County.

The subject of our sketch was born in Hardin County, Ky., July 29, 1850. He comes of English stock, one of his ancestors having emigrated to this country prior to the Revolution, and settled in Kentucky, where John Upton, the grandfather of our subject, was born. He was a farmer by occupation, and in early life married Rachel Spurrier, a member of a wealthy and prominent family in Kentucky, who owned a large plantation and many slaves. John Upton had been reared by a family that was large slave owners, and consequently when he and his wife started in life on a farm they were entirely unacquainted with the hardships and necessary deprivations of earning a livelihood by their own exertions, and did not meet with as much financial success as some of their posterity have since. They both spent their entire lives in their native State, Mr. Upton dying in middle life, and Mrs. Upton following him a few years later. They were kind-hearted people, and contributed generously to the support of the Baptist Church, of which both were members for a number of years.

J. S. Upton, father of our subject, was reared and educated in his native county, receiving from his parents a sound moral training. He chose farming for a life-occupation, and after arriving at man's estate, was united in marriage to Miss Eveline Brasher, a native of Maryland, born of pure Scotch ancestry. Her parents, Edward and Nancy (Dyson) Brasher, owned a large plantation in Hardin County, Ky., to which they had removed during some period of their married life. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Upton settled on a farm and were dependent on their own resources. But they were industrious, enterprising people, who, by perseverance, thrift and economy, succeeded most admirably in placing themselves on an independent footing. After the birth of their two elder children they moved from Kentucky to Holt County, Mo., and located on a farm which, two years later they exchanged for another in the same county, on which they remained ten years. They cleared a good farm, and then disposed of it and moved to Nebraska, where they purchased land slightly improved in Liberty Pre-

cinct. Mr. Upton at once began its improvement, and gradually added by purchase to his original tract of land until he was the possessor of 500 acres. His death occurred Jan. 21, 1880, when fifty-six years of age. He was a valued citizen of the place, and had the universal respect of the community. His widow is still living, at the age of three score years, and owns 120 acres of land on section 10, where she now resides, surrounded by a large circle of friends, who esteem her for her geniality, kind heart and other worthy qualities.

George S. Upton, of whom we write, is the eldest of the eleven children born to his parents, of whom three daughters and three sons are yet living. He received a part of his education in Missouri, which was further supplemented by a few years of instruction after coming to this State. While at home he assisted his father in the improvement of his land, and in 1865 became owner of the farm which he now occupies, and has since then paid especial attention to its cultivation. After arriving at manhood he was united in marriage, in Cass County, to Miss Fanny J. Reynolds, who was born in Andrew County, Mo., Sept. 25, 1852, being the first daughter and third child of her parents. William B. Reynolds, her father, was twice married. The maiden name of his first wife, mother of Mrs. Upton, was Susan Kelly, who died in early life, leaving four small children. Her father, John Kelly, a native of Maryland, was of Scotch-Irish descent. He married and subsequently moved with his family to Missouri, where both he and his wife died, leaving four children, of whom Susan was the youngest. William B. Reynolds, father of Mrs. Upton, was the son of Col. Reuben R. Reynolds, who was born in Kentucky, and served as colonel during the Revolutionary War. He married Frances Monroe of Maryland, and they moved to Missouri, and were pioneers of Buchanan County, where they lived for some time, moving from there to Andrew County later in life, where they both died at an advanced age. They were active members of the Baptist Church, where Col. Reynolds served many years as a valued officer. Mrs. Upton's father married for his second wife Amanda Florence, in Andrew County, Mo., and in 1865 they removed to this State, where they are still living on a farm in Liberty Precinct. For further sketch see biography of William B. Reynolds.

The wife of our subject was educated in the public schools of Missouri, and later attended the Baptist College in Nebraska City. She is an accomplished, talented woman, and has proved a true helpmate to her husband. To them have been born three very bright, interesting children, namely: LaRoy, now thirteen years of age; Exmoore W., who died at the age of ten years; and F. Earl, aged four years.

Mr. and Mrs. Upton have an assured position in the highest social circles of their community, and are unusually pleasant, genial people, winning friends among all classes. Both are active members of and generous contributors to the support of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Mr. Upton being an Elder, Clerk of the Sessions, and one of the Church Board. In his political views our subject is a Democrat, and though no office-seeker he was nominated by his friends as representative for the Legislature for this county in 1882, and was defeated by only eleven votes, he having run more than 490 votes ahead of his ticket.

THOMAS W. SHORT, a pioneer of this county, is located on section 6 in Mount Pleasant Precinct. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, Sept. 27, 1849, and is the son of Edward and Mary (Booth) Short, being the only boy of their family. When he was about a year old his parents emigrated to America, locating first in Newark, N. J., where the father followed merchant tailoring and where they lived two years. Their next removal was to Pontiac, Mich., where they sojourned eight years, the father still pursuing his business as a merchant tailor. Later they removed to Ann Arbor.

The subject of this sketch started out for himself in life when nine years old and occupied himself at whatever he could find to do until 1868. He then began lumbering in the pineries of Northern Michigan. In 1871 he turned his attention to railroading, was first a breakman then a baggagemaster, then later a conductor on the extra freights

of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, making his headquarters in Plattsmouth, this State. He left railroading in 1879, settling on a farm in Centre Precinct, which he followed mostly until 1887, when he took possession of his present property. This is improved with good buildings and fences, and he has brought the land to a thorough state of cultivation. Besides this property he also has land near the present site of Manly.

Mr. Short himself conceived the idea of laying out the village, which he accomplished in 1884. He established a store and grain warehouse in company with Charles Talmage and John Breckenridge, which they conducted about six months, when the firm was merged into the style of Breckenridge & Co., continuing thus until Mr. Short withdrew. He soon disposed of his entire interests in Manly village and confines his attention now to his farm. He was for one year located in Cheyenne County, Neb., and interested in real estate. He ran the first train into Sutton, Neb.

Mr. Short, politically, is a Republican. He still remains a jolly bachelor.

ALBERT ERNST. As is well-known, the soldier element has been a conspicuous feature in the settlement of these Western States; and as one of its representatives, we take pleasure in presenting to the patrons of this work a brief review of the life of the subject of this sketch, who, as a veteran of the army that so successfully fought and conquered in the late Rebellion, has reason to be proud of his military record. He was an early settler of Stove Creek Precinct, where he is still living on his homestead on section 20, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

Our subject is a native of Prussia, Germany, where his birth occurred Oct. 14, 1825. His parents, Christian and Louisa (Putzsco), were born in the same place. His father was a charcoal burner, and dealt in wood and coal, and he was also a farmer, owning and managing a small farm. He served in the German Artillery also. He died in May, 1841, in the prime of life, aged forty-one years. His wife preceded him in death, dying in 1836, at the age of thirty-six. They were people of true Christian worth, and devoted members of the Lutheran Church. Six children were born of their marriage, namely: Albert, Louisa, Fredericka, August, Mathilda, Augusta, the three last are now dead. Albert Ernst grew to manhood in the town of Zehdswick, attending school the first fourteen years of his life, in accordance with the strict regulations of his native land, thereby obtaining an excellent practical education. At that age he was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He was set to learn the baker's trade after leaving school, and worked at that until he was nineteen. Then, in comance with the laws of his country, he entered the infantry department of the German army, and served four years, taking part in the Revolution of 1848. After the expiration of his term of enlistment he retired from the service and resumed the baker's trade, at which he worked until 1856, when he sailed from Hamburg on the good ship Havard, and forty-nine days later landed in New York. He proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, and found work on a farm near that city. He subsequently found his way to New Orleans, La., and was there working when the war broke out. The Southerners were going to press him into the Confederate service much against his will, so he managed to get on board of an emigrant boat and concealing his identity by an emigrant outfit, got through to Cario, Ill., without detection. He was employed in a bakery in that city until 1862, when he enlisted in support of the Union cause, becoming a member of Company B, 12th Illinois Cavalry, and was mustered in at Camp Butler, and was despatched to Virginia under Col. Foss. While in the Shenandoah Valley he was out reconoitering with his regiment, and was captured by the rebels and sent to Lynchburg and thence to Belle Isle prison, where he was kept for two months. At the end of that time he was parolled and soon exchanged, and rejoined the Union troops at Camp Alexandria. From there he went to Camp Douglas, and was sent back to his regiment in the spring of 1863. He took an active part in Stoneman's raid, and was at Chester Point, and in the latter engagement his horse was shot under him. He was afterward despatched to Wash-

ington with others, to get horses for the service. He entered into the fight at Beatrice Station and then went to Chicago to recruit. From there he went with his regiment to Baton Rouge on a raid. Then he and his comrades went to the Pineries to take part in an engagement there, and thence were despatched by boat to New Orleans. The troops were landed and camped out at Greenwood. Fort Donelson was the next important battle in which the regiment took a part, and from there it proceeded to Memphis, and there our subject was mustered out, having done good service as a brave and fearless soldier for over three years. He stayed in St. Louis for two years after that, clerking and working in a factory. In the spring of the year 1868 he left that city, and coming to Nebraska took up a homestead claim, comprising his present 80-acre farm in Stove Creek Precinct. He was among the the early settlers here, and his land was in a primitive condition, and his was the pioneer task to break the soil and prepare it for culture, to set out groves and orchard, erect suitable buildings, dwellings, barns, etc., to fence his land, and other things too numerous to mention. All of this he has accomplished by dint of hard labor and prudent management. His farm is in a satisfactory condition, and produces fine crops, and he has it stocked with good stock. It has not all been smooth sailing for our subject, however, as he has met with losses by drouth, grasshopper raids, etc.

To the devoted wife, who has shared his pioneer life with him, our subject was married in their old home in Prussia, Dec. 17, 1854. She is likewise a native of Germany, as were her parents, Carl and Fredericka (Styriko) Ernst. Her father owned a mill and a farm, both of which he managed until his death in 1845. His widow survived him until 1865. They had nine children, of whom Mrs. Ernst was the eighth in order of birth, and she was born April 2, 1833.

Two children have been born of this marriage, Johanna and Pauline. The former is an invalid, and lives at home with her parents. Pauline is the wife of a grocer in Lincoln, and they have two children, Catherine and Lawrence.

Mr. Ernst is a man upon whom his neighbors can rely, as his honest integrity and industry are undisputed, and he is ever ready to do another a good turn. He and his wife are valued members of the German Lutheran Evangelical Church in Louisville, and in his political faith he is strong Republican.

HENRY HIRZ is identified with the industrial interests of Plattsmouth Township, where he has a cozy, comfortable home. He is a native of Germany, his birth occurring in that country, Feb. 10, 1854. His parents were William and Sophia (Betz) Hirz, born, reared, married in Germany, and there died. They had a family of seven children, as follows: Rose, who died Sept. 23, 1888, in Knox County, Neb.; Winnie, who is in Baltimore, Md.; Henry, of whom we write; William and Kate, in the Black Hills; John, in Nebraska; and Philip, also in the Black Hills.

Our subject was reared in the Fatherland, and there received a substantial education. His worthy parents carefully trained him in all that goes to make a useful and honest man, and from them he inherited industrious and thrifty habits. At an early age he was sent to learn the butcher's trade, and in 1872, ambitious to better his condition financially, he embarked in the month of October for the United States, and landed at New York after a voyage of seventeen days. For awhile he was engaged in butchering in Philadelphia, and from there he went to New Jersey. We afterward hear of him in Ohio, in the town of Dayton, where he worked at his trade about a month. Pekin, Ill., was his next stopping place as he gradually drifted westward. He worked there on a farm and at butchering for about a year. He next made St. Louis his home for the space of five months. After that Burlington and Grand Junction, Iowa, claimed him in succession as a resident. In September, 1875, he paid his first visit to Plattsmouth, where he joined a surveying party and went to the western part of Nebraska. He assisted in surveying there for two months, and then retraced his steps to Plattsmouth, where he has ever since resided. His active, energetic nature would not long permit him to be idle, and he soon found employ-

ment on the farm of Mr. Philip Horn. He staid with him awhile, and then went to work for Mr. Jacob Vallery, Sr.

Our subject had been so prosperous since coming to America that in 1880 he was enabled to establish a home of his own, and on the 28th of October he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine, daughter of Philip Horn. Their pleasant household is completed by the one son, Philip, that has been born of their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hirz stand well in this community, and they are in every way worthy of the respect and esteem accorded to them.

JAMES W. SPERRY. Among the inventions of the age that of pressed brick as a building material has become one of the most popular and useful, and the subject of this sketch, finding himself unexpectedly in possession of the wherewithal for its manufacture, was not slow in perceiving that it would not be amiss to locate an establishment for this purpose within the precinct of Avoca. His idea was perfected in the spring of 1888, when a company was organized and Mr. Sperry selected as Superintendent of the yards. The intended capacity is 30,000 to 40,000 bricks per day. As if nature had provided especially for this enterprise in his locality, there is existing upon the land of Mr. Sperry a hill or mound of sand and clay adjacent to the works in the northwestern part of the precinct, isolated in its character as it were from the soil around it. It is believed to be the only body of soil of its kind in the State. It contains equal proportions of clay and sand, there being a vein of the latter seven to seventeen feet thick. The clay vein is about forty feet in depth, and the two combined furnish a product scarcely equaled and surely not excelled anywhere. The red clay predominates, which gives weight and color to the manufactured product.

This valuable material was discovered by Mr. Sperry in 1882, and has been a source of considerable revenue to him. The manufactured product is particularly fine and solid and almost indestructible. The theory of geologists in regard to this deposit is that it was conveyed here on an iceberg and deposited in the flats on the Weeping Water, during the glacial period. This idea is verified by the fact that there are imbedded in the deposit the bones of large animals and various kinds of fossil formations, pieces of lava, and indications of volcanic substances, the whole forming a very interesting subject for speculation.

This mound is on the land of which Mr. Sperry became the purchaser in June, 1880. Two years later he discovered the bonanza, and in order to experiment he obtained a small hand-made kiln, and commenced operations. In this he was assisted by Mr. E. L. Reed, one of the pioneers and a leading man in many of the enterprises which set Weeping Water upon its feet. It was up-hill work at first, but after a few years of struggle they began to obtain results. Neither had a practical knowledge of the business, and there was consequently much money expended in experimenting and for other purposes.

The Weeping Water Pressed Brick Company is now under organization on a solid basis, and the builders of the vicinity are beginning to recognize its importance. Mr. Sperry came to this county in 1871, poor, he expresses it, "as a church mouse," walking into Weeping Water Precinct with a capital of fifty cents in his pocket, and began to work at his trade of mason and brick-layer. He was prudent and economical, and in the course of a few years had amassed a small capital. In 1880 he purchased twenty acres of land, paying therefor the sum of $200. This was located about two miles from the town of Weeping Water, on section 6, and at the time appeared to the ordinary observer as a worthless rise of ground, none suspecting the treasures lying beneath. The works lie adjacent to the Missouri Pacific Railroad, which furnishes convenient shipping facilities, the company having put in side tracks for this purpose, and the product is now conveyed to many points in this and adjacent counties.

The subject of this sketch was born in Lawrence County, Ohio, Sept. 10, 1845, and is the son of Reuben and Elizabeth (Whitten) Sperry, who were also natives of the Buckeye State, born, reared and married in St. Lawrence County. The father was

a mason and stone-cutter by trade, and during early manhood carried a musket in the Mexican War, as a member of an Ohio Regiment. After this conflict was ended he settled down to his trade again, until the outbreak of the Rebellion, when he again hastened to the rescue of his country, serving five years in Company H, 4th Iowa Infantry, and Company D, 7th Iowa Cavalry, as a non-commissioned officer, and operating mostly on the frontier, among the Indians of the Northwest. He received his honorable discharge at Leavenworth, Kan., in July, 1866, and returned to private life in Van Buren County, Iowa, where he remained with his family until the fall of 1875, when he changed his residence to this county, settling in Weeping Water, where his death took place three weeks later, on the 9th of November, when he was fifty-three years old. Reuben Sperry was a good man in the broadest sense of the term, kind in his family and toward his neighbors, making it the rule of his life to do unto others as he would they should do to him, and in his whole career exhibiting the example of the conscientious man and law-abiding citizen. In religious belief he was a Universalist. The family included nine children, five sons and four daughters, seven of whom are living and located mostly in Nebraska and Iowa. The mother is still living in Iowa, and is now the wife of James Hunt, of Davis. Her age is about sixty-one years.

Our subject, in common with his brothers and sisters, was educated in the common schools, and at an early age was taught those habits of thrift and industry which have been the secret of his success. He was but a year old when his parents removed from his native State to Iowa, where he was reared to manhood and served his apprenticeship at the trade of mason under the instruction of his father. Imbued with the patriotism of his sire, he, upon the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted, when but a youth of seventeen, in Company H, 3d Iowa Cavalry, the regiment being assigned to the command of Gen. Wilson. Young Sperry, with his comrades, participated in most of the important engagements of that campaign, being in the fights at Selma, Ala., and Columbus, Ga., and on the track of the rebel Gen. Price during his raid through Missouri, a campaign of ninety-six days, the most of which time he was in the saddle. He was later on the steamer "Maria" when she exploded near St. Louis, and had a portion of his hair burned off, besides being severely injured in his spine and scalded on his leg. Otherwise he came out of the army uninjured, after a service of nineteen months, and received his honorable discharge at Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 9, 1865. He was content to serve his country as a private all the way through, the consciousness of having done his duty being ample reward for his hardships and privations.

After the war Mr. Sperry returned to his parents in Iowa, and later migrated to this country. He lost his heart in Avoca Precinct, and was married at the home of the bride, Miss Margaret J. McDermed, Nov. 29, 1874. Mrs. Sperry was born near Peoria, Ill., Nov. 17, 1852, and is the daughter of Alfred and Elizabeth (McFarland) McDermed, who were natives of Kentucky and Ireland, and came to Nebraska in the fall of 1866, settling in Avoca Precinct, this county, where the father carried on farming, and where the parents still live. Mrs. Sperry is a very intelligent and amiable lady, and enjoys the friendship and respect of a large circle of friends. Our subject and his estimable wife began their wedded life together at the home which they still occupy, and which they have together built up with industrious care, gathering about them the many little comforts and conveniences indispensable to those who live properly and well. They have no children. Mr. Sperry, politically, is a sound Republican. It is hardly necessary to state he forms but another example of the self-made man who has not labored in vain, and is held in due respect among his fellow-citizens.

CHARLES SPOHN, Avoca Precinct has been particularly fortunate in the men who sought her borders during the pioneer days, selected their homesteads here and have been content to remain. The subject of this sketch, one of her most highly esteemed citizens, is pleasantly located on section 5, where he had formerly 140 acres of good land, but has parted with six acres on account of the construction of the Missouri Pacific

Railroad across it. He dates his residence here from 1861, although he secured the land two years prior to that time.

The farm of Mr. Spohn was but slightly improved when he took possession of it, but by a course of improvement and thorough cultivation it has been made valuable, having upon it good buildings and receiving the requisite moisture from a branch of the Weeping Water. A notable feature in the farm is three or four acres underlaid with stone suitable for building purposes, which not only furnishes the owner with this material, but his neighbors around. Mr. Spohn is a child of the Fatherland, having been born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Aug. 30, 1836, and is of pure German ancestry for generations back.

Upon emigrating to the United States our subject settled with his parents first in Pike County, Ohio, where he lived from 1843 to 1859. He emigrated to America in 1843,with his parents and their four other children to the United States, and they made the voyage on a sailing-vessel, occupying forty-five days in the passage across the Atlantic. After landing in New York City they proceeded directly to Pike County, Ohio, where the father began farming, and was thus occupied on the soil of the Buckeye State until the death of the wife and mother, which occurred in the spring of 1859. In the meantime the family had been enlarged by the birth of one child. After the mother's death the father and children came to Nebraska, and the elder Spohn occupied himself in farming as before. He lived to be ripe in years, having passed his eighty-third birthday at the time of his death, which took place in the fall of 1877.

The parents of our subject were active, industrious and hard-working people, careful and conscientious in their lives, and to the last remained faithful adherents of the Lutheran Church, in the doctrines of which they had been trained from childhood. Charles, our subject, was the youngest but one of the family, and attained his majority in Pike County, Ohio. He was there educated in the public schools and came West a single man. He assisted his father in the development of the new farm in Avoca Precinct after their arrival in Nebraska, and remained single until July 2, 1869, when he was married to Miss Sophia L. Dow. This lady was born in Illinois, May 14, 1854, and is the daughter of Frederick Dow, of Otoe County, a sketch of whose life is given elsewhere in this volume.

Mrs. Spohn was a child four years of age when her parents came in 1858 to this country. Her mother died eight years later, and she remained a member of her father's household until her marriage. She was a lady of many excellent qualities, and after becoming the mother of five children departed this life at the homestead in Avoca Precinct, April 25, 1887. Two of her children are since deceased, namely: Albert and an infant unnamed. The survivors are Tilda A., Charles, Jr., and George, all of whom are at home with their father. Mr. Spohn, politically, is a sound Republican, as was his father before him, after becoming a naturalized citizen. The latter, Mathias Spohn, was a cabinet-maker by trade, which he pursued in his native country during his early manhood, and was there also married to Miss Lena Winters. After their marriage the parents of our subject located in the town of Haagen, Baden, where the father followed his trade until deciding to emigrate to America.

JACOB STULL is a native-born citizen of Plattsmouth, and is still an honored resident of the city. He is a son of John Frederick and Agatha Stull, well-known pioneers of this township and county, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume. Our subject was born Aug. 26, 1858, on the paternal homestead. He early commenced attendance at the local schools, receiving a substantial education in all common branches. He grew to a strong and self-reliant manhood amid the pioneer scenes that surrounded his early home on every hand. He obtained a sound, practical knowledge of agriculture in all its departments, while assisting his father in the care of his extensive farming and stock-raising interests, and continued to be an inmate of the parental household until he was twenty-four years old. He

then established a home of his own, marrying, Sept. 29, 1883, Miss Ella, daughter of P. S. and Olive Wheeler. Two children have blessed their wedded life, Olive and John F. The latter died in infancy, Aug. 21, 1888, and his death has been the sorrow of an otherwise happy married life.

'Tis a weary world, at best,
This world that he will not know.
Would we waken him out of such perfect rest.
For its sorrow and strife? Ah! no.

Escaped are its thorns and harms;
The only path he has trod
Is that which leads from his mother's arms
Into the arms of God.

Mr. Stull was born when Nebraska was under Territorial government, and nearly the whole of its wonderful development has taken place within his remembrance. He is now numbered among the young men who of recent years have identified themselves with the pioneers and later comers of their native State in sustaining its various interests and in advancing its prosperity. He owns a good residence and house lot, pleasantly located in a desirable quarter of Plattsmouth. He is an energetic, enterprising young man, of sound habits and excellent business talents, so that his success in life is assured. He and his wife are esteemed members of the Presbyterian Church, and in their daily lives they endeavor to carry out the precepts of their religion. Mr. Stull is an emphatic believer in the policy pursued by the Democratic party.

JOHN C. KNABE, of Avoca Precinct, bears the distinction of being one of its oldest and most prominent German settlers. He has reason to be proud of his nationality, for his brethren of the Fatherland have borne no unimportant part in the development of the great West. Mr. Knabe is a farmer in good circumstances and makes a specialty of stock-raising.

The property of our subject, which he preempted from Uncle Sam in the winter of 1858, while Nebraska was a Territory, is located on section 12. He first secured 160 acres, but has gradually added to his possessions until he is now the owner of 504 broad acres. He arrived in Cass County on the 1st day of January, 1855, when there were no settlers in the neighborhood and when it required no little determination to make up his mind to begin the construction of a home on what was then a barren waste, with the exception of prairie grass. He did not, however, take up land until three years later, in the meantime employing himself at farming. He came to this locality poor in purse, having nothing to depend upon but his own exertions, and at a time when there was not even a road to be seen and no neighbors but Indians. These, however, could not be called neighbors, as they only went strolling through the country, keeping an eye out for what they could carry off. Mr. Knabe, however, had no trouble with them—in fact the newly-arrived white man and his Indian neighbors seemed to regard each other with a sort of friendly curiosity.

Mr. Knabe worked among the farmers in another part of the County until he could get a little money ahead so as to purchase farm implements and begin the cultivation of his land. It has taken years of labor and thousands of dollars to bring his land to its present state, the whole being now in productive condition. Upon it he has erected a set of substantial buildings and added one improvement after another until the homestead has become an object of admiration to all the country around. The fat cattle and the well-fed horses always associated with the well-to-do German farmer, the sheds, corn cribs and pens and the comfortable dwelling, altogether form a goodly sight to the eye. Mr. Knabe improved his first quarter section before he attempted to add to his real estate. He has wisely invested his surplus capital in a manner which cannot be carried off by the defaulting bank cashier.

The Duchy of Holstein, Germany, was the early home of our subject, and where his birth took place Oct. 1, 1824. He was the youngest of five children, two sons and three daughters, the offspring of Henry and Margaret (Grofe) Knabe, who were natives of the same province, good, honest people, but poor in purse, the father mak-

ing a living for his family by hard labor. In early manhood Henry Knabe served in the Danish standing army and spent his entire life upon his native soil, passing away after he had reached his threescore years and more. The wife and mother died along in the fifties. The parents in religion were German Lutherans, and trained their children carefully and conscientiously in their own religious faith.

Our subject remained a member of the parental household until reaching his majority, and for eight years thereafter employed himself at farming. He was not satisfied with his surroundings or his prospects, and finally decided to seek his fortunes on another continent. He accordingly gathered together his personal effects, and in March, 1852, set sail from the Port of Hamburg, and after a voyage of seven weeks and two days landed in the city of New Orleans. Thence he made his way up the Mississippi River to Davenport, Iowa, arriving there June 20 of that same year. He began working as a farm laborer and was thus occupied until coming to Nebraska. Up to this time he had been a single man, but he met his fate in Avoca Precinct, being married Nov. 22, 1857, to Miss Anna Lohse. The parents of Mrs. Knabe, Henry and Catherine (Hamsheldt) Lohse, natives of Holstein, came to America with their family in the spring of 1858, and took up their home in Avoca Precinct, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father, however, only lived a short time thereafter, passing away Sept. 21, 1859, at the age of fifty-nine years. The mother survived her husband nearly nine years, her death taking place Feb. 4, 1868, she being of the same age as her husband at his death—fifty-nine. They also, like the Knabe family, were excellent Christian people, and Lutherans in religion.

The wife of our subject was born in Holstein, Feb. 4, 1836, and was the youngest of the two children comprising the parental family. Her sister Lena is now the wife of Conrad Mullis, a sketch of whom is found in the history of Otoe County, in this volume, and of which they are residents. Mrs. Knabe was a young lady of twenty-one years when coming to America, making the journey alone, but was soon afterward joined by her parents. She has proved the true and efficient helpmate of her husband in his labors and struggles, working bravely by his side in the accumulation of their property and the building up of their homestead. They are the parents of four children, all living. The eldest daughter, Margaret C., is the wife of John Buhrns and they live on a farm in Avoca Precinct; Henry J. married Miss Louisa Heepner, who is also farming in this precinct; Helena, Mrs. Charles Brandt, lives with her husband on a farm in Liberty Precinct; John C. remains at home with his parents and assists his father in the management of the farm. Mr. Knabe, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket and takes an interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his adopted county. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, attending services at St. John's, in Avoca Precinct.

PHILLIP F. HARRISON, one of the self-made men of Plattsmouth, is a native of the Old Dominion, having been born in Upshur County, now West Virginia, June 17, 1854. His father, Selden Payton Harrison, was a native of France, whence he emigrated to America early in life. He was a brother of President William Henry Harrison. His parents, the paternal grandparents of our subject, crossed the Atlantic prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century, and settled in Loudoun County, Va., where they spent the remainder of their lives.

The father of our subject was reared in his native province, and learned the trade of cabinet-maker. After coming to the United States he enlisted as a soldier in the War of 1812, and at the close of the struggle lived with his parents in Loudoun County, Va., for a number of years. He then removed to Upshur County, following his trade in the village of Buchanan, where he spent the remainder of his days, his death taking place in August, 1854.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary B. Roberts, who was born in Loudoun County, Va., and was the daughter of John Roberts, supposed to have been also born in Virginia. He

spent his entire life in the Old Dominion. Our subject at the time of his father's death was an infant of a few weeks old. There were six other children in the family, namely: Elizabeth, William, Francis, Sarah, George and Robert. The mother kept the family together until they were enabled to look out for themselves, and in May, 1871, left Virginia, coming to Nebraska, and is now living with her daughter in Plattsmouth, and is sixty-eight years old. Her husband received a land warrant for his services as a soldier, and Mrs. H. draws a pension from the Government.

In March, 1871, young Harrison, then seventeen years of age, came to Plattsmouth, and for awhile was engaged in teaming. Later he secured a position as clerk in a general store, where he remained two years, then entered the employ of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, being for a time in the shops at this place, and finally was promoted to a position in the office of the Master Mechanic. Upon leaving this position, three years later, he began buying and shipping grain.

In August, 1877, Mr. Harrison established a dray line, and in time built up an extensive business in general teaming, which he has continued until the present time. That year also he became interested in blooded chickens, Black Cochins and Light Bramahs being his favorite breeds. At the county fairs he has exhibited some of the finest specimens of the feathered race to be found in the West, invariably carrying off the blue ribbons.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated at the home of the bride in Plattsmouth, on the 3d of May, 1876, the maiden of his choice being Miss Elmira Hollister. Mrs. Harrison was born in Walworth County, Wis., on the 10th of June, 1860, and was the daughter of Herbert H. and Nancy (Bush) Hollister, the former a native of New York State, and the latter of Germany. Mr. Hollister was reared to manhood in his native State, whence he migrated to Wisconsin and settled among the pioneers of Walworth County. He purchased a tract of prairie land about sixteen miles west of the present site of Delevan, from which he improved a good farm, and where he lived until about 1869. Then coming to Nebraska, he settled in Plattsmouth and entered the employ of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, with which he has been connected since that time. Mrs. Hollister emigrated to America with her parents when quite young. She died in Walworth County, Wis., in the year 1854. The parental family included two children only—Albert and the wife of our subject. Mr. Harrison is a stanch Republican in politics.

REV. ALPHA WRIGHT, who died Nov. 30, 1888, better known as "Chaplain Wright," was an honored citizen of Plattsmouth, where he formerly lived in the enjoyment of an ample income and in one of the pleasantest homes in the city. He was chaplain of a Missouri regiment during the late Civil War, and during the contest was promoted to places of honor and trust, at one time serving on the staff of Gen. Ewing. After peace was declared he became a chaplain in the Regular Army, and acted in that capacity on the frontier for several years, and subsequently was stationed at Fort Omaha, finally retiring on three-fourths pay, with the rank of Captain.

Our subject was born in the town of Wilmington, Windham Co., Vt., April 16, 1814. His great-grandfather, Silas Wright, was, so far as known, a native of New England, and his grandfather, Martin Wright, likewise a native of that part of the country, is thought to have been born in Rhode Island. He served in the Revolutionary War, and his widow, who survived him a number of years, was a pensioner. He was an early settler of Windham County, Vt., where he spent his last years. The father of our subject, Erastus Wright, was reared on the old homestead in Vermont, and resided in Windham County until 1814, when, with a colony, he started for the wilds of Central New York, the removal across the mountains and through the wilderness being made with ox teams. The colony located in that part of New York now included in Steuben County, being among the earliest settlers there. The father of our subject bought a tract of timbered land, on which he erected a round log house with a slab roof. Hav-

ing no stove the mother of our subject used to cook the meals before the fireplace. The father kept sheep and raised flax, and the mother used to spin and weave for many years, and her children were all clothed in garments of which the material was the skillful product of her own hands, the woolen cloth being colored with butternut bark. There were no railways or canals in that section of the country, and Baltimore was the most convenient market for grain. The settlers used to raft lumber down the Coshocton and Chemung Rivers, thence to the Susquehanna, and thence to the seaboard. They used to build boats that they called arks, each boat holding 1,000 bushels of wheat, which sold for thirty cents a bushel in Steuben County and would bring $1.00 a bushel in Baltimore. After they had sold their wheat in that city they would sell the boats for lumber and return on foot to their homes in Steuben County. Mr. Wright cleared three farms in that vicinity and erected good frame buildings, continuing to live there until feeble health compelled him to retire, and he spent his last years in the home of our subject, where he died in 1858. The maiden name of his wife was Lydia Wheeler, and she was born in Connecticut. She was a daughter of Jeremiah and Mary (Joselyn) Wheeler, natives of Rhode Island. She died at the home of a daughter in Steuben County. There were ten children born to her and her husband, seven of whom grew to maturity.

"Chaplain" Wright received the preliminaries of his education in the pioneer schools of Steuben County, generally attending in the winter season, and the remainder of the year helping on the farm or in the timber. When he was nineteen years of age his father gave him his time, and he started out on foot with a small bundle of clothing and some food and made his way to Lima, N. Y., where he entered the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. He studied there one year and then returned to Steuben County to teach school, receiving as compensation $12 a month and board, boarding around at the homes of his pupils, as was customary in early times. He taught in Steuben and Wayne Counties until 1836, when he joined the Methodist Episcopal Conference and was ordained as a preacher in that denomination at Angelica, Allegany Co., N. Y., by Bishop Morris. He became well known in that part of the country, and held several pastorates in different parts of the State, including one of four years at Rochester, and another of the same length of time in Buffalo. In 1856 he was called to Cleveland, Ohio, and from there he went to Sandusky to preach, and thence to Milwaukee. In 1861 he went to St. Joseph, Mo., where he received the appointment of chaplain of the 25th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, and was stationed a short time in New Madrid. In December, 1863, he was detached from that regiment and sent to Pilot Knob to take charge of the refugees and contrabands. His administration of affairs there was so satisfactory in every way that in May, 1864, he was promoted to the staff of Gen. Ewing, and was given charge of all refugees and contrabands in the department of Missouri, his office then being in St. Louis, Mo. His duties in that responsible office were to furnish provisions, clothing, transportation, etc., to those requiring them, and to see that the sick were cared for. He remained at his post of duty until the close of the war, having his headquarters at St. Louis. He proved to be the right man in the right place, looking after his charges with the uttermost care and tenderness, and doing all that his large heart prompted for their comfort, and many a poor, forlorn being had reason to bless him. After the cessation of hostilities he was appointed chaplain in the regular Army, and was stationed at Fort Laramie for four years. He was next sent to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming Ter., where he remained two and one-half years. After that he was stationed at Fort Omaha seven years, and at his own request was then retired on three-fourths pay, with the rank of Captain, and since that time lived in retirement here until his death. In 1868 he severed his connection with the Methodist Church, joined the Presbyterians, and from 1879 until 1882 he preached with great acceptance in the Presbyterian Church at Bellevue. In 1865 he bought a fine building site in this city and erected the home in which the remainder of his life was passed. He subsequently purchased an entire block of land, on which he afterward built six houses, which he rented at a good advantage.

Chaplain Wright was married Sept. 15, 1835, to

A. Juliaette Langley, and four daughters have been born to them, namely: Amelia, wife of W. F. Morrison, who resides in Rochester, N. Y.; J. Amanda, wife of Willard N. Buell, deceased; his widow resides in Plattsmouth; May E., wife of R. D. Gallagher, of Chicago; Frances E., wife of J. N. Wise, Postmaster of Plattsmouth.

Mrs. Wright was born in Huron, Wayne Co., N. Y., Aug. 31, 1818. Her father, Charles Langley, was a native of Canada. His father was born, reared and married in France. He came to America with his wife and children and settled in Montreal, Canada, where he was engaged as a wholesale merchant. From there he moved to Boston, where he carried on the same business. Mrs. Wright's father went to Utica, N. Y., when he was a young man, and was there married to Bethany Parker. She was a native of that city, and was a daughter of Jared and Temperance (Huestie) Parker. She died in Newark, Wayne Co., N. Y., in 1838. Her parents were among the early pioneers of Utica, and her grandparents died there at the age of ninety-seven and ninety-three years respectively. After marriage Mrs. Wright's father settled in Wayne County, and was busy looking after his shipping interests, as he owned vessels that plied on the lakes. In 1824 he removed with his family from the town of Huron to Newark, where he engaged in the wholesale drug business until his death in 1845. "Chaplain" Wright was buried in Oak Hill cemetery, at Plattsmouth.

W. L. BROWN, well-known in the city of Plattsmouth as a stirring and efficient business man, associated himself in the fall of 1888 in partnership with Otis H. Ballou, and they are now conducting a very successful general law practice, while making a specialty of real-estate and collections.

Mr. Brown is essentially a western man, with western interests, being a native of Grant County, Ind., and his birth taking place Oct. 15, 1881. His father, John R. Brown, was a native also of Grant County, and his paternal grandfather a native of Scotland, emigrated to America in the company of his seven brothers, at an early period in his life. Making their way to what was then the far West they took up their abode about 1830 among the earliest pioneers of Randolph County, Ind. Grandfather Brown took up a tract of heavily timbered land, cleared a farm in the wilderness and there spent the remainder of his life, dying at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

Mrs. Sarah (Rogers) Brown, the paternal grandmother of our subject, also died at the old homestead in the eighty-sixth year of her age. Their son, John R., the father of our subject, was converted in his youth and became a member of the United Brethren Church. Of a thoughtful and serious turn of mind always, he commenced preaching at the age of nineteen years, being one of the first to assist in spreading the Gospel in Grant County and vicinity. He was for many years very active in the ministry, and organized many societies of the United Brethren denomination, officiating also as presiding Elder, and otherwise laboring faithfully in the Master's vineyard; at the same time he combined farming with preaching, becoming possessed of a tract of land in Huntington County, about four miles from the town of that name, and where he is now living, retired from active labor.

John R. Brown married Miss Rebecca Daly, who was born in Pennsylvania, and was the daughter of Dennis Daly, who moved from the Keystone State to Grant County, Ind., during the days of its early settlement. He also, like Mr. Brown, improved a farm from the wilderness, and there spent the remainder of his life. The parental family of our subject included four children, viz: W. L., Letitia A., May A. and Frances J.

Our subject, the eldest child of his parents, pursued his early studies in the district schools of his native township, mostly in the winter season, until a youth of eighteen years. He then began teaching, which he followed ten terms successfully in the fall and winter, being variously employed the remainder of the year. In 1877 he commenced the study of law in the office of M. D. Call at Huntington, Ind., and the year following was admitted to the bar. In 1879 he turned his face toward the ar West, establishing himself at Plattsmouth, and

inaugurating the practice which he has since carried on so successfully. In 1886 he accepted a position with the Lombard Investment Company of Lincoln, as Examiner of Titles, but in November, 1887, withdrew and returning to Plattsmouth resumed his regular practice. Mr. Lombard, in answering Mr. Brown's letter of resignation, complimented him highly upon the correctness and efficiency of his work, and the manner in which he had in all respects discharged his duties in connection with the firm.

One of the most interesting events in the life of our subject took place on the 18th of December, 1884, when he was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Peterson, at the home of the bride. This lady was born in Sweden, and was brought by her parents to America when a girl ten years of age. Of this union there have been born two children.

CAPT. JONATHAN HATT and his partner, J. W. Marthis, are proprietors of one of the best managed and most extensively patronized meat markets in Plattsmouth. He was born near Leamington, Canada, Dec. 12, 1848. His father, Anthony George Hatt, was a native of England, as was also his father, who was of German ancestry. The latter came to America previous to the Crimean War and joined his children in the Province of Ontario, Canada. He subsequently went from there to Wayne County, Mich., where he died in the home of a daughter, six miles from Detroit. Three of his children came to America: James settled near Leamington, Canada, and there died; Sarah married Joseph Batishill, and died near Detroit, Mich., and the father of our subject is living in Plattsmouth.

The latter was reared in his native county, that of Essex, England, and in his youth he there learned the trades of wheelwright and carpentry. At nineteen years of age he came to America and located in Buffalo, where he worked at his trade, opening a wagon shop in company with his brother-in-law. They carried on business there a few years, and then our subject bought a tract of timbered land in Mercy Township, near Leamington, Canada, and there improved a farm. He afterward sold it in 1856 and bought another in Colchester, on which he lived until 1861. He then disposed of this property at a good advance on the original cost price, and went to Amherstburg to open a hotel, which he managed for two years. At the end of that time he sold his hotel and moved to Windsor, where he engaged in business as carpenter and builder until 1864. He then went to Detroit, and was employed in building in that city about a year. His next move took him to Dayton, Ohio, and he there assisted in building the Soldiers' Home. From there he went to Cincinnati, where he erected several buildings. From that city he went to Chicago and operated there nearly a year. Council Bluffs was his next destination, and after that Omaha, and in both places he was engaged at his trade. He came to Plattsmouth from the latter city to assist in building a hotel here (that building has since been burned). He had been here a short time when he seized a good opportunity to establish a meat-market. He carried on that business with good financial success until 1883, when he sold out to his son Jonathan and partner. Since then he has lived in retirement, having an ample income, and is spending the winter in California. The maiden name of his first wife, mother of our subject, was Ann Batishill, and she was a native of England, coming to America with her parents. She died in 1856, leaving eight children, namely: Emily A., Sarah J., Elizabeth, William, George, Jonathan, Mary and Charlotte. Mr. Hatt married a second time, Emeline Maples becoming his wife.

The subject of this sketch is the youngest son of his parents. He was reared on a farm, and remained at home in his native county until he was about sixteen years old. He had an eager desire to become a sailor, and at that age shipped on board a lake vessel. He sailed on the lakes for several years and gained a good practical knowledge of navigation, so that when he was offered the captaincy of a steam-tug plying on Lakes Erie and Huron he was well fitted for the position and accepted it. He was master of that tug until 1876, when he engaged as mate on the steamer "Fred Kelley," which voyaged up and down Lakes Erie and Huron. He retained his position on board that steamer four years, and then signed as mate of the Mary Jerecki, and occupied that position for one year. He then

succeeded Capt. Shepard as commanding officer on board of a boat that ran on Lake Michigan. In 1883 he abandoned life on the lakes to make his home under Nebraska's sunny skies. In January of that year he came to Plattsmouth, and forming a partnership with J. W. Marthis bought his father's market, and they have ever since carried on the business with signal success.

Our subject was married, in February, 1885, to Miss Elvira Sharping, a native of Milwaukee. They have one child, John Victor, who is a year old. Their daughter Lilian died in infancy.

Capt. Hatt's early experience as a sailor on the lakes has been of use to him in various ways; has rendered him independent and self-reliant, and he is keen and prompt in his dealings, yet he is frank and hearty in his manners, and no one is more ready than he to extend a helping hand to those who have been less fortunate than himself. He is eminently sociable and companionable, and these qualities find him favor among his fellow-members of Trio Lodge No. 84, A. O. U. W. Politically he a Republican.

LEONARD C. W. MURRAY is a pioneer of Cass County of 1855. The pioneer element of Cass County has no more worthy factor than the subject of this biography, who, with his estimable wife, began housekeeping on an 80-acre farm four miles south of the present city of Plattsmouth in the spring of 1870. They lived there until 1882, then moved to a farm on section 30, in Plattsmouth Precinct, where they have since resided. This embraces 160 acres of good land, which, with the exception of having been plowed, was at the time of purchase destitute of improvement, there being no buildings. Mr. M. has put up a comfortable residence, a barn and other out-buildings, planted an orchard, fenced the fields, and by degrees added the other conveniences necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. Besides a large amount of labor involved he has expended over $4,000 in money, and has a homestead at once desirable and attractive.

Mr. Murray is essentially a Western man, having been born in Moniteau County, Mo., June 6, 1848. His parents were Jonathan and Elizabeth (Berger) Murray (see sketch of his brother Joshua), and were among the very earliest settlers of that part of Missouri, going there with their parents from Tennessee when small children. They were reared and married in Moniteau County, where they lived until 1851, then removed to Mills County, Iowa, where they lived two years, and thence came to Nebraska Territory in 1855. The father selected a tract of land north of the present city of Rock Bluff, where the family lived a number of years, and where their thirteen children were reared to maturity.

The father of our subject died at the home farm in this precinct. He had been a pioneer of three Territories, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, in fact his entire life was spent on the frontier. The mother is still living, making her home with her son Alvars, in Smith County, Kan. Leonard was the tenth child of the family, and was a little lad of five years when he came with his parents to Nebraska. There were then many Indians in the vicinity of the present site of Rock Bluff, and probably about six white families. Our subject labored with his father in the development of the Nebraska homestead, and early in life began to form his own plans for the future. A few months after reaching his majority he was married, Sept. 2, 1869, to Miss Rebecca A., daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Wiles, of Plattsmouth Precinct. This lady was born Feb. 1, 1857, in Missouri, and of their union there are eleven children living: Charles A., Clarence, John, Isabell, Laura J., Ida May, Leonard C. W., Jr., David, Florence, Eddie and Christopher C. Cordelia, the second child, died at the age of eighteen months.

When the father of our subject began life in Nebraska he was without means, and got his first cow and their limited stock of household furniture with money earned by mauling rails at fifty cents per hundred. The mother added to the family income by weaving and spinning. Thus commenced the married life of the young people, in wide contrast to the condition of most of the newly wedded people of to-day, who would consider themselves greatly abused by fate or Providence were they compelled to make the shifts and turns which pioneers cheerfully underwent together. Mr. and Mrs. Murray have gathered around them scores of

friends during their long residence in this county. They are both members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. M., politically, is a stanch Republican.

SAMUEL McCLINTIC. This farmer, grain-buyer and public-spirited citizen of Eagle, was born near Fostoria, Hancock Co., Ohio, Jan. 19, 1839, where he lived with his parents until he was thirteen years old, when the family removed to Michigan, where he lived with his father until reaching the age of twenty-eight. One year prior to this time he married, and with his wife lived with his parents for one year, working on the farm. He then went to Black Hawk County, Iowa, in 1867, and rented 400 acres of land, which he cultivated for two years. In the spring of 1869 he concluded renting was not what he wanted, and in search of a better location and better opportunities he went to Arkansas, Kansas and Texas, but in all his journeyings he found nothing that satisfied him. He then came to Lincoln, Neb., where he had a half brother; from that city he came to Tipton Precinct, Cass County, and discovered the land that seemed to meet his requirements, and he filed a homestead claim of 160 acres on section 20. He then went back to Iowa for his family. He came back to Elkhorn in the spring, by rail and stage to Lincoln, and rented a farm near the latter place, for the first season, and began plowing and otherwise improving it. In the fall he homesteaded eighty acres of it, and let eighty acres go. In the spring of 1870 he built his house, which was 14x22 feet; when completed it was the largest house at that time in the Precinct. He hauled the lumber for it from Oak Grove.

The nearest markets to the home of our subject were Lincoln and Ashland. Neighbors were scarce, trials and hardships many, but our subject stuck right to it, and made a grand success of his venture. Not a hill or a tree were to be seen, to break the monotony of the view, so he set out his trees in groves, which after these years of growth present a fine appearance, and add great value to his homestead, on which he still lives. Himself and brother, in partnership, bought and shipped stock, and in 1873 they shipped to the Chicago market. They purchased land at various times, as opportunity offered, until they owned one entire section of 640 acres, described as the south one-half of section 21, southeast quarter of section 20, and the northeast quarter of section 29. This land they owned and operated in partnership until 1884, when our subject bought his brother's interest, and became the sole proprietor. In 1886 he sold to the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company the quarter-section of section 20, his original homestead, on which to locate the town site. He was very instrumental in getting the road through the Grove, donating the right of way for a mile through his property.

Mr. McClintic has his farm fenced and cross-fenced in convenient sized fields for the purposes for which they are intended, with substantial wire fences. A large orchard yields a large supply of excellent fruit, and ten acres of cedars, and a number of groves, afford abundant shelter to the large number of cattle which he handles annually. He raises and ships to market from five to six car-loads of hogs, and the same number of car-loads of cattle. He has eighteen head of one-half to three-quarter blood Norman horses, all of which he uses in the cultivation and operation of his farm.

When twenty-seven years old our subject was married to Miss Harriet McConnell, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (Ford) McConnell, Jan. 1, 1866, in Charlotte, Mich. This lady was the youngest of a family of eleven children—William, Elenora, James, Phœbe, Rebecca, Thomas, John, Mary, Oliver and Elizabeth. William, John, Phœbe, Rebecca and Elizabeth are deceased. Harriet was born in Orange, Ashland Co., Ohio, Oct. 24, 1844. Her brothers Oliver and John served in the Union Army from the beginning of the Rebellion to its close. They enlisted from Michigan, and were honorably discharged. Her father and mother were natives of Pennsylvania; her fathers' family moved to Ashland County, Ohio., where he bought land and improved it. In 1852 he moved to Eaton County, Mich. He was a veteran soldier, serving in the American Army in the War of 1812, having enlisted when he was only sixteen years old. He died in Michigan in the fall of 1860. Her mother

died in 1849, in Ohio. Both were earnest Christians, and were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Her grandfather McConnell was of Scotch-Irish descent, and was a soldier in the War of 1812. Her grandfather Ford was a farmer near Mansfield, Ohio; one of his sons, Thomas, was Governor of the State and a Colonel in the army. The father of our subject was George W. McClintic, born in Bradford County, Pa., Feb. 15, 1806. His mother was Elizabeth Daly, born in Guernsey County, Ohio. The father was of Irish descent, and moved to Ohio when a boy, and was one of the very first settlers in Morgan County, in that State. He bought land in the heart of the forest and cleared up a rich farm. He was married there, Miss Mary Lupone becoming his first wife; she died about one year after their marriage. On the 18th of February, 1836, he married Miss Elizabeth Dailey, and then removed first to Hancock County, Ohio, where he was one of the pioneers of that county. There he bought Government land and cleared two farms. In 1854 he removed to Eaton Township, Eaton Co., Mich., where he purchased land and improved it until he had a farm of 240 acres, planting a fine orchard and various other fruits. He was highly respected and honored by all who knew him, hale and hearty until he died. Eight days before his death he was digging ditches; he died Oct. 10, 1884. The mother died in 1885 aged sixty years.

Our subject's grandfather McClintic was a veteran soldier, he having served in the War of 1812. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Morgan County, Ohio, where he bought and improved land. He was of Irish descent, his father having come from Ireland. Grandfather Dailey was also a veteran soldier, having served in the War of 1812; he was of English descent and his home was in Ohio.

The parents of our subject had a family of eight children, of whom Samuel was the second oldest. One sister, Margaret, deceased, being the eldest. Mary, Joseph, George, Katharine, Elizabeth and Ida A. being younger. All these children were born in Ohio except Ida A. The home circle of our subject and his estimable wife has been graced with five children—Maud, Newton, Estella, Grace and Nellie; the two daughters, Grace and Maud, and a son, Newton, have passed away, leaving Estella and Nellie to cheer by their presence the declining years of their affectionate parents. Gentle and loving in their natures, they give great promise of being a source of joy and comfort and of lasting sunshine in their home.

When a name was sought for a new town it was proposed to name it McClintic, in honor of our subject, but with the modesty born of true merit he declined the compliment, suggesting that it be called by the name of the old post-office, which was accordingly done. The land now occupied by the town of Eagle is his original homestead. He owns a large amount of property in the town, as well as 480 acres adjoining the town. Mrs. McClintic is one of those ladies without whom the world could not well prosper; quiet and unassuming in her manner and hospitable to the fullest extent, she is a source of comfort to all who know and are brought into contact with her. Our subject has been Postmaster at Eagle for four years, has been on the School Board of the town, and aside from this he has filled no public office. In politics he is classed with the Democrats, but does not always vote with them, the man, not party, claiming his suffrage. He voted for Abraham Lincoln, and has been a delegate to State and County Conventions.

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, a lifelong farmer in good circumstances and one of the prominent men of Rock Bluff Precinct, has recently sold his homestead on section 16, and proposes to retire from active labor. The rest which he proposes to enter upon he has most justly earned by years of industry, during which he has obtained a competency sufficient to keep him in comfort during his declining years.

Our subject is a Western man both by birth and in all his sympathies, his native place being Montgomery County, Mo., where he began life Oct. 27, 1845, when they all came to this county, and William T., on the 13th of January, 1870, was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. McNurlin. The young people began the journey of life together in Cass County, and Mr. Johnson occupied himself as before

in farming pursuits, which he prosecuted thereafter for a period of nineteen years and until deciding to lay aside its labors and responsibilities.

Mr. Johnson made his first purchase of land in this township. This comprised 160 acres in extent and was located on section 16, in Rock Bluff Precinct. He battled successfully with the elements of the new soil and after a few years, finding the live-stock business remunerative, gave much of his attention to the raising and feeding of cattle. John and Jemima Johnson, the parents of our subject (see sketch on another page) also reside in this township.

Mrs. Johnson was born Jan. 27, 1855, in Ohio, and is the daughter of Marshall and Martha (Smith) McNurlin, the former of whom was a native of Huntingdon County, Pa., but reared in Ohio. The parents were married in Indiana in 1848, and remained residents of that State until the year 1865, when they came to this State, settling in Rock Creek Precinct, where the father engaged in farming. His death took place Feb. 11, 1884. Mrs. McNurlin is still living, making her home with her children. Grandfather James McNurlin was also a native of Pennsylvania, where he was reared to manhood and married Miss Rachel Jefferson, of that State. The paternal great-grandfather was a native of Ireland.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born seven children, namely: Lelia, John A., Lily, Edna, Artie, William M. and Charles C. John died in infancy, March 3, 1872, aged five months and twenty-three days. Mr. Johnson, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, and his esteemed lady is a member in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church.

WILLIAM J. BALDWIN, a prosperous farmer and thorough lover of horses, is a resident of Ashland Precinct in Saunders County, on the "cut off." His home is situated on the southeast quarter of sections 7, 12 and 9, which was cut off from Cass and annexed to Saunders County, in 1866, when Ashland was made the capital of Saunders County. He was born in Essex County, N. J., seven miles from the Atlantic coast, Dec. 4, 1837. He remained there on the home farm until 1856, when at the age of nineteen he came West and settled in Mills County, Iowa, where he was a pioneer, and for many years was acquainted with and personally knew every inhabitant of the county. When he went there it was with the intention of making it his permanent home, which idea was brought about apparently by his youthful marriage, which took place when he was only eighteen years old, in 1855, when he was united in holy matrimony with Miss Mary E. Van Dorn. She was born in Morris County, N. J., and grew up there. See sketch of Aaron L. Van Dorn elsewhere in this work.

When our subject came to Iowa his wife accompanied him and bore her share of the cares and hardships of pioneer life, and she has the honor of being among the first white mothers in Mills County. Five children have been born to this worthy couple who are named: Frank, born in New Jersey; W. Roscoe, Anna, Charley and Willie. The son Frank resides in Cass County, where he owns and operates a farm and is married to Miss Adale Wilburn; W. Roscoe married Miss Samantha Corey, and also resides in Cass County; they have two children, Claudia and Cora; Anna is the wife of W. C. Gordon, Esq., an enterprising grain dealer, residing in Ashland; Charley is attending the High School at Ashland, and is in the class of '91; Willie is at home with his parents. Mr. Baldwin came with his family to Nebraska in February, 1880, where he settled on his present farm.

Mr. Baldwin has been in partnership with his wife's brother, Aaron Van Dorn, since the close of the war, and of late years they have been giving their attention almost exclusively to raising fine thorough bred horses. They have imported and now own the English Shire Stallion "Logan," and the imported Cleveland Bay Stallion, "Sporting Times." Each animal is worth a fortune. The firm have large and comfortable stables in both Cass and Saunders County. They are the first to engage in the business in this part of the State and success has been theirs. In the early years of their venture they met with many discouragements, and were thought by their neighbors to be entering into a business which would re-

sult in ultimate loss, but they knew that the venture could be made to pay a handsome profit on the investment necessary, and their present flourishing business is full proof of the correctness of their ideas.

The father of our subject, Horatio A., was born in New Jersey in 1802, was of Scotch and French origin, deriving the French blood from his mother's side. He is still living in Mills County, Iowa, having come there from New Jersey in 1859. The grandfather Baldwin held a commission as Major in the American Army during the War of 1812, having had a previous experience in army life, having been in the service when a boy under Gen. Washington during the Revolutionary War. His mother, Mary E., was born in England: she died in June, 1882, aged eighty-one years. Two children, Mary and William J., our subject, were born to the parents. Mary is the widow of A. H. Sherman, and she now resides in Malvern, Iowa.

Mr. Baldwin, our subject, is popular, and well and favorably known as a horseman throughout the Southeastern part of the State. His love for the equine tribe is inherited, and aside from the profits he realizes, his horses afford him an unbounded degree of pleasure, and the animals, exhibiting a degree of intelligence approaching human knowledge, seem to realize that he is their friend, and reciprocate the feeling in a touching manner; by gentleness he has won their confidence, and when he is among them the happy feelings are mutual. He traces his ancestry back to the early American families, many of his people having fought valiantly in both the Wars of the Revolution and of 1812, to secure and hold the absolute freedom and liberty of their country. The Baldwin people as a family are like our subject—large, handsome, heavily bearded, broad-shouldered, deep-chested and base-voiced, possessing a remarkable strength and wonderful degree of vitality. Mrs. Baldwin, although past the meridian of life, is hale and hearty, and is very active in body and mind, and a study of her face and bearing shows that in her youth she was an exceedingly handsome woman, which she has not yet outgrown. Always cheerful and happy, kind and considerate of the comfort and pleasure of her family and friends, she holds and fills to perfection a prominent place in the first rank of the wives and mothers of our State. Her home gives evidence throughout of a rare taste and skillful management.

The home of these excellent people is a neat one and one-half story frame house, equipped with all the available conveniences, and is surrounded by fruitful orchards and shady groves. The farm yards are large and laid off regularly so as to accommodate to the best advantage the stock for which they are provided, and their arrangement indicates the action of a mind able to grasp all the details of the business. The barns and sheds are good and admirably adapted for sheltering the herds, and are supplied with water by a system of iron piping from a tank which is filled by a windmill pump.

Our subject is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, being Master of Finance to that Order. He has never sought nor held any public office, preferring to devote his time exclusively to the pursuit of his private affairs.

PETER ROELOFSZ was the first man to take up and improve a homestead in Tipton Precinct, which he did in the spring of 1868. He had been renting farms in Monona County, Iowa, and feeling that he could do better by making a home for himself, he started overland with teams and wagons to Nebraska, crossed the Missouri River at Nebraska City, continuing on to Tipton, where he took up his present home and immediately began improving the same. He built a small house and spent the summer there, and in the fall he went back to Iowa for his family. He remained there until the winter came on, then moved to Glenwood, Iowa, where he obtained work. He returned to his homestead the following spring, and resumed the improvement of his claim by setting out groves and planting an orchard. At this time it was rather a lonely life, as it was four miles to the nearest neighbor.

When not engaged in improving his farm he followed freighting between Nebraska City and Lincoln. Under no circumstances could he be induced to part with his homestead, but continued

to improve it in all directions, dividing it up into fields by well-kept fences of hedge and wire. In 1879 he built a new and comfortable residence. He devotes his attention to general farming and the raising of thoroughbred stock, graded Shorthorn cattle and full-blooded Poland China hogs.

The subject of this sketch was born in Gallerland, Holland, Aug. 8, 1839. His early life was spent on the farm, and he attended one of the excellent schools of that country. At the age of fourteen he began to learn the weaver's trade, which he followed until he left Holland for America. When fifteen years of age, in the fall of 1854, he came to America with his parents, by the way of Havre, France, and Liverpool, England; thence by sailing-ship to New York, where they landed in Castle Garden, after a voyage of twenty-three days. The whole family continued their journey to Iowa, where they settled on a tract of forty acres of raw land in Monona County.

Our subject remained here until he was twenty-one years old, when he began to engage in business for himself. In October, 1862, he enlisted in the 3d Missouri Cavalry, Company C. He was mustered into the service at Palmyra, Mo., and saw service under command of Gen. Prentiss, Col. Glover and Capt. Black. The regiment was largely employed doing guard duty along the line of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad. When they were relieved from this service the regiment was ordered to Rolla, Mo., where our subject was taken sick, and was sent to the general hospital at St. Louis, Mo., where he remained until he recovered. He was then mustered out, and honorably discharged at St. Louis on account of physical disability. The bulk of his army service was in chasing bushwhackers and squads of Gen. Price's men; he participated in the battle of Sturgeon, Mo. Returning home after his discharge, he went to work on a farm in Lynn County, Iowa, drove an omnibus for a season in Cedar Rapids, which engaged his attention up to the time we find him located on his homestead at Tipton.

This gentleman is one of a family of ten children —Elizabeth, Henrietta, Chauncey, Corrina, Johannah, Joseph, Josina, and Cora and Henry, younger; all living except Chauncey and Corrina, who were drowned, and Joseph, deceased. The brother Joseph was a Captain in the Netherlands army, and was stationed in the East Indies. He was killed by the giving way of a veranda.

Peter Roelofsz, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in Amsterdam, Holland, and was a clerk in a large wholesale establishment. After marriage he moved into Gallerland, and went into stock-raising, also operating a grist and oil mill, until he became very wealthy. At one time he was worth more than $100,000, but, going security a great deal for his friends, he finally failed. In the fall of 1864 he came to America, and settled in Monona County, Iowa, and he began improving his home. At the same time he engaged in the mercantile business in Pella, Iowa. In this venture he did fairly well for a while, but, going security for his son-in-law, he failed a second time. He then moved to St. Louis, and lived with one of his daughters until he died, in September, 1880, at the ripe old age of seventy-nine years. The mother had died in Iowa in 1862, being then fifty-two years old. She was Miss Elizabeth G. Phillips, and was born in Germany.

Grandfather Roelofsz was a banker in Amsterdam, and was very rich. Our subject was married in Lynn County, Iowa, Oct. 9, 1863, to Miss Julia Hawks, daughter of James and Annette (Dunckler) Hawks. Grandfather Dunckler was a cooper. He went to Chicago when there were only two or three houses, and bought 900 acres of land a few miles from the present site of the city. He built a residence in Chicago, and his decease occurred there in 1861, when he was sixty-nine years of age. The father of the wife of our subject was a farmer, and also a merchant of Grand Rapids, Mich., and removed from there to Chicago. He owned a farm west of that city, and operated it until 1861, when he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he purchased a farm and operated a hotel.

The family next moved to Kingston, again engaging in the hotel business. Leaving Kingston they went to Nebraska, where they took up a homestead in 1869. They operated this farm until 1881, when they sold the property and went to Howard City; he is now living with his daughter at Buffalo, Neb. The father is seventy years of age, and the

mother sixty-seven. Julia A., the wife of the subject of this sketch, was one of a family of twelve children—Mary E., Laura A. and William are older; Alonzo A., Hiram, Vincent R., Chase M., Eben, Frank, Jennie and Carrie E. Of this number Hiram, Ebin, Frank and Jennie are deceased. The brother William served three and a half years in the War of the Rebellion, enlisting when only sixteen years of age.

The lady was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 8, 1849, and was thirteen years of age when the family removed to Iowa. She received a good education, is a kind and considerate wife, and is a joy and comfort to her husband and family—very hospitable, striving to make the stranger within her gates happy and content. Twelve children have been born to this couple—Elizabeth A., Christma I., Anthony D., Peter, Jr., Josina, Maud, Arthur, Ralph, Blanche, Grace, Ray and Ethel. All are living except Elizabeth, Anthony, Peter, Jr., Maud and Arthur. Josina is at school in Weeping Water; the rest are at home.

Our subject has been in America so long and has become so thoroughly identified with the country that he feels perfectly at home. He has never entered largely into public life, preferring to attend strictly to the improvement and care of his farm. He has been a member of the School Board for a year, Postmaster at Sunlight for two years, and Constable. Himself and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, and he has been Superintendent of Sunday-school at Tipton school-house. In politics he is a strict Republican.

PHILIP TRITSCH, one of the early pioneers of Eight Mile Grove Precinct, owns and occupies a good farm on section 12. He was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, May 9, 1846, and is the son of Philip and Maggie Tritsch, who were also natives of the Fatherland, and the former is now deceased. The father died when Philip, Jr., was a lad nine years of age, and two years later our subject emigrated with his mother, one brother and one sister, to the United States, making the voyage from Havre to New York City on an ocean steamer, in fourteen days.

The Tritsch family proceeded directly westward from the metropolis to Tazewell County, this State, where they located, and where the mother was subsequently married to Philip Horn, now a resident of Plattsmouth Precinct, this county. Of her first marriage there have been born three children: Elizabeth, now the wife of Adam Fornoff, of Eight Mile Grove Precinct; Philip and Jacob. Of her marriage with Mr. Horn there were born four children: Mary, the wife of Theodore Starkjohann; Maggie, Mrs. Frederick Kahne; and Catherine, Mrs. Henry Hirtz; all of whom live in Plattsmouth Precinct. Lizzie is the wife of John Koffenberger.

Our subject was reared to man's estate in Tazewell County, Ill., where he attained his majority, and a good education in both German and English, largely through his own efforts. He at the same time became familiar with farming pursuits. In 1866 he came to this county, where he sojourned one year, then returned to Illinois, but in 1869 came back to Nebraska, and has since been contented to remain. He was married, in December of the latter year, to Miss Charlotte Vellery, a native of Ohio, who bore him three children—John P., Philip H., and Henry, deceased. Mrs. Charlotte Tritsch died April 4, 1874.

Our subject contracted a second marriage, April 26, 1876, with Miss Mary, daughter of Theas and Magdalena (Timm) Starkjohann; she was born Nov. 26, 1854. Her parents were natives of Germany, and emigrated to America in 1867. The father is now deceased. Mrs. T. was thirteen years old when her parents came to this country, and made permanent settlement in Plattsmouth Precinct, where the death of her father took place Feb. 20, 1874; the mother is still living on the old farm, and is now nearly seventy years old. Their family consisted of six children, only three of whom are living, namely: Theodore; Mary, the wife of our subject, and William, all residents of this county. The deceased are Henry, Emile and August.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born six children, namely: Helen, deceased;

William, Edward, Anna, and Mary and Maggie, twins, both deceased. For a number of years before settling upon his present farm Mr. Tritsch operated as a renter; he came to this place in 1874. He has 240 acres well improved and very fertile, and one of the handsomest residences in the county, erected in 1884. The other buildings correspond with the dwelling, and the whole premises reflect great credit upon the proprietor. Mr. and Mrs. T. are identified with the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, votes the Democratic ticket. Although frequently solicited to accept office he invariably declines.

The traveler in passing through this section of Cass County seldom sees a more desirable estate than that built up by Philip Tritsch. He inherited from his excellent German ancestry the qualities most needed in the pioneer citizen, those qualities which led him to persevere amid difficulties and hardships, and have placed him in the front rank among his fellow-citizens. A man prompt to meet his obligations, his word is considered as good as his bond, and his name is eminently worthy to be placed among those of the representative citizens of Southern Nebraska.

HON. S. M. KIRKPATRICK, late a member of the State Legislature, and one of the most prominent men of Cass County, has for years been intimately connected with the most important interests of Southern Nebraska. He came within its precincts when it was but a Territory, making a claim on the 18th of June, 1855, the land pre-empted being on section 18, in Liberty Precinct, and he was the very first settler in the valley of the Weeping Water at this point. He came here when around him was an unbroken waste, before the county could boast of but one log house and a cabin, of sufficient importance to be designated as a village, and when the flourishing city of Plattsmouth was the site of a few little huts, put up by adventurous but impecunious people, who were struggling to delve from the soil enough to keep soul and body together. Indians still roamed over the country, and wild animals also. The outlook was anything but promising, but the subject of this sketch was a man of more than ordinary determination. He had come to stay, and was not to be driven from his purpose by any ordinary circumstances. He clung steadfastly to his resolution to continue and "grow up with the country," at a time when white settlers were frequently making a stampede from the depredations of the Indians, although to tell the truth Mr. Kirkpatrick says that there was a great deal more smoke than fire during those times, and many of the people were unnecessarily alarmed.

Our subject secured his land before the Government survey had been completed. It included one of the finest mill sites along the Weeping Water, which he utilized as soon as possible, erecting a sawmill, from which he began dressing lumber in September, the same year of his arrival. It is hardly necessary to state that the equipments of that mill were somewhat inferior to those of the present time. The year following, however, Mr. K. introduced some new improvements, including a set of burrs, with which he intended to grind wheat, but afterward transferred the property to other parties, before beginning operations as a flour miller. This was the first mill building erected on the Weeping Water, in fact the first mill of any kind built in the county. For some years it accommodated the people for miles around.

At the time of the settlement of Mr. Kirkpatrick there were only about 180 voters in the county. He was readily recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, and was soon selected to represent the county in the Territorial Legislature at Omaha, being a member of the Senate, and re-elected three times by the Republicans of his district. He was in the Constitutional Conventions of 1871 and 1875, in the latter of which were adopted the existing laws of Nebraska. Prior to this he had represented the people of Cass County in the Territorial Legislature, and afterward was Speaker of the House. Since 1874 he has withdrawn from politics, although often being solicited to return to the field. During his public life it was conceded, even by his enemies, that in his day he was one of the most able parliamentarians of the State.

The public duties of Mr. Kirkpatrick brought

him into contact with many eminent men, while his own habit of observation resulted in yielding him a large fund of useful information. He is intimately acquainted, not only with the history of Nebraska, but the general development of the Great West, which has been a subject uppermost in his mind for a long period. A close student and an extensive reader, and a man of decided views, he is one also whose opinions are generally respected, and who has borne no unimportant part in the building up of Cass County, and introducing those measures best calculated for its advancement. The village of Nehawka was platted on his land, and to it he has extended his fostering care. It is evidently destined in the near future to be a business point of no small importance.

The farm of Mr. Kirkpatrick embraces about 300 acres of finely improved land, and upon it are the buildings naturally suggested by the means and requirements of its proprietor—a substantial dwelling with pleasant surroundings, an abundance of fruit and shade trees, which, together with the live stock and farm machinery, fulfill the modern idea of the well-regulated rural estate.

A native of Adams County, Ohio, Mr. Kirkpatrick was born Aug. 31, 1815, and is the scion of an excellent family, being the son of Absalom Kirkpatrick, who was the son of Andrew, the son of William. The latter was the first representative of the family in the United States, crossing from Londonderry, in the North of Ireland, probably during the Colonial days, and settling in Maryland. They were of Scotch ancestry, and like the forefathers of hundreds of other people in this country, were driven from their native land during the religious wars of three centuries ago. William Kirkpatrick must have made his home in Maryland the remainder of his life. His son Andrew enlisted in the Revolutionary War, and participated in the battle of Brandywine, at which he had a brother killed, and also in other important engagements. He married a lady of Welsh descent, Miss Elizabeth Bowen, who was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. They subsequently moved to Virginia, and later to Ohio, locating a few miles east of the present city of Cincinnati, where they spent the remainder of their lives, dying when quite aged.

Absalom Kirkpatrick, the father of our subject, was one of the seven sons of Andrew and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, which completed their family, they having no daughters. The sons all lived to man's estate, were married and became the fathers of families. Absalom, with four other brothers, was subjected to the general call for soldiers in the War of 1812, in which, however, they were not called upon to engage in any active battles, probably being held in the Reserve Corps. Absalom must have attained his majority in the Old Dominion, as he was not married until the removal to Ohio. He was there wedded to Miss Elizabeth Van Pelt, who was born in St. John's, Nova Scotia, where her father had settled about the time of the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Prior to this he had lived on Staten Island. Upon removing from Nova Scotia to the States they settled first on the Nolachucky, a branch of the Tennessee River, in Tennessee, whence they removed to Ohio, where the father, Tunis Van Pelt, died soon afterward.

Absalom Kirkpatrick and his wife began their wedded life together on a farm in Ohio, where they lived until after the birth of all their children. They then changed their residence to Montgomery County, Ind., where they spent the remainder of their days, not far from the town of Crawfordsville. The father died in 1855, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a man of strong character and fine intelligence, and was prominent in public affairs. The mother, after the death of her husband, made her home with her son A. F., at the old homestead, and passed away in 1863, at the advanced age of eighty years. She was in all respects the suitable companion of her husband, being a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, high minded, with cultivated tastes, and was a beautiful singer.

The subject of this sketch was the fourth child and second son of his parents, whose family included five sons and three daughters. Of this large family only two sons are surviving, S. M. and his brother C. Q., of Lafayette, Ind. Our subject lived in Ohio until a lad of fourteen years, where he began the rudiments of a practical education. He removed with his parents to Indiana, and from his youth up has been a lover of books, and by this means added to his store of knowledge when he could no longer attend school. He has always entertained an especial interest in matters of history, and there are few men of the present day possessing a more complete store of general information.

The marriage of Hon. S. M. Kirkpatrick and Miss Elizabeth C. McMillin was celebrated at the home of the bride in Crawfordsville, Ind., Oct. 11, 1836. Mrs. K. was born in 1816, in Campbell County, Tenn., and brought up in Tazewell County, Va., and accompanied her mother to Indiana when fifteen years old, in the fall of 1830. Later she spent one and one-half years in Louisa County, Iowa, where Mr. K. was engaged in merchandising, and where Mrs. Kirkpatrick died, together with their only child, in September, 1839.

Mr. Kirkpatrick contracted a second marriage, in Thornton, Ind., April 1, 1841, with Miss Elizabeth Craig. This lady was born in Adams County, Ohio,

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May 6, 1823, and is the daughter of Robert Craig, a native of County Down, Ireland. Robert Craig, the father of Mrs. K., was of Scotch ancestry, and her mother, Sarah Kerr, the daughter of Paul Kerr and Jane Weir, who were married on the Atlantic Ocean while coming to America. Many of their descendants became prominent people, and are now scattered in various parts of the Union. One cousin has for forty years been a resident of Canton, China, belonging to the American Foreign Mission.

Mr. Craig emigrated to the United States when a child, and was reared by an uncle in Pennsylvania. There also he was married, later moved to Ohio, and thence to Indiana. He died in Boone County, that State, when a very old man, aged ninety-three years. Mrs. Kirkpatrick was well reared and educated, and is a very intelligent lady, possessing all the womanly virtues. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, two of whom are deceased: Sarah V., who died when three years old, and Julia F., who died in infancy. The survivors are recorded as follows: Edwin A. married Miss Oella D. Black, daughter of Dr. John Black, of Plattsmouth, and is engaged in the grain trade at Nehawka; John M. married Miss Cornelia F. Goodrich, and is carrying in farming extensively in Wheeler County, this State, where he owns a large amount of land; Elizzie H. is the wife of Orlando Tefft, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Lee C. is residing at the home of his parents; William W. married Miss Maggie Gaffney, and is farming in Wheeler County; Robert C., Mary S. and Kate L. are at home with their parenty. Mary is a student of Lincoln University.

HON. NICHOLAS SATCHELL, the present Representative to the State Legislature from the Cass County District, is pursuing a career in the assembly which is creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. He conveys the impression of a man studious of the best interests of his community and conscientious in the discharge of his duties. His homestead comprises a fine farm located on the southeast quarter of section 18 in Weeping Water Precinct, and with its improvements forms one of the most attractive features of that part of the country. His domestic affairs are presided over by a very amiable and intelligent lady, who has the welfare of her husband and children at heart.

Mr. Satchell is the offspring of an excellent family, the son of Daniel and Atha (Moore) Satchell, the former a native of Dorchester County, Md., and the latter born in Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Joseph Satchell, was of English descent, while grandfather Nicholas Moore traced his ancestry to Germany. Daniel Satchell removed with his parents, when a child of six years, to Ross County, Ohio, and some years later to Illinois, and engaged in farming in both Clinton and DeWitt Counties. His next removal was to Poweshiek County, Iowa, where he purchased 300 acres of Government land, which he improved and sold, then removed to Mahaska County, where he lived during the war. Next he changed his residence to Marion County, where he spent his last days, dying in 1875, at the age of sixty-nine years. He was in early life a Whig, then a Republican, and in religious matters belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The mother of our subject passed away prior to the decease of her husband, dying in 1856, at the age of thirty-five years. Their five children were named respectively, Nicholas M., Joseph, Daniel, Jr., William M. and Sarah C. Joseph, during the Civil War, enlisted in Company C, 28th Iowa Infantry, and served until the close.

The subject of this sketch was born in Clinton, DeWitt Co., Ill, Jan. 2, 1842, and remained under the parental roof until a young man of nineteen years. He assisted in the labors of the farm and attended the district school. Soon after the outbreak of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company F., 10th Iowa Infantry, under the first call for the three year's men, this being the first Company which left Poweshiek County. He was mustered into service at Iowa City, Aug. 7, 1861. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, 15th Corps, under command of Gen. Logan, and going South at once participated in many of the important battles of the war.

Our subject in the spring of 1863 joined the Yazoo River expedition under Grant's command, and later was in the siege of Vicksburg, and fought in other important battles. He was slightly wounded across the head at Champion Hill. Later he was with Gen. Sherman and witnessed the famous fight of Hooker above the clouds. At the expiration of his first term of service he re-enlisted, and later participated in the famous march to the sea, after which the troops journeyed up through the Carolinas to Washington, and Mr. Satchell was present at the Grand Review. He was in Little Rock, Ark., until August, 1865, and from this point was sent to Davenport, Iowa, where he was mustered out and received his honorable discharge on the 1st of September.

Our subject on retiring from the army spent one year in farming, then became a student in Oskaloosa College, remaining there also a year. After this he resumed farming, which he prosecuted in

Iowa until 1872. That year he came overland with teams to Nebraska and took up a homestead claim five miles south of Aurora, in Hamilton County. Two years later he rented a farm in Cass County, located in what was then Elmwood, but now Mt. Pleasant Precinct. In 1880 he sold his Hamilton County farm and purchased that which he now owns. The improvements have been made mostly by himself, and in connection with general agriculture he engages considerably in raising and feeding cattle and full-blooded Poland-China swine.

In Oskaloosa, Iowa, Jan. 4, 1881, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Minerva White. This lady was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Jan. 4, 1848, and is the daughter of William and Jane (Huskey) White, the father born in North Carolina in 1785, and the mother in Indiana in 1820. Mr. White served as a soldier in the War of 1812, after which he settled in Indiana, where he was married. He carried on farming there until his removal to Iowa. He purchased land in the latter State in 1845, 160 acres near Oskaloosa, where he lived until passing away, in 1864. The mother is still living at the old homestead, and is now sixty-eight years old. Their eight children were named respectively: Martha, Rebecca, Minerva, Ella, Emma, William, Isaac and George. Mr. and Mrs. Satchell have three children: Raymond V., Jessie B. and Gail L.

Mr. Satchell in the fall of 1886 was elected to the Nebraska Legislature on the Republican ticket, and re-elected in 1888. He has held the various school offices of his district. He uniformly votes the straight Republican ticket, and has frequently served as a delegate to the County and State Conventions of his party. Socially he belongs to Euclid Lodge No. 97, A. F. & A. M., of Weeping Water. He is a K. of P., Crescent Lodge No. 91, Elmwood, and belongs to LaFayette Post No. 61, G. A.R., at Weeping Water.

A. BARDEN, a resident of Avoca village, was the first man to erect a business house within its limits, in 1882, and is engaged quite extensively in handling pumps and windmills, operating over a large territory throughout this and Otoe Counties. In former years he engaged considerably in boring wells. He owns considerable property in Avoca and vicinity, including six lots within the town limits.

Mr. Barden removed to this point from Weeping Water Precinct. He has been a resident of this county most of the time since 1866. He carried on farming a number of years up to 1877, then began well-boring, which he prosecuted a period of ten years, more or less. Some of his wells were twenty feet deep and some ninety. He came to Nebraska from Illinois, in which State he had settled with his parents in the spring of 1855, remaining there eleven years, and there was reared and educated.

A native of Bennington County, Vt., Mr. Barden was born Sept. 28, 1850. His father, J. T. Barden, was a Vermont farmer in fair circumstances and the son of Alden Barden, a patriot during the Revolutionary War who lived and died in New England. Alden Barden departed this life when comparatively a young man, and the father of our subject was reared by his maternal grandparents, whose names were Baily. Upon reaching manhood he was married in his native State to Miss Mary McCall, who was also born in Vermont, of Scotch ancestry. Her father, Hugh McCall, was a farmer by occupation and served as a commissioned officer in the War of 1812. He was born on the Isle of Lesmore in Argyleshire, Scotland, and was the son of John and Isabelle (Campbell) McCall, who came to America when Hugh was a lad of seven years, settling in the Green Mountain State, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Hugh McCall lived to be over ninety-two years old.

The parents of our subject spent the first years of their wedded life on a farm in Vermont, where their three eldest children were born. They came to the West in March, 1855, locating in Cook County, Ill., and from there some years later removed to Ridgefield, McHenry County, settling on a farm, where they still live. The father, however, is in failing health. He is sixty-three years old, and the mother one year younger.

Our subject was yet a minor when he landed in Nebraska. He spent some time as a teacher in this county. Upon the event of his marriage he returned to Cook County, Ill., where he was married to Miss Fannie G. Hawks. This lady was born at Schuyler's Lake, near Otsego, N. Y., June 4, 1852, and is the daughter of Charles and Fannie (Leighton) Hawks, who are still living there, and occupy a prominent position in their community. They are each approaching their fourscore years, and were also natives of the Empire State. Mrs. Barden was reared under the home roof, and educated in the common schools. She removed to Illinois with a sister, and lived there several years before her marriage. This union resulted in the birth of six children: One infant, born July 3, 1882, died July 10 following: Alton F., was born March 19, 1877, and died March 31, following. The living are: Robert M., who was born July 9, 1874; Alden A., Aug. 21, 1878; Blanche M., Aug. 5, 1885; and M. Ethel, April 1, 1888. Mr. Barden, politically, is a sound Republican, and has held the local offices.

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