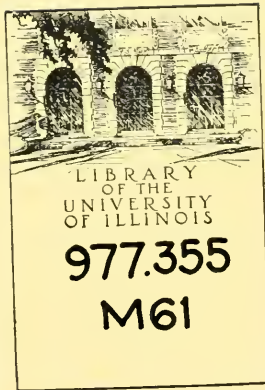




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**ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY**

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PAST AND PRESENT

OF

MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BY

REV. R. D. MILLER

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ILLUSTRATED

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"A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations." — MACAULAY.

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CHICAGO :  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1905



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Dedicated to the Pioneers of  
Benard County

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# PREFACE

It is an intuition in man to desire to know the events of the past. It is, also, a commendable trait in the race to desire to perpetuate their own good and praiseworthy acts for those who come after them. Who would not wish to know the history of the first inhabitants of this country—the Mound Builders? But that part of history, the every-day routine, the ordinary affairs of life, are the ones that we most desire to know and are the very ones least likely to be preserved. A local history—a history of a county, like this—is the most difficult to write. Matters the most likely to interest and entertain a community are the hardest to write. More than twenty-five years ago, when writing a history of Menard county for a company, I learned the fact that the very matter that the people would want was the very matter that the company refused. So I began then to note down items of interest and have kept it up ever since, expecting that at some time this matter would be arranged, systematized and published. Speaking of the past of this country, what an interesting field opens before us. If some supernatural power would enable some one to give a correct history of the events which have taken place just in the small territory of Menard county in all the past ages who would refuse to buy it, no matter the price? But these things are gone to eternal oblivion. Nothing is left but the testimony of a few inanimate and dumb witnesses; yet with what eagerness and patient toil we strive and search in the effort to decipher the obscure hieroglyphics which dimly outline some of this dark past. How men have sweat and dug and toiled in the few small mounds of earth in this county. We unearth a stone ax, flint arrow-point or piece of hammered copper, and with a thrill in every nerve-fiber we grasp it with the thought that no human hand had touched it till ours since it was grasped by the swarthy hand of the long-departed Mound Builder. Then we wonder and imagine concerning the condition of this country at that time; the animals that roamed these prairies and woods; the kind of people these beings were; and how many hundreds of years have rolled by since they gave place to the “noble red man.” We know that they must have been numerous and powerful, and that they must have been organized in some way to have performed the vast amount of labor that was required to erect these vast monuments. Then came the Indians with their tribal wars and forays of murder and torture; how this story would thrill with interest the hearts of men to-day. If all this is true, what a debt we owe to those who will come after us to leave a record of the events of the present that they may know to be reliably true. Events, commonplace in themselves, in the lives of our fathers and grandfathers will not only be interesting, but they may be of inestimable value in the years to come. Such has been the writer’s aim—to gather up facts of local interest; of family history; of social, political and religious importance, which, in years to come, will give due credit to men for the part that they performed in the work of the development of the country, socially, civilly, religiously and financially. No effort at display has been made; no effort to over-draw or exaggerate; but the plain, simple truth has been aimed at in every case. Bulwer says: “One of the most sublime things in the world is plain truth.” Sydney Smith says: “Truth is the handmaid of justice; freedom is its child; peace its companion; safety walks in its steps; victory follows in its train. It is the brightest emanation of the gospel—it is the attribute of God.” And Dryden said: “We find but few historians who have been diligent enough in their search for truth. It is their common method to take on trust what they distribute to the public, by which means a falsehood once received becomes traditional to the public.” I have tried, in the following pages, to tell the plain, simple, unvarnished truth.

R. D. MILLER.

February, 1905.



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P. D. Miller

# HISTORICAL

It is said that when Frederick the Great would have his secretary read history to him he would say: "Bring me my liar." But history, to be such, must be the statement of facts, and where such is not the case it is not history. General history may be gathered and compiled from various reliable sources, but the history of events and occurrences of a locality, is a county in Illinois, is a very different and, in fact, a more difficult thing. In olden times a good man could wish no greater evil to befall an enemy than that he were compelled to write a book, for good old Job cried out in the anguish of his soul, "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book," and surely this should be enough to gratify the enmity of a much worse man than he of t'z, especially if the book was to be a detailed history of a county in Illinois, nearly one hundred years after the county was settled. No doubt many important events, as well as the deeds of individuals, which are important items in the history of this county are completely lost, but it is the aim of the writer to record all such facts as have been preserved, and to give nothing but what he honestly believes is authentic and true. The object of these pages is to record the known facts in the history of the past so as to preserve to those who come after us those facts, events and individuals, that will serve to instruct and influence for good those whom may read them. One especial aim is to do justice to those noble men and women who, though perhaps unlearned and unrefined in the modern

sense of that term, were God's chosen agents in preparing the priceless heritage that they have left us in this land with its institutions and civilization. They made possible and gave to us this priceless boon.

Immediately after the close of the war of 1812, or at least as soon as the news of peace was confirmed through the country, the mass of the people was seized with a mania for western emigration, and, although the sagacious editor of New York had not then given the advice to young men to go west and grow up with the country, yet thousands of both young and old were seized with the fever, and as a result, the "Western Territory" began to fill up very rapidly from the older settled portions of the country. During almost the whole of the eighteenth century the name of Illinois was applied to all the known region lying west of the Ohio river. As early as 1673 French colonies established themselves at Kaskaskia and Cahokia. Just one hundred years from the establishment of these colonies, the territory, of which they were the nucleus in conjunction with Canada, was ceded to Great Britain. This was transferred to the United States in 1787. In the same year that this territory was acquired Congress passed a law or ordinance that the territory lying west and north of the Ohio river was to be divided into not less than three nor more than five states. Congress also divided the region named into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. When we remember that this legislation was only a little over a hundred

years ago, we may smile at the short-sightedness of our statesmen, especially when we reflect that the territory was bounded on the north by the British possessions.

So rapidly did this northwestern country fill up, that in 1810, the Illinois territory, which then included a part of Wisconsin and Minnesota, contained a population of twelve thousand two hundred and eighty-two. Michigan had been formed into a separate territory in 1805, and Indiana in 1809. The reader is perhaps acquainted with the history of the controversy with Wisconsin over the northern boundary of Illinois. If the people of Wisconsin are correct in their views of the matter, then Illinois has no northern limit save that first given to the territory, and her area still extends to the British possessions in Canada.

Illinois, like other new territories, was at first divided into counties covering very large areas, in fact, the entire state was once "Illinois county," but as the country became more thickly settled these counties were subdivided and in many cases re-divided a third and fourth time. Illustrative of this fact, it may be stated that at the time of the admission of Illinois into the Union, it comprised only fifteen counties. As the settlement of the state began in the southern portion and extended northward, it is not at all surprising that in more than one case it would have been impossible to find the northern boundary of the county, unless it were considered as extending to the northern line of the state. As an illustration of this subdivision of counties, it may be stated that the city of Chicago, or at least the land that it now stands on, was once in Fulton county; whereas the nearest point of Fulton county to the city of Chicago is now one hundred and fifty miles on an air line. Another illustration of this may be briefly given: If the reader will turn to the map of Illinois he will observe that Crawford county is the eighth county south on the state line from Chicago. This county at first included Chicago; but when Clark was formed it embraced Chicago; and when Edgar was cut off of Clark the "windy city" was in it; and then when Vermilion was formed from Edgar, Chicago fell in it; so that

a number of Illinois counties can boast that Chicago was once in their territory.

In consideration of the fact that Menard county was stricken off from Sangamon, it becomes necessary to give a brief outline of the latter. The reader who is familiar with the history of Illinois will remember that portions of it were settled even before the close of the eighteenth century. Prior to the formation of the county of Sangamon, by act of the legislature, approved January 30, 1821, the territory of which it was formed was included in the counties of Madison and Bond. Sangamon county, when first formed, included all of what is now Logan, Tazewell, Mason, Menard and Cass, and part of Morgan, McLean, Marshall, Woodford, Putnam and Christian. Its boundary remained thus till the year 1824, when the legislature reduced its limits. It still, however, extended to the Illinois river and included all of Menard and parts of Christian, Logan and Mason. The boundaries of Sangamon remained unchanged till the year 1839, when the legislature again subdivided it, cutting off Menard, Christian and Logan. The name of Dane was at first given to it but later it was changed to Christian.

During the session of the legislature of 1838-9, Menard county was stricken off from Sangamon and named in honor of Colonel Pierre Menard, a Frenchman who settled at Kaskaskia, Illinois, in 1790. Menard was so popular in his day with the people of Illinois territory that when the convention framed the constitution of the state a clause was included in the schedule to the constitution providing that "any citizen of the United States who had resided in the state for two years might be eligible to the office of lieutenant governor." This was done in order that Colonel Menard, who had only been naturalized a year or two at the time, might be made lieutenant governor, under Shadrach Bond, first governor of Illinois after its formation into a state. As Menard county was named after this popular Frenchman it may be interesting to the reader to give a brief account of his life. Pierre Menard was born in Quebec, Canada, in the year 1767. He remained in his native city till his nineteenth year, when his inherent spirit



of adventure led him to seek his fortune in the territories watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. He was, therefore, soon found in the town of Vincennes on the Wabash river in the employ of a merchant, known as Colonel Vigo. In the year 1790 he formed a partnership with one Du Bois, a merchant of Vincennes, and they removed their stock to Kaskaskia at the mouth of the Kaskaskia river in Illinois. Menard, though possessed of but a limited education, was a man of quick perception and of almost unerring judgment. He was candid and honest, full of energy and industry, and these qualities soon marked him as a leader among the scattered population of his adopted home. For a number of years he was government agent for the Indians, and his candor and integrity soon won for him the esteem and friendship of the Indian tribes. This fact secured him great advantage as a merchant as he could buy their peltries for one-half as much as they could be bought by the "Long-knives." He was a member of the lower house of the legislature while Illinois was under the Indiana regime and, from 1812 to 1818, he was a member of the Illinois legislative council, being the president of that body. He was lieutenant governor from 1818 to 1822, and after that he declined to accept further honors at the hands of the people. He acquired a considerable fortune but much of it was lost through his liberality in going security for his friends. He died in Tazewell county, Illinois, at the good old age of seventy-seven years. Such was the man for whom Menard county was named.

Menard county is near the center of the state of Illinois and is approximately twenty miles square. It is bounded on the north by Salt creek; on the west by Cass county; on the south by Sangamon, and on the east by Logan. The entire area of the county is one hundred and ninety seven thousand nine hundred and seventy five acres, but it is estimated that the Sangamon river occupies an area of seven hundred acres in the limits of the county, leaving an entire area of one hundred and ninety seven thousand two hundred and seventy five acres. The Sangamon river flows through the county from south to north, dividing it into two almost

equal parts. A number of small streams flow into the Sangamon river, and Salt creek affords an abundance of fresh, pure water for all purposes. The surface of the country is gently undulating in the main, though for a mile or two back from the river it is somewhat broken. The great portion of the land was, in its native state, prairie, being covered with a luxuriant growth of nutritious grass, interspersed with a countless growth of wild flowers. Groves and bodies of timber were interspersed all over the entire area of the county, being abundant, had it been preserved, for all purposes of agriculture and manufacture. Along the Sangamon river for a distance of a mile and a half on either side there was formerly heavy timber, while on Rock creek and Indian creek are considerable bodies also. In the eastern part of the county are Irish Grove, Bee Grove and Sugar Grove, each of which is a considerable body of timber. On the west side of the river are Little Grove and Clary's Grove, formerly fine bodies of timber. The timber comprises a number of varieties of oak, elm, ash, walnut, butternut, sycamore, linden or basswood, hickory, cottonwood, black and honey locust, pecan, cherry, mulberry and maple, hard and soft. There are several sugar orchards in the vicinity of Tallula and Sweetwater. Near Tallula Messrs. Speer, Conover, Greene and others have good orchards. Around Sweetwater are the orchards of Mr. Smoot, Alkires and H. J. Marbold, the last named having one thousand five hundred trees on an area of not more than eighty acres.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The soil of this county is a rich, dark loam, from one to five feet deep. This is the prevailing condition, but in the northern portion of the county there are considerable areas where sand mounds exist, but even these are surprisingly productive of a favorable season. These sand mounds produce melons and sweet-potatoes of the finest quality and in profuse abundance. More than ninety per cent of the land of the county is in cultivation, in grass or planted in grain.

The county is abundantly supplied with the

various kinds of stock, and for many years the farmers have taken great pride in trying to improve their quality, and to this end the best breeds from all over the world have been imported till the finest breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs may be seen on the rich pastures or in the comfortable barns of every farming community.

The soil produces abundant crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, millet, timothy, clover, potatoes, all kinds of vines and vegetables. Grapes and small fruits grow in luxuriant abundance, but while the large standard fruits in past year did well they are now practically a failure. Peaches are winter-killed at least four years out of five, while apples and pears are almost a total failure on account of the numerous fungoid and insect pests that attack them in countless hordes.

Cattle, horses and hogs are raised in abundance, while poultry produces no insignificant part of the total income of the farmers. Farming lands are worth from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. The farmers are, as a rule, well-to-do, many having grown rich by farming and stock-raising. We have farmers whose wealth is fast approaching the million dollar mark, while estates of a quarter and half-million dollars are by no means rare. The last half decade has been an especially prosperous period to the farmers, but as it is the writer's business to state facts and not theories he can not say whether this is due to the Almighty or to the administration; one of the two did it. "Hoch der Kaiser!"

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### MINERAL RESOURCES.

Inexhaustible beds of bituminous coal of the best quality underlie the entire county and at such a depth that it can be mined at a trifling cost. This coal is deposited in three layers, or strata, that have been worked to some extent and the state geologist claims that in this part of Illinois the three strata will aggregate at least twenty-five feet in thickness. A tolerably correct idea of the wealth laid up here may be gained by considering the miners' estimate that in every foot of the vein, in thickness,

there are twenty million bushels or one million tons to the square mile. Now, to say nothing of the twenty-five feet of strata, of which we are told, let the reader contemplate the wealth that is stored up in the vein that is now being worked. This vein averages six feet in thickness. This will give us five million tons to every square mile. This alone is a source of inexhaustible wealth. A writer in the London Quarterly Review said a few years ago that no people can succeed in the arts of Christian civilization without a supply of coal, and this is undoubtedly true. When we reflect that manufacturers, commerce and the general enterprises of civilization can not be carried on without a dynamic agent, we see that the foregoing statement is not extravagant. In the sultry cycles of the carboniferous period, the Almighty was laying up the crystalized sunshine in the form of these dusky diamonds in this, then unknown, world for coming Christianity to uncover and use as an energy to bless the world. The same writer, quoted above, says that the paddle-wheels of European civilization are constantly stirring up the dark waters of superstition in the east and every steamer that navigates those oceans goes as a herald of Christian civilization and enlightenment, and thus we see that coal is becoming the mighty agent in the uplifting of humanity. Such were the stores of coal laid up in the bowels of England, and her supply so inexhaustible, as was supposed, that the expression, "carrying coals to Newcastle," has long been the manner of expressing the inexhaustibleness of the deposit, but present indications bid fair for it to become literally true, and also that the coals carried to Newcastle shall be from America. This mighty force has slumbered for countless cycles under this soil and here is untold wealth for Christian enterprise to utilize for the good of man.

Stone of a good quality is also found in several places in this county that might be made a source of great income. Considering all the natural advantages that we possess, we conclude that few localities have more or better facilities for manufacturing than we. Here is the timber, the coal, the stone, the water, the sand and the agricultural products. Look at the vast

sums of money that go out from here every year to pay for the very things that we should make and sell to others—plows, reapers, planters, wagons, buggies, threshers, etc. If our advantages were utilized not only would all the money be kept in our midst but other great advantages would accrue to us. A market would be created here at home for all our surplus, a demand would be made for greater quantities of coal, and this would call for a greater number of laborers; the erection of factories would create a demand for stone, brick, sand and lime; handling these things would make a demand for teams and laborers, and last, but not least, this would bring mechanics, and their families would build up the towns and fill up the schools and furnish a market for all our surplus products. Surely our people will not remain blind to this matter many years longer.

The population of Menard county, according to the last census, is fourteen thousand three hundred and thirty-six. Petersburg, the county seat, is situated on the Sangamon river, near the center of the county, and has a population of about three thousand four hundred. Two railroads run through the county. The Chicago & Alton enters the county near the northeast corner of the county and runs through Petersburg and leaves the county near the southwest corner. The Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis runs through the center of the county from north to south. These two roads cross in Petersburg. The Peoria and Springfield branch of the Chicago & Alton runs for eight or ten miles just in the east edge of the county.

The first settlements of Menard county were made by immigrants from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and the Carolinas, with a small per cent from the states farther north. These immigrants were of a class of men and women unsurpassed for bravery, enterprise and determination. In fact, we have in the pioneers of Illinois and other western states a wonderful type of men and women. The first settlers of America were of the best stock of the various European countries from which they came. Those first emigrants from Europe to America were the most liberty-loving, most conscientious, brave and determined of the lands they left.

These people by intermarriage through the laws of heredity, and amalgamation have produced a new and improved type of the genus homo. We are not English or German or French, but we are distinctively Americans. We are a people, a race, unique and distinct, adapted to the conditions and needs of this new and unique country. It was the men and women of this new type who made this country what it is to-day. No one dare to limit the achievements of this country in the future unless intermarriage, idleness, ease and luxury shall enervate, weaken and destroy the power of the people. I will relate one peculiar political incident and with this close this chapter. Menard county has been Democratic in all its history, with the exception that in the first years of its existence as a county, it gave a majority to the old Whig party. It was cut off from Sangamon and organized into a separate county in 1839. In 1840 William H. Harrison was the Whig candidate for president, opposed by Martin Van Buren, the Democrat candidate. Menard county gave Harrison four hundred and thirty-four votes and Van Buren three hundred and seventy-four. In 1844 we had a third candidate for president for the first time: Clay, Whig; Polk, Democrat; and Burney, Free-Soil. The county gave Clay three hundred and ninety-seven; Polk, three hundred and seventy-eight; and Mr. Burney got one. In 1848 the candidates were Taylor, Democrat; Cass, Whig; and Van Buren, Free-Soil. The county gave Taylor six hundred and five votes; Cass, four hundred and eighty-eight; and Van Buren one. In 1852 the candidates were Pierce, Democrat; Scott, Whig; and Hale, Abolitionist. The county gave Pierce six hundred and ninety-eight votes; Scott, six hundred and forty-four; and Hale one. The same old fellow, I suppose, cast that one lonely Abolition vote every time. This was a very discouraging beginning for Abolitionism, but see what perseverance in following honest convictions will do. But "Wonders never will cease." Aristotle said, "It was through the feeling of wonder that men, now and at first, began to philosophize." But I fear that no philosophy will ever solve this problem. "Little Menard" went Republican in the year of grace, 1904! Yes, the whole thing,

lock, stock and barrel, went down in the general crash. Was it "Teddy's" popularity or Parker's telegram, that did it? Bennett, Launing, Watkins, Clary and Millet all sunk to rise no more.

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### ABORIGINES.

A history of Menard county would be imperfect that did not include some account of the aboriginal inhabitants. Indeed, to very many men no subject is more intensely interesting than this. Little can be said of the Indian tribes of this locality, but that little will be given, but another and far more interesting people than they once held dominion here and roamed these prairies and woods. I refer to the "mound builders." This strange and unknown people were once as numerous here, no doubt, as the present population, but unfortunately they left only enough mementoes of their existence to arouse in us a desire to know more of them. Even here in this county there are, or were a few years ago, abundant evidences of the teeming thousands that lived here. Unfortunately nearly all the monuments they left were the earth-mounds they built, at the expense of untold toil and perseverance. Many of these, by rain and storm and the erosive power of the plow, have been partially or entirely obliterated, but a quarter of a century ago they were plainly visible in many localities. Along the bluffs overlooking the Sangamon river they were to be seen in great numbers. Years ago the writer opened a number of those mounds and was amply rewarded for his labor. In many nothing was found except the decayed bones of the buried dead, but others were rich in relics. Pipes, axes, spades, totems, etc., were found in abundance, and I have no doubt that vast numbers are still hidden under the soil here that may never be seen by man, unless by some accident they are unearched. In digging a cistern, an arrow-point was found at a depth of nine feet below the surface. A stone ax was found, in digging a grave, five feet down. The writer found a sand-stone ax, a half mile from Salem, that was embedded in the shale. A chisel,

hammered out of native copper, was found in a mound nine miles north of Petersburg, that was eight feet under ground. Several copper arrow-points have been found in the county. These can be seen in the collection of H. J. Marbold, at Greenview. One kind of mound that was not uncommon is worthy of description: This was on the bluff, four miles north of Petersburg. Before it was tampered with, it was about six feet high and perhaps twelve feet across. Some two and a half feet below the top of the mound two skeletons were found, supposed to be of a male and a female, lying on clay that had been burned almost as hard as a brick. Careful examination indicated that a mound, some three or four feet high, had been built and on top of this was formed a basin, about the proportions of a soup-dish, lined with clay, made into a mortar and then thoroughly burned. This basin was about six feet across and eight or ten inches lower in the center than at the edge. That the bodies had been placed in this basin, fuel piled on them and then burned was clearly evidenced by the fact that the upper surface of the bones were burned away, the sides charred black and the under side untouched by the fire. The whole skeletons, except the smaller bones which were burned up, showed us that this was the case, as they were found mingled with the ashes and dead coals in the bottom of the basin. Several such mounds as this were opened by the writer. After the body was burned three or four feet of earth was added to the mound. What are these, however, compared to the works east of St. Louis, in Illinois, where there are over two hundred large mounds in the area of one township, six miles square? These mounds are all large, but the king of them all is Cahokia mound. It was surveyed by Chicago parties several years ago and they found that it covered eleven acres of ground and was ninety-seven feet high, after all the past years of erosion by the elements. There is perfect evidence that the earth was carried a distance of over four miles to build it. St. Louis bears the nickname of "Mound City" from the immense mound that once stood in the very heart of the city. Vast numbers of relics were obtained from each of these, a number of which may be

en in Marbold's collection. The huge painting, called "The Piasa Bird," that was on the smooth face of the cliff above Alton, one hundred feet from the base and seventy-five feet below the top, was the work of these people. This painting was there when Marquette and Joliet went down the Mississippi river in 1672, and remained there, bright and clear, till 1818, when the cliff fell into the river. When we contemplate the huge piles of earth on almost every bluff along the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Ohio, the Illinois and, in fact, almost all the rivers of the country, we may well wonder concerning the strange people who built them. The "Hini" Indians, as they called themselves, who lived at the mouth of Piasa creek, when the first white man visited this country, had no more idea of who painted this picture than we have to-day. Their principal village was almost in a stone-throw of the painting but they knew nothing of its history. The picture was in three colors, red, yellow and black. The body was as large as a cow, a face like a human, horns like a deer, teeth of great size, outspread wings, like a bat, four legs, each with four terrible claws, a huge tail, wrapped three times around the body, and the whole body and tail covered with scales, like a fish. It was a terrible looking picture. The Indians had a strange and weird tradition concerning it but we have not space to record it here.

Of the Indians, in relation to this county, but little can be said. About the time that the first settlers came to this county, the Indians made a raid on the settlements south of here and after killing a citizen or two they stole a young lady and started north with her. She was the daughter of a Captain Whitesides and the father and a company of citizens started in pursuit. The Indians were overtaken just this side of Elkhart Grove. There a fight occurred. The young lady was on a pony, which was led by an Indian, while a rope was tied around the girl's neck and held by her captor. When the fight began the Indian in the excitement dropped the rope and the girl sprang off the pony and started to run back to the whites. But the Indian, seeing his prize about to escape, threw his tomahawk at her, driving the blade into the small of her back. Her father being near

and seeing this, galloped between her and the Indians, when one of them firing at him sent a ball entirely through his horse. However, the horse did not fall and the father, spurring him forward, reached the girl and seizing her by the arm, bore her back to the whites. The blood was spurting from the wound in the horse's vitals but the faithful animal, with his fast ebbing strength, bore her to safety and in a short time died. In the retreat the Indians crossed the Sangamon river near where the iron bridge, south of Petersburg, is located, and their pursuers, returning the same way, brought the young lady to a settler's cabin near Salisbury, leaving her there till she recovered. When the first settlements were made in the limits of this county the Indians had nearly all been removed; a few were still in the timber on Indian creek, in the neighborhood of Indian Point; and two old men, with about a dozen of their relatives, remained for some time. These were Shickshack and Shambole. They lived two or three years just south of the residence of the late Judge Robert Clary, on the high hill overlooking the lake. They then removed to a high hill within a mile of the site of the present town of Chanderville. Here Shickshack died at a very advanced age and was buried there, and the hill is still known as "Shickshack's Hill." After his death the rest of the little band in sadness left the haunts of the pale-face and were heard of no more.

There being no trouble with the Indians in this section after the first settlements here and there being various forts near the frontier, as Fort Clark at Peoria and at other points, there was never any need of any forts or block-houses in this section of the state. The trouble spoken of above, with a band whose town was at Elkhart Grove, was the last, and perhaps the only trouble, that was ever in this immediate part of the state. Further northeast, at Old Town Timber, in McLean county, and over toward Fort Clark, now Peoria, there had been considerable warfare. The Mound Builders are gone and the Indians are gone, and the hills and woods and streams have no tongue to tell the story of the past. All the record we have is the chipped flint, the polished stone-ax and the curiously wrought pipe and banner-

stone to tell their strange story. How we long to extort from these mute stones the story of those long gone years, but our appeal is unheard and the book is sealed, only as we may imagine, guess and wonder.

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### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Quite a number of settlements had been made in the territory of what is now Sangamon county some time before any were made in the bounds of what is now Menard. The reader must bear in mind that this county had no existence till the year 1839, hence the history of the settlement and development of the county is connected with the history of Sangamon county.

Although the white man had frequently visited the "Sangamon country," as it was called, and had traveled over the beautiful prairies and explored the deep woods of this locality, yet we have no evidence that any one ever settled in the area of the county prior to April, 1819. We have indisputable evidence that the first settler of the county was John Clary, who came with his family at the date above named. He settled in a grove in the southwest part of the county, near the present site of the village of Tallula. This grove was ever after known by the name of its first settler and it is to-day noticed on the maps and known and spoken of far and near as "Clary's Grove." Mr. Clary settled on the southwest quarter of section 32, township 18, range 7; the land now belonging to the heirs of George Spears, Sr. Mr. C. Clary built what was known to the pioneers as a "three-faced" camp; that is, he built three walls, leaving one entire side open, as ample means of ingress and egress. These walls were built about seven feet high, then poles were laid across about three feet apart and "clap-boards" were laid on these for the roof, and as nails were not to be had, "weight-poles" were laid on the boards to hold them to their place. These boards were generally four feet in length and from ten to fourteen inches in width. They were split out of oak timber, with an instrument, common in those days, called a "froe." No floor was laid in the camp, nor

was there any such thing as a window or door-shutter or chimney connected with the structure. Now these are facts and we doubt not that the young people of to-day are skeptical on the matter. The one side left out served as door, chimney, window and all. Just in front of the open side, a huge log-heap was built, which served to furnish heat in cold weather and for cooking all the year round, and gave what light they needed at night. We describe this camp so particularly because in such dwellings as this, the early settlers all spent the first few years of their sojourn in the new country. Mr. Clary had a family when he first came to the Grove, the late lamented Judge Robert Clary being six weeks old when the family reached its wild home. The large and respected family of Clarys now living in this county are all descendants of this hardy pioneer. Not long after Clary located in the Grove, Solomon Pratt with his family took up his residence in a cabin, which he built on section 3, township 17, range 7, this being near Mr. Clary. During the fall of 1819 and the spring of 1820 emigration came in pretty rapidly, but there being no record kept of the order in which they came and the names of some being forgotten, it is impossible to give the detail correctly. About this time the Armstrongs, Greens and Spears came to the grove; a more detailed account of whom will be given in another place. It was stated above that the first settlement in the county was made at Clary's Grove. This we believe to be true, but there is great diversity of opinion on this subject among the oldest citizens who were alive thirty years ago, with whom the writer often talked the matter over. Amberry Rankin, late of Athens, in this county, was of the opinion that Judge Latham was the first white man to take up his abode in the limits of the county, and it is a known fact that Sugar Grove, in the northeast part of the county, was settled very soon after Clary's Grove, if not at the very same time. From a document left by Charles Montgomery, deceased, and from statements made to the writer by Alexander Meadows, we gather some very important facts. These statements are fully reliable, as the gentlemen named were members



of the first party that settled on the east side of the Sangamon river. Jacob Boyer and James Meadows, who were brothers-in-law, came to Sugar Grove from the American bottom, near St. Louis, and located in that grove in the spring of 1819. They had lived one or two years on Wood river, in the American bottom, a few miles from Alton. Meadows brought with him a wagon, drawn by two horses, a yoke of yearling steers, which had been broken to work when sucking calves, and some thirty head of hogs. Boyer brought three horses, two milk cows and perhaps a yoke of oxen. About the same day that Boyer and Meadows came, the Blane family, consisting of four brothers, one sister, and the mother, came to the same grove. This family was of Irish blood, and it was from them that "Irish Grove" got its name. The Blanes brought two two-horse teams and six or seven yoke of oxen. Boyer and Meadows erected a cabin on the south side of the grove, which was occupied by Boyer, and Meadows put up a "three-faced camp" on the ground now occupied by the Sugar Grove cemetery. Before the Blanes settled there they had camped for several days in the Grove, and it was this camping that gave the Grove the "Irish" prefix, and this makes it probable that they were camped there when Clary settled in Clary's Grove.

The Blanes at once took claims, erected cabins and began business in earnest. These were doubtless the first settlers on the east side of the Sangamon river. Before giving an account of the further settlement of Sugar Grove, it may not be amiss to relate an incident in the early history of this settlement, illustrating the fact that human nature is ever the same and that even in this early day men had need of civil courts. It will be necessary to explain that although the trouble began when but few families had settled there, it was some time before it culminated in a suit at law, as there were no courts of justice within reach till some time later. As stated above, Meadows brought two horses, thirty head of hogs, and two yearling calves with him to the grove. Not many months elapsed until both of the horses were missing and the hogs had all strayed away and were lost. Not a great while

after these misfortunes, one of his little oxen was found dead in the woods. Diligent search was made in every direction for the missing stock, as they could not be replaced without great trouble and expense, owing to the distance from any older settlement. In his anxiety Mr. Meadows applied to a fortune-teller, who strolled through the new settlement practicing his art, as the ancient troubadour used to stroll from village to village to rehearse the deeds of his heroes. This seer told Mr. Meadows that his horses were in the possession of the Indians and that he would recover them after awhile, though but one at a time. Sure enough, the horses were found in the hands of the Indians, who said that they had traded for them from a Frenchman. The horses were so jaded that they were of no service and soon after died. The hogs, he was told, had gone down the Sangamon river, where one-half of them had been eaten by a "squatter" and the rest he would recover. Meadows faithfully followed the directions given, found the cabin of the suspected settler but found none of the hogs. He, however, traded for a frying-pan from the worthy citizen, the one that he supposed his hogs had been fried in, but the remainder of the hogs were found as had been predicted. The fortune-teller further said that the steer had come to its death at the hands of one of Mr. Meadows' neighbors in the following manner: The neighbor was making rails in the timber, his coat lying on a log near by, when the poor calf came browsing along, and spying the coat, concluded to make a meal of it. The laborer seeing his coat about to be swallowed by the calf, ran and struck the brute on the loins with his maul, and the blow proved sufficient to kill it on the spot. Although this was only the statement of a superstitious fortune-teller, yet it was believed strongly enough to induce Meadows to begin a suit against the accused party, which was in the courts for several years, cost a vast sum of money, and caused a feud between the two families which lasted to the third or fourth generation. This is spoken of as the first lawsuit of any importance in the county, and also as illustrating a superstitious belief in fortune-tellers, which at that time was almost universal.



Not long after the settlement of Boyer, Meadows and the Blanes, another caravan of immigrants came to the Grove. John Jennison, Mr. Hill and William McNabb, his wife, son and daughter, were of that company. James McNabb, son of William McNabb, above named, was a surveyor and taught the first school that was ever taught in the Grove. A few years later he was drowned in the Sangamon river, which stream he was trying to swim, with his compass tied on his head. It is said that he had been drinking or he would not have made the attempt. A few months after the arrival of those last named, others came, among them Roland Grant and family, Benjamin Wilcox and Ward Benson. About the same time a Mr. Pentecost came from Kentucky, bringing a family of four sons and three daughters. He settled near the present residence of Judge H. H. Marbold, near Greenview. Cavanis, for whom Cavanis creek was named, also came from Kentucky, about this time. The next to find their way to this Grove was a company from Deer Creek, Ohio, composed of the Alkires and William Engle, all of whom in later years performed such an important part in the development of that wealthy portion of the county. No party of weary travellers ever entered a new country that was destined to exert a stronger influence on the future growth and prosperity of a community than this little band. Leonard Alkire brought considerable means with him and invested it largely in "claims," which he entered later on. He purchased the claims of Meadows, Grant, Wilcox and the Blanes, which marked the beginning of change among the settlers of this grove. Hill, who was spoken of above, removed to St. Louis; John Jennison farmed for a year or two in the Grove and then removed to Baker's Prairie, three miles southeast of Petersburg. Meadows moved to the lower end of the Grove, where he bought the claim of Pentecost. McNabb and Wilcox also removed to Baker's Prairie, where they took claims, which they entered as soon as the land came into market. There they reared families and many of their descendants were there for many years, but almost all of them are now gone. Not long after the arrival of Alkire and Engle, Matthew Bracken

came to the neighborhood, bringing a large family with him, and after him came Nicholas Propst; then Wallace and William Sweeney, Milton Reed, and Thomas and William Caldwell. From this time the tide of immigration constantly grew deeper and wider, pouring in its hosts of earnest, industrious and enterprising men to develop this most highly favored body of country, and well did they perform their task.

While the settlement was being made in this locality, the other portions of the county were not neglected. It is a remarkable fact, however, that no settler ventured out on the prairie for a number of years but the groves of timber contained settlement and each became the nucleus for a community. Of the more important of these more will be said in the proper place. It may be of interest to the reader to know that the first marriage in the county, on the east side of the river, was John Jennison to Patsy McNabb; the second was Mr. Henman to Rosina Blane; and the third was William Engle to Melissa Blane. The last named couple were joined in wedlock by Harry Biggin, J. P. The first death on the east side of the river was an infant son of Jacob Boyer, named Henderson. The second death was Jacob Boyer; and the third was Joseph Kinney, who was thrown from a horse. He was brought home alive but soon afterward died. Kinney was buried in Sugar Grove cemetery, and soon after an elm tree came up out of the grave, almost from its center, and it is now a large, wide-spreading tree; and although its roots and stem have obliterated all signs of a grave yet it is a verdant monument to the memory of Joseph Kinney.

The first schoolhouse built in Sugar Grove was erected in 1822 by Meadows, Boyer, Wilcox, McNabb and Grant. It was about sixteen feet square and was built of split logs. This house was furnished on a par with all the school houses in the early settling of the country. Covered with split boards, held in place by weight-poles, the floor of puncheons, or split logs, the seats of half of a split log, with four legs, saplings, driven into anger-holes bored into the round side of the log, and the window, if any, was a log cut out of one

side of the wall. The writing desk was a punchon placed on pins in the wall. The text-books were few in number and the teacher made all the pens used out of goose quills. The books used were the New Testament for a reader, with now and then a copy of the old English Reader; Pike's or Smiley's arithmetic, and Murray's or Kirkham's grammar. The teacher who could "work through the single and double rule of three" was a genius whose services were always in demand. (We will say for the enlightenment of our school girls and boys that the single and double rule of three meant single and double proportion.) The books named above, with the indispensable Webster's spelling-book, were the texts that children had in those early days. Then the schools in those days were never held longer than three months, in mid-winter. These schools were all gotten up by private subscription, for the young people must bear in mind that we had no free school system at that time. I speak of these things particularly that the present generation may know the truth concerning the privations that their parents and grandparents experienced in preparing the inheritance that they left to them. I speak thus particularly of the school privileges of those early times, that the young people may compare their own opportunities with those of their ancestors. None of the statements concerning the early schools and the helps of those times are exaggerated in the least, for the writer attended such a school and used part of the of the books named but could not secure all of them. If your parents accomplished what they did with such helps, what should you do with your opportunities?

James McNabb, who was drowned in the Sangamon river, was the first teacher in Sugar Grove; he was followed by Daniel McCall; and he by one Mr. Templeman; then others came, and the count was lost.

The first preaching in Sugar Grove was in the cabin of Roland Grant, by one Elder Henderson, a preacher of the "New Light" faith, as it was then termed. The New-Lights and the followers of Alexander Campbell afterward united, forming what was at first denominated "The Church of the Disciples," but afterward

changed to "The Church of Christ," sometimes called Campbellites. Of this a more extended account will be given under the head of Religious Denominations. When the settlement was first begun at Sugar Grove, and for some time after, the nearest physician was in Springfield, then a mere village. Dr. Allen of that place was the first practitioner of the healing art that was called professionally to visit the community at the Grove. Not a very great while elapsed, however, till Dr. Winn settled near Indian Point, and began the practice of the profession.

Having thus glanced hastily at the history of the early settlement of Sugar Grove, we turn now to other localities where settlements were made in an early day, as New Salem, two and a half miles from Petersburg, up the Sangamon river; the vicinity of Indian Point; and Concord, three miles north of Petersburg. The Indian Point settlement includes that of Lebanon and Athens, while that of New Salem is connected with Rock Creek. These, with Clary's and Sugar Grove, before mentioned, were the most important of the early centers of civilization; indeed all the others may be regarded as off-shoots of these. About the year 1820 the settlement at Indian Point began. The first white man to take up his permanent abode there was Robert White, who settled on the farm on which his grandchildren, John White and Mary VanEmons now reside, adjoining the ground on which the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian church now stands. With him came James Williams, father of Colonel John Williams, late of Springfield, Illinois, and family, consisting of two sons and four daughters. Archibald Kincaid, Jacob Johnston and Dr. Charles Winn came about the same time, with those named above, and soon after John Moore also settled in this vicinity. William B. Short was also one of the early settlers here. His son, James Short, now past eighty years of age, still lives on the farm that his father first located on. These were all earnest, intelligent, enterprising people, and by their industry and economy laid the foundation of the success of that community. The descendants of those named above make up the larger part of the population of Indian creek at the present time. Indeed we are not surprised at this when we

reflect that these people held in high esteem and regard the divine injunction to "multiply and replenish the earth," as is proven by the fact that James B. Short ventured no less than five times into the bonds of matrimony. But, seriously, we seldom find a community in which so many enterprising, industrious and successful men are associated together; and such a large per cent consistent, Christian men. Most of these men reared large families and they in turn, following their fathers' footsteps, have built up a community, noted far and near for its wealth, refinement and morality.

About the year 1820 Joseph Smith, from Kentucky, and his brother-in-law William Holland, from Ohio, came and settled in the south side of the Indian Point timber. Matthew Rogers, of New York, came the same year and located one mile northeast of the present site of the town of Athens. From this time on the stream of immigrants became so overflowing that nothing reliable can be given with regard to the order of arrival. Having thus sketched these three centers of early settlement—Clary's Grove, Sugar Grove and Indian Point—we will now turn to the most important locality, so far as early settlement is concerned, in the county: New Salem. This was the first town or village laid out in the county. At a point some two and a half miles above Petersburg, the Sangamon river washes the foot of a high hill or bluff whose precipitous sides and level summit were, in an early day, covered with a thick and luxuriant growth of timber. The country back from the crest of the hill is almost perfectly level for miles to the west and formerly the timber grew dense and heavy for the distance of a mile or more. From this point the prairie stretched on westward in unbroken sameness for several miles. At a distance of perhaps three miles up the Sangamon the little stream—for it is hardly worthy of the name of a creek—of Rock creek mingles its waters with those of the "St. Gamo," as the Sangamon was sometimes called by the early settlers. This little stream, rising in the western part of the county and flowing almost due east enters the Sangamon at almost a right angle. Its borders on either side were formerly covered for

a distance of a mile or more, north and south, and for six miles east and west, with a magnificent growth of timber. The land north and south of Rock creek is neither level or hilly but is gently undulating and the soil is of the richest and most productive quality. Taken altogether, there is no more attractive or more productive section of country in central Illinois than that around Rock creek and New Salem. Just on the brow of the imposing bluff, described above, was located the village of Salem. This locality, though not so at present, will in time become almost as historic and sacred as Mount Vernon. Although Nature has not been so liberal and profuse in the gorgeousness of the scenery bestowed as in that of the Old Dominion, nor is the quiet Sangamon to be compared to the majestic Potomac, yet in many respects Salem is as sacred to the lover of human liberty as Mount Vernon in all her historic glory. Many a visitor, from far away, seeks the spot where President Lincoln spent the days of his early manhood, where he studied law and statescraft, where he wrestled, romped, raced and sported with the young men of his age, and where those principles were imbibed and matured, which, in after years, made him the idol of a great nation and inscribed his name on tablets more enduring than granite, brass or bronze—the tablets of living, throbbing, loving, human hearts. Standing on the bluff, near the site of the store where Lincoln served as clerk, you may gaze on the Sangamon river far below you, which in the sunshine looks like a ribbon of silver, as it meanders through the timber or among the hills; or you may turn and view the hills and groves where in years long, long ago, he wandered with Anna Rutledge by his side and told her the story of his love and the devotion of his "great big" heart. Could these inanimate things have tongues, what stories they might tell! As you stand on the hillside, you look down upon the river's bank where once the old watermill stood. Nothing is there to remind you that it ever existed save a part of the broken wall of the old foundation of the mill, and farther down some rotting timbers, half concealed in the bank, mark the location of the dam, over

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

which the mad waters were wont to pour, and you almost imagine that you hear, above the roar of the waters, the shouts of the Clary's Grove boys as they and "honest Abe" engage in some rude sport.

Not a vestige is left of the once prosperous village of New Salem to tell where once it stood. The mill is long since gone; nothing remains of the dam, save a few blackened timbers, half buried in the soil; and where the houses once stood and the streets ran, brush and briars grow in wild tangles. Not a single location is pointed out, except the depression where the store, in which Lincoln sold goods, once stood, and out of this old cellar two trees have grown—nature's monuments, rebuking the ingratitude of man. Not a sign of human life or labor is to be seen in half a mile.

Settlements had been made in this neighborhood several years before the laying out of Salem. Green had settled southwest of there, while Armstrong, Potter, Jones, and others had located not far away, with Lloyd and others farther up the Rock creek timber. Somewhere, about 1824 to 1826, John Cameron and James Rutledge erected a rude and primitive mill near the site, or perhaps on the very spot, where the later structure stood. A brush and stone dam was constructed across the river, a breast-wheel was put in and a pair of home-made buhrs were set to grinding corn for the hungry settlers. Notwithstanding the extreme simplicity of this mill, it was indeed a "big thing" in that early day, for mills were so scarce that people came from a distance of fifty and even a hundred miles in every direction to have their grain ground in this mill. Such was the patronage given this enterprise, that the proprietors decided to lay out a town adjoining the mill property. Accordingly the surveyor, Reuben Harrison, was employed and on the 13th day of October, 1820, the town of Salem was duly and legally laid out. (See plat.)

The first improvements in the town were made by the proprietors, John Cameron and James Rutledge. Each of them began "internal improvements" by building an up-to-date log cabin. The third building erected was a store-room which, when completed, was occupied by Samuel Hill and John McNamar. These

were, perhaps, the first merchants in the county, except Harry Riffin and A. A. Rankin of Athens. At the time that Salem was laid out there had never been a postoffice in the limits of what is now Menard county, the people getting what little mail they received from Springfield, then a mere village. A postoffice was at once established in Salem and Colonel Rogers was appointed the first postmaster. His duties, however, were not very arduous as newspapers were then scarcely known in the west, or in the east for that matter, and but few persons received letters. The youth of to-day can scarcely imagine how people lived in those days. To illustrate this postal system it may be stated that while *Illinois County* was under the government of the state of Virginia, Colonel John Todd was appointed lieutenant commandant of said county, with instructions to report to Governor Patrick Henry, of Virginia, every month, and although Todd lived in Kentucky yet his reports were often a month in reaching Governor Henry.

Hill and McNamar were followed in the mercantile business by George Warburton, who soon became addicted to hard drink and ended a wretched existence by suicide, throwing himself in the Sangamon river. Warburton was a shrewd business man, well educated, and of a genial, friendly turn, so much so that he had but one enemy, and that was "John Barley-corn." He was succeeded in the store by two brothers from Virginia, by the name of Chrisman, but they remained only a short time, following the "star of empire" toward the west. About this time W. G. Greene, from Kentucky, and Dr. John Allen and his brother, both from the Green Mountain state, came to Salem. Dr. Allen was a thorough Christian gentleman, and stood very high in the medical profession. It was through the influence of Dr. Allen that the first Sunday-school, and the first temperance societies were organized in the county. The meetings of both of these were held in a log cabin that stood across the ravine that runs just south of Salem. Dr. Allen's brother soon tired of Salem and removed to Minnesota, where he became very wealthy and doubtless long ago has gone to his final home. The doctor remained in Salem till it began to go into

decline and then removed to Petersburg, where he successfully followed his profession for many years, but more than forty years ago he removed where physicians are not in demand.

In the spring of 1831 Abraham Lincoln was on his way to New Orleans with a flatboat loaded with pork, lard, beeswax, etc., when the boat caught on the Salem mill-dam. It was here that the future president performed the wonderful feat of raising the sunken boat, by boring an anger hole in the bottom, thus letting the water out. (This is an actual fact.) Mr. Lincoln was very much pleased with the country and probably with the people about Salem, so in the summer or fall of that same year, on his return from New Orleans, he stopped at Salem and that place became his home for a number of years. It is needless for us to enter into the story of his life and experiences here; already the world knows it by heart. It was here on this now lonely hill that he sported with the boys of the vicinity; it was here that he read and pondered over the dry and musty pages of Blackstone; and perhaps it was here that those conceptions of human liberty and human rights were conceived, cultivated, matured and made a part of his great soul. It was here too that that other event occurred, which, it may be, influenced his whole after life: his first love episode. It was sometime near the time of the Black Hawk war that Mr. Lincoln was first pierced by the darts of the cruel little blind god, Cupid. The "beautiful Anna Rutledge," as she was called, was just then ripening into a lovely and perfect womanhood and Lincoln felt the force, as Lytton says, of "the revolution that turns all topsy-turvy—the revolution of love." It has been truthfully said that:

"Love, like death,

Levels all ranks, and lays the shepherd's crook  
Beside the sceptre."

From the few old citizens who could remember these events distinctly and especially from old "Aunt Jane Berry," a younger sister of Anna Rutledge, I learned many facts concerning this event in the life of Mr. Lincoln that are interesting in themselves and go to establish the truth of the affection between him and Miss Rutledge but not of sufficient importance to

be repeated here; suffice it to say that there is no doubt that if she had lived his domestic history would have been different from what it was.

Anna Rutledge was not a beauty in the *modern* sense of that word for brought up in this rural district and in total ignorance of the conventional follies of fashionable life, accustomed from early childhood to out-door exercise, and the rough, wild pastimes of the day in which she lived, she was stamped with a beauty entirely free from art and human skill—a beauty all the result of Nature's handiwork. That the young clerk was captivated is not surprising. It is not our purpose to invade those hallowed precincts by describing their many strolls along the margin of the river, or over the rugged bluffs in the vicinity of Salem. Suffice it to say that his affection was fully reciprocated and the two were doubtless pledged in the indissoluble bonds of mutual love, but in 1835 disease laid its cruel hand on the young girl and in spite of the love of friends and the skill of the ablest physicians, on the 25th of August, 1835, death came to her relief, and as Mr. Herndon has said: "The heart of Lincoln was buried in the grave of Anna Rutledge." Be this literally true or not, one thing is sure, from that time a dark shadow seemed to hang over him, from which he never seemed to emerge. It is said by those having the means of knowing, that even after this, whenever opportunity afforded, Lincoln would wander alone to the little hillock raised above her ashes, and sit for hours pondering in sadness, doubtless thinking over the happy hours spent with her at Salem. Notwithstanding his tall, ungainly form, and the abundance of his ever-ready humor, there was hidden in his breast a heart as tender and full of sympathy as a woman's—a heart touched by every tale of sorrow and full to overflowing with the milk of human kindness. Anna Rutledge was buried at Concord, three miles north of Petersburg, and her remains rested there during all the exciting days of Mr. Lincoln's political career, and through the dark and bloody times of the Civil war; and after he had slept for years under the monument at Springfield, Samuel Montgomery, of Petersburg, removed her

remains to Oakland cemetery, and there they quietly rest with only a granite boulder, one of the transported relics of the glacial period, marking her grave with the simple words, cut deep into the solid stone, "Anna Rutledge."

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### EARLY EXPERIENCES.

The boys and girls of to-day can form no conception of the inconveniences and hardships of the pioneers of Illinois, nor do any of us set a proper estimate on the worth of the men and women who wrought out for us the grand inheritance that we now enjoy. I feel safe in saying that no grander type of men and women ever lived than those who opened up the west for settlement. They were not generally educated in books—many of them being unable to read or write—yet they were educated in that higher and grander sense that a knowledge of books will never enable one to attain. In rugged Nature's school they learned not the follies and frailties and vices of so-called fashionable society, but they learned the more sublime lessons of justice, mercy and love. In no period of human history were men more just to their fellowmen, nor was there ever a time when professing Christian men were more true to the profession they had made. Men were religious then, not "for revenue only," but from principle. Ministers preached not for the money there was in it, but for the glory of God and from a sense of duty and for the good of their fellowman. "The groves were God's first temples," and from them arose the incense of true devotion, and it was returned in the power of the Holy Spirit. Men rode circuits of hundreds of miles, preaching in the settlers' rude cabins or in the groves, slept upon pallets and lived upon the homely fare of the hospitable early settler and received no salary whatever. At first the houses had no floors, except the dirt, tramped hard by many feet; the logs were cut out in one end of the cabin for a fireplace, with a chimney built of sticks and plastered over with mud—called "cat-and-clay"—was the means for keeping the home warm. Cooking stoves were unknown for many long years. The young

people of to-day will wonder how the cooking was done. Meals to tempt the appetite of the epicure were cooked in those days. Most housewives were equipped with a coffee-pot, a frying-pan and a "flat oven," and with these the culinary work was done. And such meals as were cooked upon these three simple implements are unknown at the present day. The coffee-pot, steaming on a bed of livid coals on the hearth, the flat-oven, mired down in coals, the frying-pan, held over the blazing "fore-stick," produced the corn-dodger, the fried ham (from hogs fattened on the mast) hissing in the pan and the coffee, with all its rich aroma retained, and made a meal that a king might desire. There is no question that the victuals cooked in this way and on these primitive utensils had a richer flavor than any of the products of the present time, but in the early days it was a serious matter to keep the family supplied with bread-stuff. When Menard county was first settled the settlers were obliged to go to Edwardsville, in Madison county, for meal or flour, or make some other shift, and as no wheat was raised at first, cornmeal was the staple. In the late summer and early fall they had recourse to the "gritter," as the grater was universally called. Every tin vessel was carefully preserved and ripped up to make this essential article of domestic use. This piece of tin was punched full of holes, bent into the form of a gutter and nailed to a board, with the rough side out, and the ears of corn, just after hardening from the roasting-ear state, or at other times, after broiling the corn on the cob till sufficiently soft, the corn was grated off in the form of meal by rubbing the ear up and down on the "gritter." And this was no play, as the writer can aver from sad experience. It was a daily job, which gave notice to all in the immediate vicinity by its "grating" sound, that bread was on the way. And our mothers knew just how to make this bread; and better or more healthful bread was never eaten by man. But in this case man did, indeed, "eat his bread by the sweat of his brow." The writer well remembers, when a little boy, hearing an old man from Tennessee, who had spent many days digging ginsang, say that he hoped the time would soon come when he would never



more hear "the sound of a gritter, or the twang of a sang-hoe." By and by water mills were built on the streams, and these furnished cornmeal for the people, but it was a number of years before wheat was ground and flour was bolted in these mills. And this brings to mind a story told to the writer by Benjamin F. Irwin, of Pleasant Plains, more than thirty years ago, and it was written down in a diary at the time. Mr. Irwin said the story was told to him by the Rev. John M. Berry, the pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian preacher of this part of Illinois, and he vouched for the literal truth of the entire narrative. Mr. Berry would not give the names, but he knew the story was true. A party owned and operated a flouring mill on one of the streams in this vicinity. He was a devout Christian man, honest and benevolent in all his relations to his fellowmen. For some time he thought that some one was taking small amounts of flour from the chest almost every week. Being convinced of the fact, he determined to watch and see if he could not trap the intruder. So one night he concealed himself under the bolting-chest and patiently awaited developments. Sure enough, it was not long till a man entered the mill and walked hesitatingly to the chest. A moment's pause and the intruder knelt down beside the flour chest and in a low, but earnest, voice began to pray. Astonished beyond measure at such seemingly contradictory conduct, the miller patiently listened to the prayer. In low and trembling tones he begged the Lord to forgive him for what he was about to do. He told the Almighty how he had tried to get work—how his wife and little ones were hungering for bread. His pleading prayer finished, he arose, and taking a small amount of flour in a sack which he carried, he started to leave the mill, but when he reached the door the miller called him by name, for he had recognized him from the first, and started toward him. The intruder made no effort to escape, as a real thief would have done, but turned and faced the miller. He told the miller the conditions at his home and also said that he had taken small amounts of flour before. The miller made him go to the chest and fill his sack, and after some conversation they separated and each went to

his home. These men had been intimate friends before this occurrence, each having confidence in the honesty and integrity of the other; nor did this break their friendship, but rather cemented it. The intruder and the miller continued to live in that neighborhood for many years; the former, through industry and economy, prospered in worldly things and was respected and honored by all who knew him as an honest Christian citizen, nor did the miller ever disclose his visitor's name, and the parties to the occurrence were never named.

The people were far more sociable in those days than they are at the present time. They were entirely satisfied if they could secure sufficient food and be comfortably clothed in their simple homespun attire. Then the object was to live and enjoy the blessings of life; now the aim is to get rich and live a selfish, unsocial life. Often one neighbor would hitch up his yoke of steers to the lumbering farm wagon—if he had one; if not, a sled would do, even in the summer—put in some home-made, split-bottom chairs for the older women, crowd in the whole family and drive several miles to stay all night and have a good time. Then the hostess, beside the cornbread and the savory bacon, would bring out the crab-apple preserves (made with honey) and the pumpkin pies, and they would feast like lords. Perhaps there was but one room, which served as kitchen, dining-room, parlor and bed-chamber, but when bed time came the good housewife, not in the least confused, proceeded to prepare for the comfortable rest of all. "Pallets" were made on the floor of quilts and buffalo robes and bear skins, and soon the floor was almost completely covered with a mass of humanity, sleeping as sweetly as if on beds of down. This picture is not in the least over-drawn, for such scenes were of constant occurrence, nor should anyone infer from this that there was any want of refinement on the part of the people, for purer society never existed anywhere than among the pioneers of this whole country.

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#### EARLY TRIALS.

The early settlers of Illinois—and Menard county as much as any other part—were sub-



jected to an untold variety of trials and inconveniences. Not only the labor connected with opening farms, clearing forests, erecting dwellings, building bridges and highways, but a great variety of other annoyances were met on every hand. We spoke in another place of the trouble in very early times of securing meal and flour and of the ever annoying "gritter," as well as the want of implements and machinery with which to cultivate the soil: the wooden mole-board plow, the sickle, and later the scythe and cradle, with which the harvests were reaped, and the flail for beating out the grain, and later the more expeditious and more scientific method of tramping it out with horses; and then, last but not least, the interesting means by which the grain was separated from the chaff. Two stout men would catch a common bed-sheet by the corners and while a third poured the grain, chaff and all from an elevated position, the winnowers would fan out the chaff with the sheet. After going over it three or four times in this way, the grain would be fairly well separated from the chaff. The making of clothing—spoken of more at length in another place—was an annoying but essential part of the household duties. In very early times in Menard county cotton was raised to considerable extent, while flax was also cultivated, and every family raised sheep as extensively as the wolves would permit. All of these articles were carded by hand by the women of the family. The flax was grown in the fields, pulled by hand, watered, broken, sketched and then spun on the little wheel. The writer remembers distinctly to-day that when he awoke in the trundle bed, in the late hours of the night, he would often hear the swish of the cards as his widowed mother, prompted by maternal love, would ply those cards—often till the hour of midnight—in order to clothe her fatherless children. Ah, little do we realize the price our parents paid for the priceless heritage that we enjoy. We will never know the privation, sacrifice, anxiety and toil that they endured in order that we might be what we are. We boast of what we have done in the growth and development of this country, forgetting what our mothers and grandmothers in their home-spun attire and loving simplicity, accomplished in the

way of making our success possible. We are sometimes almost ashamed at the thought of the want of refinement and rough exterior of our fathers, forgetting that it was their foresight and rugged philosophy that laid the solid foundation, deep down on the solid bed-rock, of all that we are and hope to be, materially, morally and intellectually. They it was who made possible all that we are and all that we expect to be. One very prolific source of trouble and difficulty to the early pioneers was the prevalence of disease of certain types that prevailed in early times. I will name but two of these: bilious and malarial fevers, the latter taking the form of ague, as it was commonly called, or chills and fever. Some called this dread disease the "shakes." There was a vast amount of decaying vegetation, especially in the fall of the year, and the vast areas of undrained swamps and lagoons that bred a miasmatic poison which filled the air with its poisonous breath. True, it was not so often fatal, but it was a living death—a long drawn-out agony that left just enough of life to realize the bitterness of disease. One of the most terrible features of it was its universal prevalence at some seasons of the year. Whole families would be down, so that one was not able to give another a drink of water, and entire communities would be in this condition for weeks, if not months, at a time. After it had preyed upon its subject for a time, the liver would become enlarged, the abdomen would assume unwonted dimensions, the whole person would become bloated and a sickly sallowness would pervade all the saddened features. In many cases, in seeming mockery, it would assume the form of "the every-other-day ager," or the "third day ager," and return at its appointed time, as unerringly as the planets in their course. At the appointed minute the premonitory pains would begin to shoot up the back, the sallowness would then begin to gape and yawn and the rigors of the polar zones would seize his frame and then for from one to two hours the demon of malaria would seem to strive to shake each separate joint apart. Then came the raging fever, the torturing headache and at last the disgusting sweat, as the sufferer reached once more, the temperate zone, between the horrid

experiences that he had just passed through. Then the "well day" came, with its ravenous, unnatural appetite, demanding all that reason or common sense would forbid. At first, before the physician came with his pill-bags, the remedies were "yarbs and teas," prescribed by every one, but later on same "Sappington's Pills, Fowler's Solution and Quinine." No mortal man, who never had "the chills," can form any just conception of its agony. Not sick enough to be abed but a few hours at a time, yet filled with agony, compared to which being confined to bed would be a solace and relief. Some poetaster, who knew the agony of the "ager," has parodied "Poe's Raven" as follows:

And to-day, the swallows flitting  
Round my cabin, see me sitting  
Moodyly within the sunshine,  
Just inside my silent door,  
Waiting for the "ager," seeming  
Like a man forever dreaming;  
And the sunlight on me streaming  
Throws no shadow on the floor;  
For I am too thin and sallow  
To make shadows on the floor—  
Nary shadow any more.

But as the prairies were broken, the ponds drained and the amount of stock increased to eat out the vegetation, the ague diminished until at last it left, to return no more, we trust forever.

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#### THE DEEP SNOW.

One of the most conspicuous chronological landmarks in the history of Menard county, and of all central Illinois for that matter, is the "Winter of the Deep Snow." Old settlers, in fixing remote dates, use this as the average mother uses the birth of her children: she says, "It was the spring that John was born," and the old settler says, "It was just after the deep snow." At the old settlers' annual meetings they have badges that are worn by all who were here before 1830, which are inscribed "Snow Bird." In the year 1830 it rained for several days in succession just before Christmas, and on Christmas day, as some say, and the day after, as others put it, it began to snow. The snow fell so rapidly that in a few hours there

was a depth of six inches on the ground, but it did not cease to fall with this, but continued to fall till at the very least three feet had fallen. Some claim that there was more than this, not a few placing it at four feet, but the most conservative estimate it at three feet on a level all over the country. After this snow had fallen there came a rain and this, freezing on the snow, formed a crust that would bear the weight of a man. After this other snow fell, adding to the depth. President Sturtevant, of Illinois College, who was here at the time, says that as soon as the snow had fallen it turned very cold and that for two weeks the mercury never rose higher than twelve degrees below zero. The ground was entirely covered from that time till the latter part of March. The settlers would break roads with ox-teams, but the snow would blow in and again they had to be broken. This process packed the snow in the roads till it formed a veritable ridge, and these ridges remained after the snow elsewhere was all gone. The writer heard one old pioneer say that these ridges remained and after the snow was gone from the prairies they looked like silver threads winding across the country. The snow was so deep that it covered up the food that the wild animals were accustomed to subsist on and thousands of them perished. The crust on the snow was strong enough to bear up a man, and the wolves and other like animals could travel in safety on its surface, but the deer were not so fortunate. As they run by a succession of leaps and their hoofs being hard and sharp, just so soon as they started to run they broke through the crust and thus they lay helpless on the snow. On this account the deer were nearly all killed, for the dogs and wolves soon learned that as soon as the deer started to run they would break through and then they were an easy prey. The settlers experienced terribly hard times during that winter on account of the fact that the snow came so early that they were caught with their crops ungathered and they were in many ways unprepared for the winter. Another trouble was the scarcity of mills in the country. Many were from forty to sixty miles from the nearest mill, and, of course, it was impossible to go that distance for breadstuff. As a conse-

quence all kinds of expedients were resorted to. The inevitable "gritter" was called into constant use and lye-hominy was a standard article in every home. The game perished in such numbers that it was never as plentiful afterward. Unfortunately, the wild game was not the only thing that perished. During this winter two men who resided near the south line of what is now Menard county perished in the snow. William Saxton started out hunting, and, not returning, the neighbors made search for him, but failed to find him. The next spring his body and that of his horses were found within a mile of his home. John Barnett started after a wolf while the snow was falling, but he did not return. Search was made for him, but he was not found. The next spring the body of Barnett and that of his horse and dog were found forty miles from the point from which he started. It was supposed that the falling snow blinded and bewildered him, and, losing his bearings, he rushed on till his horse gave out and horse and dog and man perished together. On Rock creek lived an old bachelor by the name of Stout, no relation to any of the Stouts there now, however, who perished in the snow, somewhere near where Pleasant Plains now stands.

Pages might be written of the stories told by old pioneers of the privation and suffering of that winter. There is no doubt that it was the most severe winter that has ever been known since the country was settled. The snow at three feet deep would have been nothing remarkable in the east, but it was unknown to the people here, and, beside this, they were unprepared for such conditions, and the country being new it is no wonder that there was great inconvenience and suffering. It must have been a remarkable time, to mark a period that still stands as a chronological monument, marking a period of time so abidingly as not to be erased by years.

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### THE SUDDEN CHANGE.

The Indians had a tradition, which they told to the early settlers of Illinois, that many, many winters before the paleface came to make

his home here, that there was a winter of terrible suffering in all this region on account of the deep snow and the long continued cold. They related that early in the fall the snow began to fall and there were no warm days to cause it to melt, but every few days fresh snows would fall, and thus it continued to grow deeper and deeper until, as they said, it was deeper than the height of the tallest man. As a consequence, the game was nearly all starved or frozen to death and many of the Indians perished from cold and hunger. The early settlers noticed on the tall hills in the prairies there were vast number of buffalo and deer bones in an advanced stage of decay. The Indians explained this by saying that during that winter, as the snow grew deeper in the low ground and being blown off the higher ground, the game retreated to those spots of high ground and perished there from want of food and the intense cold. It appears that there are periods when the elements are "out of joint"; times when the influence of the planets or of sun-spots, or something else, brings about strange and disastrous effects. Such was the case "the winter of the deep snow"—the winter of 1830-31. The deep snow began to fall between Christmas and the New Year. It is a little remarkable that the "sudden change" was at the same season of the year. On the 20th day of December, 1836, the sudden change came. The weather up to this time had been mild and pleasant. There had been but little snow and no severe cold had been experienced. The ground was frozen to the depth of three or four inches. On that morning, December 20th, some time before noon, it began to rain and continued to rain till after noon. The rain came from the northeast, and between twelve and one o'clock p. m. a very dark cloud appeared, low down in the northeast, and as it came nearer a rumbling, roaring sound could be heard, and in a few moments a strong wind swept over the woods and prairies and the cold became at once intense. Perhaps a more sudden change was never experienced in this latitude. Chickens and geese had their feet caught in the suddenly congealed mud and water and later had to be cut out and their feet released by thawing them out at the fire. Facts con-

cerning this change, as told by men of undoubted veracity, are almost beyond belief. Alexander Montgomery, of Greenview, gives the following account, as told by his father, who then lived where H. H. Marbold now resides. West of the house is a low piece of ground which had been filled by the rain to the depth of eight or ten inches. West of this slough Mr. Montgomery had a lot of calves in a pen, and realizing the intensity of the cold he started as soon as the change began to feed them. He waded across the slough, the water being almost to his boottops, and fed the calves as quickly as he could, and returned, as he said, in less than twenty minutes, and when he returned he crossed the slough on solid ice. Rev. Josiah Porter, of Chatham, Illinois, was at that time a traveling evangelist and traveled over a large territory of Illinois. He relates a circumstance that occurred in the west part of Douglas county, near the corner of Piatt and Moultrie counties. Two men, brothers, by the name of Deeds, started out to cut a bee-tree, which they had found in the fall, and were overtaken by the cold of this sudden change. Not returning home, a search was instituted, but they were not discovered for nearly two weeks, when they were found frozen to death some three miles from their home. Andrew Heredith, who was formerly a merchant, miller and pork-packer in Cincinnati, having met with reverses, came to Illinois to retrieve his fortune. He settled in Sangamon county, about three miles west of Loami, near Lick creek, and called the place Millville. He bought wheat and made flour, but seeing, as he thought, an opening for great wealth, he began buying hogs and driving them to the St. Louis market. His first ventures were very successful, so he decided to venture on a larger scale. So in the fall of 1836 he bought up a drove of twelve or fifteen hundred hogs and in December he started to drive them to St. Louis. By the 20th of December he had reached the prairie of Macoupin county. He had taken with him a number of wagons and teams for the purpose of hauling corn to feed the hogs on the way. As soon as the corn was fed out of a wagon it was utilized in hauling those hogs which were giving out. When the storm struck them

Mr. Heredith at once realized its severity, and calling all the men to his aid they overturned the wagons and replacing the beds upon them they entered them and drove as rapidly as possible to the nearest residence, which, fortunately, was not far away. When they reached the farmhouse their clothing was frozen solid upon them and the men had their hands and feet and ears frozen. The hogs crowded together in order to keep warm, and as the cold grew more severe they literally piled up in piles, and as a result those in the center smothered and those on the outside froze to death. Those that did not die outright scattered over the prairies and finally perished. Mr. Heredith returned home as soon as the state of the weather would permit, but the loss had broken his spirit and he pined away and in a year or two died.

James H. Hildreth and a young man by the name of Frame started to Chicago on horseback and by the 20th of December they reached the region of Hickory creek, a tributary of the Iroquois river. Here the storm struck them. They wandered about till night overtook them and, seeing that they were doomed to perish, they killed one of their horses and, removing the entrails, they crawled into the carcass and remained there till about midnight, when the animal heat having been exhausted, they came out, determined to kill the other horse and utilize it in the same way, but in their benumbed condition the knife was dropped and could not be found. They stood around the living horse till two or three o'clock in the morning, when Frame became drowsy and Hildreth was unable to keep him awake and he sank down and was soon beyond all human suffering. As soon as light came Hildreth mounted the remaining horse and after wandering for hours reached a cabin, where the inhuman wretch who inhabited it refused him aid. He finally recovered, with the loss of his hands and feet, and reared a family, the descendants of whom now live in Logan and DeWitt counties. Henry and John live in Logan, and his daughter Sarah. (Mrs. William Weedman) lives in Farmer City. I can not leave this story without stating another fact in connection with it. The wretch who refused Mr.

Hildreth aid in his dire extremity was named Benjamin Russ. The story of his inhuman treatment of Hildreth being circulated in the settlement, the ire of the honest pioneers was aroused and they gathered to deal out summary justice, but in some way he got wind of what was in store for him and fled to more congenial climes and was seen there no more. Many other and equally remarkable incidents of the sudden change have been told the writer by men of undoubted veracity, but the above will serve to give an idea of its suddenness and severity. It was the opinion of many of those who experienced this storm that it traveled at a rate of at least seventy miles per hour.

#### HAIL STORM OF 1850.

At irregular intervals of time strange and remarkable meteorological phenomena occur for which no one can account—whether they are caused by sun-spots or planetary relations, no one can tell, for some continue but a few hours, while others last through an entire season. The Indians have a tradition of a winter, perhaps in the first half of the eighteenth century, which far surpassed anything known since the pale-face came west of the Ohio river. It was undoubtedly confined to the west, for if it had extended to the east we would have had a record of it by the white man. The winter of 1830-31 was remarkable for its severity and the depth of the snow, and it has long been a chronological landmark and old settlers count time from "the winter of the deep snow"; another was the awful "sudden change" on the 20th of December, 1836; and still later the destructive freeze on the 27th day of August, 1863, which many persons now living still distinctly remember. The corn, which was just in good roasting-ear, was frozen hard and all creation literally stunk with the rotting vegetation, but the event that I am going to relate was confined to very narrow limits. It is the hail storm of May the 27th, 1850. It was confined to Menard county, being only seven miles wide and only ten or twelve miles in length. Greenview and Sweetwater were near the center of its destructive power. The day—May 27, 1850—had been extremely warm for

that time of the year. Late in the afternoon a cloud appeared in the northwest and came up very rapidly. It was, perhaps, between five and six o'clock in the afternoon when the storm broke. It came with a very high wind and the rain fell in a perfect torrent, accompanied by a hail storm such as was never witnessed before by those who experienced it. In fact, the statements made by the most reliable men in the county at the time, and in which they all agree, are almost beyond belief. The hail stones were large—many of them larger than a hen's egg—and they fell in such vast quantities that they lay to a depth of a foot at least on the level prairies. Elder William Engle, a man of unimpeached veracity, told the writer that he and Uncle David Propst gathered the hail stones thirty-eight days after they fell and made ice water of them to drink. This is literally true, as will be explained further on. The hail stones were so large and came with such driving force from their momentum and the force of the wind that it is strange that much greater damage was not done. Many hogs and calves were killed outright, while all the poultry which was not under shelter suffered a similar fate. The wild birds, rabbits and other small animals in the range of the storm were entirely exterminated. It is a fact, authenticated beyond dispute, that a large amount of timber, especially white oak, was killed. The leaves and smaller limbs were beaten off, the bark on the side next the storm was peeled off, and scores of trees two feet and two feet six inches in diameter were killed and stood for years as silent but unimpeachable witnesses of the severity of the storm. The crops were a total wreck, being beaten into the earth. Corn, wheat, oats and even grass were a total loss. A Mr. Leach, then living near Greenview, was a mile or two from home on horseback and was caught in the storm, and being some distance from shelter he soon realized that unless he got protection in some way he would assuredly perish. So, as quickly as possible, he dismounted and ungirthing the saddle he put it over his head as a helmet. He told the writer, thirty years ago, that even with this protection he thought that he would assuredly be killed. Now and then a stone of unusual size would strike the saddle with such

force as to stagger him and cause him to see whole constellations of stars. The rain which fell with the hail, together with the melting hail stones, produced such a torrent of water that the small streams were soon raging floods. By these the hail was, in places, piled up to a depth of ten and fifteen feet. Grove creek, in Sugar Grove, became a raging river, piling up the hail in vast heaps and in many cases covering it over with leaves and trash till a perfect ice-house was constructed. It was from one of these that Engle and Props, on the 4th of July—thirty-eight days after the storm—got ice with which to make icewater for the people who were gathered together not far away to celebrate the birthday of our independence. We have in this story a fine illustration of the spirit of "grit, gumption and go-aheaditiveness" of our ancestors. With the fields as bare as in the midst of winter, the season's labor all destroyed, with the crops all beaten into the ground and the winter soon to come, with biting, bitter blasts—with all this they gather together to spend a day in social converse, to renew acquaintance and to cultivate the spirit of patriotic devotion to God and native land. Ah, that is what has made this land what it is to-day! We boast what we have done, but we forget that that class of men and women who preceded us—our fathers and mothers—are the force that made this country what it is to-day. I verily believe that the world has never known so grand a race of men and women as the pioneers of these western states. They come of the best stock of the world. Out of every nation on earth, there came to this country the most liberty-loving, the most independent, the bravest, the most self-reliant and determined people ever known, and by amalgamation and training they produced our fathers and mothers, who drove out the wild beasts, subdued the wild prairies and forests, laid the foundations of education and of moral and religious training, leaving to us this glorious heritage that we possess. Many of them were not educated in books, or in the fashions and follies of some classes of social life, but they had that higher and nobler development of head and heart, that fitted them to the plant, the germs of which, under God, have grown into this, the grandest and greatest

nation on earth. Will we preserve what they left to us? But I have gotten off the track. In my imagination I can see the people at that celebration. Uncle "Bill" Engle was a prominent figure among them. True, the crops were ruined and the prospect for the coming winter was a little dark, but what good would forebodings and repinings do? I see him, with his kindly face and portly form, as he tried to cheer up his disheartened neighbors and friends. With words of encouragement and cheer, he admonished them to look on the bright side and then, with an appropriate story, the whole company would be put in a good humor and, forgetting their troubles, all would go "merry as a marriage bell." As I spoke of "Uncle Bill" telling stories, I should explain that he was an expert story-teller. Like Lincoln, he had an exhaustless store of "yarns" and anecdotes and no one could surpass him in telling them. Out of that vast store he could always find one just suited to the occasion, and when he told a story he entered into the spirit of it as he preached—that is, with his whole soul. He and the martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, had many a tilt at spinning yarns during the terms of court in Petersburg. If the old "Menard House" had the power of speech it could entertain for days and weeks, repeating the unnumbered "good ones" that were told when Lincoln, Engle and other home and imported talent spent an evening at that old-time hostelry. Not only the evenings were passed in this way, but I have it from the very best authority of the time that on one occasion at least, when "Uncle Bill" had met a foeman "worthy of his steel," the battle raged, with varying fortune, until the rising of the sun and even then the referees were compelled to declare it a "draw." Elder William Engle was a very remarkable man in many respects and left his impress upon all the enterprises of this county, an impress which will last for years to come. He performed a very important part in the development of the resources of the county; he also aided largely in the elevation of social life, and to him we owe a lasting debt of gratitude for the part he played in shaping the moral and religious sentiment of the people.



## MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

The young men and women of to-day have no conception of the mode of life among the early settlers of the country and when the story is truthfully told they can scarcely believe it. It is our object in this chapter to give a very brief but absolutely true account of this. We feel that the time will not be lost in doing this, as the lesson will be a valuable and instructive one. One can scarcely imagine how so great a change could have taken place in the space of sixty to eighty-five years, and when the simple and truthful story is heard by our young people they will hold in higher esteem their grandfathers and grandmothers who bore those trials and through them secured the rich heritage that we enjoy to-day. It will also lead them to hold in higher esteem those unpolished and uncultivated people whom they have been disposed to look down upon. In nothing are the habits, manners and customs of the people like what they were seventy or eighty years ago. We are at a loss where to begin so as to give the youth of the present anything like a just idea of this matter. The diet, the clothing, the dwellings, the social customs—in fact, everything has undergone a complete revolution. We spoke before of the "three-faced camp" in which some of the early settlers lived, and it may be truthfully said that the dwellings in which the pioneers lived for a number of years were but slightly in advance of these. The house was invariably built of logs, the spaces between the logs being filled with smaller pieces of wood, called chinks, and then daubed over with mortar made of clay. If the floor was anything more than the earth tramped hard and smooth, it was made of puncheons—that is, logs were split and one side was smoothed off with an ax and these laid down for a floor. The openings between these puncheons were often so large that the cats could pass in and out through them. The top of the cabin was drawn in, after the fashion of a boy's quail trap, and on the poles on top, clapboards, or, as the yankees called them shakes, were laid on, and weight-poles laid on them to keep them in place. For a fireplace the logs were cut out of one side of the wall, six or eight feet wide, and

the back and sides of this were built up of logs, making an offset in the wall somewhat like a modern bay-window, and this was lined with mud—or stone, if it could be had—and served as a fireplace. The chimney was built of sticks, over which a thick coating of mud was spread, to keep them from taking fire. This was called a "cat and clay" chimney and was the only kind in use for a great many years. The door was also made by cutting out logs, making an opening of the desired size, and the shutter was made of boards pinned to crosspieces (for nails could not be had for several years after the first settlements were made), and this was hung on wooden hinges. The door was fastened by a wooden latch, which caught in a wooden hook on the inside. A hole was bored in the door above the latch, and a buckskin string was fastened to the latch and passed through this hole, so that to open the door from the outside all you had to do was to pull the string and this would lift the latch out of the hook and the door would open. To lock the door at night all that was necessary was to pull the string in. When the latch-string hung through the hole anyone could open the door from the outside. This gave the idea of the expression of hospitality by saying "the latch-string hangs out." We describe this thus minutely that the young people may understand this expression; "the latch-string is out." The furniture in the house was on a par with the house itself. A few home-made, split-bottomed chairs; a short bench or two; a bedstead (in common use) made by driving a fork in one corner of the cabin, about six feet from the wall and the desired height for the bed, then poles ran to each wall from this fork, and boards placed across made the frame of the bed. Hundreds of these "scaffold beds" were in use. The very early settlers had no kitchen, but the articles for cooking were as few and simple as the furniture. A "flat-oven" or skillet, a frying-pan, an iron pot or kettle, and occasionally a coffee-pot completed the outfit in this department of the best fixed cabins. Stoves were then and for many years later entirely unknown, hence the cooking was done entirely on the fireplace. The flat-oven was set on a bed of glowing coals, and the frugal housewife,

taking as much stiff dough of Indian meal as she could conveniently hold in both hands, and deftly tossing it from hand to hand to mold it into the desired shape, tossed it into the oven, patting it with her hand to the desired thickness. About three of these "dodgers" filled the oven, when the ready-heated lid was placed upon the oven and the whole covered with glowing coals. As soon as the bread was done it was taken from the oven and placed upon a tin platter and set on the hearth near the fire to keep warm. Generally the prints of the fingers of the cook were plainly visible on every dodger. In the oven from which the bread was taken the ham or venison was then fried and, in the fall of the year especially, the "lye-hominy," made of Indian corn, was seasoned in the grease tried out of the meat. Thus the repast was prepared and sweeter bread or more savory meats were never eaten than were prepared on those rude fireplaces. As to sweetmeats and confections, they were things entirely unknown. Sugar was entirely unknown, save in sections where sugar-maple abounded, but nearly all of the pioneers had an abundance of the finest honey the year around, for the wild honey-bee existed in great abundance wherever there was timber. Sometimes wild grapes, wild crabs and berries of various kinds were preserved in honey, but these were only opened when the preacher visited or on some other great occasion. For many years after the settlements were made, wheat bread was entirely unknown, from the fact that there were no mills in the country which were provided with facilities for grinding the wheat or bolting the flour. In all the new settlements means of preparing grain for bread were matters of the very first concern. As already said, most, or we might say all, of the pioneers settled in the timber and at almost every cabin a large stump or block of wood set on end was dug or burned out into the form of a mortar, and a "spring-pole" with a heavy block of wood, in the form of a pestle, was suspended above this mortar, and in this the corn was pounded into meal. But a small amount of corn was put in the mortar at a time, and when this was reduced to meal, by working this pestle up and down, then another small amount was put in, and so on till the re-

quired amount was ground. This laborious task was to be repeated as often as the meals were to be eaten, but the process was so slow that in a large family the pestle must go almost incessantly or some of them would be placed on short rations. So important a matter was this of breadstuff that it overshadowed all others. To illustrate this we state the undeniable fact that the first "milling" done for the settlement of Sugar Grove was done by John Jennison and James Meadows. These two men went in a canoe down the Sangamon to the Illinois river and then to the Mississippi, to Alton, and there got a canoe-load of breadstuff and brought it to Sugar Grove, consuming twenty-one days in the trip. Think of this! What labors were performed and what trials endured by our fathers and mothers to make this country what it is. Can we ever pay the debt of gratitude that we owe them? Even after those primitive mills were built—even after the Salem mill was built—there was great trouble over the matter of something of which to make bread. The Salem mill, built by Cameron and Rutledge, though looked upon by the people as a marvel of mechanical skill and ingenuity, was incapable of overcoming all of these troubles. In those days the owners of mills made a rule like barbers have at the present time—that is, that each one should take his turn. Persons would take a grist of one or two bushels of corn to mill and they must wait till it was ground. Reliable men of Tallula told the writer that in the days of the old hand-mill at Petersburg that they went there from Clary's Grove—only eight miles—and using their utmost diligence it was midnight of the ninth day when they returned with their grinding. It was many years before the mills of the country could provide the facilities for making flour, and there are people still living who remember the time when the children longed for Sunday to come, not from any spirit of devotion or reverence for the day, but because they thought that they would have "cake" for breakfast Sunday morning. By "cake" they meant simple wheat bread or biscuits.

Among the pioneers everything was, of necessity, plain, simple and in conformity with the strictest economy. This was true not only of



their dwellings, furniture and provisions, but of their clothing as well. In the very early, early days, the men usually wore pants and hunting-shirts of buckskin and caps of coon or fox skin, while both men and women clothed their feet in moccasins. Cotton goods were then extremely hard to get, for two reasons: first, because of the great distance that they had to be transported by private means; and, second, because the manufacture in this country was very limited, almost all of such goods being manufactured in Europe. As a result the pioneer of the west found this one of the very hardest demands to meet. Many were the expedients devised by them, especially by the frugal and anxious wives and mothers, for ever since the wonderful expedient of preparing an entire wardrobe from fig leaves, devised quite a number of years back, woman has been very gifted in laying plans and devising expedients in the matter of dress; but, unfortunately, for her skill and industry, the country afforded nothing for the first few years of its occupancy that could be turned to much account in this direction. If cotton had been planted when they first came, it could not have been much to their advantage, because of the fact that neither the soil nor the climate were adapted to its cultivation and the seasons were so short that it had to be planted so very early for it to mature that it could not be gotten in in time in sufficient quantity to justify its cultivation. And it was almost useless to take sheep into these frontier settlements on account of the number of prairie, black and gray wolves, for they would destroy an entire flock in a single night. Hence the people had to choose between adopting expedients and going forth in "nature's light and airy garb," so in a year or two the settlers adopted the expedient of sowing crops of hemp and flax, and this the women soon learned to manufacture by hand into a coarse but good and comfortable linen. But these practical and observing pioneers also appealed to nature in their need and this good dame is seldom applied to in vain. In various localities in central Illinois, when the country was first settled, there were vast areas covered with wild nettles. Sometimes there would be two or three acres together, covered with net-

tles, growing as thick as wheat, and three and four feet high. After these were killed by the frost and rotted by the elements, they produced a lint as strong as flax, but much lighter and finer. This lint would bleach almost to snowy whiteness and it had more the appearance of silk than of cotton. Thousands of yards were woven and worn by the pioneers. Mrs. James Meadows, of Sugar Grove, actually spun and wove thirty yards of this nettle cloth one season. But even after the cultivation of flax and the introduction of quite a number of sheep, the matter of clothing was the most formidable difficulty in the way. The task of raising the flax or hemp, of cutting, rotting, breaking, hackling, skutching, spinning and weaving it was an Herculean task; or raising the sheep, protecting them from the wolves, shearing them and then spinning and weaving the wool into cloth required a vast amount of labor. Then, after all this, garments were to be cut and made, and socks and stockings were to be knit by hand for all the family. What a task! We wonder that our mothers did not despair, and they would had the fashions been then as now, but a balloon frame was not then to be covered in by the skirt of the dress. Skirts were not wide then as now. On a certain occasion, under the old "blue laws" of Connecticut, a young lady was hauled before the magistrate, charged with jumping the brook on the Sabbath, which offense, if she were proven guilty, would subject her to a heavy fine. The girl's mother came into court on the day of trial and testified that her daughter was piously on her way to church, and coming to the brook, on account of the narrowness of her skirts, she was obliged to jump or step in the water. Our young gentlemen of the present, who have dressed in the very best ever since they could remember, would be surprised and shocked at the scanty outfit of the boys of that day. The summer wear of the boys up to ten and twelve years of age was very simple and free from any effort at display, for it consisted of a long tow-linen shirt, "only this and nothing more." With this indispensable and convenient article they explored the forests, traversed the prairies, thought about the girls and built as many castles in the air as the boys of more favorable times and more con-

ventional wardrobes. In the winter they were supplied with buckskin or tow-linen pants, moccasins or raw-hide shoes, and coats of jeans after they began to raise sheep. This scarcity of clothing continued for at least two decades, or even more. In summer time nearly every one, both male and female, went barefoot and it was nothing uncommon to see young ladies of the best families (your grandmother, perhaps, dear reader) on their way to church on foot, carrying their shoes in their hand till near the place of worship, when, carefully brushing the dust from their feet, they donned their stockings and shoes and quietly mingled with the throng. This continued to be common for nearly twenty years. After sheep could be protected from the wolves the people fared better in the matter of clothing. Flannel and linsy were worn by the women and children and jeans was woven for the men. For want of other and more suitable dye-stuffs, the wool for the jeans was almost invariably colored with the shooks of the walnut, hence the inevitable "butternut" worn so extensively in the west for so many years. As a matter of course, each family had to do its own spinning and weaving, and for a long term of years all the wool had to be carded by hand on a little pair of cards not more than five by ten inches. Each family had its spinning-wheels, little and big reel, winding-blades, warping bars, made by driving pins into the wall of the house on the outside at some place where there was no door in the way, and their wooden loom. These were indispensable articles in almost every home, and during the fall of the year the merry whirr of the wheel and the regular "bat bat" of the loom was heard to a late hour of the night. Well does the writer remember, when a little boy, as he lay in the "trundle bed" at night, of being aroused from sleep, far on to midnight, of hearing the "swish swish" of the cards as his widowed mother by the light of a few coals on the hearth was carding wool to make cloth to clothe her fatherless children. And it was truly wonderful to see the patterns of colors woven in the dress flannels and the counterpanes of those times. As a general thing the shoes worn by the entire family were made at home and mostly during the long evenings of the fall and winter.

It therefore happened that some of the family would have to wait till

"The frost was on the pumpkin  
And the fodder in the shock"

before their feet were clad. We remember boys, who afterward achieved both wealth and distinction, who never got their shoes till well on to Christmas, but they went to school, if there was any, and played with the other boys in their bare feet. No scene can be imagined that is more full of real happiness than the home of the pioneer, when in the evening all are engaged in their work. A bright fire burns on the wide hearth and the ruddy flame leaps far up the wooden chimney, affording the only, but sufficient, light in the room. In one corner sits the father, busily engaged in making shoes; the mother at her little wheel hums a tune in low harmony with its steady whirr, while in front of the ample fireplace the daughter trips nimbly back and forth, drawing out the long woolen threads, while the wheel, seeming to partake of the general happiness, swells out its musical whirr-r-r, which swells and dies away in regular and harmonious cadence; the younger members of the household engaged in some absorbing pastime, all undisturbed by a single discordant note.

Boots were unknown for many years and many of the old men never owned a pair in all their lives while none of the younger ones were fortunate enough to boast the possession of boots till they reached manhood. Boys of fifteen to eighteen years of age never thought of wearing anything on their feet except for three or four months in the winter, while the number who were not so fortunate as to get them in winter was by no means small. Boys and men often went to church without shoes or stockings, but what would the people of today think of the minister who would propose to come before his audience barefooted? This may never have occurred in Illinois, yet it did in some of the older states and possibly here. The writer was intimately acquainted when a boy with two old ministers, both of whom died at an extreme old age long years ago, who often spoke of preaching in their younger days in their bare feet. They began preaching in Ten-

nesses, and were men of far more than ordinary ability; in fact, we have heard many sermons, in finely frescoed churches, by classical scholars dressed in broadcloth, which were not worthy of comparison, in any respect, with the sermons preached by these men. Several times they spoke of preaching on a certain occasion, when they were young men, in a private cabin, the loft or ceiling of which was very low, and one of the preachers, being a very tall man, a punchon was taken up in the floor, so that he might stand in this opening, his head thus being below the loft. This being in the summer time, and the region being infested with rattlesnakes, the speaker soon felt a thrill of awful horror convulse his frame as the thought, flashed across his mind that perhaps he stood in the midst of these unwelcome companions. Of course, under these circumstances, the sermon was not painfully long. We are fully aware of the incredulity with which the above and similar stories will be received by the mass of the present generation, but we write facts, such things as we believe are absolutely true, and we have not a shadow of doubt of the literal truth of the story related above. These facts should be recorded, for none of the present generation have the faintest idea of the changes that have taken place in the last seventy-five or eighty years. If the next eighty years should be as productive of change as the past eighty (and the probability is that it will be much greater), who can imagine the state of affairs in that time? The tools and agricultural implements were all on a par with the things we have named. The ground was broken up with a one-horse wooden mold-board plow and the corn cultivated with a hoe and a bull-tongue plow. The ground was marked off, both ways, with a bull-tongue, and the corn dropped by hand and covered with a hoe. In plowing corn, they had to go three or four times between the rows. Wheat, oats, rye, etc., were cut by hand with a sickle, threshed with a flail and winnowed by hand. Oxen were principally used, often six and seven yoke were seen hitched to the plow, breaking up the prairies. They were often worked singly for plowing corn and similar work, but space forbids further detail in this direction. Scores of similar illustrations

of the crude and inconvenient means of making a living could be given, but the above will suffice. Amid all this the people were happy, contented and sociable. While it is true that there were some wicked and bad men among them, yet it is also true that there were never more consistent, faithful and devoted Christian people than among the early pioneers. Society was never purer, virtue never more esteemed, or honor held more sacred than among them. It was not then the object of every man to get rich. The social qualities were never more highly cultivated than in those times. We do not mean the conventional follies and deceitful customs of later times, but true and unvarnished social friendship. The ox-wagon or sled would be hitched up and the entire family, from the aged grandparents to the infant in arms, and all the "intermediate grades," would pile into this family coach and they would drive several miles perhaps to "stay till bed time" with some neighbor, or perhaps to remain over night, and at bed time the floor of the one room would be covered with "pallets" and all would retire, in modest simplicity and true decorum. Young gentlemen and ladies, these were your ancestors, who, amid all these trials and with unceasing toil, subdued this land and laid the broad and solid foundation for all the untold blessings, social, civil, educational and religious, that you now enjoy. We are not "building the tombs of the prophets," but we say, without fear of successful contradiction, that no grander, truer or more noble generation of men and women ever lived than the pioneers of these western states. They laid the foundation of all that we are or can ever hope to be, and this fact should be recorded and be remembered in all the years to come and be impressed on the minds of all who are to come after us.

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#### EDUCATION.

Education is the best protector of health, the source of the greatest production of crops, the richest source of social enjoyment and the cheapest defense of the nation. Enlightened nations have ever been struggling for education, but in the early settling of this country,

the opportunities of education were very poor indeed. They were as poor in Illinois as in any other part of the whole country because the people were poor, the settlements were sparse and qualified teachers were not always at hand. Beside this, money was so scarce that it was impossible to build suitable schoolhouses, but in the face of all this the people were determined that their children should not go entirely untaught. So communities joined together and erected log houses, at central points, in which to have school. For the benefit of this and coming generations, let me describe somewhat in detail one of these primitive schools and I promise you that I will not overdraw the picture in the least. The house was built of logs, generally unhewn, hewn puncheons made the floor, and the roof was made of "clapboards," split out of oak, laid on logs, and held in their place by "weight-poles," that is, logs laid on the boards and propped with "knees" to keep them from rolling off. In one end the logs were cut out for a space of six feet, in which space a fireplace was constructed of rock or dirt, and a chimney was built of sticks, plastered over with mud, called "cat-and-clay." On one side, nearly the entire length of the building, two logs were "halved-out," for a window and just below this, two-inch auger-holes were bored and a slab or plank was laid on them for a writing-desk. At the first, greased paper was fastened over this opening, in lieu of window glass. The seats were made of split logs, smoothed a little on the split side, and four two-inch auger-holes were bored into them on the rounding side and small saplings driven into them, for legs. It was very rare that more than three of these legs touched the floor at once. There being no backs to them and they being so tall, it was a serious job for a little fellow to mount one of them; it was like a tender-foot tackling a bucking broncho, and by the time the day was over the little fellow was worn out with the struggle, for schools "took up" at 8 A. M. and "let out" at 5 P. M. The books used were the Testament, the English Reader, or Pleasing Companion, Pike's Arithmetic, Murray's or Kirkham's Grammar and the old blue-backed spelling book. Most beginners were furnished a "horn-book"—a

wooden paddle with the alphabet pasted on it. The aspiring teacher visited the families in a given neighborhood with a subscription paper, which usually began: "This article of agreement, entered into this day between A—— B——, party of the first part and the annexed subscribers of the second part, witnesseth. The said party of the first part proposes teaching a common school for the term of one quarter, or 60 days, etc., etc." Then the branches to be taught were named, the price, two dollars per term, and other requirements on the part of the patrons were named, and the deed was done. It took a year for a child to learn the alphabet; they first taught the child to repeat the letters by rote and to recognize them at sight; then they began to spell, ab, eb, ib, ob, uh, then ba, be, bi, bo, bu, by. But arithmetic was well taught as was grammar. The games and amusements were much the same then as they are now. The boys knew nothing then of townball, baseball or football as it is played now, but they had one game of ball which, for real fun, skill and healthful exercise, was superior to any of the ball games of the present day. They called it "ball-pen." Running, jumping and wrestling were sports which were engaged in every noon, with a zest and earnestness which sent the rich young blood bounding through the veins, like an electric current. One branch was taught with better practical results than it is at the present time, notwithstanding our increased facilities and advantages. That branch is spelling. It is not because of any lack of opportunities, but because more pride was taken in spelling and because more attention was given to it. The sessions, both in the forenoon and afternoon, were closed by the entire school lined up and engaging in a spelling-lesson. On Friday afternoons the school would select two captains and they would cast lot for first choice and then choose alternately, until all were chosen. Then two came on the floor and when one missed a word and the other spelled it, the defeated one went to his seat and the next on his side took his place, and so on till one side was defeated. In the winter season they had spelling schools at night, one a week. By these methods great enthusiasm was aroused, and as a result a great

many boys and girls became most excellent spellers. Among the early teachers of Menard county were many men of no mean gifts and among the last of the teachers under the old subscription plan, may be mentioned, with honor, Minter Graham, John Tice, Clayborn Hall and Augustus K. Riggins. (See History Menard county, pp. 252-4.) After the introduction of our new and admirable system of public schools, the work of education advanced very rapidly. The county never had a teachers' institute or county normal till the summer of 1878, when it enrolled about forty pupils and continued for a term of six weeks and did academic work. These six-weeks normals continued for nine years, when the term was abridged. Every district in the county has a neat and comfortable schoolhouse, employs first class teachers and continues the school from seven to nine months. Let us look at some statistics: There are in the county: males, under twenty-one years of age, three thousand one hundred and nineteen; females, two thousand nine hundred and twenty-four; total, six thousand and forty-three. Between six and twenty-one: males, two thousand two hundred and twenty-two; females, two thousand and ninety-four; total, four thousand three hundred and sixteen. Number of graded schools, eleven; ungraded, forty-nine; total, sixty. Number of rooms used in graded schools, thirty-eight; rooms in ungraded schools, forty-nine; total, eighty-seven. Total number of days attended, four hundred and eleven thousand two hundred and fifty-five. Average wages paid to male teachers, sixty-eight dollars and eighty-eight cents; to females, forty-five dollars and twenty-one cents; whole amount paid to teachers, thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and five dollars and thirty-seven cents. Whole amount expended for schools, eighty-eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven dollars and fifty cents. The city of Petersburg is now (August, 1904) expending eighteen thousand dollars on a new high-school building, with every modern appliance, convenience and comfort, and it is to be hoped that such wisdom and care will be used by the people in selecting a school board that this great expenditure will not be lost. Buildings and

furniture and apparatus are essentials, but the item above all others is a teacher with common-sense, education and "up-to-date." We have the buildings, the apparatus, the ambition, and our children have the brains; will we give them the best directing power? Menard was the fourth county in the state to adopt a course of study—"the teachers went down into their pockets and paid for it." The "State Course of Study" has now become so perfected that the work of the whole county can be systematized and perfected in such way as to have all the schools do the same work and do it in the same way. If parents will give their earnest co-operation to the officers and teachers, no difficulty will be experienced in making the schools all that we could desire them to be. We will give a brief account of the Petersburg school. After laborious and painstaking search, we find it a settled fact that Charles B. Waldo, a brother-in-law of John Bennett, Esq., mentioned as one of the early settlers and business men of the town, was the teacher of the first school in Petersburg. This was in 1837 and it was taught in a log cabin in the south part of the town. A year or two after this, a small frame schoolhouse was put up west of the town, on the brow of the hill, near the "old Dr. Allen place." It stood out in the brush, with a winding path leading to it. In this primitive temple of learning the youth of the period laid the foundation and learned—to shoot paper wads—until 1855, when the town purchased a building from the Masonic fraternity, which they had used as a hall, and changed it into a schoolhouse, and in it opened a free school, flinging its doors open to all, rich and poor alike. It seems somewhat strange, but it is absolutely true, that although the common school law was passed in 1847 the first free school in this place was not taught till 1855. Up to this time the old subscription schools were the only kind in Petersburg. About the year 1845 or 1846 the Masons started a school in the lower story of their hall for the benefit of their children and engaged W. A. Dickey as teacher. The attendance was not limited to their own children, others being admitted upon certain conditions. This continued until it was bought by the town, as

noticed above. After its purchase an addition was built to it, making a large and commodious school building, which answered all the needs of the town till 1874, when the present third ward school building was begun. This was pushed with such energy that by February, 1875, it was ready for use. This is a brick building, of six rooms, with modern ventilation, heating, etc. It was built at a cost of ten thousand dollars. The first free school was taught by Judge J. H. Pillsbury, in 1855 and 1856. The following is a list of principals, in regular rotation, from Pillsbury down: J. H. Pillsbury, 1855-56; John Dorsey, 1856-57; Edward Laning, 1857-58; J. H. Best, 1858 to 1860; A. Bixby, 1860-61; W. Taylor, 1861-62; Edward Laning, 1862-63; M. P. Hartley, 1863-64; W. Taylor, 1864-65; C. E. McDougall, 1865-66; J. A. Pinkerton and J. H. Pillsbury, 1866-67; W. H. Berry, 1867-69; C. H. Crandall, 1869-70; Professor Mayfield, 1870-71; M. C. Connelly, 1871-76; C. L. Hatfield, 1876-77; J. A. Johnson, 1877-78; M. C. Connelly, 1878-79; then came Briggs, McBride, Frank Hall, Mannix, Perrin, Meeker and then the present principal, or rather superintendent, H. E. Waits. Mr. Waits began his work here last September and is offered as fine an opportunity as any man ever had to prove his ability. For a number of years past the school has been in a sad state of decline, having fallen into ruts of a quarter of a century ago. We spend money enough and have a patronage which, not only in numbers but also in ability, is equal to any anywhere and we have a right to demand the best in our schools. We want men and women of natural ability and educational training to conduct our schools. There is a popular custom, found almost everywhere, that is a great detriment to our schools, and that is the custom of employing "home talent." It is all right to employ home teachers, provided they are as well qualified in every way as any others, but we cannot afford nor can our children afford to have our school system made a charitable institution." Our children have but one time, of a few years, to prepare for the work of life. Directors and patrons should appreciate this fact and secure the best opportunities for them that can be had. The people

should exercise the greatest care in the election of school boards, as only a few men are adapted to the work that they have to do.

About 1890 or 1891 a new and modern schoolhouse was built in the first ward. This is a brick building, with all modern appliances, having seven rooms, furnace, etc. It cost about twelve thousand dollars. A high school, with primary room, library room, etc. was built some years ago, at a cost of four thousand dollars, but this was torn away in the spring of 1904 to give place to the new high school building, which will be occupied the first of January, 1905. This house cost eighteen thousand dollars and is up to date in every feature. Beside the class-rooms, cloak-rooms, etc., it has a gymnasium for boys and one for girls, laboratory, and in fact everything that could be desired in a perfect school-building. Will we now have a school such as the town has a right to demand? It is now "up to" the board and the superintendent to decide this matter.

We have in Menard county four towns that have a regular high-school course of three or four years. These are Petersburg, Athens, Grenview and Tallula; and several which teach the high-school branches, but what we need most is a system of township high-schools. The combination of country schools is the rational solution of the rural school question. Let four or more districts be consolidated into one, building a large schoolhouse in a central place, and the problem is solved. By doing this the school can be graded in such a way that no teacher will have more than half, one third or one fourth as many grades as the country teacher now has. In this way each teacher will be able to care for more than twice as many pupils as under the present method and will be able to do the work much better. This would reduce the number of teachers, at least one half, or more, and the number of rooms the same, thus reducing the running expenses at least one half. The matter of difficulty of attendance, on account of the increased distance that some will be obliged to go, is the chief and, in fact, almost the only argument against it, but this has been tried in many places and found to be a very weak objection. It is a fact that, as a rule, the pupils farthest



from the schoolhouse are tardy and absent the least. Where pupils are near the school no provisions are made to get them there, while in cases where they are a distance away provisions are made and, as a result, they attend regularly. This plan, instead of increasing the expenses of the schools over what they are under the present system, would materially reduce them. But suppose it increased them twenty-five or fifty per cent, it would still be a saving to the public in general, because the majority of parents, at this time, desire to give their children a high-school course, at least, as their entire education or to prepare them for college. When we take into consideration the amount of money spent by the farmers, in board and tuition, in sending their children to high-school, and then reflect that this can be done at home, by the proposed system, we are able to see what an immense saving there would be in it. Township high-schools are coming and they are coming to stay, and the sooner we prepare for them the better off we will be. Before school boards spend any more money in building new schoolhouses or in repairing old ones, they had better weigh this matter and act the part of wisdom and economy. The time has come for the people to exercise common sense in respect to this question. We spend millions of dollars every year in this matter of education; why not economize and get all the good for our money that we can. It is within our reach to place within the grasp of every boy and girl of the land, the means of securing an academic education. There are scattered all over this country thousands of poor boys and girls who long and hunger for an education; boys and girls who, if they had the opportunity, would make their mark in the world; and shall we not place this boon within their reach? How many Edisons and Teslas and Darwins and Agassiz in embryo are stretching out their hands to us and pleading for the opportunity to succeed! Shall we not heed the call?

In 1870 the public schools, having run down or retrograded, in Petersburg, several public-spirited citizens determined to provide some better educational advantages for the young

people of the town. To this end John A. Brahm, Isaac White, H. W. Montgomery, David Frackelton, J. M. Robbins and B. F. Montgomery formed a joint-stock company and erected a building on the hill, some half mile west of the public square, for the purpose of having a "good school." The building cost three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars and the school was opened under the name of "The Petersburg Seminary." As seen from the above facts, it was a private and individual enterprise and the rate charged was thirty-six dollars per pupil, for a term of nine months. The first year of the new seminary, W. S. Bennett and Miss M. A. Campbell were employed as teachers. The patronage was not what the projectors had hoped for but they continued to conduct the institution. The second year D. M. Bone and Miss M. P. Rainey were the teachers. Let me remark just here, parenthetically, as a matter of deep interest to all our lady readers, and especially the "school-marms," that both of these principals married the assistants. Whether this fact led to the position of assistant being much sought after by young lady teachers or not we are not informed, but there was no trouble in securing lady teachers after this. This seminary was continued for two more years and then the enterprise was abandoned. Whether the increased efficiency of the public schools was the cause of this or not we cannot say, but at any rate the school closed. The directors sold the building, which has ever since been used as a dwelling house, and Mrs. Rachel Frackelton bought the ground and erected a residence upon it. This is the only effort ever made in the county to build up a school of a higher grade, except the one at Indian Point. Nearly, or quite fifty years ago an academy was organized at that place, which was very successful for a number of years. Rev. A. J. Strain was principal of that school and it was well attended and the work done would compare favorably with the work of any school, of similar grade, in the country, but after a few years it went down and since that time the two rooms of the building have been occupied by the district, which employs two teachers all the time.

Some misfortunes have come to school buildings in Menard county in the last year but they have proved blessings in the end. During the winter of 1903-04 the schoolhouse at Athens burned to the ground, destroying the furniture and books, maps, etc. They, however, had a fair amount of insurance and at once prepared to rebuild. They opened the New Year, 1905, in one of the most commodious, convenient and up-to-date buildings in the entire county. The building burned was getting old and was somewhat old-fashioned any way, so that getting the insurance, and adding a comparatively small amount, they have a new and modern building, which they would have been obliged to build within a short time.

Tallula added two most elegant rooms to their already commodious building in the fall of 1904. The rooms added are absolutely perfect, so far as light, ventilation and comfort are concerned. It cost considerable money but it will be a paying investment in the long run.

Oakford, also, felt the educational inspiration and added two rooms to its already comfortable schoolhouse. In fact all over the county the spirit of improvement in educational advantages has been felt and results are visible on every hand. Petersburg, with her new eighteen thousand dollar high school building, with gymnasium, laboratory, library, etc., and a score of other evidences of advancement, tells the trend of public feeling. Will not the people arouse to a sense of their needs and their opportunities and at once begin to agitate the question of township high schools or of neighborhood high schools, it does not matter which? Districts have the right under the law to combine in any way that they please, for the good of the schools. Four, six, or any number of schools may combine, that may see fit, under the township high school law or under the general school law, and the directors have the right to dictate the branches that they wish taught. Distance is the only argument against this, and this will disappear when it is carefully investigated and inquired into.

## EARLY CHURCHES.

Notwithstanding all the toils and trials incident to the settlement of a new country, and many rough and vicious men who come into them, it is a fact that the teachings of the Christian religion were felt and realized in the most remote and sparsely settled settlements. What a rebuke, too, is given to the ministers of the present time, by the self-sacrificing devotion and arduous toil of those men who first planted the standard of the Cross of Christ in the sparsely settled frontiers of the west. Without the most remote hope of any temporal remuneration, exposed to danger and disease, subject to the severest trials and most painful privations, they went out, foregoing all the joys of home and the society of loved ones, to be instrumental in the advancement of the truth and the salvation of men. Often the pioneer preacher, with no companion but the horse he rode, would start across the wide prairies, with no guide but the knowledge he had of the cardinal points, or perhaps a point of timber scarcely visible in the dim and lazy distance, and, reaching the desired settlement, would present the claims of the Gospel to the few assembled hearers, after the toilsome and lonely day's journey; then after a night of rest in the humble cabin and partaking of the simple meal, he again enters upon the journey of the day, to preach again at a distant point. Thus the "circuit" of hundreds of miles was traveled month after month; and to these men we owe the planting of churches all over the land, and the hallowed influence of religion as seen and felt in society everywhere. At this late day it is impossible to learn who was the first minister who visited the territory now embraced in Menard county. This honor is claimed for at least a dozen different individuals, and three or four different denominations lay claim to the honor of being first to be represented by a minister here. There were at least five denominations that were represented by ministers coming here in a very early day. These were the Regular, Hard-Shell or Calvinistic Baptists, the Separate (now Missionary) Baptists; the Methodists; the New-Lights, afterward called Disciples, sometimes called "Campbellites;" and the Cumberland



Presbyterians. We will give a very brief history of these separately.

#### REGULAR BAPTISTS.

These people, generally called "Hard-Shells," have ever been anti-missionary, and generally opposed to temperance societies and opposed to ministers receiving stipulated salaries, but are a good class of citizens, candid and reliable, while their ministers are men of good natural ability but a majority of them are uneducated. Yet among them have been numbered some of the great preachers of the world, for example, Charles H. Spurgeon. Being Calvinists of the most pronounced type, it is not to be wondered at that they believe that if God has made it a man's duty to preach, He will enable him to do the work when the time comes without any previous preparation on his part. Hence they in their preaching give to the people the truth "just as God gave it to them." If this be true we must say, and with reverence, that He has given them some very strange messages. Very soon after settlements were begun here "Regular" Baptist preachers made their advent also. Some affirm very positively, that the Regular Baptist church in the neighborhood of Salem was organized before the Baptist church at Clary's Grove. Grandmother Potter, who was a grown woman, and living within a mile of Salem, says that the church was older by a year or two, than that at Clary's Grove. But the memory of all others is at variance with hers. Be this as it may, one thing is true, that this denomination had a church here in a very early day. Other societies were perhaps formed in the county, but if so, they, with that of Salem, have long since become extinct, so that at the present time there is not, we believe, an organization in the county. But there are a number of good and substantial men of that faith, whose Christian life and character will compare favorably with any others, still living in the county. While we would not say anything disrespectful or disparaging of this venerable people, whom we respect and honor, yet we cannot refrain from relating an anecdote of them, the truth of a part of which, at least, is vouched for. In the palmy days of Salem Dr. Allen created quite an excitement

on the subject of temperance and many were induced to sign a pledge of total abstinence. Among those signing the pledge was Minter Graham, the pioneer teacher of the county, and a member of the Regular Baptist church. So soon as this was known to the church, Graham was promptly tried and as promptly turned out. Thus far the story is true to the letter. But the story, as popularly told at the time, is to the effect that on the same day that "Uncle Minter" was turned out, another brother was tried for getting drunk and he too was expelled. After this an old brother arose very solemnly, and, drawing a quart "flask" from his pocket, the bottle being about half full of whisky, and holding it steadily between his eye and the light and inclining his head slightly to one side, he thus addressed the congregation: "Brethering, you have turned one member out because he would not drink and another because he got drunk and now I want to ask a question. It is this: How much of the critter does one have to drink in order to remain in full fellowship in this church?" We are not advised what answer was given to this question but doubtless there was a medium well defined, and understood by the ministry if not by the laity. This people performed a very important part in the opening up and development of this country and their influence for good is still felt all over this section. Many men and women of the denomination, among the best citizens of the country, are living here, but not in numbers sufficient to organize societies, but adhering to their faith they are calmly waiting the transfer to the "great congregation above."

#### MISSIONARY BAPTISTS.

As before stated, the Baptists were early in this field, but this denomination was very much divided, especially on the subject of foreign and domestic missions. There were, beside the "Hard-Shells" or Regular Baptists, the Separate and United Baptists, and these were divided into the missionary and anti-missionary parties. The opposition to missions gradually declined till long since there ceased to be any anti-mission Baptists except the Hard-Shells. No people can justly be said to be opposed to

missions who enroll among their members such men as the Judsons. Clary's Grove Baptist church was organized on Christmas day, 1824. This was the first church of this denomination organized in the county but the burden of testimony is that Rock Creek Cumberland Presbyterian church is entitled to the honor of being the first religious organization of any kind in the county. From Clary's Grove radiated an influence which makes it the parent of that denomination in all this section of country. The early Baptist preachers, like all the evangelical preachers of that time, were earnest, devoted and self-sacrificing in their labors. Baker's Prairie congregation of Baptists was organized in rather an early day and is still an important church. A Baptist church was organized in Petersburg soon after the town was laid out, and is still a flourishing congregation. New Hope, on Sand Ridge, is one of the old Baptist churches in the county and is doing well. There was at one time a church in Greenview, but it has gone down. They have in the county three good brick buildings and one frame. The venerable P. H. Curry, after over sixty years in the ministry in this county, is now preaching as a missionary in Athens and we hope will succeed in building up a church in that place. The Baptists form an important element in society in this county and their influence for good is felt far and near. Baptist ministers are mentioned in other places in this work, in connection with the various settlements, but as there are some of more importance than others we will mention them here. Elder P. H. Curry is an able and good man and has done more for that church than any other one man in all this part of Illinois. At over eighty years of age he is still at his post, battling for the right as he sees it. Rev. William Goldsby, who died many years ago, grew up in this county, was converted here in early life and began preaching and spent his life in the work. He was a man of limited education and possessed of nothing brilliant intellectually, but his straightforward integrity, unswerving honesty and devoted piety gave him a wonderful power for good and while he was not regarded as an able preacher yet in his simple way he won many to the way of right-

eousness, and will doubtless have many stars in his crown of rejoicing. The Spears, Hon. W. T. Beckman and others were pillars in this denomination and did much for the cause of religion and morals in this county, and are doubtless reaping their reward.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

It would seem eminently proper to have placed this church first in the history of churches in this county for they are pre-eminently a pioneer people. Its policy for spreading the gospel is just exactly adapted to the wants and needs of new and sparsely settled sections of country. The first Methodist that ever settled in Illinois was Captain Joseph Ogle, who came to the state in 1775. The first Methodist preacher to come to the state was Rev. Joseph Lillard, who formed the first society in the state. This class was formed in the cabin of Captain Ogle, in St. Clair county, but the exact date is not given. Some time later Rev. John Clark, who had preached for years in the Carolinas, that is from 1791 to 1796, desiring to get away from slavery, wandered westward and was the first to preach Methodism west of the Mississippi river, and subsequently came to Illinois. Rev. Hosea Riggs was the first local preacher to settle in the state. The first work in the state, under the authority of conference, was in 1803, when Rev. Benjamin Young was appointed missionary to the territory of Illinois by the western conference, holding its session at Mount Gerizim, Kentucky. In 1804 he reported sixty-seven members in the state. He was a man of great zeal and energy. In 1806 Rev. Jesse Walker came to the state and it was he who held the first camp-meeting in the state. At the close of 1806 there were two hundred and eighteen members in the state. The western conference included Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and all the northwest. In 1812 it was divided and Tennessee and Illinois formed a conference. In 1816 the Missouri conference was formed and Illinois was joined to it. In 1824 Illinois conference was formed, with Indiana joined to it. In 1832 Indiana was separated from it, and Illinois formed a separate conference. We have no reliable evidence as to who was the first Methodist preacher in Menard

county but we do have proof that as early as 1820 or 1821 a class was formed at Athens. Rev. James Stringfield was probably the first Methodist preacher in the county and certainly the first local preacher of that faith to settle here. In 1821 or 1822 a circuit was laid out and Rev. Isaac House was the circuit rider and Rev. Simms presiding elder. The Methodists built the first house of worship that was built in Menard county; it was built on the farm of Harry Riggins. The land was donated by Mr. Riggins, to revert to him when it ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was given. It was a neat hewed log house, twenty-two by thirty-six feet, and by chance it had glass windows. We say by chance because it was almost impossible to secure glass at that day, but Mr. Riggins had brought a lot with him and donated enough for the church. This house served the purpose till about 1839 or 1840, when it was sold and became a barn on Mr. Riggins's farm and the proceeds were applied on the church built in Athens in 1840. The church has been blessed in Menard county with the labors of some very able men. The venerable Peter Akers, D. D., was presiding elder here for some time and Peter Cartwright has preached in almost every grove and way-side in the county. The church has now four good houses and four congregations in this county at the present time. Reminiscences of Methodist preachers rush on the mind but if the flood gate is once opened there is no safe place to land, so we will speak of but one more man. The portly figure and smiling face of Rev. Barrett rises up before us, and with the face an interminable store of incidents rush upon the memory. That eye, so full of humor, looks out on the world no more; the voice, so sweet in persuasion, so dire in denunciation and so convincing in argument, is long since silent in death, but those who knew him will never forget the power of his pulpit efforts or the unrivaled point and potency of his witticisms. Always and everywhere a zealous Christian gentleman and devoted minister, yet he saw the ludicrous side of things and he had the gift of leading others to see it also. Sometimes, though not often, this characteristic of the man would manifest itself in the pulpit and when

it did the house was "brought down." Pardon one illustration of the man; a story that is absolutely true and told without exaggeration. Mr. Barrett was a plain western man, used to western habits and customs. He was also blessed with a powerful physical constitution and, being a man of very active habits, his nature demanded, and he relished most heartily, good, plain, wholesome food. At one time he was on a circuit in which one of the preaching points was in a settlement of New England people and most of the members were Yankees. Of course their manners were very unlike his, and especially in the matter of diet they were totally unlike. In that early day sweetmeats were scarce and those Eastern people had no idea of eating meat like the Westerners. They lived almost entirely without meat, and the inevitable pumpkin-pie was a standard part of their living, especially in the fall and winter season. Brother Barrett visited almost every house but it was everywhere the same—the pumpkin pie confronted him wherever he went. At last, almost starving, he hinted very broadly that he wanted meat, but to no avail. Finally on Sunday morning, at the quarterly meeting, when the Presiding Elder was present, he determined to present his case to the Lord in prayer. A large audience had assembled and Brother Barrett offered the opening prayer. After addressing the throne of grace for a time he went on: "O Lord, we thank Thee for this good land, for this productive soil and for sunshine and shower. And we pray Thee, O Lord, if Thou canst bless under the Gospel what Thou didst curse under the Law, that Thou wouldst bless the hogs. Oh, may they fatten and thrive; and do Thou send abundant crops of corn that they may be made fat, that Thy servants may have meat to eat, that they may grow strong to serve Thee and do Thy will. But Oh, Lord, we pray Thee to blight the pumpkin crop. Send blasting and mildew on every sprout and vine, for Thou knowest we can not serve Thee on the strength they give." He then went on, closed his prayer, and the service; and we may say that Brother Barrett had meat to eat after that. This story is literally true. Mr. Barrett lived and continued to preach till some time in 1878, and

in that year he was living in Jacksonville, and went up to Grigg's Chapel, in Cass county. He preached morning and evening and then went home with a friend and retired in apparently perfect health. The next morning he was found cold in death. Thus closed the life of this strong, devoted, successful, but eccentric servant of God. The Methodist Episcopal church has had a great many able, devoted and faithful ministers who have labored in this county and this great church is doing its part of the work here.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN.

About the year 1800 the spiritual condition of the church all over the south was very low. For malice was about all there was in the church, especially the Presbyterian church in the south. That church, being Calvinistic to the last degree, awaited the "election of grace" to do the work, instead of urging men to use their free agency in seeking the way of life. A prominent elder of the church in that day said that he sat under the ministry of an able Doctor of Divinity for twenty years, and never in all that time heard him mention the agency of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration. About this time Rev. James McGready, who had been preaching for several years, was accidentally aroused to a realization of his condition and was powerfully converted to God. He was a man of finished education and of great natural ability and after his conversion he began to appeal to a dead and lifeless church. The result was wonderful. A great revival swept all over the south and thousands were powerfully converted. The church was divided into a revival and anti-revival party. The revival party could not accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, believing that it taught the doctrine of fatality. The Calvinists were the anti-revival party and they charged the revivalists with being Arminian in faith, but this they most vehemently denied, claiming to be neither Arminian nor Calvinist.

Out of this revival the Cumberland Presbyterian church was born. They have always claimed to occupy a clearly defined medium ground between Calvinism and Arminianism. Their first theological publication was called

the "Theological Medium," and it was set for the defense of this position, denying every one of the distinctive doctrines of each. Whoever charges this church with being Calvinistic or Arminian does it through ignorance or prejudice. They do not accept a single one of the five points of Calvinism, as they teach them, and they as strongly repudiate the distinctive doctrines of Arminius. Calvin says, election from eternity; Arminius says, election at death; they say, election at conversion. Calvin says, salvation possible to a part, and certain to the elect; Arminius says, salvation possible to all, but certain to none; they say, salvation possible to all, and certain to the believer. This church was organized on the 4th day of February, 1810, in Tennessee. Hence it is not to be expected that it had spread very far, as early as the first settling of this county in 1819 and 1820, especially when we remember that it had its origin as far south as the south-east part of Tennessee. It is true, however, notwithstanding this fact, that ministers of this denomination found their way here before the church was fifteen years old. The first Cumberland Presbyterian minister to visit this part of this state was the Rev. John McCutchen Berry. He was born in the Old Dominion March 22, 1788. His education was limited. When twenty-two years of age he made a profession of religion and joined the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He was a soldier in the war of 1812 and participated in the battle of New Orleans. The Logan Presbytery licensed him to preach in 1819, and in 1822 he was ordained by the same body. He removed to Indiana in 1820 but returned to Tennessee for ordination. Soon after his ordination he came to Illinois and settled in the limits of Menard county, on Rock creek, near where the Cumberland Presbyterian church there stands. This section of the state was then in the bounds of the Illinois Presbytery and so remained till the spring of 1829. Some years before this Mr. Berry had organized the Sugar Creek church, some ten miles south of Springfield. By order of the Cumberland synod (for the general assembly was not yet formed) the Sangamon presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian church was organized at Sugar creek, on

the 20th day of April, 1829, at the home of William Drennon. The ministers forming the presbytery were Revs. John M. Berry, Gilbert Dodds, Thomas Campbell, David Foster and John Porter, Mr. Berry being moderator, and Gilbert Dodds, clerk. Mr. Berry preached the opening sermon from Matthew xvi:15. The elders present were Joseph Dodds, from Sugar Creek church; John Hamilton, from Bethel; and Samuel Berry, from Concord and Lebanon. As Mr. Berry was the first Cumberland Presbyterian preacher in this part of the state, it is due to history and to the cause to say something more of him. As said before, his education was limited, owing to the circumstances surrounding him when he was young, but his natural gifts, in every respect, were far above the average. He was independent in his manner of thought, gentle and kind, but uncompromising and unmerciful in his opposition to everything that he thought to be wrong. He was charitable in his feelings to the views of others but unyielding in his convictions until he was convinced by the force of argument. As a speaker, he was plain, solemn and unassuming, making no effort at rhetorical display or dramatic effect, but possessing a commanding presence and a voice full of force and persuasive attractiveness it is not surprising that he exerted a wonderful power over men. Though usually full of force and logic, yet at times, when warmed and inspired by his theme, he arose almost to sublimity and at such times his appeals were almost irresistible. The method of his argument was of the clearest and most incisive character, and when fully aroused by the importance of his subject he seemed to carry everything before him. His character and the estimate in which he was held can be given best by relating an anecdote, or rather an incident, which occurred at an early day here. The reader is doubtless aware that the lamented Abraham Lincoln was at one time engaged in selling groceries in old Salem. A son of Rev. Berry was, for a time, a partner of Mr. Lincoln in this grocery, and it is a fact, conceded by all, that intoxicants were sold by them, as was the case in all grocery stores in those times. Be this as it may, the young Berry in some way formed the habit

of drink, becoming a confirmed drunkard and dying an awful death. This was a blow from which the father never recovered, but a deep, dark shadow seemed ever after to be cast over him. It appears that while his son was in the store at Salem he strove in every way that he could to dissuade his son from a life of intemperance, but in vain. His labors, however, were not in vain, as it seems, for the council given to the son made a lasting impression on Mr. Lincoln. Years after the close of the little grocery store at Salem, when Mr. Lincoln had reached a place of eminence in the legal profession, a certain grog-shop in a community was having its usual bad influence and a number of married men were neglecting their homes and their wives. These wives, seeing no other way to remedy the evil, on a certain occasion gathered together and made a raid on the vile den, demolishing the barrels, breaking up the decanters and demijohns and playing havoc with things generally. For this the ladies were arrested and prosecuted, and Mr. Lincoln volunteered his services for their defense. In the midst of a most powerful argument on the evils of the use of and the traffic in intoxicating spirits, while all the crowd in the room were intensely interested, and many bathed in tears, the speaker turned, and pointing his long, bony finger toward where the venerable Berry happened to be standing, said: "There stands the man who, years ago, was instrumental in convincing me of the evils of trafficking in and using ardent spirits. I am glad that I ever saw him. I am glad that I ever heard his testimony on this terrible subject." This was a higher honor than to have been made chief magistrate of the nation. Such an encomium from such a man speaks volumes in praise of Mr. Berry's influence for good and unflinching stand for what is right.

Such is a brief sketch of this pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian preacher in this part of Illinois. Mr. Berry died as he had lived, with his armor on. He died in Clinton, DeWitt county, Illinois, in the winter of 1856 or 1857, where he had lived for a number of years. His early co-laborers were equally earnest, devoted and pious in their work for the Master, and Dodds, Campbell and others will ever be

remembered with warmest gratitude by the people of this denomination. Some of the old settlers are firm in the conviction that Lebanon congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian church was the first religious organization in the county, but after the most careful inquiry we are convinced that Clary's Grove Baptist church has a just right to this honor. Lebanon was organized in 1824 or 1825 and Concord a year or two later. There are in the county, at this writing, seven congregations of this denomination, four of which have regular pastors.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

There is such an abundance of literature, especially in the line of history, of this church, that it is not thought necessary in this place to enter upon an extended account. In 1816, or as some say, in 1814, the Rev. James McGready organized the Sharon congregation of that church, in White county, Illinois. It was under the preaching of this same James McGready in 1800 that the great revival began in the south, that swept all over that part of the United States, and out of which was born the Cumberland Presbyterian church. About the same time the Rev. J. F. Schenckhorn and Samuel J. Mills visited Kaskaskia and left a very deep impression by their zeal and fidelity, especially in the family of the Governor, Ninian Edwards. At that time there was not a town of a thousand inhabitants in Indiana, Illinois or Missouri, unless it was Madison, Vincennes or St. Louis. Sparse settlements were scattered along the east side of Illinois as far north as the Vermillion river, and on the west side as far as Quincy. All north of this was a wilderness, save here and there an Indian trading post. Peoria was Fort Clark and Chicago was Fort Dearborn. In 1821 Rev. Gideon Blackburn was in the zenith of his power as a preacher of the Gospel. He passed through the state and held a camp-meeting at Shoal creek, in Bond county, where there was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and many were converted and a church was organized. Rev. Abraham Williamson, from Princeton, New Jersey, also Rev. Orrin Catlin and Daniel G. Sprague, from Andover, Massachusetts,

preached in that part of the state and organized a church at Carrollton. About 1825, near the time that the town of Jacksonville was laid out, Rev. John Birch, a Scotchman, came to the state and began his labors in Jacksonville. Here he organized a church. He was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Ellis, who laid the foundation of Illinois College. On the 30th of January, 1828, Mr. Ellis organized a church in Springfield and named it Sangamon church, after the river and county of that name. There were nineteen went into the organization, only five of whom lived in the village of Springfield, and these five were all women. The membership was scattered over a region of twenty miles around, several of them (Messrs. John and John N. Moore) lived in what is now Menard county. It is worthy of mention that this church was organized in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, widow of Dr. John Blair Smith, a very eminent man and once president of Hampden and Sidney College, Virginia. The church of Edwardsville was also organized in her house, when she lived in that place in 1819. Rev. John G. Bergen, of New Jersey, was the first regular pastor of the Springfield church. On the 20th of May, 1832, Rev. John Bergen organized the North Sangamon or Indian Point church, in the Cumberland Presbyterian "Meeting-House," at Lebanon, with the following as members: Elijah Scott, John Stone, Andrew Moore, Samuel Moore, Alexander Barnett, David Walker, Milton Rayburn, Phoebe Moore, Margaret S. Moore, Stephen Stone, Ann Barnett, John N. Moore, Mary Moore, Jane Patterson, Panny Barnett, Hannah Baxter, Jane Rayburn, Polly Walker, Matilda Walker, Elizabeth Walker, Jane Walker, Ann Walker, John Moore, Ambers Stone, Jane Scott, Lucy Stone, Polly Stotts, Catharine Stone, Jane Casey, Isabella Walker, Alexander Walker and William Stotts. The same day the following were received on experience: John Allen, Henry C. Rogers, Sarah C. Rogers and Elizabeth Patterson. John Moore, John N. Moore and Alexander Walker were chosen ruling elders. They used the Cumberland log "Meeting-House" till the Cumberlands decided to build a better house of worship, when the Presbyterians assisted in building it and occu-



pied it half the time till 1844, when they built a very comfortable frame church, twenty-eight by thirty-six feet in size. This house they occupied for seventeen years, or till 1867, when the present brick church was finished and dedicated by Rev. John G. Bergen, D. D. Among the honored pastors and supplies who have served this church we may name Rev. William K. Stewart, Rev. Thomas A. Spillman, Rev. George W. McKinley, Rev. Samuel Foster, Rev. Alexander Ewing, Rev. John W. Little, Rev. Thomas Galt, Rev. William Perkins, Rev. R. A. Criswell, Rev. R. A. VanPelt, Rev. Mr. Reese, Rev. John Crozier, Rev. D. J. Strain, Rev. Barnabas Lyman, Rev. T. W. Leard and the Rev. H. B. Douglas. Mr. Douglas served till 1891. On the 8th of May, 1891, the Rev. D. G. Carson began his ministry here, which still continues. The most important event in the recent history of the North Sangamon Church was the erection of a Mission Chapel in the town of Athens. On the 28th of March, 1892, the session of this church took the initial step in this important work. Going about it with zeal and energy, it was no great task to build a place of worship. Athens had needed a Presbyterian house of worship for a long time, as there were a number of people of that faith who lived in the place. On the 16th of July, 1893, they dedicated a very neat and commodious house of worship, costing four thousand dollars. The house was dedicated free of debt, on the date given above, the services being conducted by the Rev. W. H. Penhallegan, D. D., of Decatur, Ill. Since the house was built they have kept up regular services, Rev. Mr. Carson preaching for them, and they have a successful Sabbath-school, with all the other services. The North Sangamon church is in a prosperous condition, the Rev. D. G. Carson, who has served them as pastor for fourteen years, being still their beloved and trusted leader, with the following officers: Robert A. Young, McKinley Jones, John H. Kincaid, Henry M. Moore and James S. Culver constituting the session; the trustees being R. Y. Kincaid, F. H. Whitney and Lee Kincaid. No church in central Illinois runs smoother and with less friction. It is located in the very heart of one of the finest agricultural sec-

tions in central Illinois, and in a community of enterprising, intelligent and pious people it can not but be an agency of great good. The following persons who were communicants in this church, have entered the gospel ministry: John H. Moore, D. J. Strain, John W. Little, John J. Graham, W. C. McDougall and John Howe Moore. The last named, a young man of rare piety and promise, was called to his reward before he had completed his studies preparatory to entering the active ministry.

#### THE DISCIPLES.

This body of people, known as Disciples, Christians, or Church of Christ, had its origin in western Pennsylvania. It originated thus: In the year 1809 Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander Campbell, having become deeply impressed with what they regarded as the unfortunate division among professed Christian people, began an effort to bring about a union of all, not intending to start a new "sect" or party. These men were natives of Scotland and having emigrated to America they settled in Virginia. They were both regularly ordained ministers in the Presbyterian church, but after coming to America they became dissatisfied in regard to baptism and some other subjects of Christian doctrine and after a time they united with the Baptist church. It was not long till they were regarded as unsound on the doctrine of the operation of the Holy Spirit and the work of regeneration, by the Baptists, and a great deal of disputation and controversy followed. They had arrived at the conclusion that taking the Bible alone, without any standard of interpretation, would unite all the churches. Quite a number of people, mostly Presbyterians, went into the enterprise with the Campbells, but soon the question of the mode and subject of baptism was mooted and many forsook the new party but the majority rejected infant baptism and affusion and the body became one of "immersed believers," and were soon united with the Redstone Baptist Association. Soon after this the troubles, spoken of above, developed, and the "Disciples" became a distinct sect. Thus what was intended to unite the sects resulted in adding another to the long list of sects. About

three years before the beginning of the move by the Campbells in Pennsylvania, a Presbyterian minister in Kentucky had tried to bring about a union of all churches on the basis of the Bible alone. This movement was brought about and led by one Barton W. Stone, who had been a Presbyterian minister for years. Stone had collected quite a little band together and he and the Campbells met and after quite a time spent in controverting various points, they united their forces, the two forming a very considerable body of people. The followers of Stone were called "New Lights" and those of Campbell "Disciples," but for the sake of distinction many people called the one party "Stonites" and the other "Campbellites" but neither of these names was given in reproach, but merely to distinguish them. It is certain that the "New Lights," as they were called here, sent preachers into this part of Illinois almost as early as other denominations. As said before, Rev. House, of the Methodist Episcopal church, was the first preacher in this county and old Mr. Crow, the Regular or "Hard Shell" Baptist, was the next. As early as 1820 or 1821 a New Light preacher by the name of Henderson came to Sugar Grove, and preached in the cabin of Roland Grant but there is no evidence that he ever attempted to form a society. Not long after this Barton W. Stone himself came and preached a number of times in Clary's Grove. Stone was followed by Sidney Rigdon, who was then a New Light preacher but he afterward became a Mormon and later one of the Twelve Apostles, and traveled all over Europe as a missionary of that church. In the year 1827 a Disciple congregation was formed in Clary's Grove and a few years later they built a log meeting-house. Some years later they built a good frame church in the Grove which served them till the village of Tallula was laid out. Seeing that this was to be the center of the community, they sold the frame church in the Grove and about the close of the Civil war they erected the large and commodious church in the village, which they still occupy. The date of the organization in the Sugar Grove is not definitely known, but it is admitted by all that it was at a very early period. This

soon became a very strong and prosperous body and it was for many years the largest and most wealthy congregation in the county. It continued to hold this enviable position till 1867 when misfortune seemed to overtake it, and in a short time it was almost annihilated. But as this story is told in another place, we omit it here. This is a strong and active body of people, earnestly pushing their work in every direction. They have five strong churches in Menard county, each active and aggressive, keeping up all the departments of their work, and the general enterprises of the cause. They have an able and intelligent ministry, and as a denomination are very active in the work of education.

Thus we have given a brief outline of the work of the various bodies of Christian people in the county, from the beginning of the settlement here, and we think that in the main it is correct. Under the head of the various settlements will be found more of the detail of the work of particular congregations. We would have been glad to have given more of the particulars of the trials and hardships endured by the early preachers, as we believe that this would have been of great value to the people of to-day. When our modern kid-gloved and classically educated young preachers of the present time go into a congregation, strong and rich, and receive a good salary and a pleasant home, they should know and realize the work that was done by those hardy pioneers, in preparing this "well-feathered nest" for them. They should know that, while many of those early preachers had only the rudiments of an education and had scarcely ever heard of a theological seminary, they were better versed in the doctrines of the Bible and could preach the gospel with tenfold the power and effect that is realized at the present time. Those men received no salary; they endured hardships and privations almost beyond description; they suffered and toiled without pay, because they had the matter at heart, and the gospel was like fire shut up in their bones; and like true "Sons of Thunder" they went forth and laid this broad and deep foundation, on which we, of the present, are called to build.



## CLARY'S GROVE.

This settlement of course includes Tallula and all that section of Menard county north of Rock creek and to the Cass county line, and on north to the Sangamon river. It includes some of the finest lands, both timber and prairie, that there is in the entire county. Every one is aware of the fact that the early settlements were invariably made in the timber. If one wished to know where the finest and largest bodies of timber were when the white man first came, all he would be required to do would be to ascertain where the first settlements were made and his question would be answered. Tallula is the only town or village in this territory and the only postoffice at the present time. The Jacksonville division of the Chicago & Alton railroad runs through this section from northeast to southwest and passes almost immediately over the spot where Clary built three-faced camp when he first settled there. Notwithstanding Tallula community is now the very perfection of refinement and wealth, the time was when it could justly have laid claim to the other extreme. Seventy-five years ago Clary's Grove was synonymous with all the mischief and devilry that occurred within a radius of fifty miles, and the few civilized men who had the misfortune to live there among those "border ruffians" of that remote date say they were ashamed to tell where they were from when they went to Springfield. The settlement was made up largely of the "rag tag and bob-tail" who leave the more civilized sections for their own and their country's good and seek the frontier, where they are unrestrained by law and order, and again take up their line of march as the star of empire wends its way toward the glowing west. So it was here. As civilization advanced this rough element pulled up stakes and moved to other frontier localities, leaving the substantial element in full possession, and thus Clary's Grove developed into one of the most quiet and respectable neighborhoods in the entire country, and to-day it is looked upon as the very paradise of Menard county. The ill name given it by the lawless deeds of the "Clary's Grove boys" is

now forgotten, or is remembered only as the last lingering memories of a hideous nightmare. But we would not have the reader suppose that we include the Clarys or other of the substantial citizens who had located there. As before stated, it was the rough element always found in a new country and long ago left there for greener fields and more congenial climes.

The first settlement in Clary's Grove has been told so often that it seems unnecessary to repeat it here. John Clary was doubtless the first settler in the territory of what is now Menard county, but it is also beyond dispute that almost at the very time that he was locating in the Grove other parties came to Sugar Grove and Indian Point timber. Clary came from Tennessee and located in the grove ever since called by his name in the year 1819. He built a three-faced camp, leaving one entire side open, in which he lived with his family for three years. The open side of the camp served as door, window and fireplace, as, in cold weather, they kept a huge log heap burning in front of it, which served to keep them warm, and on this fire they did their cooking. After three years Clary sold his claim to a Mr. Watkins and a little later Watkins sold out to George Spears, who improved the farm, bought other lands and lived there till the time of his death, which occurred some fifteen or twenty years back. Clary, after selling his claim, removed to Arkansas but several of his children remained in Illinois and many of his descendants are still living in this county. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and took part in many of the fierce battles with the "red coats" of King George. By nature a pioneer, he sought the wilds of Illinois and as people crowded him too close he removed to the fresher scenes of Arkansas. Thomas Watkins was from Kentucky and bought Clary out and settled there in 1820 or 1821. When he sold his claim in the grove he removed to the timber near where the city of Petersburg now stands. He reared a large family and many of his descendants are residents of the county at the present time. When George Spears came to this state from Kentucky in 1824, he bought Watkins out as stated above. Spears reared a large family, some of

whom are still living. One son lives in Tallula, John Q. Spears; and one daughter, Mrs. George C. Spears, lives in Tallula; and another daughter, Mrs. William T. Beckman, lives in Petersburg.

Abraham Mounts came to the grove in 1820 or 1821 and remained for a time. He built a mill here; perhaps this was the first mill in the county, but it was a most primitive affair in pattern, dimensions and capacity. Whence he came no one seemed to know, and after awhile he removed to Mason county and was "lost in the shuffle." James White and Robert Conover were brothers-in-law to George Spears and came from Green county, Kentucky. White settled here in 1820 and Conover in 1821. Their wives were sisters of Mr. Spears, and they, having opened farms in the grove, reared large families, whose descendants are scattered all over this country. The old people, of course, have been dead for many years; in fact their second generation are now all gone. Rev. James and John G. White, noted Cumberland Presbyterian preachers in this state years ago, were sons of the pioneer James White. Solomon Matthews, from Tennessee, was another of the early immigrants of this part of the country, coming in 1821 or 1822, but he was one of those transient settlers to be found in new countries, who, as game thins out and becomes scarce, follow it to other fields. Matthews left in a few years, and where he went, no one seems to know or care. Another of the very early comers was Bannister Bond, who came from Tennessee and remained for over twenty years and then sold out and removed to Iowa. Cyrus Kirby came in 1822 and located in the grove, where he became a permanent citizen. He was originally from Kentucky, but first settled in Madison county, near Alton, somewhere about 1816 or 1817. He was rather poor and, having no team to plow his land, he took a mattock and actually dug up two acres of prairie and planted it in corn. Think of this, ye "silk-stockinged" farmers, as you ride over your broad fields in your sulky plows and watch with pride your reapers and headers as they glide through the golden grain, and remember that eighty years ago, perhaps, some hard run, but honest far-

mer like Cyrus Kirby was toiling upon the same spot to make bread for his children. When Mr. Kirby died, some years ago, this same memorable mattock was sold at his sale and was bought by his son and it is still treasured in the family as a relic of pioneer days. Mr. Kirby died here many years back. His son George Kirby died in 1904, at the great age of ninety-two years. Two of Cyrus Kirby's daughters still live in this county: Mrs. Samuel Watkins, far up in the eighties; and Mrs. Lewis Watkins, now in her ninety-seventh year. Mr. Kirby has a large posterity in this section of country, all of whom are well-to-do and respected citizens. Another of the early comers to this grove was Solomon Speer, who came in 1820, with Mr. White. He and White were brothers-in-law, and he located here, but after a few years he removed to Cass county, where he died many years ago. Jacob and Jesse Ginn came out from Kentucky, where most of the early settlers of this section came from, in 1821 or 1822, and took claims. Jesse died where he settled many years ago, and Jacob moved to Knox county, where he died. William Clary came from Tennessee in 1822 or 1823 and in 1824 sold his claim to George Spears and removed to Arkansas. Andrew Beard came about the same time and took a claim—the same that John Q. Spears afterward lived on—and sold it to George Spears in 1824. After selling out to Spears Beard settled on the west side of the grove, where he remained several years, and then sold and started to Oregon, but died on the way on the Gulf of Mexico. Barton Lytton, also from Kentucky, was an early settler, but sold his claim to George Spears in 1824 and removed to Cass county. William Revis came in 1822, but sold his claim to Conover in a year or two and went west. Mrs. Jane Vaughn, a widow lady, came about 1822, but in a few years sold her claim and moved to Knox county. Joseph Watkins was here as early as 1820 or 1821, but in a short time he removed to Little Grove, where he lived many years, and died on the farm he had improved. John Ginn, Sr., came to the grove from Kentucky in 1822 and settled on a claim, but later he removed to Knox county, where he spent the

remainder of his life. The pioneers named above came to the grove prior to 1824—the year that George Spears settled there. Several had already moved away before that time, for they were of that class who squat in the wilderness where game is plenty, and when that begins to fail they, like the Arabs, “fold their tents and silently steal away.”

Mr. Spears came here from Kentucky in 1821 and, as already noted, bought the claims of a number of parties whose settlement in the grove has been mentioned above. His father and mother came with him, far advanced in years at the time, and died there at a ripe old age. He bought the claims of these squatters, for they were only claims, and entered the land after it came into market. After coming in 1824 he entered and opened up over three thousand acres of land and settled his children around him on good farms. He saw the wilderness transformed until it does indeed blossom as the rose. When he came here the few scattering settlers who were here had to go to Springfield to vote. He built the second brick house that was erected in Sangamon county, which then embraced Menard, Cass, Mason and parts of two or more counties. He lived the remainder of his days in that house, dying only a short time ago at more than eighty years of age, and the house is still (1905) standing and in a good state of repair, still being occupied. The brick for the house were made on the farm, the mud for them being tramped with oxen, and the finishing lumber, which was all walnut, was sawed by hand with a whipsaw. He was an earnest Christian man, belonging to the Baptist church, and contributed, perhaps, more liberally than any other man to the church in Tallula and as liberal to all the general enterprises of the church.

Elias Conover was the first man who settled out on the prairie and, as his house was four miles from the timber, many of the people thought that he was demented. Conover was from New Jersey and had an idea that he would always have inexhaustible pasture for his stock on nature's blooming meadows, for the early immigrants all thought that the

prairies would never be settled, at least for many generations. How far they missed their guess the present state of the country shows. Thomas Arnold came from Tennessee in 1826 or 1827 and, being very poor, he lived on Mr. Spears' land till able to secure a home of his own. He lived on Spears' land till able to buy a piece of his own and finally accumulated a fair property. John Sewell, a brother-in-law of Arnold, and William Tippet came at the same time with Arnold and they also lived on Spears' land. They were ever after spoken of as honest, hard-working men and finally secured comfortable homes. Samuel B. Neely came from Tennessee in 1828 and settled in the grove. Some years later he went to Mason county, where he died. Abraham Burgin came from New Jersey in 1825 or 1826 and was a man of considerable prominence, but after a time he went to Galesburg, where he later died. Abraham B. Bell came from Kentucky in 1826 and settled in the grove and died there many years ago. John Kinner came from Virginia at the same time that Bell came and located here. He reared a family and has been dead many years, but his descendants still live in that vicinity. William T. Beckman came from New Jersey at a somewhat later date and married a daughter of George Spears. He was a man of fine character and of considerable prominence in the county. He died recently in Petersburg. Other settlers, coming at a little later date, were George, Jacob and Jesse Greene, William Smedley, Samuel Colwell, Joseph Coddington, Theodore Baker, Isaac N. Reding and William G. Greene. Mr. Greene was a native of Kentucky, and he and his parents came here at a very early day and they settled near “New Salem,” where the old people died in the early history of the settlement. William G. Greene was one of the most prominent figures, in his day, in this part of the state. He was an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln and at one time was associated with him in business at Salem. He accumulated a large fortune which he left to his children. A fuller account of him is given in another place in this volume. From this period it is impossible to trace the settlements of this section, because

of the vast tide which was in constant ebb and flow.

The trials and inconveniences of these settlers were the same as in other new countries. As other white people flocked to the grove with undaunted courage they met the ancient possessors of the soil, whether savage beasts or savage men, and despite their strongly contested right to it, succeeded in gaining a foothold, which has developed into the state of civilization and material wealth that we see around us today. These people knew nothing of railroads, had never heard of a locomotive, and if anyone had prophesied the railroads, telegraphs, telephones, etc., of the present, he would have been put under guard as a confirmed and dangerous lunatic. Steam threshers, sulky plows, mowers and reapers were alike unknown to these early pioneers and are inventions that had never entered into their wildest dreams. The old sod, cary or bar-shear plow, drawn by three or four yoke of oxen, was the only means known to them of subduing the soil. Their nearest trading point was Springfield, and the stock of goods kept there was limited and often the funds were not at hand to pay the price. Springfield was also their nearest postoffice and a letter from the old home cost "two bits" or twenty-five cents, and often the letter would lie in the office for a month for want of the "quarter" to pay the little bill, as Uncle Sam had a way of refusing credit to all alike. Milling was another great annoyance as mills were very scarce, and often the very early settlers had to go twenty-five, fifty or even one hundred miles for bread stuff; in fact, the Athens people in an early day had to go to St. Louis, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, for meal and flour. Often for weeks, and even months together they were compelled to depend upon the mortar to pound the corn, or the "gritter," as they called the grater, or upon "lye-hominy," as the only substitute for bread. And then the prairie fires, the prairie wolves, the deep snow, the sudden cold snap, and other troubles "too numerous to mention" beset their way. Of these trials the present generation know nothing, only as they sit by the fire and hear some grandfather or grandmother tell the story,

and then they often think that it must be an exaggerated story. But eighty-five years have passed and lo! the change that has taken place. Upon the face of nature these rolling years have written their record and the wilderness has been transformed into a veritable Garden of Eden. The railroad has supplanted the ox wagon; in fact, the country is a network of railroads; the power of the ox and horse is superseded by that of steam and electricity; and brain is now doing what brawn did in their day. What a change has been brought about in the last eighty-five years! And what will the next eighty-five years do? Judging the future by the past we conclude that no imagination can paint a picture too extravagant to represent the changes of the coming period of that length. To the pioneers of that day the achievements of today would have been as chimerical as anything that Jules Verne's fertile brain could devise. What will it be? In eighty-five years we will sail through the air as securely and comfortably as we now glide over these prairies in the cars. We really believe this will be the case. What a day that will be. Instead of buggies or autos or steam or electric turnouts, we will have double back-action, electric-automatic repeating sky-scrapers. The church entrance will then be down the spire; and on Sunday morning the sky will be full of gaily adorned turn-outs, or turn-ups, on the way to church. It's funny, but it's coming. No more strange to us than the present achievements would have been to our grandfathers.

The first practicing physician in this section of country was Dr. Allen, of Petersburg; and Dr. Renier was the first disciple of Aesculapius to settle in Clary's Grove. When he first came he was a bachelor and he boarded with George Spears. This was in 1828 or 1829. In a little while he took unto himself a wife and went to housekeeping. The conditions in those days were such that people could not afford to get sick and hence doctors were far less important personages than they are now. A man who owned a mill or a blacksmith shop was a bigger man than any doctor. It was generally believed then that the women could do all the "doctoring" needed with catnip tea and bone-

self. Robert Armstrong was the first justice of the peace in the grove and, as we are informed, had but little legal knowledge. His familiarity with legal technicalities was limited in the extreme and his courts were the theater of many humorous scenes as one illustration will serve to show: A case came before him one day in which a couple of lawyers were employed. After the case had been decided the defeated lawyer gave notice that he appealed the case from his decision, when the other lawyer nudged him and whispered in his ear: "Don't allow him to appeal." The justice drew himself up with all the dignity embodied in the ponderous form of David Davis, and replied: "There is no appeal; I allow no appeal from this court, sir."

The first school taught in Clary's Grove was taught by James Fletcher in a house on the land of George Spears about 1825. Fletcher could not have gotten a first grade certificate at the present day, but we are informed that he could spell words of two syllables and read fairly well by skipping the hard words. He was the best, however, to be secured in those times and the people were obliged to be satisfied with him. This log temple of learning served the citizens of the grove for a number of years, in fact till it was burned down. The community then erected a hewed log house, which served them for a number of years as a schoolhouse as well as a church.

The first church organization in the grove was Clary's Grove Baptist church, which many claim was the first organization of a religious character in what is now Menard county. But some most strenuously deny this, affirming that the Methodist class at Athens was prior to it. This dispute can never be settled now. The records show that the Clary's Grove Baptist church was organized on the 25th day of December (Christmas day) 1824, the ordaining presbytery consisting of William P. Crow, William Rollin and James Bradley. The constituent members were thirteen in number, namely: George Spears, Sr., Mary Spears, Rev. Jacob Gum, Samuel Combs, Sr., Jane Combs, Ezekiel Harrison and wife, M. Houghton and wife, Elijah Houghton, Robert Conover and Hannah Whits. The first pastor of

this now venerable church was Rev. Jacob Gum, with Robert Conover as clerk of the session. The first church book was made of foolscap paper and bound with pasteboard. The early meetings of the society were held (for the most part alternately) at the homes of George Spears and Robert Conover. From a period a few years after the organization till 1845 a log schoolhouse (the one spoken of above) was used by the society as a place of worship. During the year last mentioned the society erected a substantial frame building, thirty by forty feet in dimensions, which was used as a church building until 1871. This building is thought to have cost about two thousand dollars and was built under a contract with William T. Beekman, who did the principal part of the carpenter work. After this last date the society removed to the village of Tallula, where they erected a splendid house of worship. See further account of this under the head "Churches." Rev. John M. Berry, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister who lived on Rock creek, was also one of the early preachers in the grove. In his day but few church houses had been erected in this part of the state and he was an itinerant in the fullest sense of the word. But he preached everywhere and all the time. A Christian church was organized in the grove in 1834 with the following members: John Wilson, William G. White, Jane White, Jesse L. Traylor, Obedience Traylor and Lydia A. Caldwell. Services were held in private residences till 1847, when a comfortable little church was built on the farm of William Smedley. In this house they worshipped until 1864, when they sold it and erected another house in the village of Tallula as noticed in another place. The inevitable Methodist circuit rider used to pass this way as they go into every place with the old, old story, but they seem never to have gotten a hold in any part of this entire territory. No Methodist Episcopal church house has ever been built or society organized within the limits of this entire settlement so far as we can learn. We believe that of late years the "Sanctified" Methodists have formed a society and built a house in the village of Tallula, but we have no reliable data to give concerning them.

Tallula, a real little gem of a village, is situated on the southwest side of Clary's Grove on the Jacksonville division of the Chicago & Alton Railroad and is surrounded by as fine a section of farming country "as lies out of doors." In the latter part of 1857 the town was laid out by William G. Greene, J. G. Greene, Richard Yates, Theodore Baker and W. G. Spears. The name was given by the last named gentleman and it is said to be an Indian word meaning "dropping water," but if the existence of the town depended on the meaning of the word there would never be any Tallula except when it rained, for there is no other water near there to "drop." Nevertheless it is a pretty name, whether it is appropriate or not, and its sound is as musical as the country around it is beautiful. The first house was erected soon after the town was laid out by W. G. Spears and was afterward owned by R. B. Thrapp. The next building was put up by Robert M. Ewing and so nearly at the same time with Spears' that it is hard to say which was really the first. The first store was opened in January, 1858, by Thrapp & Spears, which firm continued about eight months, when Spears retired, and Thrapp continued to run the business alone. The postoffice was established there in 1858 with F. S. Thrapp as postmaster. Hugh Hicks opened the first blacksmith shop in 1859. Dr. J. F. Wilson was the first practicing physician to hang out his shingle in the new village. As soon as the railroad began operation F. S. Thrapp began the business of buying grain. He bought and shipped at first from wagons, but later he built a grain warehouse. About 1876 or 1877 A. T. Gaylord built an elevator at a cost of about four thousand dollars and ran the business for some time. At present Mr. Hushman is running the elevator. In the past Thrapp, Gaylord, Bell Brothers and C. B. Laning & Company have run this business here. The first hotel was run by Mrs. Brooks, but the first building put up for the purpose was built by Frank Spears and run by him for some time. Mrs. Zolman at one time kept the Revere House. J. F. Wathen has been the veteran host for Tallula. Charles Greene and a man by the name of Deal sunk a coal shaft here in 1873

or 1874 and it has been worked almost constantly since by one and another. This coal is about two hundred feet below the surface and the vein is a little over six feet thick. The first school taught in the village was by Miss Sarah Brockman in 1859 in the district schoolhouse, which stood just outside the corporate limits. This may seem an Irish bull, but it was termed the village school and was patronized by the children of the town. The German Reformed church was afterward used as a schoolhouse. The present school building was erected in 1868-9 at a cost of from eight to ten thousand dollars, beside three acres of land, on which it stands, donated by Mr. Greene. The original building contained four elegant rooms, with closets, cloak-room, etc. During the summer of 1904 two more elegant rooms—up to date in every respect—were added. Tallula has always striven to have the best schools in the county and has often succeeded. (See under head "Education.")

Tallula was incorporated as a village under the general law in 1872 with the following as the first board of trustees: J. F. Wilson, R. H. Bean, J. T. Bush, J. F. Wathen and F. S. Thrapp, who organized for business by electing R. H. Bean president of the board. At present the population is about a thousand and the the business of the town is all that could be expected of a place of its size. It has a number of good general stores, a bank, drug store, hotel, lumberyard, with shops of various kinds and the inevitable saloon, but in justice it may be said that Tallula has had saloons but a very small portion of the time since it began. (For churches, cemetery and schools, see under their appropriate heads.)

The village of "Rushaway," once a thriving business place, almost equal to what Tallula is now, has "rushed away" and is now among the things that were. It was laid out by J. T. Rush and William Workman sometime in the early fifties, but the exact date is not known. The first store was kept by J. T. Rush and a man by the name of Way. These two names connected in business combined together make the name Rushaway, which was given to the village. F. S. Thrapp had a store there also. A postoffice was also established, with Rush as



postmaster. When the Chicago & Alton Railroad was built it missed the town a mile or two and on the laying out of Tallula a part of the town rushed there and the rest rushed to Ashland. The postoffice was removed to Tallula and the name changed. The proprietors of the railroad, it is said, would have run the road through the village if they had received the proper encouragement, but the people of Rushaway, believing that the road would be obliged to go that way, stood upon their dignity and even refused to grant the right of way, only at the highest market price. As a consequence, the road was located elsewhere and Rushaway was left out in the cold. The completion of the road sealed their doom and, as already stated, part of the town went to Tallula and a part to Ashland. At present there is nothing to show that such a town ever existed. The site is now a flourishing farm and orchard and the passing stranger would be surprised to learn that a thriving village had once stood where now the "yellow harvest-wave."

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### SUGAR GROVE.

If we did not know that the Garden of Eden was somewhere on the eastern continent, some one would have arisen long ago with the proofs that it must have been located somewhere in the vicinity of Sugar Grove, but only two of the four rivers can be located in the Grove, and these are Grove creek and Pike creek, near by, so this settles it, but the early comers must have thought of Eden when they beheld around them

"Earth's unnumbered flowers

All turning up their gentle eyes to heaven:  
The birds, with bright wings glancing in the sun,

Filling the air with rainbow miniatures,"

and combining to restore, in all its loveliness, "lost Eden's faded glory." No finer division of country could mortal crave than is found in this portion of Menard county. Fine rolling prairie, with as rich a soil as exists anywhere, with here and there a grove of timber, scattered over the undulating plain like islands slumbering in the ocean, is no overdrawn picture of this

section of country, especially as the first settlers saw it. But the hand of civilization did not come to mar but to adorn and under its magic touch its virgin beauty has been enhanced until it is, indeed, a veritable Eden. It has improved under the sway of man, as the fields of waving grain, the blooming orchards and countless herds of thriving stock abundantly testify. We do not speak of this section now as a political division, but rather as a center of an early settlement. One of the first settlements made in Menard county was made in Sugar Grove. In the year 1819, the same year that Clary settled in Clary's Grove, James Meadows settled on the east side of Sugar Grove, perhaps on the land now owned by Mr. Jones. Meadows came from Ohio and located near Alton in the year 1818, but the following spring he came to this place. In the spring of 1823 he sold his claim to Leonard Alkire, and removed to the west side of Sugar Grove and took a claim there, on which he lived till a few years before his death. He died in Greenview in the year 1869, at an advanced age. His last claim that he made is now owned by H. H. Marhold, of Greenview. He built the "tread-wheel mill" described in another place. Mrs. Perry Bracken, now living at an advanced age, with her son-in-law, John Blane, of Greenview, is a daughter of Mr. Meadows, the only member of his family now living. Jacob Boyer came to the Grove with Mr. Meadows and they camped the first night at a spring on the farm that was afterward the home of Miley Alkire. The Sugar Grove cemetery is near that spring. The next morning, being struck by the beauty of the surroundings and the abundance of pure water afforded by the spring, Mr. Boyer said, "This is my future home," and at once staked off his claim and settled there. Meadows settled, as noticed above, on what has for many years been known as "the Jack Alkire place." Boyer also sold out to Leonard Alkire in the spring of 1823. Only a few days after the settlement of Boyer and Meadows, the Blanes came to the Grove. The Blane family consisted of four brothers, Robert, William, John and George, and their mother and one sister. They were from the Emerald Isle, the gem of the

ocean, and being the first Irish to settle here, and among the very first white people here, it is not strange that one of these groves should be called "Irish Grove." William Blane died in an early day; John soon returned to Ireland, where he remained about twenty-five years, and then returned to the settlement; Robert and the sister removed to Wisconsin, leaving George and the mother on the place that they originally settled. In 1823 George and his mother sold their place to Leonard Alkire, and removed to the northwest side of the grove, where they both died. The Blanes were well educated men, and George in early times held many offices of trust and honor. He was an old line Whig, and after its organization he joined the Republican party, in which faith he lived and died. In the year 1820, Roland Grant came to the Grove and brought with him a lot of sheep, the first of these animals that were brought to this part of the country. Grant came here from Ohio, but he was originally from Kentucky, and when a year or two later the Alkires came, he sold out to them and removed to Island Grove, in Sangamon county. His brother, William Grant, who came with him to the Grove, also sold out to the Alkires and removed with his brother. Like many other settlements in the county, many of the pioneers were from Virginia and Kentucky. The following Kentuckians came here among the early settlers: Leonard Alkire and family, William Engle, Lemuel O'fille, the Hughes, Wesley Whipp, Samuel McNabb, the Pentecosts, John and George Stone, a man named Parsons, Matthew Bracken, William Douglas, and perhaps several others. The Alkires and William Engle came here from Ohio, but they were originally from the Old Dominion, thence went to Kentucky, and afterward to Ohio. William Engle came in the spring of 1823, raised a crop and then went back and brought out the family of Leonard Alkire. (This is the statement generally made, but the writer is satisfied that Mr. Engle came in 1822, for the testimony of all is that Alkire bought the claims of Meadows, Boyer, and others, in the spring of 1823.) Mr. Engle was a bachelor when he came to Illinois but he soon after married the

daughter of Leonard Alkire. Mr. Engle became one of the most prominent and best known men in this section of the state and did more for the material development and advancement of that part of Menard county than any other man. He took an active part in the organization of the county, was one of the first commissioners, represented the county in the state legislature and was the first merchant in east Menard outside of Athens. Mr. Engle was liberal in his views, a never-tiring advocate of religion and education, and always stood as an advocate of the right. As before stated, he married a daughter of Leonard Alkire and they spent their first winter in a camp that stood near where the village of Sweetwater now stands. He then built a cabin northwest of the village, where he lived and reared his family. He lived to a good old age, respected by all, and was prominent in all the affairs of that section of Illinois for more than half a century. He died in March, 1870. He reared a large family, several of the sons being still living, scattered over the west. Only two of the family still live in this county: Mrs. William C. Smoot, of Curtis; and Mrs. William Claypole, four miles east of Greenview. Mr. Engle's mother (a widow at the time) came to this settlement about ten years after her son. She was a genuine pioneer lady, large and almost as stout as a man, kind and benevolent to all, a great nurse and friend in times of sickness and distress. She passed to her reward long years ago, her memory revered and honored by all who knew her. As already stated, Leonard Alkire was a native of Virginia but emigrated to Kentucky or was taken there by his parents when very young. Arriving at man's estate and having taken to himself a wife, he removed to the state of Ohio, where he remained until he removed to Illinois, in the spring of 1823. While he resided in Ohio he to a large extent followed the business of buying up stock, which he drove to more eastern markets, a business at that day exposing one to considerable danger. On one of his trips home, after having disposed of his drove of stock, he traveled on horseback, having the money he had received, which was nearly all silver, in a pair of saddlebags on his saddle.



"In swimming the Ohio river," says a local writer, "perched on his hands and feet on top of the saddle, his sturdy and trusty roadster, stemming the rapid current with great courage and energy, when nearing the opposite shore suddenly went down, but with a last desperate struggle, as if for life, he succeeded in landing his master on the solid ground, when Mr. Alkire made the discovery that the saddle-bags, filled with the silver, had in some way fallen from his horse, but had hung to the stirrup in such a way as to greatly impede the efforts of the horse while struggling in the water, thus imperiling not only the hard-earned cash of the owner but the life of both horse and rider." Hearing so many repeated stories of the amazing beauty and fertility of the "far west," as Illinois was then called, he made a trip of inspection to the country. Alone and on horseback he explored this then almost unbroken wilderness. By chance his route led him to Sugar Grove. Entering it upon the south side, he reached a point from which the scene was viewed to advantage and stopped to look around him. He was so impressed with the wealth and splendor of what he saw, that though there alone and no one to hear he reined up his horse and shouted at the top of his voice: "Hurrah for old Kentucky, the garden spot of the world!" Very soon he came upon the claim of James Meadows, and being so pleased with the country and the surroundings, he soon bought the claim of Mr. Meadows. He then returned home, sold his Ohio farm and, the following spring, he came to the Grove and settled where the remainder of his life was spent. John Alkire, his father, came in a few years. John Alkire had removed from Virginia to Kentucky in an early day, during those bloody wars with the Indians which gave that state the appellation that it has ever since worn and will wear in all coming time, "The Dark and Bloody Ground," and like all the other pioneers of the time he bore an active part in those wars. He died here and was buried in what is known as the Blanc graveyard. Leonard Alkire built the first brick house that was built in the then county of Sangamon, now Menard. As noted elsewhere, George Spears, of Clary's Grove,

built the second brick house that was erected in the same county. Alkire's house was built seventy-seven years ago, and it was still standing a few years back. To his son, Miles Alkire, and to John Engle and Jesse England, we are indebted for most of the facts concerning the early history of this section of the county. The writer has in his old diaries many stories told by these men and William Engle, James Meadows, and other old citizens all over the county. Leonard Alkire died in 1877. The following will show the energy and public spirit of the man. About 1828 or 1830, he was appointed by the commissioners of Sangamon county, road supervisor of the district he lived in, which was larger than the present county of Menard. He was ordered to open a road from near the mouth of Salt creek to Havana, on the Illinois river. A great impediment to travel in that route in those days was the Crane creek swamp. He called together all the able-bodied men in that region, and taking wagons, teams, axes, etc., he proceeded to the timber, where he made rails, hauled them to the swamp, and laid them down for a foundation for a road; then he cut large quantities of swamp grass, which grew there in abundance, and spread this over the rails. He next drove forked sticks astride poles, which were laid lengthwise across the ends of the rails to keep the water from floating the rails away, and then spread five or six inches of sand over the grass. In this way he constructed a road over the swamp, which served the purpose fully, and lasted for many years without repair.

Leuel Odille and the Hughes came among the early settlers about the same time. James Hughes was a New Light, or as called now, a "Christian" preacher, and one of the first of this denomination in this part of the country, although one of their founders, Barton W. Stone, had preached in the Clary's Grove settlement a little before this. One of his sons, Daniel T. Hughes, was one of the respected preachers of this church, in this part of the state, and lived in this section until his death, some twelve or fifteen years back. One of James Hughes' sons, Hugh D. Hughes, was one of the first residents of the village of Sweetwater and was one of the builders of the

mill which was operated there so long. Ollille and the Hughes came here from Indiana, but they were originally from Kentucky. Hugh D. Hughes married a daughter of Mr. Ollille. Wesley Whipp came about the time of "the deep snow." He married a daughter of Leonard Alkire, died many years ago and was laid to rest in the Sugar Grove cemetery. One of his sons, Leonard Whipp, one of the leading lawyers of the place, now resides in Petersburg. Samuel McNabb came previous to 1824 and his brother-in-law came about the same time. They have both been dead many long years. Pentecost, and his sons, William, John and George, came in 1824 or 1825. The old gentleman's first name is not remembered and he and all his sons left the neighborhood a great many years ago. John Stone came about the time of the "deep snow." He had a number of sons: William, James, Stephen, Henry, Boyd and Oliver. A man named Parsons, a brother-in-law of the Stones, came to this country with them, or about that time. He had two sons, William and Joseph. The old gentleman and William died many years ago, but Joseph was mail carrier between Sweetwater and Greenview a great many years. William Douglas was here as early as 1831 or 1832, and settled in Irish Grove. Matthew Bracken came in 1824 or 1825, and settled here but afterward sold out to Nicholas Propst and removed to Woodford county, where he died long since. A man by the name of McKinney ranks among the early settlers of this section but we are unable to learn the particulars concerning his life. With several others he was returning from a horse race and they got up a race of their own, in which McKinney was thrown from his horse and so badly injured that he died from the effect in a short time. It is said that he was probably the first one buried in the Sweetwater cemetery and that some one stuck the switch, with which he was riding when he was thrown, in the center of his grave and it took root and grew and is now a huge tree. Any way, the tree is still pointed out, and it leaves no sign of any grave having ever been there. Enoch B. Smith came to this settlement in 1821 and his nephew, Josiah B. Smith, in 1824. The latter was an old line Whig, and

took a very active part in politics. Enoch B. Smith settled in south end of Irish Grove and his son Jordan settled in the same vicinity. Enoch B. Smith died in 1841 and all his family are dead, so far as we can learn. Mrs. Jesse England was his daughter. Jesse England settled here in 1824 and lived here his entire life, dying on his old homestead in 1903, having lived there for seventy-nine years. Mr. England's father came from Ohio to Sangamon county in 1819 and was the first white man to settle on the east or north side of the Sangamon river, and his daughter was the first white woman to settle north of the Sangamon. John S. Jennison was a native of the old Bay State, and came to Sugar Grove in 1822 or 1823. He sold his claim to Leonard Alkire and moved to Baker's Prairie. His son, Luther Jennison, lives on a farm near Greenview, as does his daughter, Mrs. Jerman Tice, and another son, John Jennison, has lived for some years in California. About the year 1825, two brothers, Joseph and Samuel Powell, and brothers-in-law of Leonard Alkire, came from Ohio here, but were natives of the Old Dominion. They reared large families here and finally died, and their families scattered and moved away, some going to Fulton county years ago, and others going to Oregon. Nicholas Propst came here from Virginia and settled in Sugar Grove before the winter of "the deep snow." He was of German descent and a very eccentric, though a good, man. He died many years ago. A cabinet-maker in the neighborhood was indebted to him and not having the funds on hand to cancel the obligation, he told Propst that he would make him anything in the furniture line that he might need. Propst told him that he did not need anything in that line just at the present but that some day he would need a coffin and if he chose to make him one he might do so. The cabinet-maker went to work on the coffin and Mr. Propst superintended the work and had it completed to his own taste. When the coffin was done there was still a small balance due to Mr. Propst, so he had him make a long bench on which to lay him out when the time came for him to "shuffle off this mortal coil." Being thus far prepared for final dissolution,

he made further arrangements for his last rest by having a tombstone cut out of a solid limestone, with the simple inscription: "Nicholas Propst," hewn on it. When he finally died he was laid away in Sugar Grove burying-ground, and this same stone, without any other letter or mark, was set up at the head of his grave and marked his humble bed till time crumbled it back to dust. After the coffin was completed he got into it, as he said, "to try it, to see how it would fit." He afterward told Rev. John Alkire that it scared him like hell when he got into it. John Wright came, some time before 1830, it is believed from Ohio but of this we are not sure. He bought out Samuel Alkire, a cousin of Leonard Alkire, who had settled here in 1824 or 1825, and he removed to Indiana after selling to Wright. After living in the Grove for several years Wright sold out and removed to Petersburg, and afterward he built the first bridge over the Sangamon river at that place. William Gibbs came here from Baltimore but was an Englishman by birth. He bought Wright out when he removed to Petersburg. Reuben D. Black came from Ohio, and after living here for a time he married a daughter of Leonard Alkire. Black was a physician and years ago left here, removing to Missouri.

1819-1905.

Eighty-six years! What an insignificant point of time, when compared to the ages of the world's past history! Even time itself is only

"—a brief arc.

Cut from eternity's mysterious orb.

And cast beneath the skies—"

and yet what a vast record these eighty-six years have borne with them from the world. Revolutions have swept over the earth, as troubled visions sweep over the breast of dreaming sorrow. Cities have arisen and flourished for a little season and then have perished from the earth, leaving not even a trace to mark the spot where once they stood. Nations and empires have sprung into being, gathering, in a few decades, the strength of centuries, and then as suddenly have sunk from the world forever. The changes and mighty events that

have occurred in our own county, in a few short years, are equally astounding. The coming of the steamboat, the building of the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, and all the wonderful work of electricity are but a few of these astounding events. Eighty-six years ago when James Meadows erected a log cabin in Sugar Grove, he could not have believed that to-day would present the changes that we see, even if one had "arisen from the dead" to proclaim it. Where were the wild prairies and the densely wooded groves and tangled dells, inhabited only by Indians, wolves, panthers, and other wild animals, are now vast fields of waving grain; and the palatial home of the farmer, with every comfort and convenience that the heart could wish, now stands where the hunter's cabin or the Indian's wigwam then stood. All these changes are difficult to realize by any but those who have witnessed them. Think for a moment of some of the trials that these pioneers experienced; the difficulty, for instance, of securing the absolute essentials of life. Sometimes a trip was made to St. Louis for such supplies as salt, flour, sugar and coffee, when the settler could afford such luxuries. James Meadows made more than one trip to that city, in a canoe, by way of the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

James McNabb taught the first school in that settlement, in a log cabin that stood near where Gregory Lukins lived so long, west of Sweetwater. As his old pupils, if any of them are still alive, look back to the days when he ruled with a rod of iron, they may call to mind, no doubt, the familiar lines of Goldsmith:

"Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,

With blossoming furze unprofitably gay,  
There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,  
The village master taught his little school;

A man severe he was and stern to view;  
I knew him well, and every truant knew;  
Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace

The day's disaster in his morning face;  
Full well they laughed, with counterfeited glee,

At all his jokes, for many a joke had he;  
Full well the busy whisper circling round  
Conveyed the dismal tidings when he frowned;  
Yet he was kind, or if severe in aught,

The love he bore to learning was his fault. Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around; And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew That one small head could carry all he knew."

If this teacher could be permitted to return and see the state of education now and look into our schoolrooms and see the helps and advantages that our children now enjoy, he would conclude doubtless that his sleep in the grave had been much longer than it really has.

The religious history of this section is given in another place, but we will enter into some detail, in this case, that we may not be obliged to do so in other cases, as the history of the trials and difficulties that one community had to meet, is similar to that of all others.

Rev. John Alkire, Rev. Hughes and Rev. Abner Peeler (who after a few years removed to Woodford county) were the early divines of the New Light, or, as they afterward preferred to be called, Christian church. A congregation of this faith was organized here in quite an early day. They first worshipped in a house that stood near the old home of Gregory Lukins and was used for both church and school purposes. It was built of logs, had a puncheon floor, was covered with clapboards, and had a fireplace, with stick or "cat and clay," chimney, at each end. In 1838 they built a frame church, eighteen by twenty feet, on the same site, and it, like the former, was used for both church and school purposes. In 1848 this frame building was replaced by a brick edifice on the same site. After the village of Sweetwater was laid out this church was converted into a dwelling, and the society erected a large and substantial brick church in the village. This building still stands and is occupied by the congregation, seemingly in as good a state of repair as when first built. It is still occupied by a prosperous congregation.

The Presbyterians have a good house of worship in Sweetwater and the Rev. Thomas preaches regularly to them.

Sweetwater was laid out by William Engle and the Alkires in the year 1853. It is located on sections 31 and 32, in township 19, range 5. It is near Sugar Grove, which, before the woodman's ax had defaced its beauty, was one

of the prettiest groves of timber in Illinois. Engle had for some time had a store on his farm and when the village was laid out the Alkires opened a store there, and soon after this Mr. Engle moved his store there too. Soon after the village was laid out a petition was sent up asking for a postoffice at Sugar Grove. Mr. Harris then represented this district in congress and when he made the application he was informed that there was a Sugar Grove postoffice in the state already, and he wrote to this effect to Mr. Engle. He consulted with some of the neighbors about the matter and they decided that as the water of the sugar-trees, which formed the grove, was sweet, that Sweetwater would be next thing to Sugar Grove, and so that name was adopted. One citizen informed the writer, however, that the town had another name, that it was often called "Chloeville." Pointed questioning drew from this citizen the following statement: At one time there was an old lady lived in the village whose first name was Chloe, "and some one, in acknowledgement," said our informant, "of her general cussedness, as a burlesque, called the town after her." William Engle was the first postmaster in the place; Jacob Propst, Jr., was the first blacksmith; Dr. John H. Hughes was the first physician; Deal & Hughes built and operated the first mill. The business of the town, at the present, may be thus summed up: Two good general stores, a blacksmith shop, a physician, Dr. Hill, two churches, and a schoolhouse of two rooms. The town, we believe, has never been incorporated, but the general moral sentiment is such that they do not need such protection as this would bring. The writer has no disposition to make light of sacred things, but if the story of the "Soul Sleeper" troubles in the Sweetwater church could be told, as a citizen once told it, the demand for these pages would be immense, but this we will not undertake to do, and will close this chapter by a brief reference to the churches here. The schoolhouse was built in 1868 or 1870, at a cost of about four thousand, five hundred dollars. The Christian church was built years ago, at a cost of about three thousand, five hundred dollars. The congregation was a large, peaceful and prosperous

one, as any in the land, till one Elder Speer, of Indiana, was called to the pastorate. His preaching was all right for a time, for he was a man of far more than ordinary ability, but by and by he began to preach the most material form of "soul-sleeping." It is enough to say that the church was rent asunder, the greater part of the members, perhaps, endorsing the new doctrines, and so infatuated and insane did they become that they were absolutely looking for the immediate coming of Christ. Some went so far as to say that they expected to go fishing with the Savior in Salt creek. Elder J. K. Speer would not accept a stipulated salary, "O, no, all he wanted was a living," and the faction that followed him off were wealthy and full of zeal, and "he was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day." Of course the church divided; the staid and reasonable part stayed with their church, while the fanatics pulled out. The Soul-Sleepers built a neat frame church in the village, at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. They lived awhile, Speer got all he could out of them and left, and most of them, from the best that we can learn, drifted into infidelity. It took the Christian church years to recover from this stroke. The Methodists bought the Adventist's house, when they went up, or rather when they failed to go up. The Methodists were unsuccessful and in a little while they sold the house to the Presbyterians, who still own it, and have a prosperous congregation there, and to whom Rev. Thomas preaches regularly.

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#### JOHN WILKINSON.

The history of Sugar Grove would be incomplete without a sketch of the Wilkinson family. Fred Wilkinson, of Petersburg, Illinois, is a grandson of the great ironmonger of England and a son of John Wilkinson of Menard county, who died in Greenview many years ago. John Wilkinson was intimately associated with James Watt, the inventor of the steam engine, and with many of the greatest scientific men of his day, but he never acquired the notoriety even in England that he deserved.

Few old people are now living who can remember the great ironmaster and his deeds of enterprise. Strange tales, however, could these few tell of his "cast iron colliers" that could get coal by machinery, of his eccentricity, of his wealth, and of his singular superstition. As an illustration of this latter, we are told, that on his deathbed he declared his conviction that at the end of seven years he would return to the earth again. His work people showed a singular aversion to handing his name down to posterity, as if they felt themselves the strictest guardians of his virtue and his fame. For his wonderful ability, for his depth of scientific research, Wilkinson deserves to live in the annals of industry and enterprise. His friendship for Boulton and Watt makes it remarkable that his name should have been passed over by biographers of the inventors of the steam engine. Surely, "the father of the iron trade," as he has been aptly named, deserved at least a passing mention in the biography of his friend James Watt. John Wilkinson was born in 1728 and under circumstances which the superstitious people of the vicinity believed portended that "Johnny would some day be a great man." His mother was in the habit of going every day to the market with the products of their little farm and on this occasion, as she was returning to her home, the son was born in the cart. John Wilkinson was the inventor of iron boats. The first one ever tried was built at his foundry and was named the "Trial." He was also the first to use coal successfully in smelting iron. His life, like that of Oliver Cromwell's, was attended by a very singular circumstance. As September 3d was the *dies mirabilis* in the Protector's history, so was July 14th in the life of Wilkinson. He came to Staffordshire on July 14, 1756. He attended the great banquet in Paris July 14, 1786. He launched the first iron boat on July 14, 1787. He obtained a patent for the improvement of the steam engine July 14, 1799; and he closed his eventful and useful life on the 14th of July, 1808. He left a vast fortune in money and real estate. His children, a number of them being quite young, were left to the care of guardians. John Wilkinson, the father of Fred Wilkinson, of Petersburg, was but six years of age

when he was thus placed in the care of guardians and was at once placed in school, and from that time on till he reached his majority he was constantly in school. Being possessed of more than ordinary natural gifts of mind, it is not to be wondered at that his advancement was rapid and he acquired a finished education. Beside being thoroughly drilled in the sciences of the day, he was a thorough master of six different languages besides his mother tongue. On reaching his majority he came into possession of a vast estate, but not being trained in the intricacies of business, all these vast interests were placed under the control of agents. Beside this young Wilkinson, having been reared in luxury and having acquired some rather "fast" habits, it is not to be wondered at that he went in to gratify his tastes for pleasure. He was a great admirer of horses and went into the races with all the zeal and energy of his impetuous nature. But we can not tell the story here. He ventured and lost. His agents, doubtless, took advantage of him and soon much of the estate was gone. In disgust, he placed the vast business under his control in the hands of others and bidding farewell to his native land and taking passage on a sailing vessel, he started for the shores of America to begin life anew. After a stormy voyage of forty-two days, he landed at New Orleans, thence up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Beardstown, and then to Sugar Grove, where he landed in 1837. He took up his abode with one of the Boyer families, who then lived in the south side of Sugar Grove, near where the cemetery now is. In 1838 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Goble. He took up land and began life in earnest. He farmed extensively, raising cattle and hogs, driving hundreds of the latter to Peoria, Beardstown, Springfield and other markets. At one time he owned a half section of land lying north of Sweetwater, now owned by Mr. Wernsing. In the fall of 1858 he began preparations for building the hotel at Greenvew, and in the spring of 1859 he removed his family to Greenvew, where some years later he died. He was, in many respects, a very remarkable man. He was an unusually intelligent man, an enterprising citizen and a won-

derfully accommodating neighbor. He was a useful man in the community where he lived.

Fred Wilkinson was born in Sugar Grove in 1840. From his earliest manhood he has occupied positions of importance and honor in the community where he lived. When barely more than a boy he was captain of the anti-horse thief company at Greenvew; a little later he was school director there, and while he was in that position two new schoolhouses were built there. He was early in the field for the improvement of the breed of our stock and brought into the neighborhood several thoroughbred horses. Later Mr. Wilkinson was elected sheriff in 1870 and served the people so faithfully that he was elected for a second term to the same office. He was elected to the legislature in 1886 and chosen to the same position again in 1890. He was collector of internal revenue for seven counties of the eighth district from 1887 to 1889. He was also United States gauger in distilleries in Pekin, Illinois, from 1893 to 1899. He was married to Miss Olive Bishop, October 10, 1895. In 1880 he bought the Petersburg Democrat. (But this is told in another place.) Mr. Wilkinson is one of our most useful and enterprising citizens, using his influence for every enterprise that promises the advancement and welfare of the town in which he is a citizen.

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### ATHENS.

In giving the early settlements of the county it is better to give them by neighborhoods or settlements than by precincts or other political divisions, because those settlements have no agreement with the artificial divisions made by man. This section includes the southeast part of the county, bordering on Sangamon on the south and touching Logan on the east. Before the advent of the white man it was almost equally divided between prairie and timber land. The western part from the Sangamon river for a distance of almost four miles is rolling and some of it broken by ravines and was originally covered with forests of the finest timber. Some small streams of water meander



through this section, the largest of which is Indian creek, which takes its rise in the north border of the territory referred to and flows northwest toward the Sangamon river. The timber that was once so abundant is nearly all gone and the land is in cultivation. The Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad runs through this portion of the county, having a depot at the town of Athens.

The year succeeding the admission of Illinois into the sisterhood of states immigration began to flow steadily into the Sangamon country and during the half decade following a great many settlements were formed in the various parts of that country. It is admitted by all that the settlement of Clary's Grove was the first settlement in the county, but very soon after, if not at the very time of that settlement, others were locating in other parts of the county. It was the unvarying custom to make these settlements in the timber and near the streams of water. And here, on the very threshold of our investigation, we are environed with difficulties. To designate any one of the early settlers as being the first is a responsibility that we do not desire to assume. A number came in at so near the same time and the evidence is so nearly balanced that it is impossible at this late date to determine who has a right to claim the honor. Among the very earliest, however, we may mention Robert White and William B. Short, who were both from Green county, Kentucky, and who settled in the Indian Point timber. Short located on the place still occupied by his son James Short, now a man of over eighty years of age, and Robert White, where his grandson John N. White now resides. These men are said to have staked off their claims and begun their improvements in the fall of 1819. The claims they at first staked off and improved and afterward entered, they lived on the remainder of their lives. Short died in 1863 and was buried in the Lebanon cemetery. He was, doubtless, the "most married" man in the county, for no less than five times had he plighted his vows at the hymenial altar. Mr. White died nearly fifty years ago and his remains also rest in the Lebanon cemetery. The Short homestead is occupied by James B. Short, son of William B. The grand-

children of Robert White live on the old farm. A venerable elm, bearing the initials "W. B. S." was still standing a few years back, marking the corner of the Short claim, as he marked it when he took the claim. This same fall, or possibly the following spring, that of 1820, Joseph Smith, who was from the southern part of Kentucky, took a claim on the south side of the Indian Point timber. Smith was a wagonmaker by trade and had a shop at his home and was doubtless the first of that trade on the east side of the Sangamon river in this county. He improved the farm afterward owned by Alfred Turner. He died many years ago and was buried at Indian Point. William Holland, a brother-in-law of Smith, came from Ohio and settled at this time on the south side of the Indian Point timber. He was a blacksmith and, like Smith, was the first of his trade in this whole section. He was appointed by the government blacksmith for the Kickapoo Indians at a salary of five hundred dollars a year. Some years later he went in the same capacity to Peoria, or Fort Clark, as it was then, and finally died in Washington, Tazewell county. In 1820 Matthew Rogers, from Otsego county, New York, built a log cabin one mile north and east of the present site of the town of Athens. He did not occupy the cabin, however, till the spring of 1824. Four years after this, when the land came into market, he entered this tract together with a large amount beside. Mr. Rogers lived on this place for many years. In old age, however, he removed to Athens, where he died in 1847. His life was so prominently connected with the early settlement of this section of country that he deserves more than a passing notice. He was a descendant from the same stock with the celebrated John Rogers, who was burned at the stake, a martyr to his devotion to religious principles. He married Anna, daughter of Timothy and Myriam Lee Morse, through whom the family is related to the late Professor S. F. B. Morse, the illustrious inventor of the electric telegraph. While in New York Matthew Roger occupied a prominent position in society and was at one time colonel of militia. The family emigrated to Illinois in 1818, or rather started then, but did not reach here until 1819. Mr. Rogers built a

frame barn in 1825 or 1826 and this is said to be the first frame building erected in the state north of the Sangamon river. Mr. Rogers reared a family who performed an important part in the future development of Menard county. Henry C. Rogers, his eldest son, lived a useful and honored life and died some years ago on the old homestead near Athens. One of his daughters was the wife of Amberry Rankin, of Athens, and another the wife of Harry Riggins, of whom we will speak further on. Mr. Rogers established the first nursery in this part of the state, and he was the first postmaster at Athens. When Abraham Lincoln kept the postoffice at New Salem he used to walk across the country, through the woods, to Athens to get the mail for Salem, which he carried in his pocket.

In the fall of 1819 Thomas Primm came from St. Clair county and laid a claim south-east of where Athens now stands. After taking the preliminary steps necessary to secure his claim he returned to his family. In the spring of 1820 he returned and raised a crop, but did not remove his family here till in the fall. On his first trip he traded the horse he rode to Stephen England, in payment for which England was to build him a log cabin and make for him a stipulated number of rails. The cabin was built and the rails made in 1819, but, as said above, Primm did not move till the fall of 1820.

John Primm, a brother of the above, came in 1820. The advent of the Primm family in Illinois dates back to a very early day. John Primm, the father of Thomas and John, above mentioned, came from Virginia to St. Clair county in 1802, and the date of the coming of their mother's family runs still farther back. Mrs. Primm was a daughter of Abram Stallings, who came down the Ohio river in a boat from Virginia and settled in the bounds of what is now St. Clair county in 1796. John Primm, the father of the Thomas and John above named, and his three brothers, William, James and Thomas, were all soldiers in the Revolutionary war and fought in Washington's command. Thomas Primm, who came here in 1819, died at his home near Athens in 1856 at the age of seventy-four years. He had a large

family of sons, several of whom died years ago. These were Daniel, Ninian, James and John, while William, Dr. Thomas L. and Abraham lived to be old men. Some of the third generation still live in this vicinity. Among them we may mention Ninian O., one of the successful farmers of that part of Menard county. The settlements thus far named were the very earliest in this part of the county.

In 1820 Orimal Clark laid claim to the tract of land which Athens now stands upon, but he did not remain on it long, but soon sold it to Rev. John Overstreet, of whom the romantic story is told in another place. Clark removed from Athens to Fancy Creek, below Williams-ville, and later to Springfield, where he died many years ago. The year 1820 brought a large number of recruits to the population of this section. Martin Higgins, son-in-law of Matthew Rogers, spoken of above, John Moore, a Mr. Terry, William Armstrong, James Haynes and John Good, all came this year. Higgins was from New York and settled what is known as the William Primm farm, but he sold it in a few years to Thomas Primm and located south of Indian creek, where he lived and died. Moore and Terry were both from Vermont and settled at Indian Point. Moore was a cabinet-maker by trade and had the first cabinet shop in this county. Terry and wife were both highly educated and accomplished and found themselves ill at ease among their rustic neighbors, so they soon sold out to Martin Higgins and removed to Springfield, where they remained for a few years and then returned to their native "Green Mountain state." Moore left in a few years and returned no more. William Armstrong at first settled on Indian creek, but after a few years he sold out to Eli Branson and moved to the vicinity of what is now Oakford and settled there, and there he lived and died. Many of his descendants are around Oakford yet. Pleasant Armstrong, a single brother, lived with William and he was one of the early justices of the peace of this section. Haynes and Good were both from Ohio. The former settled on Indian creek and afterward sold to Martin Higgins and moved to Texas. Good went farther west and settled on the prairie between the Indian creek and Oak Bridge tim-



ber. He, after a few years, sold to old man Tice, the father of the late Judge John Tice, and in company with Haynes went to Texas. James Gardner also came in 1820 and settled on the farm on which old Harry Riggins lived and died. Gardner was from New York and his aged father came with him. Later he went to Fulton county. In 1821 Walter Turner came and laid a claim on the south side of the Indian Point timber, which he improved and, being a tanner by trade, he later opened a tannery, which he run for a number of years to the great benefit of the community. He lived and died on the same farm and his youngest son, William, now owns it. Harry Riggins came that same year, bought a claim and engaged in tilling the soil. His ancestors came from Ireland and there the name was not Riggins, but O'Regan. When his ancestors came to America, having renounced Romanism and espoused Protestantism, they changed the name to what it now is and they have borne it ever since. He was often heard to express regret that the change was ever made. Harry Riggins was one of the most enterprising and useful citizens in his time in the county. His name was often before the public for positions of trust and honor. He was a member of the board of commissioners for Sangamon county who located the county seat. He was at different times a candidate for office, but was defeated, his competitors being such men as Stephen T. Logan, Ninian Edwards and Abraham Lincoln—men who later achieved fame in a much wider field. His long, useful and public-spirited life closed in 1874, after he had attained the ripe age of eighty-one years and six months.

Elisha, Abner and James Hall, brothers, came from Ohio and settled in the vicinity of Athens in 1822. Some of their descendants are living in and around Athens still. Philip Smith, also from Ohio, came this year and made improvements where Theophilus Turner afterward lived. Smith was a blacksmith and followed his trade in connection with farming. In 1823 William Johnson and James Williams came from Bath county, Kentucky, and began improving claims north of Indian creek. Mr. Johnson died in 1843. His wife survived him a great many years and at an advanced age she

died where they had settled so long before. Their son, Jefferson Johnson, owns the old home farm and just in front of his modern farm house may still be seen signs of where the house stood in which the family was reared. Jeff Johnson is well on toward eighty years of age and still lives on the very spot where he was born. His brother, John Johnson, is still living in the same community.

Williams located west of Johnson and farther down the creek and, being a tanner, he run a tannery in connection with his farming. He reared a large family and amassed quite a large fortune. He died in 1837 and was buried on the farm where he had lived. The late Colonel John Williams was the son of James Williams and died here a few years ago. Colonel Williams was one of the most successful financiers in this part of the state. To him more than to any other man are we indebted for the completion of the railroad which connects us with the capital. His son George now lives on the old homestead of his father and grandfather. John N. Moore came from Kentucky as early as 1823 and possibly a year earlier. Included among those who came prior to 1830 we find the names of John Turner, William Stanley, Scott Rawlins, Jonathan Dunn, Asa Canterbury, John S. Alexander, William McDougall, Theophilus Bracken, Allen Turner, Amberry Rankin and Fleming Hall. Nearly all of these were from Kentucky and Ohio and settled on Indian creek and in the vicinity of Athens, or where Athens now stands. Fleming Hall had gone from Virginia to Missouri in 1828 and in 1829 he came to Menard and pre-empted land on which part of Athens now stands. He lived on this land two years and then entered it and soon after he sold it to Abner Hall and Mr. Catterlin. Canterbury and Alexander were both from Kentucky and they settled south of Athens. Some of the descendants of Canterbury are still in the neighborhood where he at first settled. Scott Rawlins settled on and improved the farm that W. T. Rankin owned and lived on for a number of years. Rawlins was a kind of horse doctor and horse jockey and not in first-class odor with his neighbors. Indeed, his sudden accumulation of large numbers of horses at different times warranted the sus-

picion that they were not always gotten by legitimate means, so that his increasing unpopularity led him to dispose of his land at an early day and he removed to an island in the Illinois river near Bath, where he died many years in the past. McDougall, Bracken and the Rankins are dead, but have a number of representatives left in the community.

During the years 1830, 1831 and 1832 but few recruits were added to the population of this vicinity on account of the excitement incident to the Black Hawk war, which occurred at this time. However, in the spring of 1832 J. Kennedy Kincaid, then a young man, came from Bath county, Kentucky, and located in the neighborhood. He was a carpenter by trade and found here a very inviting field for displaying his mechanical skill. He landed at Beardstown, from the steamboat on which he had found passage, and walked to Springfield in order to husband his scanty means so as to be able to buy a kit of tools at the latter town. Mr. Kincaid worked at his trade and also taught school part of the time, and by dint of industry and economy he soon had means enough to enter a small tract of land. In the fall of 1833 his father, Andrew Kincaid, came out from Kentucky on horseback to visit his son and to prospect the country. He returned well pleased and in the fall of 1834 he came with his family and settled on the farm where his son Thomas Kincaid afterward lived and died. After a long and useful career he closed his life in 1872 at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. His wife lingered on the shores of time till in March, 1879, when she followed the beckoning hand of her husband and died at the more advanced age of ninety-one. They left a large family and their sons were among the most wealthy and successful farmers in central Illinois. Their grandchildren have now taken the places of their parents and grandparents and are among the reliable and successful men in the various callings of life. James Rankin came from Kentucky and settled here in 1833. Later on, in 1839 and 1840, perhaps, further settlements were made by Jesse G. Hurt, David and James K. Hurt, Jesse Preston, Josiah Francis, Thomas Hargus, William Strawbridge, Charles Robinson, R. L. Wilson, Neal

and Archibald Johnson and others doubtless whose names have passed from memory. But space forbids us to give the detail of settlements of later years, as the task would be endless. These were all good and true men, as the inheritance that they worked out and left to their posterity abundantly proves.

The early pioneers knew nothing of the comforts and conveniences that we are surrounded with at the present time. Naught was here but the wild unbroken forest and prairie, the soil rich and generous, it is true, but it was unsubdued and was still the hunting ground of the red man. Without roads, without bridges and far removed from the marts of trade, the incentive to agricultural pursuits was very weak. Yet while confronted with all these manifold annoyances and threatening obstacles, the love of liberty for themselves and children and the fond hope of one day acquiring a competency and owning these broad and fertile fields, they bravely erected their cabins and unflinchingly entered into the long and arduous battle. In many new countries there is one obstacle to overcome that the people of this section did not have to meet. In most new countries the first settlers are a class of roving adventurers who stop for a time and then move on to other scenes, but the great element of success in the first-comers to this part of Illinois was that unyielding inflexibility of purpose in which they set about making homes for themselves and families. Though most of them were men of but limited means, yet with their determination, the aid, encouragement and help of the wives and daughters, and the health and buoyancy produced by their simple mode of life, they entered upon the task to win. At least ninety-five per cent of them came to make homes and subsequent events have fully proved this to be true. There are many here to-day an abstract of whose title is simply the patent from the government and the deed from the father to the son. Some of them hold their title direct from the government over the signature of John Quincy Adams. The inconveniences and difficulties endured by these pioneers were of such a character as would appall the heart of the bravest of the present generation. Often their milling

had to be done at points one hundred miles away and the necessary supplies for the family were only secured at a like distance. Mr. Primm told the writer that his father used to go to St. Louis to mill, a distance of no less than one hundred and twenty miles, and part of the way there was no road whatever.

The first postoffice established north of the Sangamon was at the house of Matthew Rogers and was known as Rogers' postoffice. The exact date of its establishment is not known, but it was not earlier than 1826 or 1827. The mail was carried on this line on horseback from Springfield to Lewiston by way of Rogers, Walker's Grove and Havana and was known as the Spoon river route. John Renfro was the mail carrier on this route for a number of years. At that time it took four weeks for a letter to go to or from New York—two months to get an answer from there. When the town of Athens was laid out the office was removed to that place and the name changed to Athens postoffice. Henry C. Rogers succeeded his father as postmaster and held the position for many years. The first school in this vicinity was "kept" by J. A. Mendall, in a cabin near the residence of Henry C. Rogers. Mendall was an eastern man, finely educated and a successful teacher, but he had one drawback, that was that he was too fond of the flowing bowl, and his occasional spree were a great annoyance to his patrons. The last known of him was that he went to Peoria to engage in the study of law, and if he did not succeed in the law he would, at least, be able to satisfy the cravings of his appetite. Henry C. Rogers was himself an early pedagogue in this section and taught in the days when it was the fashion for the "master" to "board around," and when greased paper served in place of window glass. But those days of "subscription" schools and teachers "boarding around" were doomed to have an end. This "new world" was not held in reserve for thousands of years for no purpose. Its soil of inexhaustible fertility, its deep and almost unlimited forests, its unmeasured wealth of base and precious metals, its untold fields of coal—all these were not hidden away here for naught, but infinite wisdom stored them here for modern Christian-

ity to make them the agents of enlightened civilization to illumine and bless the world. And every step in the line of education is a part of this plan and every donor of means and every teacher, in short, all who lend their aid or influence to the work of education is an agent in this work. Away back in 1856 the Indian Point people felt the need of better facilities for the education of their children and to the end of bettering their opportunities they got up a private subscription in order to build a house and organize a school suited to their needs. In this way three thousand dollars were raised and North Sangamon Academy was erected. The building is a substantial brick of two stories and stands in the edge of Indian creek timber. Located as it is in a grove of native forest trees and where there are

"Books in the running brooks, sermons in  
stones,

And good in everything."

one would naturally infer that the enterprise would meet with merited success, for surely there is no place anywhere that could surpass this in the natural influences of the surroundings to contribute to thought and meditation. As this school is spoken of elsewhere, we will only say in this connection that the school ran for years as an academy to the entire satisfaction of all concerned and did a vast amount of good. A number of years ago it ceased to be run as an academy, but is conducted under the school law of the state, having two rooms and the school graded.

Harry Riffin was the first merchant in this part of the county. As far back as 1825 or 1826 he opened a small stock of goods on his farm, and he had a considerable trade. It was a great accommodation to the community, as before this store was opened the citizens were obliged to go to Springfield or Beardstown for whatever in this line they might want. But as the years glided by and population increased villages sprang up here and there, and many of the trials that the earlier settlers experienced became a thing of the past. When the village of Athens was opened up Mr. Riffin moved his stock of goods to that place.

Religion was one of the first interests that

claimed the attention of the first settlers of this section and the first religious society formed was upon a voluntary basis to meet the spiritual wants of the period. As early as 1820 Joseph Smith and wife, James Haynes and wife and William Holland and wife organized themselves into a class of the Methodist order under the leadership of Mr. Holland. This was the first religious society in this whole section and was the basis of the first Methodist Episcopal church in the county. Soon after this organization the Rev. James Simms took charge of its interests. The Cumberland Presbyterians were in this field in a very early day. The first church building erected in this whole Athens territory was the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian church in the northwest part of the Indian creek timber. This was indeed a primitive affair. It was built of logs and the architecture and all of its furniture and appointments were rude and primitive in the extreme. This house was put up near the close of 1824 or in the beginning of 1825. Having, in a few years, served its day and generation, it was removed and a better building, one of frame, was put in its place, and after some years a very neat and commodious frame church was erected. This house served all the purposes of the congregation till the year 1866. At that time R. D. Miller was pastor of the church and under his leadership they agitated the question of building a house of worship. This agitation began in 1866, but the house was not built till 1867. It is a brick building, on a stone foundation, and the work and material are all first class. It is of ample size and it stands to-day as good as when first erected, so far as the foundation, wall, etc., are concerned. The Rev. John M. Berry, the great apostle of Cumberland Presbyterianism in central Illinois, was the first preacher for this congregation and he served them several years. Revs. Thomas Campbell and Gilbert Dodds served them also. Among the early communicants of this congregation were the families of Robert White, William B. Short, Francis Rayburn, James Williams, Harry Riggins and Martin Higgins and many others. For the history of the Presbyterian church at Indian Point the reader is

referred to another place, where a full account is given.

Of the town of Athens but little will be said here as a fuller detail will be found in another place. The town occupies a very eligible position, being surrounded by a country peculiarly adapted to agricultural and horticultural pursuits. The prairies adjacent to it are as rich as any under the sun, while near by are vast bodies of splendid timber. But her wealth is not confined to her agriculture or her horticulture, but the very earth upon which the town stands is underlaid with vast fields of coal, a source of inexhaustible wealth, and that coal lies only one hundred feet below the surface. In the year 1831 James Stephenson, county surveyor for Sangamon county, surveyed and platted the town for the owner, the Rev. John Overstreet. The original plat contained about forty acres, to which four additions have since been made. Two log cabins, one for a residence and the other for a blacksmith shop, had been erected by Orinal Clark, who had laid a claim here a year or two previous to the laying out of the town and from whom Overstreet purchased the original town site. A small "band mill," operated by horsepower, was also here at the laying-out of the village. About 1832 or 1833 Colonel Matthew Rogers became a citizen of the place and made the first permanent improvements, building a large and commodious store-room, which was for many years occupied by L. Salzenstein. John Overstreet purchased the remnant of the stock that Harry Riffin had had on his farm and, making some additions to this stock, he opened up in the town. Jonathan Dunn was the second to enter the lists as a merchant, but his life in this line was short and he retired in favor of some more lucky adventurer. In the latter part of 1832 or the beginning of 1833 Harry Riffin and Amberry A. Rankin opened a store in the place and after two years sold their stock to Martin M. Morgan. During the same year James D. Allen and Simeon Clark became merchants of the village, as did Abner and Elisha Hall. In 1836 Sebastian Stone became a partner with Allen and this firm continued for a number of years. All the goods that came to Athens for a number of

years had to be brought from St. Louis, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, and when we take into consideration the fact that the roads were poor, where there were any at all, and that the goods were invariably transported by ox teams, it is not to be wondered at that on the day that a consignment of goods arrived and were to be opened there was commotion among "the natives." Such a day was like a day in our time when Barnum's own and only show on earth comes into town. The bustle and noise that was seen and heard on such a day betokened a bright and glorious future for the young city. But, alas for human prospects and calculations! The dark tidal wave of adversity and broken hopes was soon to break over the town. In 1839 Menard county was organized and, of course, a county seat was to be selected, and Athens, the oldest and then the largest village in the limits of the new county, entered the lists of competition. Athens played her hand with the greatest skill, but Petersburg won the prize and left Athens to weep over blighted hopes and blasted expectations. Though time and space are limited, we must give, as briefly as we can, the story of the "first mill in Athens." About 1826 Elijah Estep had erected a band mill on the present site of Petersburg. Mills were so scarce and it was so difficult to secure "breadstuff" that the Athenians decided that they must have a mill and, learning that the Estep mill could be bought, they got up a public subscription to buy it. The subscriptions were taken for money or labor; the cash subscribers were to have certain privileges and the subscribers of labor were to have certain rights. The mill was bought and in 1829 it was moved and put in running order, with John Overstreet as manager. He was to run the mill, keep it in repair, charge a just and equitable toll, and at the expiration of four years it was to belong to him. There was some trouble between the "cash" subscribers and the "labor" subscribers, but the mill "cracked the corn" for them all alike, and at the end of four years the mill belonged to Overstreet. About the year 1834 Overstreet ground a flatboat load of flour in this mill and, in company with Jesse G. and David Hurt, took it to the New

Orleans market. Some two or three months were consumed in grinding the load, the bolting being done by hand. This proved an unfortunate venture. Overstreet and David Hurt never returned. They were stricken with disease and died in the Crescent City. Jesse G. Hurt returned, broken in purse and in spirit.

In an early day Jonathan Dunn built a steam grist mill here and after operating it a year or two he sold out to Strawbridge & Croft. They attached a distillery to it and ran the two together for a time, but this has long since been a thing of the past. In 1856 John Overstreet, a relative of the pioneer, and Alexander Hale built a brick steam gristmill at an outlay of eleven thousand dollars and began operations in 1857. It was a very fine mill and for many years it did a fine business. It has long since ceased to be. Salzenstein, the Hebrew merchant, did as much for Athens, financially, perhaps, as any other man. The first blacksmith shop in the village was opened in 1832 by Charles P. Smith. He was followed later by Thomas Tabor and William Brown. A pottery was operated here in the early times by John Pierson, and it did a paying business for a time. Goble & Sacket and also one Ramsey tried the same business at a later date. Tradition says that there was once a cotton-gin here, but this must have been before "the winter of the deep snow," as, for some reason, no cotton was raised here after that date. At one time "Old Salty," as Mr. Salzenstein was called, brought a bale of clothing to this place; a number of persons were present when it was opened and in a short time cholera broke out and a number of people died from it. It was observed that those who were first stricken with it were those who were present when the goods were opened.

The history of the churches, schools, business, etc., is to be found in another chapter.

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### SANDRIDGE.

By Sandridge we do not mean the voting precinct of that name, but the settlement that was made north of that of Petersburg and west of the Sangamon river, on to the west line of the

county. In Petersburg we included the Little Grove, running almost as far north as the village of Atterberry. But it is no matter about lines; we are giving settlements and the old settlers, and in doing this lines play no part. This section, like the rest of Menard county, is prairie, with groves of timber interspersed, giving it the appearance of a giant farm, with orchards planted here and there. This section is a little more rolling, perhaps, than other portions of the county, with rich and productive soil, save a portion in its northern part, where ridges of sand prevail, giving the name to the locality.

Few indeed antedate the settlers who came first into this locality. There is, however, greater trouble in determining who was in reality the very first white man to locate here than in any other part of the county. "Who was the first settler of Sandridge?" Who will answer the question? Thirty-nine years ago this question was propounded to the oldest "inhabitants" at that time, and the replies did not agree. One said most emphatically that it was Jesse Armstrong; another, just as old and just as reliable, said it was Royal Potter; and a third, just as good a witness, said it was William Sampson. Now, who can settle the dispute? It will never be settled. They were all here in 1819, and if there is any preponderance in the testimony it is in favor of Mr. Armstrong. He was from Tennessee and laid a claim near where Concord church now stands, the cabin being about a half mile almost due south of the church. After a few years he removed to Arkansas and later to Texas, where he died. William Sampson was from Kentucky and made improvement about a mile east and a little north of Armstrong's claim. He "kept batch" for awhile but was married in 1821 or 1822 to Hannah Schmick. After making several improvements in Sandridge he finally crossed the river to the neighborhood of Greenview, where he died. His sons are all dead, too. Potter was from Tennessee or Kentucky and made improvement on land that now is a part of the Shipley estate. This land he afterward sold to Sampson and Sampson sold it to Reason Shipley. George and Jesse Miller came here in 1820 and located in the northeast

corner of this territory, near the Sangamon river. The Millers kept a ferry on the river and to this day it is called Miller's ferry. In days gone by a town was laid out and some improvement made at this ferry, but on the Mason county side. Bannister Bond, who came from Tennessee, laid a claim on land about three miles due north of Petersburg, but in a short time located in Clary's Grove. He was noted for his powerful muscular development and physical endurance. He would cut timber and work it up into rails by day and then at night he would carry them on his shoulder to his clearing and build a fence with them. George Hudspeth came from Monroe county, Alabama, in 1823. Elias Hohimer, Reason Shipley, Jacob Short and his sons, Obadiah, James and Harrison, came in 1824. Hohimer and Shipley were from Kentucky and were permanent citizens here from the time they came. Short and his sons were from Madison county, in this state, and first settled near Petersburg and then removed to Sandridge. Jacob Short was a ranger in the war of 1812 and did his country good service. The year 1825 brought large numbers of recruits to this part of the county. John Clary, who had settled in Clary's Grove in 1819, came at this date, and with him came his sons, John A. and Hugh. William Armstrong and his brother Pleasant, Isaac Colson, William and James Rutledge, John Cameron, Charles Revis and his sons, Isham and Alexander, Absalom Monnts and his son James, Robert Davis, and doubtless some others were here before the close of this year. In a former history of this county it is said that George Kirby and William Watkins, known as "Fiddler Bill," were settlers of this county before 1825. Now, the fact is that Mr. Kirby was born, not earlier than 1810, in Madison county, Illinois, while Watkins was born in Menard county, and the very first settler in the county was not here till 1819. George Kirby and "Fiddler Bill" Watkins were settlers in Sandridge when they were young men, but they lacked a long way of being among the first settlers. Watkins was the first white child born in the county, but that could not have been earlier than 1819, and he would have been quite a juvenile settler prior to 1825. The Armstrongs were from Kentucky and had



settled on Indian creek before they went to Sandridge. Colson was from the state of Maine and settled in the northwest part of this section. The Rutledges were originally from South Carolina, but had lived for some time in White county, in this state, before coming here. Cameron was a brother-in-law of William Rutledge and with him settled in the southeastern part of this section. They, of course, are dead, but many of their descendants are here. James Pantier and his son, David M., came here in 1826. The elder Pantier was a Kentuckian by birth and was the second male white child born in the state, his father having accompanied Daniel Boone in his hunting and warring with the savage redskins in "the dark and bloody ground." He settled near the site of Concord church and lived there till near his death, when he went to live with his son, David M. Pantier. He lies in the old burying-ground on the farm that belonged to Rev. A. B. Goodpasture. David M. Pantier died some fifteen or eighteen years ago. Among those coming in 1827 we name Thomas Dowell, John and James Yardley, Solomon Norris, James Rummels, George Bowman, and John Brahm, Sr. Dowell was from the south, and settled on the river bottom, near where the village of Oakford now stands. James Hudspeth, Mathias Young and John B. Colson were here before the deep snow. During the fall and winter after the deep snow, a large settlement was in and around where the village of Oakford now stands. Amos Ogden, Isaac White, Matthew Lownsberry and sons, Jonathan and Matthew, and others, were among the delegation. Nearly all the settlers mentioned before were from the south, but these last named were from the northern and eastern states, and they gave to the neighborhood the name of the "Yankee Settlement" to distinguish it. Passing down through the years we find the list already given, increased by the names of William B. Cloe, Samuel Lownsberry, Isaac Ogden, Hayden Thomas, John Waldridge, John Kirby, Milton G. Combs, James Altig, George R. Watkins, J. L. Short, James Potter and E. C. Stith. These were all here prior to the year 1840. All of these have crossed the dark river except Samuel Lownsberry

and Milton G. Combs, and they are nearing the crossing.

The village of Oakford was surveyed and platted for the proprietors, William Oakford and William Colson, by surveyor A. J. Kelly, in March, 1812. The town plat contains sixty acres and is in the midst of a magnificent agricultural district. The land on which the town is located belonged to Colson and Oakford secured a half interest by using his influence getting a station there. A public sale of lots was made on the 11th of April, 1812, and over two thousand dollars worth were disposed of, and in a short time the work of improvement was begun. The first building was called the railroad store, a shanty in which was kept supplies for the railroad hands. Soon after the village was laid out William Oakford built a storeroom, and opened a stock of groceries in it. In the summer of 1812 a stock of goods for a general store was opened by Calvin Atterberry, who had been in business in "Bobtown." In 1813 Isaac Ogden and A. G. Colson bought Atterberry out. In January, 1814, L. W. Roberts bought Colson out and the firm became Ogden & Roberts. In October, 1815, they sold out to Sutton Brothers, who operated the store three years, and then sold out to S. L. Watkins & Brother. In June, 1813, H. A. Bennett, of Petersburg, opened a stock of drugs and shelf goods, in the old railroad store. This changed hands several times, and finally, in 1816, S. L. Watkins bought the establishment. In the spring of 1815 Dr. J. D. Whitney and W. C. Roberts opened a drug store. In 1816 O. J. Maltby and John M. Walker opened a harness shop. The first dwellings were built in 1812 by Dr. J. D. Whitley and Charles Meyers. Thus the town started out and steadily grew from year to year, till it is a town of five or six hundred inhabitants and is a good business point. The first marriages in the town were: A. G. Colson to Rachael Skaggs, in 1812, and L. W. Roberts to Carrie C. Ogden, in 1813. Dr. J. D. Whitley was the first practicing physician there, and Dr. J. T. Miers, now of Petersburg, also practiced for a time. Dr. Bollinger practiced medicine there for a number of years, and died there two years ago.



They had saloons in the place during almost all of its history.

Oakford has not grown much of late years but is a substantial little business town, having two large general stores, carrying dry goods and groceries, one owned by Oliver Maltby, who has been in business in the place for over twenty years. There is one grain elevator, which handles a large amount of grain. Marion Atterberry owns a large drug store and also keeps a stock of hardware. They have also a blacksmith shop and a splendid little hotel. They have not neglected the matter of education for they have an excellent school building of four rooms, fully equipped with all that a modern school requires. The veteran teacher, L. N. Hartley, is at present superintending the education of the youth of the village and surrounding community. Some years ago the Methodist church, which formerly stood some four miles southwest of the town, was moved to the town. During the summer of 1904 the house was remodeled and is now one of the neat and comfortable houses of worship of the county. The congregation also owns a comfortable parsonage on a lot adjoining the church. Five or six years ago the town built a good town hall, at a cost of about one thousand dollars. Oakford has a very fine farming country around it, and the trade of the town is equal to that of any town of the same size in central Illinois.

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#### ROCK CREEK.

"Time writes no wrinkles upon the brow of Old Ocean, as upon those of the fading race of man." With some degree of truth, the same might be said of the country on Rock creek. The last eighty years, it is plain to be seen, has wrought as little change on the general appearance of the country as upon any part of this county. The storms and sunshine of more than four score years have flung light and shade over its hills and vales since the men, whom God made white, laid their claims and built their cabins in its sheltering timber. These cabins have rotted away, their weight-pole roofs are gone, and the smoke is seen no more as it curls from the low top of the mud-daubed stick

chimney, and the wild game is gone forever, but the timber has been better protected than in other localities, while the hills and fields and rippling streams have been less distorted by the hand of civilization than elsewhere. The little stream, Rock creek, which gives its name to this settlement, flows almost east, in its general direction but it meanders in its course, dallying and playing on its way, as if charmed by the beauty of the scene and loath to mingle its waters with the turbid, murky flow of the Sangamon. The territory that we include in what we term "Rock Creek" includes what is known as "Wolf county." Why this name was ever given to this section we cannot learn. After diligent enquiry for many years, we have no idea why the name was ever applied.

The first cabin ever built by a white man in this settlement is said to have been put up by Amor Batterton. Amor Batterton was from Kentucky and built this cabin on Rock creek in 1819. Some claim that he came to this vicinity in the fall of 1818, and put up the cabin but that it was not occupied till the next year. No matter how this may be, it is beyond dispute that he settled here in 1819. He reared a large family and many of his descendants are still living in this county. The same year that Batterton settled here, a man by the name of Ratliff and his four sons,—James, Job, William and Joshua,—James Fisher and George Gamel settled in the timber along the creek. Jacob Miller settled at Farmers Point in 1819. Solomon Keltner and William Stephenson came also in 1819 or 1820 and located in the same neighborhood. Rev. James Simms and his son-in-law, James Black, also came in 1819-20, and took claims. They were from Kentucky and Mr. Simms told the following story, which we give as he told it, and the reader may set his own estimate upon it: "That he was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, a great revivalist and a leader at the camp-meetings. He established a 'camp ground' soon after he came to the neighborhood, which for many years was the scene of an annual camp-meeting, and that some of the remains are still to be seen on the sacred spot." This man Simms must have taken an active part in temporal as well as spiritual things, for he was the first repre-

sentative in the legislature from Sangamon county. But the camp-meeting story seems a little fishy, for no such man was known to the historians of the early Cumberland Presbyterian church in Illinois. Absalom Matthews came also this year. This comprises the settlement up to the year 1821, when the following recruits were added to those already here: Tarlton Lloyd, George Miller, Marshall Duncan, David S. Taylor, Matthias, James and William Yoakum, and perhaps others whose names are forgotten. Lloyd was born in Virginia in 1784 and died in 1885,—over a hundred years old,—he settled where he died. He said there were two cabins on the place when he came. One of these was twelve by sixteen feet and into it he moved his family, in which they lived till the next summer. Two years later he built a hewed-log house, eighteen by twenty feet; afterward this was weather-boarded and a frame addition built to it. This house was standing a short time ago, but it wore the marks of time, looking weather-beaten, moss-grown and near its end. Lloyd had nothing when he came here, only a few household articles,—no stock or money. Soon after he came he bought a cow from Shipley,—probably Reason Shipley,—giving in exchange for it a wagon; he also bought another from George Greene, giving a feather bed for it. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, serving under Captain Henry West, Fourth Regiment, and was in the battle of New Orleans. This Miller settled in the Sangamon bottom, and Duncan on what is known as Garden Prairie. Taylor bought the place originally settled by Batterton and also the claim of Matthews. The Yoakums were natives of Virginia but had migrated to Kentucky in an early day and from there they came to Illinois, first stopping in Madison county, and after a while they went to Montgomery, where they stopped a while, and then came on to Menard. Samuel Combs came from Kentucky in 1824 and settled on Rock creek, and two years later, in 1826, his brother, Jonas Combs, came and settled near him. They are both dead many years ago, dying on the places that they settled. Elihu Bone came from Tennessee, in 1824, and bought a claim from a man named Flynn, on Rock creek. Of this Flynn we could learn no

particulars whatever. Elihu Bone died in 1856. Isaac Cogdell was a Kentuckian by birth and came to Rock creek in 1826. He died twenty years ago, on the old homestead. The father of Isaac Cogdell, Joseph Cogdell, was a Baptist preacher, and came to that settlement in 1823. He died in 1828, his being one among the first deaths in that little settlement. Rev. John M. Berry, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, came in 1821, and soon after organized a congregation of that church, on Rock creek. He was a man of unblemished Christian character and of great power. He was the "apostle" of his church in central Illinois. He died in Clinton, Illinois, sometime in the '50s. Elijah Houghton came from Kentucky and settled on Rock creek in 1824. His father, Aaron Houghton, was a native of New Jersey, though of English stock. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He emigrated to Kentucky, when it was, indeed, "the dark and bloody ground," it being the battle-field of the southern and northern Indians, as it was later the battle-field between the northern and southern whites. Elijah Houghton was a man of considerable prominence in the community and died in 1852. A. M. Houghton, a son of Elijah, and who was born in Illinois, was a very prominent man in this section of the state. He was known far and near as "Hickory" Houghton. No man in central Illinois stood higher in public regard than he. His word was as good as his bond; his judgment was good on every subject; and no man's counsel was sought more than his. He died some years ago in the same house in which he was born, at the age of nearly seventy years. His widow is still living, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John S. Hurie, within a short distance of the old home. Charles Houghton, a brother of Elijah Houghton, came in 1824 and settled on the farm afterward owned by Isaac Cogdell and on which Cogdell died. In the period of 1826 to 1828, there were several additions to the settlement; Robert Johnson, Jesse Vowell, Michael Davis and William Irwin came in that time. J. H. Smith was also an early settler here. He was a son of Samuel Smith, of Rhode Island, who married a Rhodes, of the family of Rhodes for whom, it is said, Rhode Island was

originally named. C. J. F. Clark may also be ranked as one of the early settlers of this section. He was one of the first county commissioners of Menard county and was the first county judge, after the county was organized. He served eight years as judge and four as commissioner. He died many years ago, in Cass county.

The above includes all the early settlers whose names we could learn, though doubtless some were missed who deserve to be mentioned among them, but when we look back over a period of eighty-five years, it is not strange that many of the pioneers who came to this wilderness then and remained but a short time, or died in a few years, are forgotten by the few left. We are soon forgotten.

"If you or I to-day should die,

The birds would sing as sweet to-morrow;  
The vernal Spring her flowers would bring,  
And few would think of us with sorrow.

Yes, he is dead, would then be said;

The corn would floss, the grass yield hay,  
The cattle low, the summer go,  
And few would heed us passed away.

How soon we pass! How few, alas!

Remember those who turn to mold!  
Whose faces fade, with autumn's shade,  
Beneath the sodded churchyard cold!

Yes, it is so. We come, we go—

They hail our birth, they mourn us dead,  
A day or more, the winter o'er,  
Another takes our place instead."

It is with no intention of injustice to any one that we quote these lines. They are beautifully pathetic and as true as beautiful. None miss us when we pass away but our immediate relatives and in a little time they forget us and laugh as merrily as when we sat by their side. Such is life, and such is human nature; and it is well that we can forget and that time does thus heal our sorrows, or life would become a burden that none of us could bear.

Most of the first comers to Rock Creek were from Kentucky and Virginia, where timber and running water existed in profuse abundance, and they looked upon the timber that bordered Rock creek and the Sangamon as a second

paradise. They then regarded the prairies as barren wastes, fit for nothing but pasturage, and this was the reason that all the first settlements were made along the water courses, in the edge of the timber. Drive wells were unknown and to move out on the open prairie would have been considered as great an act of insanity as to attempt to cross the desert without water.

One of the very first religious organizations formed in Menard county, was the Rock Creek Cumberland Presbyterian church. It was organized by the Rev. John M. Berry, some claim as early as 1821 or 1822, certainly not later than 1823. Rev. John Simms came a short time prior to the organization of the society and these two veteran pioneers and preachers of the gospel laid out a camp-ground in the timber of Rock creek and held camp meetings there for many years. It was the good seed sown in good ground that brought forth the abundant harvest in after years, which is still seen in the Rock Creek Cumberland Presbyterian church. The church building stands near where the camp-ground was located. The first start at a place of worship was the shed that was put up on the camp-ground, but some time later they put up a log house, which was used for a number of years as a schoolhouse and also a church. Some years afterward they erected a frame church of ample dimensions to meet all their wants, and this house served all their purposes till some twelve or fifteen years ago when they put up the house that they now worship in, as neat and comfortable a country church as can be found in this or any other county in central Illinois. They also have a comfortable parsonage, standing near the church. The Rev. J. W. Elder is their pastor. A cemetery adjoins the church. This is beautifully located, tastefully laid out and is kept with the greatest care.

The first school in this settlement was taught by a man of the name of Compton, in a little log cabin on the claim of Tarleton Lloyd. This school was taught in 1824 and 1825. The following year Ira McGlassen taught a school in a cabin on the claim of Elijah Houghton, the old "Hickory" Houghton place. Illustrative of

the schools of those days, a story is told of an occurrence that is said to have taken place in this vicinity. A young man learning that a certain neighborhood was contemplating having a school if they could secure a teacher, visited the community and was referred to a certain citizen, who, he was told, was empowered to deal with him. He called on the old gentleman who said they wanted a school teacher, and that he was to examine him as to his qualifications. He set the young fellow to reading in the Bible, in the genealogical part of Genesis where were numberless hard names to pronounce. After reading a chapter or two the old man stopped him with the remark that he thought he could teach their school. Then he told the young man to write out a certificate of his qualification, which, when done, he handed to the old man to sign. The latter said to him: "You just sign it too with my name, and I will make my mark as I can not read nor write." This is not an unreasonable story by any means. In Menard county not fifteen years ago, and under our boasted free school system, there was a school district in which not one of the three directors could write his name.

Tarleton Lloyd opened the first blacksmith shop in this territory, in 1822 or 1823, and did this line of work for the surrounding country for a number of years. Rev. Mr. Simms built a mill here, of a very primitive type, in 1823. It was propelled by horse-power and served to crack the corn for the community, and they even "mashed" wheat with it and then sifted out the brand, some careful housewives bolting it through home-made cloth, thus having a semblance of wheat flour. This mill long ago ceased to be, and the people now do their milling at other points. The first justice of the peace is supposed to have been a man by the name of Syniard, who was among the early settlers but who left here in a few years. One of the Bones was, at one time, a justice of the peace for this section. As illustrative of the courts of this early day, the following is told at the expense of Esquire Syniard: Two of the neighbors had gotten into a wrangle over a debt which one owed the other and which the debtor agreed to pay in hogs. In the fall,

when the hogs had grown fat on the mast and the debt was to be paid, it happened that fat hogs were a good price, so the debtor sold his fat hogs for cash, and delivered an old sow and pigs to the creditor. To this the creditor demurred, saying that he was to be paid in hogs. The debtor replied that he was to pay in hogs, and that he had brought the sow and pigs. The creditor demurred still and a lawsuit was the result. It came up for trial before Esquire Syniard, and after very patiently hearing both sides of the question, he rendered judgment in favor of the creditor, deciding that in a legal sense a sow and pigs were not hogs. In the year 1877 a postoffice was established here, located on the creek, near the old Isaac Cogdell place, and was called the Lloyd postoffice, in honor of the then-living oldest citizen. L. B. Conover was the first postmaster. Politically Rock creek has always been Democratic to the backbone. When the election drew near John S. Hurie and Frank Duncan rallied the faithful, and on election day the gathering clans went to the polls and victory was achieved. This has been the story in all the past. Even in the dark days of 1904, the prairies and woods of this section sent out its undaunted mossbacks, and when the returns came in from over the land, bringing the story of disaster and defeat on every hand, word came that in spite of Parker and Plutocracy, Wolf county had maintained her old time integrity and was the one green oasis in the dreary desert of Democratic disaster.

During the Civil war Rock creek was loyal to the core and turned out as large a number of soldiers in proportion to her population as any part of Menard county. The men of this section volunteered into the regiments in the adjoining country, which drew their chief strength from this county, and among these were the Fourteenth and the One Hundred and Fourteenth Regiments of Illinois Infantry. No men had better records as soldiers than the boys from this section of "Little Menard."

Rock Creek is to-day one of the finest sections of farming country in the entire county. By nature some of the soil may not be as rich as may be found in some other localities, but taken all in all it stands in the very front.

While it has no towns or villages, nor railroads, yet it is one of the most delightful communities in the land. They have a coal shaft in their midst, and what other parts of the county do not have, they possess,—we mean stone for building purposes. Their farms are productive and well cultivated; their homes are elegant and comfortable; their schools are of the best, and no more social or happy and prosperous people can be found in central Illinois; and when the interurban electric road is finished, as it will be soon, running through the very heart of this community, and connecting them with Springfield, Petersburg and all the world, their cup of fortune and happiness will be full to overflowing.

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#### INDIAN CREEK.

The prairies of the west, though possessing a soil equal to any in the world, and having a climate unsurpassed, and being splendidly watered, were yet slow to attract the early emigrant, because most of these were from sections of the country abounding in timber and the pioneer seemed to think that no one could survive on these bare plains. When Illinois began to attract the emigrant, we find him steering his "prairie schooner" toward the groves of timber. In fact they really believed that those prairies would never be settled up. James Short told the writer that in an early day, as he and his father were looking across the strip of prairie lying between their farm and Sugar Grove, a distance of a little more than two miles, the old man said: "Jimmie, there will be open range for our stock there for a hundred years to come." In less than a score of years it was a solid, unbroken sea of corn. It was not till almost every acre of timber land lying adjacent to the streams had been claimed that any one thought of venturing out on the prairie. With the utmost caution they ventured out beyond the shelter of the protecting trees, and as cabins rose up on the broad plains the croakers uttered dire predictions about freezing to death or being blown away by storms. This was the case in this settlement, as well as elsewhere, and no settlements were

made beyond the timber till necessity compelled the increasing population to "move on." Indian Creek settlement included as fine a section of country as is to be found anywhere, consisting of timber along the streams, with broad areas of the finest prairie. The surface is not hilly, nor is it flat and level, but the whole surface gently undulates, more like the swelling waves of the ocean, than anything we can compare it to. It is well drained and watered by Salt creek on the north, the Sangamon on the west, and Indian creek and other small streams flowing through it. No village or town now breaks the monotony of the scene at the present time, though years ago New Market, a thriving village, was located here. Curtis, a ways-station and postoffice on the Chicago & Alton railroad, is in this area, but as there is but one family there and no buildings adorn it, except the one residence, a store and a grain elevator, it is not entitled to the name village. This settlement was first made by people mostly from Kentucky, with a few from Virginia, to give dignity to the community. From the best information that can be had, James Short was the first white man to settle in this territory. He located here in 1824 but in 1828 he removed to Sangamon county. The old Blue Grass state sent in the following recruits: Solomon Taylor, Robert and James Bracken, Andrew Trumbo, Abraham Hornback and sons, Elijah Scott, Francis Rayburn, William Brewer and son, Samuel Rogers and son, Alexander Crawford, David Onstott, John Pentecost and sons, Michael Killion, William Denton, William and James Estill, Coleman Smoot, Hamilton Elliott, Isaiah Low and perhaps others. Robert and James Bracken, brothers, came in 1826-27. Solomon Taylor came in 1828. Andrew Trumbo came in 1828 or 1829. Abraham Hornback and his sons, John, Jesse and Andrew, came in 1826. All of these are long since dead but Andrew lived until not a very great number of years ago and died at a very advanced age. Francis Rayburn came in 1828 and after a great many years he removed to Iowa, where he died. William Brewer and his son John came in 1827 or 1828, and both died here. Samuel Rogers and his son, Joseph Rogers, came in 1825.

Alexander Crawford came in 1827, and has been dead almost or quite fifty years. David Onstott came in 1825 and erected a mill and distillery. The mill was run by horse-power and a little copper still was attached. In this mill the corn was cracked for meal and hominy for the settlers, and the little still—such as the moon-shiners now use in Tennessee and North Carolina—worked up the surplus corn into spiritus frumenti, which the citizens used only for the “chills” and snake-bite. This is the extent of the milling there, except that later there was a water-mill on Indian creek, at what is now called Indian Creek hill. Onstott was a man that could not be surrounded, as one old citizen expressed it, and when the settlement began to fill up he pulled out for Arkansas. He said he had waded through h—l to get here and he did not propose to be crowded. John Pentecost and his sons, William, Henry and John, came in 1827. William Denton came in 1830 and died long ago, and all of his children are gone except George W. Denton, who is still living, a citizen of Greenview. Michael Killion came in 1830. When Russel Godby came in 1830 and built a cabin out on the prairie, Killion said that the fool Virginian would freeze to death. William Estill, a brother-in-law of Killion, came in 1825 or 1826. James Estill, a brother of William, came at the same time. They are both long since dead. Hamilton Elliott and two sons, Richard and Hadden, came in 1830. Richard later removed to Fulton county. He is described as an enterprising man, who engaged considerably in speculation. Our informant said that he would risk his life for a conskin. Afterward he went to California and amassed a large fortune. Hiram Chapin and Benjamin Day came at a very early day but did not remain long. Coleman Smoot came in 1831 and bought out Onstott. He was an intelligent, active business man, and acquired a handsome property. He died many years ago. His son, William C. Smoot, is one of the wealthy men of Menard county. He is a conscientious Christian man, gained his wealth by honest means and no one envies him in the enjoyment of it. He married a daughter of William Engle, of Sweetwater. They are

both living, enjoying a peaceful old age, for although Mr. Smoot has been entirely blind for several years he still enjoys life. When he is gone he will be universally missed and his memory will be revered by all who knew him. The settlers thus far named were all from Kentucky, though many, or most of them, were originally from Virginia, as Kentucky was largely settled by Virginians. From Virginia, the venerable mother of presidents, the following additions were made: Russel Godby, Isaac Snodgrass, Fielding Ballard, William Sampson and probably a few others. Godby came in the spring of 1830 and his first winter, therefore, was that of the deep snow, and it cast a damper (especially in the spring when it began to thaw) over the feeling with which he had regarded the fair prairies of Illinois, as compared with the red hills of “Old Virginia.” He was the first man in all this region to venture out into the open prairie and he did not get far from shelter. Snodgrass and Ballard were brothers-in-law to Godby and came the same season that he did. Sampson came some time before Godby, Snodgrass and Ballard, probably in 1826. He lived in the community till his death, which occurred in 1870. Philip Barnett was an eastern man and a brother-in-law to Godby. These four gentlemen, Godby, Ballard, Snodgrass and Barnett, married sisters. John King came from North Carolina in 1826. He was born in 1775, and died in 1876, at the age of one hundred and one years and twenty-nine days. He was a soldier in the Indian wars of the south and in the war of 1812, in which he served under General Jackson, and he was a firm believer in and a great admirer of “Old Hickory” to the close of his life. He first came to Illinois in 1821 and settled in the south part of the state, where he lived until coming here. Before his death he and Tarleton Lloyd were the only living soldiers of that war in the county. He was buried in Rose Hill cemetery. Dedman Power was an early settler but of him we could gather no particulars. William Duff came in 1827, but where from no one can tell. He is spoken of as “a hard old customer,” rough, profane and a poor acquisition to any community. He remained only a few years. John Clary was an



early comer, for Esquire Godby says he was tending Onstott's mill when he came in 1830. This brings this settlement down to the time when the tide of immigration was becoming so strong that it would be impossible to secure any correct account of it.

One of the first moves made by the early pioneers, after getting a shelter for the wife and children, was in the direction of education and religious worship. In the summer of 1830 John Pentecost walked three miles from his home to a cabin on the land of Samuel Rogers to teach a little school there. The next school was taught by Dr. David Meeker, in an abandoned cabin on the land of Coleman Smoot. The first regular schoolhouse built in this settlement was on the land of Mr. Smoot and was of the primitive pattern. This was built in 1833, and the first pedagogue to preside here and impart wisdom within its classic walls, was Silas Alexander. In this log cabin, known as the "Smoot schoolhouse," many of the old men and women of this vicinity, when children, took their first lessons in Webster's old blue-backed spelling book and in shooting paper wads. We make great sport of these old schools, but we are impressed to say that three things were often better taught then than they are in a great many of our boasted up-to-date schools of to-day: we refer to spelling, arithmetic and English grammar. Those old textbooks, some way or another, led the pupil to understand the fundamental principles of the branches of which they treated. Pike's and Smiley's arithmetics and Murray's and Kirkham's grammars left the pupil no excuse for not mastering the subject, but with the advantages that we have now, as compared with those of that time, our teachers and pupils should do marvelous things.

The first minister who preached to the people of this settlement was the Rev. John M. Berry, the great apostle of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in central Illinois. We wonder what he would think and say if he could rise up now and see what those snobs, who are trying to destroy the church that he labored so hard for, have in view.

The first birth and marriage are forgotten but as everything must have a beginning these

did have a beginning here, as the present population emphatically shows. The first death is supposed to be that of Fielding Ballard's mother. She came here with him and being very old and feeble she died the next year. The first physician in the neighborhood was a Dr. Walker but whence he came or whether he went no one knows, however, he remained but a short time. The next was David Meeker, who combined physic and school teaching as the practice of medicine was not then a very paying business, for people did not call a physician for every little ailment, and as a result there was less sickness—no offense meant to the medical fraternity—and fewer doctor's bills. Coleman Smoot was the first justice of the peace and Russell Godby was the second. We mentioned the village of New Market in another place, but we feel that it should be spoken of here, because many people do not know that there was once a village here which not only aspired to be the county seat of Menard county but actually set herself to be the capital—the seat of government, of the great state of Illinois. Such is the unvarnished truth. It was laid out by Dr. Ballard and a man by the name of Speer. Ballard put up a large two-story building, intended to be used as a hotel, but the glory of the town waned so fast that it was never used. A store was opened by one Clark, who later sold out to Ballard & Speer. A blacksmith shop was opened by George Saunders and William F. Rogers, and the place put on quite a town-like appearance. Then, as said above, she aspired to be the county seat and not only this but she was actually a rival of Springfield for the state capital, but after the location of the seat of justice at Petersburg, it faded into nothingness. It became a village of the dead, rather than the living; a grave for ambition; an antidote for pride. The ruins of Baalbee are, in many respects, a mystery; Palmyra, at least in vastness, surpassed even Baalbee; Athens, Rome, Jerusalem, and other scenes of decay appeal to our pity and touch our hearts, but for New Market, the mighty city of lofty aspirations, we can only, like the Hebrew captives of old, hang our harps upon the willows and weep for fallen pride. It owed its origin



to a rather wild ambition and waned to its extinction when fate decided adversely to its hopes and wishes.

"Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,  
Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn;  
Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is seen,  
And desolation saddens all thy green;  
One only master grasps the whole domain,  
And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain;  
No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,  
But, choked with sedges, works its weedy way;  
Along thy glades, a solitary guest—  
The hollow-sounding bittern guards its nest;  
Amidst thy desert-walks the lapwing flies,  
And tires thy echoes with unvaried cries.  
Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,  
And the long grass o'ertops the moldering wall,  
And trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's hand,  
Far, far away thy children leave the land."

Finally when it was evidenced to them beyond a doubt that the town was "born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air," it was vacated, by legislative enactment, and nothing now remains to point out where once it stood. Where its busy inhabitants once toiled, the rank corn now rustles in the passing breeze.

### GREENVIEW AND IRISH GROVE.

Greenview, as a precinct, is one of the youngest in the county. Until some years ago it was included in what is now Sugar Grove precinct, with the voting place at the village of Sweetwater. The later was remote from the people in the extreme northern part, and the intelligent voter, from this small drawback, often neglected to exercise the right of franchise. Hence the result was a division of Sugar Grove, or Sweetwater as it then was, and the creation of a new precinct, now known as Greenview. It includes almost the entire northeast part of the county. It is well drained by Salt creek and Pike creek, with other small branches, which carry off the surface water. Irish Grove lies east of Greenview, running to the Logan county line. As an agricultural re-

gion this is not surpassed by any section of country anywhere. Its farmers are among the most thrifty and most wealthy in central Illinois. The Chicago & Alton Railroad runs diagonally through Greenview precinct. Greenview, the metropolis of this section, is an enterprising little town in the southwest part of Greenview precinct, on the Chicago & Alton Railroad and will be more fully spoken of further on.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

There is no reliable proof that any white man settled in the boundary of this territory earlier than 1823. Eighty-one long years stand between that point and the present, and that period, what changes have taken place not only in Menard county, but throughout the world. Ancient palaces, in whose spacious halls the mightiest monarchs proudly trod, now show "the ivy now clinging to their moldering walls." Thrones tottering, have crumbled into dust; empires have fallen, and their places blotted forever from the map of the world. In our own beloved country, intestinal war has raged with tornado-like fury, drenching the soil in fraternal blood; and for a time threatening the very life of the republic. Four millions of beings in human form, once in chains, have been made freemen. Spain's oppressive tyranny over millions of helpless people has been broken forever; and revolutions have shaken the civilizations of the earth to the center. And in these eighty-one years the territory of Greenview and Irish Grove, one of the minute units that go to make up this mighty country, has been transformed from a wilderness, into a blooming paradise compared to its original state.

In the year 1823 James Meadows settled in the limits of this territory on the farm where H. H. Marbold now lives. He came from Ohio to Edwards county, near Alton, in 1818, the year that Illinois was admitted to the Union. The next year he removed into the territory of, what is now, Sugar Grove precinct, where he resided till he removed to the place above mentioned. Mr. Meadows built a mill on the Marbold place, which was the second mill erected in east Menard. Soon after Mr. Meadows settled here, George Blane and

his mother came to the neighborhood. They, like Mr. Meadows, had settled on the east side of Sugar Grove, but in the spring of 1823 they sold out to Leonard Alkire and removed here as above stated. A large majority of the first installment of settlers in this section were "Buckeyes" and settled in Irish Grove. From that state came a number of recruits, namely: Joseph Lucas, George Borders, John Martin, George and Peter Price, John Waldron and John Hamill. Lucas "squatted" in the Grove about 1825 or 1826. He was a genuine frontiersman and only remained till game began to grow scarce. When that occurred and the Indians had gone he followed in the wake of the "noble red man" and died some years later in the settlement at Mackinaw. The next settler found his cabin standing, with three acres of land around it cleared and fenced. He had two sons who settled in what is now Logan county. Another son, Abraham, settled in Irish Grove, where he lived and died. Borders and Martin came in 1827. George Price came in 1826, and his brother, Peter Price, came in 1829. They were of the regular frontier type and followed the Indian and the game as they wandered toward the setting sun. William Walker bought the claim of Peter Price in 1830. John Hamill came in 1842, lived there all his life, rearing a large and respectable family, and died a number of years ago.

Following close on the heels of this "Buckeye" outfit came a large delegation from "The Dark and Bloody Ground." From Kentucky came William Walker, his son, Joseph M. Walker, and his brother-in-law, David Walker, William Stotts, William Patterson, Alexander Gilmer, William A. Stone, John W. Patterson and Robert Rayburn. This last named gentleman was born in the Old Dominion, but emigrated to Kentucky when it was the hunting ground of numerous tribes of hostile Indians. From Kentucky he came to Illinois in 1827 and settled in Irish Grove. Some of the descendants of Mr. Rayburn are still in that section of country. Robert Rayburn's wife was a Logan, of the family of Logans so celebrated in the Indian wars of Kentucky. Robert Rayburn died in 1836. William Walker came to

Illinois in the fall of 1828 and stopped in Morgan county. He spent three weeks riding over the country on horseback, searching for a cabin to shelter his family in during the winter, but failing, he went back to Clark county, Indiana, and wintered there. In February 1830, as before stated, he came to Irish Grove and bought the claim of Peter Price. He died in August, 1836, and his son, Joseph M. Walker, lived and died on the farm. David Walker, a brother of the wife of William Walker, and who came to the settlement soon after the latter, bought the claim of Joseph Lucas, lived on it till 1837, when he removed to Iowa and died there years ago. Captain William A. Stone was also born in Virginia but was taken to Kentucky by his parents, when quite young, whence he emigrated to Illinois in 1830. His father, Moses Stone, came to the settlement at the same time and was the head of a large family. Both he and wife died the next year, leaving a family of twelve children to battle with the world. John W. Patterson came in 1830, and his brother William in 1832. Stotts came in 1830, but in 1840 he removed to Iowa. William Eldridge came in 1840. He came from the chalky cliffs of Old England; lived for many years in the Grove; then removed to Greenview; and died there a few years ago, at a ripe old age. Dr. Eldridge, of Greenview, is his son. This comprises all of the early settlers of which any knowledge is to be gained. Doubtless there were other transient settlers who were there for a time, but we have given an account of all the permanent old settlers. The winter of the deep snow,—a landmark that all will recognize,—(1830-31) but remembered by few, if any, now living, was a time that did indeed try men's souls. The snow began to fall just before Christmas and continued till, as many claim, a depth of four feet on the level lay all over the land. The ground was not visible any more till after the middle of the following March. Joseph Walker told the writer many years ago that this snow caught his father's family without meal or flour. Fortunately, they had laid in a supply of meat and this, with pounded corn, was all they had to eat for over six long weeks. The corn was standing in the field or in shocks and every

day they were obliged to open a pathway to a shock of corn in order to secure enough for themselves and their limited amount of stock.

James Meadows, who was a millwright by trade, built a mill in 1831 on what is now the H. H. Marbold place. It was of the old "tread-wheel" type, but it served to "crack the corn" for the hungry natives till they could do better. This mill continued in operation about eight years and then became obsolete. The mill at "New Salem" did the greater part of the work supplying the people with cornmeal during this period, however. Many of the settlers got their supply of bread stuff from Springfield for a great many years. The Methodist circuit rider and the school teacher came into the settlement about the same time. Robert Rayburn taught the first school in Irish Grove. He had been a teacher in Kentucky before he came to Illinois. This was a subscription school and was taught in a log cabin in the grove. This was before the day of schoolhouses and long before the day of free schools. That old Methodist pioneer, Peter Cartwright, is claimed by many Methodists to have preached the first sermon that was ever preached in Irish Grove, but this is evidently a mistake for there had been services there before he came to Illinois. True he preached at the cabin of Mr. Stone not only before the building of churches but before there were any schoolhouses built. Also two Methodist itinerants, Revs. Hargis and McLemore, were early in the field doing the work of the Master.

About the year 1831 or 1832, a log schoolhouse was built in the Grove, and soon afterward the Rev. John G. Burgin, of Springfield, organized the Irish Grove congregation of the Presbyterian church, (O. S.) in that same house. This, in time, grew into an active and flourishing congregation, built a neat and substantial brick house of worship and a parsonage, and for many years had a settled pastor and did a great deal of good. But times of dearth at last came and by deaths and removals they became so weak that they removed to Sweetwater and that is now the center of the congregation. See a further account of them in the history of the Presbyterian church in another place. The brick church in the Grove

was built in 1865 at a cost of about three thousand dollars and at that time the congregation numbered over one hundred.

The first death in this section of country that is remembered with any degree of certainty was that of Miss Mary Ann Walker, who died September 8, 1830. But doubtless there were deaths of early pioneers before this time. A son of Mr. Lucas died here at an early date, the date can not be definitely fixed, but it was probably before that of Mr. Walker's daughter. Moses Stone, mentioned among the early settlers in another place, died in 1831, and his wife survived him only about two weeks. They left a family of twelve children, four of whom died within a year after the death of their parents. These dead were laid to rest in the Irish Grove cemetery, a regularly laid-out plot of ground on section 21, where most of the pioneer dead "sleep the sleep that knows no waking." These grounds were afterward enlarged and incorporated, and it is now neatly kept and is one of the beautiful "Cities of the Dead" in Menard county. The first birth in this section was that of George Borders but the exact date could not be given. The first marriage was that of Alexander Gilmer and Miss Jane Walker, on the 4th of November 1830, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Burgen. They went, immediately after marriage to Kentucky, where they remained for three or four years, and then returned to the same neighborhood, where they spent the remainder of their lives, and were buried in the Irish Grove cemetery, near their old home.

Dr. Morgan, of "Old Sangamon Town," was the first disciple of Aesculapius to practice medicine in this section. At that time there was not a doctor's shingle swinging to the breeze at every crossroads and every country store as there was some years later. Nor did the people get sick then as often and easy as they do now and when they did get sick with the malaria ("breakbone" fever, as they called bilious fever) or the inevitable chills, they combated it with "roots and herbs," and either cured it or died without the aid of the doctor or the burden of his bill.

The first justice of the peace was John W. Patterson, but several years before his appoint-

ment there had been two or three such dispensers of justice in the Sugar Grove. Politically this section is Republican, usually giving a safe majority to that party. In the Civil war this section did its duty fully, turning out a large number of brave and efficient soldiers. An entire company was raised in Irish Grove at an early period of the war, but by some inexcusable mistake the company was credited to Logan county. By failing in this manner to get credit for recruits, the precinct afterward had to stand a draft—the result of pure neglect. This draft, however, was small as the quotas were filled in advance. Samuel H. Blane enlisted as a private and rose to the rank of captain of Company K of the One Hundred and Sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Owing to ill health he was forced to resign and was succeeded by Gage S. Gritman, who was promoted to fill his place. Both of these were from Irish Grove and were the only commissioned officers that the Grove could boast. The private soldiers were the sturdy sons of the soil and they most gallantly sustained the reputation of Illinois' soldiers on many a bloody and hard-fought field.

#### VILLAGE OF GREENVIEW.

The town of Greenview is eligibly located in as fine a section of farming lands as the birds fly over. It is four miles from Salt creek and six miles from the Sangamon river on the Jacksonville branch of the Chicago & Alton Railroad, in section 23, township 19, range 6 west of the third principal meridian. It was laid out October 2, 1857, by Elder William Engle, elsewhere mentioned in this work as one of the pioneers of this county and as one who did more to make this section of country what it is than any other of the old settlers perhaps, and whose influence for good in many respects is still felt and will be felt for years to come. The land on which the town stands was originally owned by Charles L. Montgomery. The name Greenview was given in honor of Hon. William G. Greene, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Tallula, who died there some years ago. The first dwelling house erected in Greenview was put up by Robert McReynolds soon after the town was laid out and in a very

short time James Stone erected a dwelling also. The first brick house was built by John Wilkinson, who was an Englishman by birth, and of whom we speak more at length in another place. This was a substantial and roomy house, two stories high and, for that day, it was a fine building. It has been for years, and is now, used as a hotel. The first business house of any importance was built by Robert McReynolds and was occupied by him as a store. There is a question as to whether McReynolds or Emanuel Meyer & Brother were the first merchants in the place. It is a question of absolutely no moment but it serves to illustrate how easy it is for a whole community to forget, just in a few years, matters that it would seem that all would remember. The Chicago & Alton Railroad was completed through here in 1867, and about this time Silas Buckman opened a general store here. The first hotel was kept by John Wilkinson. Jacob Probst opened and conducted the first blacksmith shop in the place; and Drs. Davis and Calloway were the first physicians to dispense quinine and Fowler's solution to the denizens of the village. Some years later a flouring mill was built by McCormick Brothers at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. In January of 1878 this mill was burned to the ground and the town has never since possessed a mill. Harvey Yeaman was first to handle grain in Greenview. In 1868 he built an elevator on the ground now occupied by the one just across the railroad tracks from the depot. Yeaman run it for a time and then sold out to Morse & Company, who raised it and built a story under it. This was on the principle of the Irishman's mode of building a chimney: "Laying down a brick and then putting some others under it." But while it is common to build a story on a house, it is a recent addition to architectural skill to build a story under one. But a few years back the Old State House at Springfield—a solid stone building,—was raised and an eleven foot story was put under it. One or two elevators have been burned in Greenview but they still have two elevators there, which do an immense business.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Greenview in 1858, the original organ-

ization was formed in Old Newmarket, but when that historic town went down the church, or rather the congregation, was moved to the town of Greenview. Later they built a comfortable building there, but at present they have no preaching. See the history of the Methodist church elsewhere.

Greenview was incorporated as a village by special act of the legislature and its charter dated May 6, 1869. The first board of trustees were C. R. Pierce, G. W. Hatch, John Anderson, Fred Wilkinson and A. H. Bogardus. This was the board upon organization under the charter, but as far back as March, 1868, the records show regular proceedings of a board of trustees, which was as follows: C. R. Pierce, J. W. Guyer, John Anderson, Fred Wilkinson and A. H. Bogardus. These were sworn in by H. H. Marbold. Of the first board under the charter, C. R. Pierce was president, and W. S. Morse, clerk. On the 7th of March, 1877, it was re-incorporated under the general law of the state, under which charter it is still run. It now has a population of about fifteen hundred and is a thriving, active business town. It has one large coal shaft doing an immense business; three first-class dry goods stores; five grocery stores; two hardware stores; two restaurants; two butcher shops; one drug store; two jewelers; one harness shop; two lumberyards; one undertaker; one furniture store; two grain elevators; one bank; one hotel; two blacksmith shops; three saloons; five churches; and two carpenter shops. Besides these there are five resident ministers; four physicians and one printing office, in which "The Greenview Leader" is printed and which does all kinds of job printing in the best of style. They also have a splendid public square, beautifully adorned with trees; they also have electric lights, and an excellent system of water works. One strange feature of the town is that it has no cemetery. Their dead are mostly taken to Petersburg for burial. There are several small cemeteries near there where many of their dead repose, but most of them, as above stated, are taken to Petersburg for interment. There certainly should be a cemetery, owned and controlled by the citizens of the town, nothing can be needed more.

But the day is not far distant when some large-hearted and philanthropic citizen will rise up to supply this great need, and thus, not only do the community a lasting favor, but at the same time will rear a monument which will be more enduring than granite, brass or bronze.

There was never any school in the village proper till the year 1877. A long time back (in the latter part of the '50s, perhaps) a brick school house was built southeast of the town and here for several years they had school. In 1870 they completed a brick school building in the then south part of the town at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. This contained four large rooms, with halls, cloak-rooms, etc. Professor D. M. Harris taught the first school in this building. Some years later another building was erected on the adjoining lots, containing two large and elegant rooms, one for the high school and the other for the grammar grade. Since the erection of the first building they have had from eight to nine months school in the town every year. They have a regular four years' high school course, with a full corps of teachers for the lower grades. Professor Robert C. Hiett has been principal of this school for the past five years and under his efficient direction it is accomplishing a noble work. See further account under the head "Education."

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#### OLD SALEM.

"New Salem," the ancient village of Menard county, now so completely obliterated by time that not a vestige of it is left, save a low place in the ground where the store stood in which Lincoln sold goods, was once the center of business for a large scope of country. It is, or was, situated on the "Heights of Abraham," some hundred feet or more above the waters of the raging Sangamon, and about two miles south of the town of Petersburg. On the 13th of October, 1829, it was surveyed and laid out by Reuben Harrison, for Rutledge and Cameron, the owners of the land. The first buildings were a couple of cabins, erected as dwellings for John Cameron and James Rutledge.

The first business house was erected by Samuel Hill and John McNamar for a store, in which they soon after opened a stock of goods, probably the first store opened in the limits of what is now Menard county. The next store was opened by George Warburton, who, in a short time removed to Petersburg and became one of the proprietors of that town. It is said that Warburton was an excellent business man, a fine scholar, and without an enemy, only his terrible appetite for strong drink. Afterward he was found drowned in the Sangamon where the water was not over six inches deep. Whether it was a case of suicide or not, no one ever knew. He sold his store in Salem to two brothers by the name of Crisman, who came from Virginia. After remaining only a short time they sold all their possessions and moved away. A postoffice was established at Salem in 1830, and some say this was the first in the county. John McNamar was the first postmaster, but after a couple of years he was succeeded by Abraham Lincoln, who served in that capacity till he removed to Springfield. Dr. Allen was the first practicing physician to settle in Salem. He and his brother came here together. Dr. Duncan was another early practitioner in this locality. Joshua Miller was the first blacksmith in the place. Edmund Greer, deep learned in law, was the first magistrate to deal out justice to the denizens of the infant city, and when the law business ran slack he played the pedagogue to fill in time and was the first school teacher here, as well as the first justice of the peace. John Kelso opened the first hotel, and in the hospitable walls of this hotel he played the host to whatever strangers might pass that way. Rutledge and Cameron built the first mill that was here and it supplied a much-felt want to the settlers in an area of at least fifty miles in every direction. This is the mill over the dam of which Abraham Lincoln piloted the flatboat and, with a display of tact and ingenuity wholly astonishing to those who witnessed the operation, relieved the boat of water, by a new style of pump, not much in use on board of vessels in that day or at the present, for he bored an auger hole in the bottom of the sunken boat and let the water out. This is an actual fact, but the

story has been told so often that we will not tax the reader's patience by repeating it here.

Salem mill was known far and near and was patronized by a very large district. It stood under the bluff on which the town was located and was a very primitive affair. It is thus described by a local writer of the time: "It consisted of two or three log pens, anchored with rocks, upon which was erected a platform, where a pair of rough stones were placed, and driven by a water-wheel attached to an upright shaft." It was considerably improved, however, before Salem became extinct. In 1852 it was bought by Abraham Bale, who set to work to remodel and improve it but before he accomplished this purpose he was taken ill and died. His sons, however, finished the work that he had undertaken, completed it and operated the mill for many years. One of these sons, T. V. Bale, continued to run it till about twenty or twenty-five years ago, when it was burned to the ground. No sign of any part of the mill remains but a few rotted sticks, protruding from the mud and sand, showing where the dam once was, but the river, in seeming disgust, has changed its channel and left the site of the dam out on dry land. On the hill where the village stood there is no sign to tell where it was, save the depression in the ground, where the cellar of Lincoln's store was. Out of the center of this, seemingly from one root, arises two trees, an elm and a sycamore, but one is dead, and the other dying, from the countless names that have been cut in their bark. No human habitation is near and it seems the dwelling place of desolation. This is a synopsis of the early history of Salem except the connection with it of Abraham Lincoln. Upon this point there has been so much written that we will not dwell upon it here. With the statement of a few facts we will close this chapter. Mr. Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Stuve in his history of Illinois says: "Abraham Lincoln was born in La Rue (now Hardin) county, Kentucky, about two miles south of the village of Hodgenville, February 12, 1809. Here his father had taken up a land claim of three hundred acres, rough, broken and poor, containing a fine spring, known to this day as the 'Lincoln





SKETCH  
FROM  
MEMORY  
BY J. Q. SPEARS.  
TALLULA, ILL.

BUILT IN 1831.

THE FIRST MILL ERECTED IN OLD SALEM  
WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN WORKED.





spring.' Unable to pay for the unproductive land, the claim was abandoned and the family moved from place to place, in the neighborhood, being very destitute. These removals, occurring while Abraham was scarcely more than an infant, have given rise to different statements as to the exact place of his birth. It is said that in that part of Kentucky no less than four places claim the honor. Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, moved to Spencer county, Indiana, in 1816. Here he remained till 1830, when he removed to Illinois, and settled in Macon county, on the north fork of the Sangamon river, ten miles northwest of Decatur. In 1833 he removed to Coles county, where he died several years later. There in a quiet little cemetery, known as "Gordon's graveyard," he sleeps the last sleep. In 1869 Robert T. Lincoln visited his grandfather's grave and erected over it a marble slab, with suitable inscription. So after almost forty years this humble grave has been marked. As appropriate in this place, we give a poem, written by a citizen of Coles county, on Thomas Lincoln's death, which went the rounds of the press at the time and appeared in several of the leading magazines, entitled the "Grave of the Father of Abraham Lincoln."

"In a low, sweet vale by a murmuring rill,  
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping;  
Where the white marble slabs are lonely and still.

In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad, lonely faces are words of fame,  
But none of them speak of his glory;  
When the pioneer died, his age and his name,  
No monument whispers the story.

No myrtle, no ivy, nor hyacinth blows  
O'er the lonely grave where they laid him;  
No cedar nor holly nor almond-tree grows  
Near the plebeian's grave to shade him.

Bright evergreens wave over many a grave,  
O'er some bow the sad weeping willow;  
But no willow tree bows, nor evergreens wave,  
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

Some are inhumed with the honors of state,  
And laid beneath temples to molder;  
The grave of the father of Lincoln the Great,  
Is known by a hillock and boulder.

Let him take his lone sleep, and gently rest,  
With naught to disturb or awake him;  
When the angels shall come to gather the blest  
To Abraham's bosom, they'll take him."

When Abraham Lincoln lived at Old Salem he boarded with John Armstrong. Some years later Mr. Armstrong was killed by a horse and his wife was left a widow, with a house full of little children. Shortly before the beginning of the war, her oldest son, William, "Duff" as he was called, was charged with the crime of murder, said to have been committed in Mason county. All are familiar with the story, that has been told a thousand times, of Lincoln defending and clearing him of the charge, and of Mrs. Armstrong's eternal gratitude for this act of kindness on the part of Mr. Lincoln. We feel that it is a duty to give, in "The Past and Present of Menard County," a brief sketch of this family, as they lived in this county.

Mrs. Armstrong's maiden name was Hannah Jones, sister of Fiddler and Butcher Jones, as they were nick-named. She was born in 1811. When quite young she was married to John Armstrong. They lived for a time near Old Salem, and during that time Lincoln boarded with them. After Armstrong was killed she lived on a forty acres of land that she had bought, in Mason county. It was while living there that this great trouble on account of "Duff" came upon her. After some years she was married to John Wilcox, with whom she lived happily for many years. They removed to Iowa and Mr. Wilcox died there. In August, 1890, "Aunt Hannah" died in Winterset, Iowa, and her remains were brought to Petersburg for burial, and the writer preached her funeral, in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, in that place. She died August 21, 1890. William ("Duff") died at his home in Ashland, Illinois, May 7, 1900, at the age of sixty-three years. Four of the Armstrong children are still living: A. P. Armstrong, Ashland, Illinois; John Armstrong, Oakford, Illinois; Eliza Smith, Mason City, Illinois; and Robert Armstrong, Winterset, Iowa. Mrs. Armstrong was an uneducated woman, but one of the clearest-minded women the writer ever

met. Her gratitude to and admiration for Mr. Lincoln was something sublime.

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### OVERSTREET.

John Overstreet, Sr., was born in Bedford county, Virginia, in 1758, and served in the patriot army during the seven years of the Revolutionary war. He was married to Nancy Dabney, in the year 1783. They had four children born to them in Bedford county. They afterward removed to Cabell county, West Virginia, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Their son John Overstreet, who was born in Bedford county, Virginia, was married to Susan Roberts, in Cabell county, West Virginia, some time prior to the breaking out of the second war with England, in 1812. He volunteered in the American army (the son of a Revolutionary soldier, could not well do otherwise), and leaving his young wife, he went to the front, to fight the battles of his country. At that time the Indians, taking advantage of the disturbed state of the country, and, perhaps, incited by British emissaries, gave great annoyance to the people of the Virginias, by frequent forays of murder, pillage and rapine. While in the army, he heard that his wife had been murdered by the Indians,—a common event in those times,—and not a great while after he was, himself, made a prisoner by one of the savage allied tribes of the English. Soon after his capture preparations were made to burn him at the stake. As was the custom of the red demons, they began to prepare to subject him to all the torture that their fiendish natures could invent. He knew it was but death, in its most cruel form, and so when one of the "big braves" offered him a foul indignity, Overstreet's blood boiled at the insult and collecting all his strength, he gave the heartless brave such a crushing blow that it sent him headlong into the fire that had been kindled to torture Overstreet. This act of daring bravery, in the face of what seemed certain death, so aroused the admiration of the other Indians, that he was saved from torture, he being considered too noble a brave to die thus. Some time afterward he was sold to

another tribe and by them taken to Canada, where after a time he by some chance fell into the hands of white men, by whom he was held, for two or three years, in a kind of semi-slavery, but was finally given his full liberty. Not long after this he met a woman between whom and himself there sprang up a mutual affection and they were married. In due course of time a child was born to them, but Dame Fortune seemed again to frown upon him, for soon after this the child and then the mother died. Once more he found himself alone in the world and for a time wandered aimlessly from place to place, until at last he was seized with a yearning desire to again visit the scenes of his earlier and happier life. So he at once began preparations for the long and weary journey from Canada to Virginia. After many hardships and dangers he at last arrived, foot-sore and weary, in the vicinity of his former home. A strange and impelling power led him to visit once more the cabin where he had lived for a few short months, in comfort and happiness, with the wife he had loved so fondly. He came in sight of the old home; there stood the same rude cabin, under the shadow of the same wide-spreading trees, and from the chimney that his own hands had built, the blue smoke curled upward and his heart filled with emotion, as memory carried him back to other and happier days. Aimlessly and dreamily he approached the door and rapped for entrance. In a moment footsteps were heard within, the rude door turned on its wooden hinges, and the wife of his youth stood before him. They gazed upon each other for a few moments in amazed and bewildered astonishment. She had heard of his capture by the Indians and his death by torture. Being a woman of refinement and beauty, she was not compelled to live long in widowed loneliness, but for a long time she repelled the advances of a host of suitors, until convinced in her own mind of her husband's death, and wearying of her lonely life, she at length married again. Overcome by the sudden appearance of one so long supposed to be dead, she fell to the floor, in a deathlike swoon. Just at this time the husband appeared on the scene and after she had sufficiently revived, the three held a most solemn and painful

council, at which two husbands solemnly agreed to leave the whole matter to the decision of the wife, both men sacredly agreeing to abide by the decision that she would make, each one pledging his sacred honor that if the decision was against him that he would leave that section of country and never annoy them in any way. This must have been a terrible ordeal for all concerned, especially for the wife, but, doubtless after a terrible struggle in her own breast, the smouldering fires of youthful love prevailed and she chose the long-absent husband of her youth, and the rejected husband, dazed and disappointed, but true as steel to his plighted word, bade them a sad adieu, walked out of the door and they never heard of him after. Soon after this most romantic experience, Mr. and Mrs. Overstreet removed, in 1849, to what is now Menard county and settled near the present site of the town of Athens. In earlier life Mr. Overstreet had learned the trade of a millwright and the great difficulty of securing breadstuffs induced him, in a year or two, to erect a horse-mill, in the town of Athens, in which he manufactured a passable grade of flour. Soon after this he built a small flatboat on the Sangamon river, and loaded it with flour. About 1834 or 1835 he, in company with two brothers, Jesse G. and David Hurt, started to New Orleans with their cargo, down the Sangamon to the Illinois, and down the Illinois and the Mississippi, to New Orleans. The venture proved a successful one, in a financial view, but unfortunate in that Mr. Overstreet died in New Orleans in 1835. The Hurt brothers started home, but David died near Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio river. Jesse G. Hurt, the only survivor of the voyage, returned safely to Athens, where he lived and died. Jesse G. Hurt's wife was a niece of Mr. Overstreet. Pembroke Hall was a grandson of John Overstreet, his mother being a daughter of Mr. Overstreet.

### TICE.

Tice is a station on the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad four and a half miles southeast of Petersburg. It has never been organized un-

der the village law but is a place of some importance. It is located on the old Tice farm and is surrounded by a fine farming community giving it the opportunity of becoming a place of some commercial interest. There has been a store there for several years as well as a postoffice. They have an excellent school-house, in fact, one of the neatest and most convenient in the country. It is heated with a furnace, splendidly lighted, and is all that could be desired in every respect. For forty-odd years the Methodists have had a church in that vicinity but the old frame house which stood some distance from where the station now stands had become unfit for service and three or four years back they built a neat and comfortable house in the village and now have regular services. During the summer of 1904 a company sunk a coal shaft there and are taking out quantities of an excellent quality of coal. This will tend to build up the town. The school already enrolls about seventy pupils and in a year from the present they will have to arrange for another room.

### PETERSBURG AND VICINITY.

Mount Vernon, the ancestral home of the Father of His Country, is dear to every American heart. His mortal remains lie entombed there and reflected back from the setting sun. As Columbia's first and greatest son, he is embalmed in the nation's memory, as Joseph was embalmed by his brethren, and reverently assigned a place

"Among the few immortal names  
That were not born to die."

In that portion of Menard to which this chapter is devoted is an historic spot that, next to Mount Vernon, should be cherished and held sacred as long as love of liberty and true patriotism prevail in this great Republic. We allude to old "Salem," once the home of Abraham Lincoln, and the writer might fill pages with incidents and anecdotes of that great man, which have never found their way into print, enough to fill a small volume. But we inflict none of this upon the reader. Here, it

may be said, Lincoln made his start in the world, and although nothing remains of the original town the spot is endeared to the people of the county as the early home of the martyred president. It seems to us that it is a duty that the state,—that the nation—owes to his memory, to purchase the site of the old town, appropriately care for it, as the national government does for Mount Vernon, and we doubt not that the time will come when this will be done.

Petersburg and vicinity, as we use the term, covers a large territory and is one of the most important parts of the county, for several reasons. The territory, as we apply the term, includes parts of towns 18 and 19 and ranges 6, 7 and 8. The Sangamon river flows through its center, affording ample drainage; timber is abundant; the soil is of the best; coal exists in abundance; and all that nature could have done to prepare this to be a great manufacturing center has been done. The Jacksonville division of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, and the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad cross at the town, so that taking all together, there is no more favorably situated town in central Illinois. Petersburg is the county seat of Menard county, and the only town of any size that it can boast. The first settlements made in this part of the county are involved in some obscurity and authentic information concerning them seems almost beyond reach at the present time. In fact, nearly forty years ago the writer began to take notes and gather data in this direction, but even at that comparatively early day there were differences of opinion among the oldest settlers, concerning important facts. That being the case, what may we expect at this day, when eighty-five years have interposed their veil between the now and then? With these eighty-five years stretching between the advent of the pale-faced pioneer and the present period, it is not strange that there should be conflicting statements, as to whom belongs the rightful honor of settling Petersburg and its vicinity. From long and careful investigation and the most reliable sources of information at hand, we are fully convinced that the Esteps were the first white men in this locality. They

were originally from North Carolina, but early in the beginning of the nineteenth century they emigrated to Tennessee and from there they came to St. Clair county, Illinois, and located in a very early day. In the spring of 1820-21 James Estep came to Menard,—then Sangamon county,—and made a claim near or within the limits of the present city of Petersburg. He was followed in a few months by his father, Elijah, and his brother, Enoch Estep. Upon the arrival of his father James gave his claim to him and he went east of the Sangamon river and located a claim on what is since known as Baker's Prairie. Elijah Estep built a small horse-mill which was afterward embraced in the city limits, and he otherwise improved the claim by erecting on it a cabin of the true pioneer type. He died in a very early day and very little was remembered of him, even many years ago. Enoch Estep removed to Arkansas long years ago and doubtless died there half a century or more in the past. James Estep was a roving character. He soon left Baker's Prairie and removed to Mason county and later to Arkansas, then to Missouri and finally back to Mason county, where he died in 1857, at the home of his son. He is described as a man of considerable eccentricity, and with all his wandering around he never rented a home but always bought and sold. True the old saying is that "A rolling stone gathers no moss," and Mr. Estep accumulated but very little of this world's goods, dying in indigent circumstances. This pioneer, supposed to be the first white man to settle in the vicinity of Petersburg, now sleeps in New Hope cemetery, in Mason county, beside the partner of his life, who preceded him by a few years to the land of shadows. Soon after the settlement of the Esteps—probably the same year—the Watkins brothers and a man by the name of Teeters came to the neighborhood. There were Joseph, Samuel, James, John and Thomas Watkins. They were from Kentucky and some of them came to Clary's Grove as early as 1819-20. Thomas Watkins bought the claim of John Clary, who was admittedly the first white settler in Menard county. Later he sold this claim to George Spears, and removed to the "river timber" where he lived and died. Joseph

and Samuel Watkins made claims here in 1821, but James Watkins did not come to Illinois till 1825-26. The old, original Watkins' stock are all dead and gone, but many of the descendants of the family are honored citizens of the county. Jacob Short, and his three sons, Obadiah, Harrison and James, came in 1822. They were from the south part of this state, where they had resided for some time before coming to this county. In 1824 the Shorts removed to what is now called Sandridge, and there Jacob died in 1825 and there Harrison also died a few years later. Obadiah died in Nauvoo and James removed to Iowa, where he died. During the next two or three years the little community was increased by a large number of additions, among whom were Jesse Baker, Henry and William Clark, Ephraim and William Wilcox, Henry McHenry, Daniel Atterberry, Andrew, Jacob and Spencer Merrill and perhaps others. Jesse Baker settled on Baker's Prairie, from whom it got its name. He removed from here to Mason county about 1836 and located in the vicinity of Kilbourne, and was afterward mentioned as one of the pioneers of that section. Henry and William Clark, who were brothers, came here from Kentucky and settled on the east side of the Sangamon river. William died a great many years ago, but Henry lived to a great old age, dying at last on the place where he first settled. He and his wife had lived together for over sixty years. They left a large and respected posterity, many of whom are still residents of Menard county. If any one should happen to know any Clarks and wish to learn whether they are related to this family, they can settle the question, at least negatively, very easily; if they are not Democrats and Baptists they are not this stock of Clarks. Ephraim and William Wilcox came from Kentucky and settled in Baker's Prairie, and both died there long years ago. Henry McHenry lived to be a very old man, and died in Petersburg. Daniel Atterberry came from Kentucky in an early day, settled here and reared a large family. He died soon after the close of the Civil war. The second generation of the Atterberrys are all dead; but there are a large number of the third generation still living here. Andrew

Merrill and his sons, Jacob and Spencer, were also from Kentucky and settled west of the present site of Petersburg. The old gentleman died in 1835. It is said that just a few days before he died he pointed out to his son the spot where he wished to be buried, and when he passed away his son had his wish carried out and laid him where he desired to be laid. In 1839 the old lady was laid by his side. Thomas Edwards was one of the very early comers but he is described as a hard character and soon left for wilder scenes in the wilder west. Thomas F. Dowell came in 1825 or 1826 and located in this vicinity but later removed to what is now Sandridge, and lived and died there. Jesse Gum, from Kentucky, noticed in another place as one of the earlier settlers of Clary's Grove, came to this section and his sons settled west of Petersburg. Charles Gum, son of Jesse Gum, lived and died on a farm west of Petersburg. His brother, John B. Gum, also lived for many years northwest of Petersburg, but the latter part of his life was spent in Mason county. He lived near Kilbourne and was one of the largest landowners in Mason or Menard county. In addition to those already mentioned, the following recruits were added to the settlement before the "deep snow": George Curry, Henry Bell and sons, John Jones, Zachariah Clary, Bartley Milton, John and Anno Ritter, Pollard Simmons, William Edwards and sons, John Jennison, Bartlett Conyers, Henry and David Williams, Conrad Strader, Josiah Crawford, and others whose names have been forgotten. George Curry came from Green county, Kentucky, and settled on or near the farm owned and occupied for the last forty years by his son, the Rev. H. P. Curry. George Curry died in 1876. H. P. Curry has been constantly engaged in preaching the gospel in this part of Illinois for nearly sixty years and is still engaged in the work. Henry Bell and sons were also from Kentucky and settled here, opened farms and did their part in the development of the country. The old gentleman died many, many years ago, and the sons have also gone to the other shore. John Jones was another Kentuckian who settled in Clary's Grove in 1824 but a little later removed to the vicinity of Petersburg and finally

located in Little Grove and spent the remainder of his days there. Zachariah Clary, a brother of John Clary, the pioneer, came from Tennessee and settled in Clary's Grove in 1819, but in 1825 he removed to a claim one and a half miles north of Petersburg. Here he continued to live till some twenty or twenty-five years ago, when he died. He was well past the four score station when he died. Some of his sons are still alive but most of them are gone to the great beyond. John and Anno Ritter also came from Kentucky. Anno died here and John went to Mason county and died there. Pollard Simmons and Josiah Crawford removed to Mason county also, and died there. Conrad Strader died many years ago, and his son Isham who lived on the old farm adjoining the Baker's Prairie Baptist church, also died a few years ago. This completes the list of the "Snow Birds," or the pioneers who were here before the deep snow of 1830-31. This is a chronological landmark that all understood. It is a waymark that was never forgotten by any who experienced it. When those old pioneers were interrogated about it their faces would brighten up and their eyes would sparkle, as they told of the time when "All the land with snow was covered," and lay (as many aver) to a depth of four feet or over, for nearly three months before the ground was seen. See an account of this in another place. The five or six years immediately after the deep snow brought immense additions to the settlement. True, from 1831 to 1833 the tide was not so strong on account of the disturbance of the Black Hawk war, but the next two years made up for it. We give quite a list of those newcomers, the large majority of whom were from old Kentucky, that land famed for blue grass, pretty women, fine horses and good whisky: The Davidsons, the Taylors, William Butler, Dr. John Lee, William P. Cox, William G. Greene, Thomas Epperson, William J. Hoey, the Bennetts, C. G. Brooks, S. and C. Levering, A. D. Wright, Jacob H. Laning, James S. Carter, John McNamar, A. Humphrey, John McNeal, Samuel Hill, Nathan Dresser, Charles B. Waldo, Zachariah Nance and sons, George F. Miles, Chester Moon, Thomas L. Harris, W. C. Dawson, Martin Morris, Jordan Morris, J. W.

Warnsing, William Haggerty, Dr. John Allen, George Warburton, Peter Lukins, the Rutledges, Jonathan Colby, Robert Carter, J. A. Brahm, James Goldsby, Nicholas Tice, Abraham Bale, Jacob Bale, Hardin Bale and others. The Davidsons were from Kentucky and were among the first merchants of Petersburg. They first settled in Bond county, Illinois, and lived there for years before coming to this part of the state. John Taylor was the first merchant of Petersburg and one of the proprietors of the town, when it was organized. The Bennetts came from old Virginia, the home of statesmen and the birthplace of presidents. There were three brothers, John, William and Richard E. Bennett. John came to Illinois in 1835 and to this place in 1836. He was one of the early merchants and prominent business men of the place. He was a member of the state legislature during the session of 1840-41, and was also one of the directors of the old Petersburg & Tonica Railroad, now the Jacksonville division of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, besides holding many other positions of honor and trust. He died in Petersburg many years ago. William Bennett came to this settlement one year later than his brother John, and died not many years after he came. Dr. Richard E. Bennett came about the time that his brothers came and followed his profession with marked success till the time of his death, some twenty years ago. Dr. Bennett's son, Theodore C., was circuit clerk for this county for thirty years, and was then succeeded, for four years, by his son, David R., and he might have continued in the place indefinitely had it not been for the Parker wreck, in 1904. C. G. Brooks was from Kentucky, came here in 1836 and died many years ago. Septimus and C. Levering were half-brothers and came from the city of Baltimore; Septimus came in 1837 and his brother came a little later. Septimus died many years ago but his brother lived to be over eighty years of age. His widow is still living. Septimus has no descendants in this country but his brother reared a large family who are all dead except one in Petersburg. They were active and successful business men. James S. Carter came from Virginia in 1838 and the same year Jacob H. Laning came from



New Jersey, and his sons are among the prominent business men of the place. John McNamar was a "down easter" but we are unable to learn what state he hailed from. He was one of the early merchants in old Salem and when that historic town went down he removed to Petersburg and there embarked again in the mercantile business. He died about 1870 or 1871. Dr. John Allen was an early merchant of Salem, as well as a practitioner of medicine there. Samuel Hill was from Ohio and in a very early day went to Salem, where he was engaged in selling goods. Later he came to Petersburg and engaged in the same business there until his death, which occurred many years ago. Charles B. Waldo and Nathan Dresser were both natives of Connecticut but went to Virginia and from there to Petersburg. Waldo was the first pedagogue in the place. They both went to the south part of the state many years ago. Thomas L. Harris was also a native of Connecticut and like the two mentioned above, he went to Virginia and then came to this place. He served two terms in congress with distinguished ability, but just in the prime of his life death blighted all his plans and he passed to that land of shadows, from which none ever return. Zachariah Nance was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and lived in Kentucky, but in 1833 he, with several sons, emigrated to Illinois and located on Rock creek. There the old gentleman died and was buried in Farmers' Point cemetery. Among his sons were Thomas and Washington. The latter settled on Sandridge and reared a large family there but later moved to Petersburg, where he died about 1886 or 1887. Albert G., a son of Thomas Nance, served two terms in the state legislature and then became a candidate for the state senate, but died a few days before the election. Samuel Hill, the Salem merchant, married a daughter of Zachariah Nance. These are all long since dead. George C. Miles was a Kentuckian by birth and came first to the southern part of the state, and in 1839 he settled in Petersburg. Martin and Jordan Morris, though of the same name, and both blacksmiths, were in nowise related. Both worked at their trade here. Jordan Morris was an unstable character and after a few

years he, in company with William Haggerty, a blacksmith who came here with him, left for other parts. Martin Morris worked at his trade here many years, and then removed to Savannah, Missouri, and died there. J. W. Wernsing, a German by birth, was an early settler here and died many years ago. He was related to John H. Marhold, who came to Petersburg later on and remained here about three years and then removed to Greenview, where he died several years ago, at the advanced age of over ninety years. Speaking of Germans suggests the fact that John Harmon Schirding came here from Germany in 1847, and a year later his father and mother and H. H. Schirding, his brother, came. They later settled just north of the town of Petersburg, and by hard work and economy they became wealthy. John Harmon Schirding died a number of years ago. He was never married. John Henry Schirding lived to the great age of ninety-eight years and seven months, and his wife died at the age of eighty-nine years and four months. They both died in Petersburg, within a few weeks of each other. Judge H. H. Schirding still lives here, he and his son Harry (his only child) being engaged in banking. George Warburton was from the east and came here in an early day. He was part owner of the tract of land on which the town was located. He was afterward drowned in the Sangamon river, it is said, where the water was only six inches deep. He was addicted to drink and it is supposed that this was the cause of his death. Peter Lukins, the joint proprietor with Warburton, of the land that the town is located on, and for whom the town was named, came from Kentucky and was the first hotelkeeper in the place. He and Warburton owned one hundred and sixty acres of land and laid out the town on it. Afterward they sold out to Taylor and King, who thus became proprietors of the village. Lukins was afterward found dead in his bed, the result of hard drink, for he also was too close a friend of John Barleycorn.

"Ah! Brandy, brandy, bane of life;  
Spring of tumult, source of strife;  
Could I but half thy curses tell,  
The wise would wish thee safe in hell."

The Rutledges were originally from Ken-

tucky but went from there to South Carolina and thence came in an early day to Illinois, settling in White county, whence they came to this county in 1825, settling in the vicinity of Old Salem. William and James Rutledge and John Cameron came together. William Rutledge and Cameron were brothers-in-law. These all died here many years ago, leaving a long line of descendants. Jonathan Colby came from New Hampshire in 1834 and settled on the farm where he died, his son Grosvenor Colby now owning it. Robert Carter came from Kentucky in 1830 and settled on the farm that his daughter, "Aunt" Jemima Gum, lived and died on. He died in 1866. The elder Brahm, father of John A. Brahm, came in 1852. James Goldsby came from Kentucky in 1830 and settled here. He was the first sheriff of Menard county. He was a son of Rev. William Goldsby, a Baptist minister, who preached the gospel here for a half century. Nicholas Tice came from Virginia in 1831, locating first in Athens, but in 1832 he bought a farm where the village of Tice now stands and spent the remainder of his life there. Judge John Tice, recently deceased, was his son. The Bales were from Kentucky and Jacob Bale located near the present site of Petersburg in 1830. He was a minister and father of Hardin Bale, who was proprietor of the Petersburg Woolen Mills. Abram Bale came to the vicinity in 1839 and located at Salem. In 1840 he bought a farm and moved onto it. In 1852 he purchased the mill site at Salem and began repairing and remodeling the old mill but died in 1853. His sons completed the repairs that he had begun and in 1853 T. V. Bale became the sole proprietor and conducted the mill till it ceased to be, some twenty or twenty-five years ago. Judge Joseph H. Pillsbury was a son of Alpha Pillsbury and was a native of New Hampshire. His father died there in 1831 and in 1836 the family came to Petersburg, where his mother died in 1868. Judge Pillsbury was a prominent man, filling some positions of trust and honor. He died some years ago. Elijah Potter came from White county, Illinois, where he was born in 1819 or 1820. He settled five miles south of Petersburg, where he died in March, 1876. Robert McNeely was an early

settler in Morgan county, and his son, Hen. T. W. McNeely, early became a citizen of Petersburg and became one of our ablest attorneys. He has represented this district in congress.

This comprises the list of the early settlers of this section of the county. After the year 1835 the stream of immigration became so great that it would be impossible to give anything like a correct account of them. True we have mentioned some who came at a later date, but only a few of the more important ones, while some prominent pioneers were not named in this list because they are spoken of in another place or are noticed in the biographical part of this work. We have used the utmost care in trying to get the facts and dates correct but doubtless there are mistakes. The writer began almost forty years ago to gather this material. For thirty-eight years a daily diary has been carefully kept, and had it not been for this fact this work could never have been done, even one-half as well. If people in general would take an interest in such matters, the record of the past might be kept entire.

If some of those early settlers could rise from the grave and come back to their haunts of eighty years ago, their surprise would be far greater than that of Rip Van Winkle when he awoke from his long sleep in the Catskill mountains. When the white man came here eighty-five years ago the forests were unbroken; the prairies were yet in their pristine beauty fresh from their Creator's hand, and were the abode of the wolf and wild deer; the canoe of the Indian glided over the waters of the "Sangamo," and the forests echoed to his savage yell, while the paths worn by his moccasined feet served as a guiding trail to the invading paleface. The flight of years has clothed these "verdant wastes" with flocks and herds, with waving harvest-fields and vast forests of rustling corn, in which great armies might find secreting ambush. The Indian trail has been obliterated by the railway track, and the ox-team and "prairie schooner" are displaced by the locomotive and the automobile. The landscape where the Indian set his tepee and where his pale-faced successor built his pole cabin or his three-faced camp, is now dotted with

hundreds of happy homes, churches and school-houses. The silence broken by the war whoop and the death song of the savage, now echoes to

"The laugh of children, the soft voice  
Of maidens and the sweet and solemn hymn  
Of Sabbath worshippers."

The early pioneers of this section met with the same trials and inconveniences that others experienced, and which are described in another place. Churches, schools, societies, etc., are described in appropriate chapters, but we feel that at this point a word should be said about one particular church—The Baptist church at Baker's Prairie. This is one of the old congregations of that denomination in the county. It was organized in 1835, by the Rev. John Antle. The first place of worship, after the private houses, was a log house which served as a church and schoolhouse. It stood about three miles east of Petersburg and about the same distance north of where Tice is now located. Later they built a frame church and after it became somewhat dilapidated they erected a splendid brick edifice, which they now occupy.

The town of Petersburg, the metropolis of Menard county, is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Sangamon river at the crossing of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis, and the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railways, twenty-one miles north of Springfield and twenty-seven miles from Jacksonville. It extends back from the river on the bluffs, where many beautiful residences are situated. The streets are broad and lined with trees, adding much to the beauty of the place, and in summer protecting from the burning heat of the sun. The public square is a great ornament to the town, being well supplied with forest trees, and in its center stands a splendid courthouse, built in 1897 at a cost of fifty thousand dollars. The greater part of the business, as in other Illinois towns, is around the square, and the buildings are far better than are generally found in towns of its size. Speaking of the streets of Petersburg brings to mind an anecdote of Abraham Lincoln, that we believe has never found its way into print, and as it is absolutely true, and as it illustrates the kind and benevolent nature of the man, we feel it to be a duty to record it, here and now.

Mr. Lincoln surveyed and platted the town but it happened that, before the plat was thought of a widow lady had built her a house within its limits. When they came to make the survey they found that this house was a few feet out into the projected street. It would cost something to move the house, and the owner was a widow; the survey was almost done and it would entail both labor and expense to change the whole plat; so Lincoln cut the Gordian knot by making "a jog," as he called it, in the street. This "jog" is in the plat, and in the street—a visible and lasting monument to the kind heart of Mr. Lincoln.

Peter Lukins and George Warburton were the original owners of the one hundred and sixty acres of land that Petersburg now stands on. This tract was part of section 14, township 18, range 7 west. In 1832-3 they laid out the entire tract of one hundred and sixty acres into blocks and town lots and when this was done they quietly sat down to wait for the city to grow. This one hundred and sixty acres was rather an extensive foundation for a town seventy-five years ago, and it was probably these ponderous proportions that retarded its growth. At any rate it failed to grow and the proprietors, becoming disgusted, sold out to Hezekiah King and John Taylor. These gentlemen employed Abraham Lincoln, then deputy surveyor of Sangamon county, to survey and replat the town, and this plat was filed for record February 22, 1836. The town was named for Peter Lukins, one of the original proprietors. The incident, or accident, which led to the naming of the future city Petersburg, instead of Georgetown, occurred in this wise: Peter Lukins and George Warburton, the original projectors of the enterprise, were each very anxious to be immortalized in history by bestowing his name on the incipient city and they became involved in a very warm dispute over the question whether it should be called Georgetown, for Warburton, or Petersburg, for Lukins. At last they decided to play a game of "old sledge," or "seven-up," then the national game (instead of base or football), and allow the winner to name the town. Lukins won, and rising from his costly seat, a nail-keg, he solemnly and impressively pro-

nounced the word "Petersburg," and the momentous question was forever settled. Elijah Estep doubtless built the first cabin, or building of any kind that was ever built in the territory of what is now Petersburg. Estep put up a "tread-wheel" mill here in 1826. This is spoken of more fully in another place. The first store opened in the town was by John Taylor, in 1833. Not a great while after Taylor began business, the Davidson Brothers came in with a stock of goods and opened the second store. It was only a short time after this till John Bennett bought Taylor out and engaged in a business that was destined to be his employment for a long time. He was for many years one of the leading merchants and business men of the place. He is spoken of more at length in another place. Jordan Morris was the first blacksmith and Peter Lukins looked after the soles of the people, being a shoemaker. The postoffice was established here in 1834, with James Taylor as postmaster. This office was then a very small affair, and the whole thing could have been easily carried in a man's hat. The first practicing lawyer was David M. Rutledge, a brother of "the beautiful Anna Rutledge," the fiancée of Abraham Lincoln, and who, had she lived, would have been his wife. Dr. R. E. Bennett was the first resident physician. The first "tavern" was kept by Peter Lukins. It was located in the south part of town and was a very unpretentious affair but it accommodated in a comfortable way those who patronized it. After the primitive mill spoken of above, a man by the name of Dorrell built a combined saw and grist mill, and this served the purpose for the people for a great many years. After this a Mr. Sanford erected a very fine mill at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. After operating it for several years his sons, J. D. and E. D. Wright, took charge of it. In a few years E. D. Wright withdrew from the firm and not long after this J. D. Wright failed in business, necessitating the sale of the property. In 1878 the property was bought by E. L. Gault and D. Fischer, who ran the mill for a number of years, with very good success. Later it went into the hands of a Mr. Welch, who ran it for a time, but after his

death it was changed into an elevator and is being so run at the present time. In 1867 the Eagle Mills were built by Nance, Brother & Company, at a cost of over twenty-four thousand dollars. The Nances ran it about eighteen months when it was bought by Philip Ramey. In connection with Thomas Barfield he ran it for a time and later he was alone in the enterprise. He put in rollers and the "new process," and made it in every respect a very fine mill. After his death his wife ran it for a time. Finally, some twelve or fifteen years ago, Mr. Heffner, of Virginia, Cass county, bought the property and is running the mill with great success. Aaron Hatfield built a mill in the east part of town about the early '80s and ran it for a time. Afterward Charles Carman ran it for some time and failed to make it pay. Some years ago it was dismantled, the machinery taken out and the building has since stood unoccupied. While on the subject of mills it is not out of place to mention the fact that the first steam mill (the one put up by Taylor) was run by an engine that came off a steamboat. (See the chapter on "Steamboats.") Along somewhere about that time a steamboat worked its way up the Sangamon as far as Petersburg, and landed at her busy wharf, but when starting time came she could neither advance nor back out, so the only thing to do was remain, which she did. Taylor bought the machinery and put it into the mill, as above stated. There are two grain elevators running in Petersburg at the present time. Wilms & Company operate a new elevator, built by them some five or six years ago near the track of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad, in the northeast part of town. David Frackelton, Jr., is running the old mill in the south part of town as an elevator. Both are doing a good business.

In 1901 Mr. Brass, of Virginia, Cass county, erected a canning factory in the north part of town and engaged in canning tomatoes, sweet corn and pumpkins, which at once bid fair to be a success. He induced the neighboring farmers to engage in raising these products and the enterprise has proved a blessing to the town. The farmers have realized splendidly on the crops raised; employment has been fur-

nished for a great number of the people of the town; and the owners have done well. Some years ago D. M. Bone and Charles Montgomery erected a bed-spring and excelsior factory in the east part of the city, which for several years proved a great success and a blessing to the country. Unfortunately just as it had become a decided success, it burned down and the moneyed men of the town refused to lend the necessary aid, and one of the proprietors opened the same business in Springfield and the other in Lincoln, Illinois, and both are now large and paying factories. It is extremely unfortunate that these enterprises did not receive the sympathy and encouragement of the men of means of the place. There is no town in central Illinois that has more natural advantages and facilities for manufacture than Petersburg and nothing would pay our men of means better than to put their money into such enterprises. It would build up the town in population, it would afford a market for our coal, timber, sand and produce, and furnish employment to hundreds of our citizens. It is strange that this has not been done long ago.

Petersburg has had a very good share of newspaper enterprise, first and last. The first newspaper was published in this place in the fall of 1854, by S. B. Dugger, who called his paper the Petersburg Express. After running the paper for about a year Mr. Dugger sold out to Henry L. Clay, who changed the name of the paper to the Menard Index, which was Democratic in politics. In September, 1858, Mr. Clay sold out to Hobart Hamilton, and a Mr. Brooks and they changed the politics of the paper to Republican and ran it thus till 1863, when it was sold and removed from the county. Brooks remained with the paper about one year after he and Hamilton took it, and retired from it, saying that after changing the politics of the paper and sending out the first number as a Republican sheet that the patrons came in by scores, carrying the paper, and would throw it down saying, "There, take your —— Abolition paper." Shortly after the removal of the Index the Northwestern Baptist, a religious paper, was issued from the Index office, and edited by M. P. Hartley. After

Hamilton changed the Index to a Republican paper the Menard County Axis was started as a Democratic organ, with C. Clay as editor and publisher. Its first issue was dated April 12, 1859, and it was continued by Clay till 1867, when it was purchased by a joint stock company, with M. B. Friend as editor, and its name changed to the Petersburg Democrat, under which name it still continues to be published. Mr. Friend continued in charge of the paper till 1871, when E. T. McElwain became editor. He continued in editorial control till July 1, 1877, when he was succeeded by A. E. Mick. On July 1, 1878, Mr. Mick associated with himself S. S. Knoles, and so the firm continued for several years, till Fred. Wilkinson became editor and after a time John Onstott was associated with him, and this continues to be the firm at the present time. The Petersburg Democrat has been the exponent of Democracy in Menard county for almost fifty years. The last two gentlemen have, for many years, wielded the quill and snapped the editorial scissors, in disseminating Democratic doctrine to the denizens of "Little Menard." The Democrat is a staunch and reliable paper, has a large circulation, and is regarded as an essential in many households of the county. During the campaign of Fillmore, Buchanan and Fremont, in 1856, William Glom started a paper called The Fillmore Bugle but it closed out at the end of the campaign. In June, 1868, the Menard County Republican was established, with Richard Richardson as editor. In about a year he sold out to John T. McNeely who conducted it till 1871, when Bennett and Zane became the proprietors. About a year after this Zane was succeeded by John Frank, who soon retired and was followed by F. M. Bryant, who likewise remained but a short time, and Bennett was alone for a time. F. J. Dubois then became a partner and assumed editorial control for a year. Early in 1874 the material of the Republican was sold to John Frank, who had started a new paper the August preceding and called it the Menard County Times. It and the Republican were then consolidated and published under the name of The Times. Frank now sold out to F. M. Bryant, who continued the paper till

May 9, 1878, when he sold to G. W. Cain and William Parks. Cain had been running a paper in Tallula, and when he bought Taylor out he changed the name of the paper to the Petersburg Observer, and under that name it is still published. Parks sold out about 1902 to Mr. Ruth, who is still running the paper. It is a clean, well edited and popular Republican paper. Mr. Ruth also runs a paper in Athens.

We tried hard to secure full data concerning the papers in other Menard county towns but failed, as our letters of inquiry were for some reason unanswered. Athens, Tallula and Greenview have each had a weekly paper for several years. The "Greenview Leader" is published by James Arnold and is a spicy and up-to-date paper. Mr. Arnold also runs a good job office.

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#### PETERSBURG, THE COUNTY SEAT.

The act of the legislature for the formation of Menard county was passed in the session of 1838-39, the new county including a large part of Mason county, which was not set off till two years later. One of the first questions agitated was that of the location of the seat of justice. The contestants were New Market, Huron, Miller's Ferry, Athens and Petersburg, and after a short but sanguinary struggle, it was decided in favor of Petersburg, and in the spring of 1839 it became the capital of the county. Its competitors in the struggle for official greatness, all except Athens, have long since been submerged "neath the waves of dark oblivion" and few people now know that such places ever existed in this county. From this time on Petersburg rapidly grew in population and increased in importance. After the formation of Mason county it was found that by a stroke of good fortune, the county seat had been located almost in the exact geographical center. For four years after the formation of the county, the courts were held in the store of Grimsley & Levering, but in 1843 the courthouse was erected at a cost of six thousand, six hundred forty dollars. This old house, with the moss of passing years gathering on it, stood till 1897. It was of the old

Kentucky tobacco-barn style of architecture, and in perfect harmony with the scores of courthouses built sixty-five and seventy years ago. About the time that the courthouse was built a jail was erected which served the purpose till 1870, when a new one was put up at a cost of twenty-two thousand dollars, a far more imposing building than the courthouse. The first jail cost three hundred dollars. In 1897 a new stone courthouse was built on the site of the old one. It cost fifty thousand dollars, but while the old courthouse was an old fashioned, weather-beaten affair, it was with sad hearts that the old citizens saw it razed to the ground, on account of the associations connected with it. Its walls had echoed to the voice of such men as Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and many other of the celebrities of those old times, for "there were giants in those days" in the truest sense of that word. This is the history of the county seat, as such, and we now proceed to give a brief sketch of the place as an organized city, under the laws of the state.

Petersburg was organized as a city under the laws of Illinois in 1882, and Dr. F. P. Antle was elected the first mayor of the city. He continued to fill this office, by re-election, till 1885. In April, 1885, Charles R. Collier was elected the second mayor. Mr. Collier served till 1887, when in April of that year James Thompson was elected to that office. During this administration the system of waterworks was put in, Diedric Fisher being awarded the contract for the tank, pump, building, etc., at seventeen thousand dollars. In April, 1889, Anson Thompson was elected mayor and served till 1891, when Jesse M. Ott was elected, and by re-election served till 1897. During the terms of 1893 and 1894, the large well was sunk to supply water for the waterworks. It is thirty feet from out to out, being twenty-five feet in the clear between the walls and thirty-eight feet deep. This well cost the city, all told three thousand dollars. In 1892 the first sanitary sewer was put in, at a total cost of three thousand, five hundred dollars. In 1897 Isham Catlett was elected to the office of mayor, and served till 1901. In this year Anson Thompson was again elected and served till



1902, when Jesse M. Ott was again elected and is serving at the present time. In the year the city bought the Town Hall, paying for the building and lots three thousand, six hundred dollars. During the fall of 1904 the large drainage sewer, on the north side of the square, was put in, at a cost of four thousand dollars. So that in the last fifteen years the city has expended, in much needed improvements, beside the running expenses of the town, no less than thirty-one thousand, eight hundred dollars. The city is in a very prosperous condition financially. In 1897 the old courthouse was torn away and a fifty thousand dollar building erected in its place, which is an ornament to the city and county. A system of electric lights was put in years ago. The wooden buildings, which used to be so numerous around the square, are nearly all torn away, and large, modern, brick buildings have been built in their place. We have three large dry-goods stores, four clothing stores, two jewelry stores, three drug stores, three hardware stores, six grocery stores, two furniture stores, two harness shops, three restaurants, two ten-cent stores, three meatmarkets, one shoe store, two photograph galleries, one mill, four blacksmith shops, two bakeries, four barber shops, four millinery stores, three hotels and one marble shop. Beside this we have in the professions: four dentists, eight physicians, thirteen lawyers (an unlucky number) and ten preachers. In 1897 the "Old Salem" Chautauqua was organized. The board of managers purchased a most beautiful piece of land on the banks of the Sangamon river, within a mile and a half of the city, and opened the institution in August of that year. From the very first it seemed to be a success. Under the direction of such men as N. W. Branson, George Luthringer, Homer J. Tice and others, it could not but be a success. They have a system of waterworks on the ground, as fine and commodious an auditorium as any similar institution in the land. A large number of cottages have been erected on the grounds and thousands of dollars have been expended in improving and beautifying the grounds. The attendance from the very first has been phenomenal and success has marked its every step. Fifteen thousand dollars will

be expended in 1905 in further improvements, by erecting a hotel in keeping with the demands and claims of the Chautauqua.

Petersburg has ten church houses, all of which have regular services. She has three fine school buildings, with a total of over twenty commodious rooms. Her growth has never been rapid, but always steady and permanent. During 1903 and 1904 more than twenty residences were erected, cost from two thousand dollars to eight thousand dollars each. The city government is contemplating the paving of the more important streets in the near future.

The present city government is as follows: Jesse M. Ott, mayor; aldermen, first ward, Ed. Goodman and McLean Watkins; second ward, Gaines Greene and Otto Lenz; third ward, A. J. Bless and W. W. Williamson.

## OFFICERS OF MEXARD COUNTY.

### SHERIFFS.

The sheriffs of the county have been: James Goldsby, 1839-1844; N. A. Rankin, 1844-1848; James Taylor, 1848-December, 1848; James G. Long, 1848-1850; B. D. McAtce, 1850-1852; J. B. Gum, 1852-1854; J. B. Goldsby, 1854-1858; J. M. Hurt, 1858-1860; W. C. Smoot, 1860-1862; J. M. Quinn, 1862-1864; J. M. Quinn, 1864-1866; Robert Clary, 1868-1870; Fred Wilkinson, 1870-1872; Wolf Feulner, 1874-1876; Fred Wilkinson, 1876-1880; M. T. Hargraves, 1880-1886; William J. Brewer, 1886-1890; Joseph W. Estill, 1890-1894; G. W. Hatch, 1894-1898; J. N. Rutledge, 1898-1902; Edward J. Fahay, 1902-1906.

### PROBATE JUDGE.

Asa D. Wright, from 1839 to 1846; Nathan Dresser, 1846 to 1847; Asa D. Wright from 1847 to 1848, when the office ceased.

### RECORDER.

William G. Spears, from 1839 to 1841; Jacob H. Laning, from 1841 to 1847; Cornelius Rourke, from 1847 to 1849, when the office ceased.

### CORONER.

Martin S. Morris, from 1839 to 1840; George D. Adams, from 1840 to 1842; John E. Raw-



lins, from 1842 to 1844; Ira McGlasson, from 1844 to 1848; McLean Wood, from 1848 to 1850; T. P. Garretson, from 1850 to 1852; C. Levering, from 1852 to 1853; W. T. Hutchinson, from 1853 to 1854; William Trent, from 1854 to 1856; F. C. Davis, from 1856 to 1858; J. T. Brooks, from 1858 to 1860; C. Levering, from 1860 to 1862; A. L. Clary, from 1864 to 1869; L. Montgomery, from 1869 to 1871; G. W. Hicks, from 1871 to 1874; J. J. Erwin, from 1874 to 1876; L. Ahronheim, from 1876 to 1877; Charles Cowan, from 1877 to 1880; John Degge, from 1880 to 1882; John Baekes, from 1882 to 1884; William D. Cowan, from 1884 to 1885; William D. McAtce, from 1885 to 1892; A. L. Clary, from 1892 to 1904; Dr. Wilkin, from 1904 to 1908.

## SURVEYOR.

Edmund Greer, from 1839 to 1843; John B. Gum, from 1843 to 1849; Anno Ritter, from 1849 to 1855; E. Hall, from 1855 to 1859; D. N. Carithers, from 1859 to 1863; John B. Gum, from 1863 to 1864; A. E. Mick, from 1864 to 1869; A. J. Kelly, from 1869 to 1875; John Tice, from 1875 to 1879; Abe Hall, from 1879 to 1883; Anthony Austin, from 1883 to 1888; George C. Power, from 1888 to 1892; James M. Large, from 1892 to 1896; John Tice, from 1896 to 1904; Hobart Hamilton, from 1904 to 1908.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR.

Lewis B. Wynn, from 1843 to 1845; George U. Miles, from 1845 to 1849; McLean Wood, from 1849, till the office ceased to be, two years after.

## COUNTY JUDGE.

Jacob Garber, from 1849 to 1853; C. J. F. Clark, from 1853 to 1861; J. H. Pillsbury, from 1861 to 1865; M. B. Harrison, from 1861 to 1865; C. M. Robertson, from 1865 to 1869; J. H. Pillsbury, from 1869 to 1873; John Tice, from 1873 to 1881; H. H. Hoagland, from 1881 to 1898; Frank E. Blane, from 1898 to 1902; George B. Watkins, from 1902 to 1906.

## ASSOCIATE JUSTICES.

James Mott, commissioned November 20, 1853; J. Reed, commissioned November 23, 1853; C. J. Hutchinson, July, 1854 and 1857;

Robert Clary, 1857 and 1861; D. T. Hughes, 1861; R. Woldridge, 1869; H. Warnsing, 1869.

## COUNTY CLERKS.

Cornelius Rourke, from 1849 to 1865; Hobart Hamilton, from 1865 to 1869; A. E. Mick, 1869 to 1873; Anson Thompson, from 1873 to 1882; E. W. Eads, from 1882 to 1886; Adam W. McGeachin, from 1886 to 1890; H. W. Levering, from 1890 to 1902; Albert W. Hartley, from 1902 to 1906.

## CIRCUIT CLERK.

A. K. Riffin, from 1848 to 1860; Joseph Jonson, from 1860 to 1864; William J. Estill, from 1864 to 1872; Theodore C. Bennett, from 1872 to 1900; David L. Bennett, from 1900 to 1904; William F. Thompson, from 1904 to 1908.

## STATES ATTORNEY.

H. W. Masters, from 1876 to 1879; Reub Stevens, from 1879 to 1884; S. H. Blane from 1884 to 1888; Charles Nushbaum, from 1888 to 1896; John M. Smoot, from 1896 to 1904; T. J. Reep, from 1904 to 1908.

## SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.

O. D. Clark, from 1853 to 1857; J. H. Pillsbury, from 1857 to 1863; Edward Laning, from 1863 to 1865.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Edward Booth, from 1865 to 1869; William H. Berry, from 1869 to 1873; K. B. Davis, from 1873 to January, 1877; R. D. Miller, from January 3, 1877, to December 15, 1898; George C. Power, 1898 to 1903; R. D. Miller, from December 1, 1903, to December 5, 1904; T. E. Cantrall, from 1904 to 1906.

## ASSESSOR AND TREASURER.

John Tice, from 1857 to 1869; J. W. Cheaney, from 1869 to 1871; Charles H. Thomas, from 1875 to 1881; J. G. Strodman, from 1881 to 1886; Jasper N. Rutledge, from 1886 to 1890; E. R. Oltjen, from 1890 to 1894; Henry Burfield, from 1894 to 1898; Lew R. Golden, from 1898 to 1899 (died in office); J. H. McMichael, from 1899 to 1902; J. H. Clary from 1902 to 1906.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

James Altig, 1877 to 1880; F. W. Duncan, from 1878 to 1880; Andrew Gaddie, from 1879

to 1882; James Altig, from 1880 to 1883; Wood Greene, from 1881 to 1884; Andrew Gaddie, from 1882 to 1885; H. H. Schirding, from 1883 to 1886; Wood Greene, from 1884 to 1887; Andrew Gaddie, from 1885 to 1888; H. H. Schirding, from 1886 to 1889; Imley Hewett, from 1887 to 1890; John C. Claypole, from 1888 to 1891; H. H. Schirding, from 1889 to 1892; George U. Spears, from 1890 to 1893; James K. McAttee, from 1891 to 1894; H. H. Schirding, from 1892 to 1895; George U. Spears, from 1893 to 1896; James K. McAttee, from 1894 to 1897; John B. Gum, from 1895 to 1898; George U. Spears from 1896 to 1899; Kirby S. Johnson, from 1897 to 1900; Henry S. Houghton, from 1898 to 1901; W. E. Johnson from 1899 to 1902; H. J. Marbold, from 1900 to 1903; Elias Watkins, from 1901 to 1904; Charles B. Greene, from 1902 to 1905; H. J. Marbold from 1903 to 1906; Frank A. King, from 1904 to 1907.

### CHURCHES OF MENARD.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PETERSBURG.

The Presbyterian church of Petersburg, Illinois, was organized by the Rev. Thomas Galt in December, 1839, in the old courthouse in Petersburg. Six men and four women went into the organization. Mr. Galt preached to them occasionally till 1842. Their services were held at first in the courthouse or in the hall over Mr. Bennett's store, which stood where the National Bank now stands. By the spring of 1842 they had built a neat frame church two blocks north of the northeast corner of the square. This house was dedicated on the 15th of May, 1842, the sermon being preached by the Rev. J. W. Little from 2 Corinthians, 6:40, 41. The first regular supply began September 1, 1846, by Rev. George McKinley. In 1857 Rev. McKinley resigned and Rev. John A. Pinkerton began his service at once. Mr. Pinkerton was a man greatly beloved by all, in and out of the church. After a very successful and efficient ministry, Mr. Pinkerton resigned in 1870. Rev. Joseph Mahon began to attend the church, as supply, in the month of February, 1871. He served only seven

months, when he resigned, and Rev. George C. Wood supplied the congregation until 1872. In February of the year 1872 Rev. Maurice Waller began his pastorate, which lasted till 1878. Mr. Waller was a man that was universally respected and loved and he did good service for the church. In the year 1873 the foundation of the present church edifice was laid, but the building was not completed till the year 1874. On the 8th of November of that year the house was formally given to God. The Rev. W. W. Harsha, D. D., of Jacksonville, Illinois, preached the dedicatory sermon from 1 Timothy, 3:5. In the year 1878 Mr. Waller resigned and Dr. Nevins and Rev. F. M. Baldwin supplied the church till January, 1882, when Rev. A. J. Berger became pastor and served till July, 1883. The pulpit was then vacant till in September, 1884, when Rev. T. C. McFarland began his work. In 1886, during the pastorate of Mr. McFarland, the lecture room was built and the audience room was refrescoed in very tasteful style. In February, 1887, Rev. McFarland resigned, and on the call of the church, in August, 1887, Rev. William Miller began his work as pastor of the church. He served faithfully and successfully till August, 1891, when he resigned and was succeeded by Rev. W. E. Williamson, D. D. Dr. Williamson served the church most acceptably for five years and resigned in 1896. He was succeeded, in August, 1896, by Rev. T. J. Stephenson, who in turn also served five years, resigning in August, 1901. During the pastorate of Rev. Stephenson the church purchased a very desirable residence property within a block and a half of the church, which is used as a parsonage. In August, 1901, Rev. D. J. Mitterling was called to the pastorate of the church and served them till August, 1901, when he resigned.

At this time (December, 1904) the church is without a pastor, but is being supplied regularly and the probability is that the supply will soon be the regular pastor. This is a strong and wealthy church, enrolling among its members some of the best people of the city, and its influence for good is not to be calculated.

The Presbyterians have a strong congregation, as is seen in the preceding history, at

Athens. To them and Indian Point the Rev. D. G. Carson has ministered for a number of years. In Irish Grove, where there was formerly a strong congregation, they now have no service, deaths and removals having reduced the congregation till they can not support preaching. They have there a good brick edifice, but it is not occupied.

At Sweetwater and Greenview they have comparatively new frame churches and the Rev. Mr. Thomas preaches to the two charges. The writer made all due effort to get full statistics of all these churches, but failed. In the county this denomination has five congregations and six church houses, with a good membership, made up from the best class of people of the county. They have flourishing Sabbath-schools and keep up all of the enterprises of the work.

#### ROMAN CATHOLICS.

In the latter part of the year 1862 a society of the Roman Catholic faith was organized in Petersburg. The first services of this denomination were held in the private residences of Cornelius Rourke, Adam Johns and John Lucas. As the meetings increased and as the attendance became larger and the interest became greater, the services were held in the schoolhouse or courtroom. In less than four years their numbers had increased to such an extent that a house of worship was necessary. So the money was raised and a house built in time to be dedicated in the fall of 1866. The house cost five thousand dollars and was dedicated by Rev. Father Mettinger, and at that time the society numbered about fifty adults. The following is a partial list of the priests who have had charge of the church: Fathers Quigley, Zebell, Jarnsen, Fitzgibbons, Costa, Clifford (the latter at the laying of the cornerstone), Mettinger (at the dedication), Jaques, Clouse, Wegman, Sauer, Ahne, Hogan, and Father Futterer, who is now (1905) in charge. The present priest in charge is very popular, not only with the Catholics, but with the Protestants as well. While he is a good Catholic in every respect, he is at the same time a man of good sense and reason.

The Catholics at Greenview have a church house and occasional service, yet they have no

resident priest. At Athens they have an organized congregation and are erecting a splendid church.

In Petersburg they have a first-class parsonage and a schoolhouse, making their property very valuable. The Catholics of Petersburg owe a debt of lasting gratitude to Cornelius Rourke and Frank Lutheringer for their zeal, energy and perseverance in securing this church. The congregation is now strong and prosperous.

#### GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This denomination has had a congregation and house of worship in Petersburg for a great many years, and, although representatives of the church are found all over the county wherever there are Germans, yet no other church was organized in the county, we believe, till about 1811 or 1818, when Professor Winnekin, of the Theological Seminary of Springfield, Illinois, organized a congregation in the neighborhood of Tallula, and they later erected a neat but cheap house of worship. About this same time a large congregation of German Lutherans was organized in Greenview. Not long after being organized they built a very neat and comfortable church at a cost of between three and four thousand dollars. Rev. Mr. Hommer, now of California, served the Greenview and Petersburg churches for a number of years.

In the spring of 1861 the first German Lutheran church was organized in Petersburg. Among the original members were Harmon Scherding, John Scherding, Henry Mossman, Henry Fischer, J. P. Bela, J. H. Stagemann, Jerry H. Stagemann, Jerry Bonties and others. They at first bought a house used by Diedrich Fischer as a carpenter shop, which they fitted up for a temple of worship, and there they met and held service for a time without a preacher. They finally secured the services of Rev. Paul Lorentzen as pastor, and purchased a parsonage adjacent to the church at a total cost for both edifices of one thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. In 1863 Mr. Lorentzen was succeeded by Rev. Peter Dahl and later he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Schmidt and he by Rev. William H. Schmidt, who remained pastor till his death in 1872. Rev. Mr. Schmidt was succeeded by

Rev. Dubiel, whose pastorate was only of a year or two's duration, when Rev. Dr. John Karminsky was called to the pastorate. After a time Rev. Mr. Deichmann became the pastor, was succeeded by Rev. Charles Behrends and he by Rev. Mr. Conrad, who served them for some time. Mr. Conrad's ministry brings us to somewhere in the '80s, and here perhaps we miss the names of a pastor or two; when Rev. Mr. Hommer was called to take charge of the congregation. Rev. Hommer served them for a number of years, to the satisfaction and delight of the entire congregation. Mr. Hommer was a scholarly Christian gentleman, respected by the entire community. On account of his health he removed several years ago to California. Rev. Mr. Weil was then invited to take charge of the church and has served them ever since, dividing his time between this place and Greenview, but living in Petersburg. The services are all in the German language. They have a flourishing Sabbath-school and a large congregation. Some twelve or fifteen years back they tore away the old church house, which was not large enough to meet their demands, and built a splendid house, of larger size and more modern in style.

There is another branch of the German Lutheran church which has a congregation in Petersburg. The writer is not informed as to the difference between these two branches of the church. This last named congregation is composed of some of the best people in Petersburg and it is a strong and prosperous body of people. They have a commodious house of worship and a parsonage located on a lot adjoining the church. They keep up all the regular services and these are well attended.

The Lutheran church is made up from the best class of Germans and they are an earnest, devout people, devoted to their church, and promptly and cheerfully respond to all the demands that it makes at their hand. Their services are simple and unostentatious and no people are more ready to respond to the calls of charity and benevolence than they.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Up to January, 1905, there is but one Protestant Episcopal church in Menard county.

Through the energy and untiring zeal of Mrs. Harris, relict of the late Hon. Thomas L. Harris, this congregation was organized more than a quarter of a century ago. Soon after its organization the same earnest Christian lady raised funds to erect a house of worship. She succeeded in building Trinity church, which is a substantial brick, of the Gothic style of architecture, with fine art windows and tastefully frescoed. It stands on the hillside, commanding a most excellent view of the city and landscape across the Sangamon river. The first rector of Trinity was the Rev. Mr. Steel, who served the church very acceptably for a time, but gave up this charge to accept one in Alton, Illinois. After this they were served by different pastors and passed through the variety of experiences that come to all such organizations. Mrs. Harris has gone to her reward, but the fruits of her efforts are still being gathered. The membership of Trinity church is not large, but it embraces among its numbers representatives of the best people of the city. Just at this writing they have no rector, but as a rule they keep up regular service, with the Sunday-school and midweek prayer meeting.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PETERSBURG.

Rev. George Reed served the Petersburg church in 1876-7. He was followed by Rev. W. O. Peet, then they came in order: Rev. R. G. Hobbs, Rev. J. D. Fry, then the beloved and revered Chaplain W. J. Rutledge, Rev. Peter Slagel, Rev. Edwin Ward, Rev. J. Scott Carr, Rev. S. H. Huber, Rev. John McPhail, Rev. A. Sloan, Rev. H. L. Mitchell, then in 1896 the Rev. Theodore Kemp came and soon began to agitate the subject of building a new church. They had a fairly good but old fashioned brick church, with a very nice parsonage on a lot adjoining the church. Many hallowed memories clustered around this old house. Here the venerable Peter Cartwright had preached in the early days; those walls had echoed to the voice of Peter Akers; from this pulpit the lamented Barret, Hardin Wallace, Chaplain Rutledge and a host of others, now in heaven, told the "old, old story," but they needed a new church and Rev. Kemp, with faith, zeal and

perseverance, went into the work and succeeded. In 1898 a new and modern house was erected and dedicated. It is modern in every respect—an ample basement, pastor's study, a lecture room, an auditorium of ample size with inclined floor and all modern furnishings. It is a brick building with slate roof and beautifully frescoed. The windows are large and of stained glass. The building cost a little over seven thousand dollars and is fully out of debt. Rev. Kemp remained in charge till 1900, when he was followed by the Rev. R. A. Hartick, who remained till 1903. In 1903 Rev. A. L. Plowman came and remained one year. Rev. S. N. Wakefield is now the active and efficient pastor, with prospect of great good before him.

Oakford Methodist Episcopal congregation remodeled their old church during the summer of 1904 and now have a house of worship that would be an honor to any community, and the church is out of debt.

Athens Methodist Episcopal church has a neat and comfortable brick church and is in prosperous condition.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PETERSBURG.

The history of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in Petersburg is rather a brief one. Back in the early '40s, most likely, the Rev. A. H. Goodpasture organized a congregation here and preached to it for a time, but it was short lived. In the latter part of the '60s the Rev. James Knoles formed an organization and preached to them for a time, but the little band lost courage and for a time seemed extinct, till Rev. James White, about 1870 or 1872, collected the scattered fragments together and for awhile he preached to them, but again they lost heart and for several years there was no congregation of this people in the town. In 1876 Rev. R. D. Miller collected together a little band who desired to reorganize a church here and formed them into a congregation. These charter members were Dr. H. A. Harris, C. L. Hatfield, W. R. Edgar, C. H. Thomas, D. M. Bone, T. E. Clark, Miss Anna Shepherd, Miss Elizabeth Barclay and Mrs. Lucy Thomas. Harris, Hatfield and Clark were elected as elders and C. H. Thomas, deacon. At first

they held their services in the German Lutheran church, which at that time had no pastor. In a short time they had to give that up and they removed to the Baptist church. Here, in the winter of 1878-9, they had a very successful revival and the congregation was greatly strengthened. Soon after this they were compelled to remove and went to a hall on the north side of the square. In a few weeks they removed to the courthouse and for three years their Sunday-school, prayer meeting and preaching services were all held there. It was generally crowded to overflowing. Dr. and Mrs. F. P. Antle united with the church, while the congregation worshiped in the courthouse. Mrs. Dr. Antle determined to build a church house. It was a gloomy prospect, but her indomitable spirit, the zeal of the membership and the help of the unconverted gave them success. To Mrs. Antle we owe thanks for the church, but the writer can not refrain from mentioning the material and moral aid given the enterprise by the ever-remembered Aaron Thompson, deceased. The house was enclosed and occupied in due time, but it was not fully completed till some time later. Mr. Miller continued pastor of the church for nearly seven years, but having a large family and the congregation still owing something on the house, he felt that it would be better for him to resign and let the church employ a man without a family, one who could live on less salary and use the difference on the church debt. The session employed Rev. R. J. Beard, a single man, but paid him more than they had been paying the former pastor. Mr. Beard's pastorate continued two or three years, but the church was not built up. He was a most excellent man and a devoted Christian, but did not succeed here. Mr. Beard was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Elder, who served the church for two or three years. After him the session engaged the services of Rev. J. M. Johnston and his pastorate was of two or three years' duration. After this the pulpit was vacant for quite awhile, but in 1893 or 1894 Rev. W. T. Ferguson became pastor. He served the church four years and left the congregation in a better condition than it had been in for a number of years. After Mr. Ferguson left Rev. W. G. Archer was called to the charge. He came

with a flourish of trumpets and for a time it seemed that all would be well. He remodeled the church, put in a reading-room and introduced many modern ideas. He left after three years, under a dark cloud, but the presbytery later exonerated him. Rev. W. T. Olmstead was then called to take charge of the church. He remained for two years, faithfully performing his duties as pastor, but unfortunate divisions came and he left the church in a state of terrible division. For some time they were without a pastor, but finally employed the Rev. M. C. Cockrum. He is struggling against a tide that will only be overcome by the lapse of years. He is an earnest, energetic pastor, striving to do his whole duty.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TALLULA.

We have not the full history of the organization of this church, but some detail is given in another place. The first church edifice erected in the village of Tallula was the Cumberland Presbyterian church, a frame, built in 1861, at a cost of about three thousand dollars. Rev. J. G. White, of anti-Catholic fame, was the first pastor. He served the church for a time and was followed by others. Many strong men have been pastor of this flock, among them may be named James White, Dr. Pendergrass and others. The congregation owns a parsonage adjoining the church, but both buildings are getting old and need repair. It has passed through many vicissitudes, but still survives. At present they are without a pastor.

#### LEBANON CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NO. 1.

Lebanon congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian church was organized in 1824 or 1825. At first they built a log church house, but after some years they built a frame building, which amply served their purpose till 1867, when under the lead of Rev. R. D. Miller a splendid brick building was erected. It still stands, the walls and interior as good as when first erected. For some years they have had regular preaching but a small portion of the time. At present they are without regular preaching, though they maintain a flourishing Sunday-school.

#### ROCK CREEK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This is one of the oldest church organizations in what is now Menard county. It was organized by the Rev. John M. Berry, the pioneer preacher of this denomination in central Illinois. In 1821 or 1822 this society was formed. A short time before this Rev. Berry and Rev. John Simms, another pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian preacher had laid off a campground and held two or three camp-meetings on the grounds before this society was formed. This congregation, now Rock Creek church, at first used the camp built by Berry and Simms as a place of worship. Later on they built a log "meeting house," which served their purpose for a number of years, after which they erected a frame house, which was occupied for many years. Later on another frame church was erected, a house more modern and more comfortable. This fully met all the needs of the congregation till some ten or twelve years ago, when they erected, at a cost of about three thousand dollars, a building modern in every particular. It is a frame building, with basement, heated by furnace, with a Sunday-school room, opera chairs and all modern conveniences. The congregation also owns a neat and roomy parsonage, standing near the church, with all necessary conveniences. Rev. J. W. Elder is their present pastor, having been there some four or five years. They have a flourishing Sunday-school and preaching every Sunday at eleven o'clock a. m. This church has done a vast amount of good and it is to be hoped that her work of usefulness has but just begun.

#### CONCORD CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This congregation was organized in 1826 or 1827 by Rev. John M. Berry. The ground where Concord church now stands was for many years occupied as a "camp-meeting" ground. Here for a long period of years the people used to gather once a year for a camp-meeting of a week or ten days. From all over the country the people would come, move in and camp on the grounds to engage in nothing but the worship of God. Every one who attended these meetings from a distance was fed and lodged



free of all charge. The good accomplished by these meetings will never be known till the great day shall come. A log church was built in the early history of the congregation, which served its purpose for many years. By and by a frame building was put up, which served them till 1864, when they erected a new one on the same spot of ground. This house was dedicated on the 19th of February, 1865, by the Rev. J. C. Van Patten, assisted by Rev. Wiley Knoles. This house was remodeled and modernized about four years ago. It is a neat, commodious and comfortable church. Rev. M. C. Cockrum, pastor of the Petersburg Cumberland Presbyterian church, preaches for the Concord people on alternate Sabbaths.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENVIEW.

This congregation was originally organized in the long since extinct village of New Market and later removed to the "Knoles Schoolhouse," which was east of the town of Greenview. In 1858 the congregation removed to the village of Greenview, and the same year built a house of worship. In 1843 the "Bethel" congregation, as it was called while at New Market, was organized by Revs. J. R. Torrence and A. H. Goodpasture. The former served them as their first spiritual leader. The church house at Greenview cost one thousand two hundred dollars when built. It has been repaired more than once, but they sorely need a new and modern building. They own a neat and comfortable parsonage on a lot adjoining the church, and the Rev. J. E. Rodgers is their present pastor, having served them in all some eight or ten years. It is rather a strong church numerically, keeping up the midweek prayer meeting and having one of the best Sunday-schools in the town. They will probably build a new house of worship in the near future.

#### CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FANCY PRAIRIE.

This church was organized by Rev. J. C. Van Patten in 1864. Soon after the organization they erected a neat and substantial house of worship in the village of Fancy Prairie at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The church prospered for a time, but later, by deaths and

removals, the membership was so reduced that they did not have preaching but a part of the time. Some four years ago Rev. R. D. Miller was called as a supply, preaching half the time. For several years prior to this time, through the earnest effort of Mrs. Emma King and George Lake, a Sunday-school had been kept up, but the attendance was not large and the work was discouraging. After a time the Sunday-school began to grow and the congregation grew also, so that the people became encouraged, but they were discouraged by the fact that the church stood a half mile from the Peoria & Springfield Railroad, which had been recently built, and to which the village had been removed. At first they talked of moving the old house to the railroad, but this was not popular. Many thought that the money could not be raised to build a new house, but Mrs. Emma King and Mrs. Rue started out to make the effort to raise the funds. Mrs. King let no one pass and in a short time raised over five thousand two hundred dollars. Work was at once begun and on the first Sunday in May, 1904, the house was dedicated, the Rev. Dr. Bushnell, of Alton, Illinois, preaching the sermon. No money was asked for on that day, the entire bill being paid. It is a neat, modern building, with basement, lecture-room, inclined floor, regular pews, fully carpeted all over and lighted with acetylene gas. The congregation and the community owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Mrs. King; John W. Shayer, the efficient treasurer; Dock Drake and Grant King, the faithful building committee; James King and Abram Fulkerson, the trustees, and to the whole community for their liberal gift of money. Thus Rev. Miller has had charge of the congregations when three of the neatest and best Cumberland Presbyterian churches in Menard county were built, namely: Petersburg, Lebanon and Fancy Prairie.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

Freemasonry and Odd Fellowship, those benevolent institutions that exert so wide an influence for good, usually follow closely in the wake of Christianity. We know that the



incentives which prompt them are good, because the results achieved are so grand and glorious. Freemasonry was introduced into Petersburg over sixty years ago. Clinton Lodge was organized under a dispensation, in October, 1812. In due time it was chartered as Clinton Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M. The first officers were: John Bennett, Worshipful Master; Martin S. Morris, Senior Warden; John McNeal, Junior Warden; Jacob West, Treasurer; John Broadwell, Secretary; David McMurphy, Senior Deacon; and W. B. Kirk, Junior Deacon. This lodge has lived and prospered through all these years, performing its work quietly and faithfully. As a matter of interest to the members of this fraternity, we make the following statement: Clinton Lodge was named in honor of ex-Governor De Witt Clinton, of New York. To perpetuate his memory and great virtues the Masonic brethren have caused to be built for the ornamentation of their lodge-room a shell monument, consisting of a collection of shells, arranged with genius and skill. As the number of Clinton Lodge indicates, it is one of the old lodges of the state.

De Witt Chapter, No. 119, Royal Arch Masons was organized March 25, 1868, with the following as the first set of officers: Hobart Hamilton, M. E. High Priest; T. W. McNeely, E. King; J. T. Brooks, E. Scribe; John Bennett, Captain of the Host; H. W. Montgomery, Treasurer; and J. G. Strodtmann, Secretary. This Chapter is strong and prosperous.

St. Aldemar Commandery, No. 17, Knights Templar, was organized October 27, 1875, by Right Eminent Sir Hiram W. Hubbard, Grand Commander of the State. The first officers were: Eminent Sir Hobart Hamilton, Commander; Sir T. W. McNeely, Generalissimo; Sir Charles B. Thatcher, Captain General; Sir Anson Thompson, Senior Warden; Sir Edward Laning, Junior Warden; Sir F. P. Antle, Treasurer; Sir J. G. Strodtmann, Recorder; Sir J. M. Sawyer, Standard Bearer; Sir J. T. Brooks, Sword Bearer; Sir T. C. Bennett, Warder; and Sir J. E. Dickinson, Captain of the Guard. These men, like those of the lodges spoken of above, are scattered to and fro, while

a large number of them are gone to the great lodge which never adjourns.

Bennett Chapter, No. 19, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized January 18, 1872. The first officers were: John Bennett, W. P.; Mrs. Isaac White, W. M.; Mrs. James W. Judy, A. M.; Mrs. A. D. Wright, Treasurer; and Mrs. John Bennett, Secretary. Every one of these have gone to their long home, but their influence is still felt, not only in the lodge, but in the community at large.

The Masonic fraternity, in connection with the Harris Guards, a military company that was formed here in the '70s, but disbanded several years ago, in 1879, began the erection of an opera house, with a lodge-room above, and on the 9th day of September of that year the cornerstone of the edifice was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Masons by Most Worshipful William Lively, Past Grand Master of the State. This is a splendid building of brick, with a large and well arranged hall, having a roomy stage and equipped with all the paraphernalia of a first-class theater. The hall above is said by those who have a right to know to be first-class in every respect.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

On the 13th of April, 1848, Salem Lodge, No. 123, I. O. O. F., was organized under dispensation, with the following charter members: B. F. Stephenson, C. N. Goulding, J. H. Collier, Theodore Baker and Z. P. Cabanis. The first officers were: John H. Collier, Noble Grand; B. F. Stephenson, Vice Grand; Z. P. Cabanis, Secretary; and Theodore Baker, Treasurer. The lodge continued under the dispensation to the 14th of October, of the same year, when it was chartered, and for the first few years after its organization it prospered to an almost unprecedented degree, but the Civil war coming on and other difficulties being in the way, its membership waned and its prospects became very dark. During its first year it added about fifty members. How discouraged they must have been when in 1862 their membership had fallen far below that mark. The few remaining members became so discouraged that they even contemplated a forfeiture of

their charter, and, as we are told, a vote was actually taken to that effect, but failed by a very small margin. But this trial aroused the dormant energies of the lukewarm and they took on new zeal and the lodge revived to new life and power. The financial difficulties that had for some time harassed them were overcome and they started again on the upward course. Since that time the lodge has known nothing but prosperity. To-day it is a strong and wealthy lodge. Rebekah Degree Lodge, No. 92, I. O. O. F., was instituted May 5, 1876, and reinstituted March 3, 1879, with a membership of sixteen. This lodge has passed through a varied experience in the past years, but has survived all its troubles and is to-day in a very prosperous condition.

Other organizations of secret societies are to be found in Petersburg, but as they are mostly insurance institutions a detail of their history would be uninteresting to the public.

We have not been able to secure the history of all the lodges of Masons and Odd Fellows in the county, though we made as diligent an effort as could be made by any one. If this history in this respect is imperfect it is because those who alone could give the needed information were too indifferent to do so. A Masonic lodge was organized in Greenview under a dispensation, May 12, 1870, and chartered at the following session of the Grand Lodge. This is Greenview Lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M. The charter members were: F. E. Wilson, W. H. Crites, H. K. Rule, Charles Atterberry, W. S. Morse, J. A. Rule, Abner Engle, Jacob Propst, Jr., Fred Wilkinson, M. S. Ely, William Houston, D. A. Petrie, Robert Hornback, Jacob Killion, John Johnson, F. A. Craig, C. R. Pierce, R. B. Godby, A. H. Whitney and Hosea Dockum. The first set of officers of this lodge were: F. E. Wilson, Master; William Crites, Senior Warden; H. K. Rule, Junior Warden; Charles Atterberry, Treasurer; W. S. Morse, Secretary; John A. Rule, Senior Deacon; F. A. Craig, Junior Deacon; and Jacob Propst, Tyler. They own no building and therefore hold their lodge in a rented hall. The lodge is strong and prosperous.

At one time the Independent Order of Odd Fellows had a tolerably strong lodge in Green-

view, but for some cause it went down years ago.

On November 16, 1877, Floral Lodge, No. 647, I. O. O. F., was organized under dispensation in the town of Athens. A charter was issued from the Grand Lodge bearing the signatures of John Lake, G. M., and N. C. Wason, G. S., in October, 1878. The charter members were: C. C. Scott, T. B. Turner, Jacob Boyd, Louis Salzenstein, Charles Bair, W. C. Fisk and Julius Kerst. The first officers were: C. C. Scott, N. G.; T. B. Turner, V. G.; Jacob Boyd, Secretary; and Louis Salzenstein, Treasurer. They meet each week and are a prosperous lodge.

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#### BANKS AND BANKING.

The first bank established in Menard county was opened by John A. Brahm, of Petersburg, and William G. Greene, of Tallula, in 1865, under the firm name of Brahm & Greene. No more popular bank was to be found in central Illinois and it did a very prosperous business for a number of years. There being but one other bank in the county for a considerable time, this one received an immense patronage. After a number of years Mr. Greene withdrew and for some time Mr. Brahm ran it alone. Mr. Brahm built a fine stone building on the west side of the square—steel vault, burglar and fireproof, time-lock, a deposit vault and all the modern conveniences and improvements of the day. He did a successful business for some time, but his accommodating nature and sympathetic disposition, together with other influences, led to his failure in 1883. He gave up everything, left his luxurious home and in his old age went out into the world in poverty. The writer can not refrain from saying here that as sad a scene as he ever witnessed in his life was the burial of John A. Brahm. After his failure he and his aged wife went to Chicago, where some of their children resided, and lived there till his death, some five years ago. His remains were brought to Petersburg for burial, and one dull, gloomy morning, about nine o'clock, a little company of a dozen or so people stood around the open grave, under the

trees in Oakland cemetery, to witness the interment. No display, no concourse of people, no long line of carriages, but a few silent mourners, a brief talk, and a word of prayer, and his body was lowered into the grave, the earth shoveled in and all was over. As we left the cemetery the thought came to the writer: What a commentary on human life and character! Here is a man who did more for Petersburg and Menard county than any other man; a man who accommodated and assisted more men just starting in life than any other man; a man who in prosperity—while he had money—was honored and looked up to; now, when his money is gone, and he is brought back to his old home to be buried, a handful gather around his grave, and even those whom he had befriended had not time to attend the burial and no tears of sympathy to shed at the grave. Will not this ingratitude bring its return to them, or to their children?

On the 19th of September, 1883, this bank was organized as the "First National Bank" of Petersburg, Illinois, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. Seven years later, the business of the concern having greatly increased, on the 19th of September, 1900, the capital was increased to one hundred thousand dollars. This bank does all kinds of banking business and is now more prosperous than at any time in the past. The officers at present are: C. B. Laning, president; John Tice (deceased), vice-president; Samuel H. Rule, cashier. The directors are: John Tice (deceased), Samuel H. Blane (deceased), C. B. Laning, Charles Nusbaum and Anson Thompson.

The next bank to open business in Menard county was opened in Petersburg the same year that the First National opened, 1865. This was opened by R. and D. Frackelton. This is a private bank and is regarded as one among the most reliable and responsible banks of the state. It has always commanded its full share of the business of the country around it. A number of years ago one of the firm—Robert Frackelton—died and the business was carried on by the other member of the firm. The title is now D. S. Frackelton & Company. The members of the firm are D. S., C. C. and D. W. Frackelton. This bank is doing a splendid business in

every branch and is prompt and in every way reliable.

About 1883 Charles C. Scott opened a private bank in the town of Athens and run a successful business till the close of 1885. On the 1st day of January, 1886, Lee Kincaid bought an interest in the bank and it was run under the name of Scott & Kincaid till the close of that year, when Mr. Kincaid bought the interest of Mr. Scott. Since that time Mr. Kincaid has run the business alone, doing a general banking business to the full satisfaction of the public who patronize him. The bank, being located in a wealthy community and where two large coal shafts are located, has a large and paying patronage. It is fully responsible in every respect.

In 1876 a bank was opened in Greenville under the firm name of Alkire & Company. The firm was composed of J. D. Alkire, Miles Alkire and F. V. Alkire. It ran till the following year, 1877, when the firm was changed to Marbold, Alkire & Company. The members of this firm were H. H. Marbold, J. D. Alkire and M. M. Engle. This firm did business two years and in 1879 it again changed to Marbold & Company. This firm consisted of H. H. Marbold and M. M. Engle and did business till 1883, when it was succeeded by H. H. Marbold, who has since continued the business. Thus for over twenty-one years Mr. Marbold has continued this business alone. Perhaps there is but one bank in the county which does more business than this. Located in the midst of an agricultural country that is surpassed by no section in or out of the state in the production of stock and grain, it would indeed be strange if the business was not a success. Mr. Marbold is one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers in central Illinois, and beside this he is equally successful in general business, having the unlimited confidence of the entire community, and as a result his banking business is a success.

On the 1st of June, 1901, H. H. Schirding & Son opened a private bank in Petersburg, making the third bank in the place. The standing of the Messrs. Schirding, financially, socially and every other way, puts the success of this enterprise beyond a peradventure. Their

business ability and financial standing are such as to insure universal confidence.

We have not been able to secure the data necessary to give a full history of banking in Tallula. From the best that we can learn, the first bank opened in that place was that of Wilson & Greene, which was opened some years ago. The firm consisted of Dr. Wilson, a wealthy and prominent citizen of that place, and the late William G. Greene with whose life history all are familiar. Mr. Greene, when but a boy, was in business in New Salem with Abraham Lincoln. He died several years ago in Tallula, where he had lived more than half a century. The present Tallula Bank is owned by the son and grandson of William G. Greene, and the title is Greene & Greene. It is one of the strong and reliable banks of Menard county. Located in one of the most wealthy farming localities in central Illinois and the firm having a wide acquaintance in adjoining counties, it is but natural that they should receive a large and profitable patronage.

Thus it will be seen that there are no less than six banks doing business in the county, and each one is doing a large and lucrative business. This is, to some degree, an index to the commercial enterprise and activity of the people. A county that is not more than twenty miles square and one whose people are nearly exclusively an agricultural people who can support six large banks, is one certainly possessed of remarkable resources.

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## CEMETERIES.

### INDIAN POINT CEMETERY.

Indian Point has one of the most beautiful and neatly kept cemeteries in central Illinois. Located in one of the wealthiest and most advanced communities of the state and on a site that nature certainly designed as a resting place for the dead, it meets every requirement for the purpose to which it is devoted. Before the stream of immigration had set into this country and it was yet a wild, a company of government surveyors, passing through that vicinity, chanced to camp over night on this very spot of ground. The next morning, when they

were about to break camp, the leader of the company, then in perfect health, said: "Boys, if I should die anywhere in this section of the country, I want you to bury me on this very spot of ground." They moved on toward the mouth of Salt creek, where some work was to be done, and in a week or two this leader was taken sick. It was not thought to be serious at the first, but he gradually grew worse and in a short time he died. His companions, remembering his request, brought his body back and buried it on the spot of ground that he had thus selected. This was the first grave in this cemetery and it may be seen in the northwest corner of the grounds. This cemetery is duly incorporated; has all the necessary officers; an excellent system of by-laws, and already has quite a large sinking fund laid by. They have a sexton, employed by the year, who lives in a neat cottage on the grounds belonging to the cemetery. In the cottage is a room, or parlor, which is arranged as a waiting-room for the accommodation of mourners and their friends at time of funerals. The grounds are beautifully kept and quite a number of beautiful and costly monuments adorn the place. Such a cemetery is an honor to any community, and the thought that our loved ones repose in a place so lovely softens the sting of bidding them good-bye. Many pioneers who aided in making this country what it is sleep undisturbed in these quiet grounds.

### OAKLAND CEMETERY.

Oakland was organized and incorporated in 1818 under the enterprising and efficient lead of D. M. Bone, now of Kansas City, Mo. It is located one mile southwest of Petersburg, on a tract of land perfectly adapted to the purpose, a part of the ground being level and a part formed of romantic hills, covered with a growth of most beautiful forest trees. It is governed under a most perfect system of by-laws, regulating the most minute detail in its management; it was laid off by one of the most noted artists in his line in the country, he having planned some of the finest parks and cemeteries in the large cities of the east. It already has a substantial sinking fund laid by; it is tastefully kept and is already adorned

by a number of costly monuments. Many of our prominent citizens repose there. There, among the tenants of this "silent city," are the remains of Lincoln's fiancée, the "Beautiful Anna Rutledge." Several years ago her remains were removed from the Concord cemetery by Samuel Montgomery to Oakland and buried in a beautiful lot in the southwest part of the grounds. She lies apart from all other graves; the only mark to tell the spot is a rough, gray granite, glacial boulder, with the simple words "Ann Rutledge" cut deep in the solid rock. Twenty miles from her grave, as the bird flies, rises the ninety-thousand-dollar shaft above the ashes of President Lincoln, but if his words to William H. Herndon are true, while his bones repose under the proud mausoleum in Oak Ridge, his heart rests under the rough boulder in quiet Oakland.

Oakland is destined, in time, to be one of the most beautiful and popular cemeteries in the county.

#### ATHENS' CEMETERIES.

Athens has two cemeteries: the Athens cemetery and the Hall cemetery. The latter was donated by Mr. Abram Hall, a public-spirited and benevolent citizen of that vicinity. Both of these are well kept and speak well for the community.

#### TALLULA CEMETERY.

Of the incorporated cemeteries of the county, none are more beautiful or better kept than that of Tallula. Being in a wealthy, refined and Christian community, we could expect nothing else. In this sacred spot repose the remains of many of the men and women, who by their foresight, industry and economy wrought out the rich inheritance that we enjoy to-day. Beautiful monuments tell where they lie, but monuments more enduring than granite, brass or bronze in the living tablets of loving and grateful hearts tell of their works of love.

#### SWEETWATER CEMETERY.

Sweetwater cemetery was improved, enlarged and incorporated a number of years ago, but the writer was unable to get the data to give an extended or particular account of it. It is a beautiful locality, is well kept and is beautified with many costly monuments.

#### OTHER CEMETERIES.

Irish Grove, Farmers Point, Rock Creek, Oakford, Lebanon and Murray are all large and nicely located cemeteries, but we have not the data to give an extended account of any of them. It is but just, however, to say, in passing, that the Murray cemetery has some as costly monuments as any of the country cemeteries of the county.

There are some of the old "burying-grounds" that are very much neglected, for example, the old Hornback graveyard, near Lebanon, and some others. The Shipley graveyard, at the Shipley schoolhouse, is one of the old places of interment. There are also a number of family burying-grounds in the county, as that at George Kerby's, at Hashes and other places. On the old Smedley farm, two or three miles northwest of Tallula, is a large number of graves in ground that is not cared for at all. Last October the writer visited this neglected home of the dead. Crawling under the tangle of brush and vines, which was almost impenetrable, he found an ancient marble slab with this inscription: "Christopher Smedley; born December 25, 1738; died June 28, 1850." He was the grandfather of John Smedley, of Cass county. He was born in England and when he reached manhood he entered the British navy and served the country for several years. In the battle fought between Commodore Rodney, of the British navy, and Commodore DeGras, of the French navy, he lost his left leg by a cannon shot, and, of course, was obliged to leave the navy. Later he came to America, and coming to Illinois he entered the land whereon he died. He died at the great age of one hundred and eleven years, six months and three days.

The neglect of these burying places is a wrong that should in some way be remedied. In these lone and neglected graves lie the remains of some of our most worthy dead. Men and women who were loved and honored while they lived and who performed a most important part in the development of this country, sleep in these forgotten graves, wherein a few years the plowshare will crash through the soil above them and yellow harvests will be reaped

over where they lie and be gathered in with shout and song. This shameful desecration can only be avoided by removing the remains to a cemetery where they will be protected and cared for. If the descendants and friends of these pioneers will not attend to this, it should be taken in hand by the authorities and done at the expense of the public.

#### STEAMBOATS.

The location of Menard county being so remote from the large rivers, the roads very poor, or in most places not opened at all, and railroad transportation being then unknown, it is not to be wondered at if the early settlers did seriously and anxiously consider the navigation of the Sangamon river. It is necessary for the reader to take into consideration a number of facts: the forests being then undisturbed, the ground untrampled by thousands of stock, the flat prairies unplowed and undrained, it follows, of course, that the average amount of water flowing in our creeks and rivers was at least one-third or one-half more than flows in them at the present time, for there being more vegetation then than now and the timber being then undestroyed, there was a much greater rainfall than there is in later years. Also the ground being then untrampled and loose, the water from all the rain and snow sank directly into the earth, thus forming permanent springs which flowed the year round, feeding the water courses everywhere with an abundant supply. But as it is now the case is very different: the ground is trampled hard beneath the hoofs of thousands of stock, so that the water that falls instead of sinking into the ground runs off at once. As a result of this we now have greater and more sudden freshets and then lower waters than we had in earlier days. The markets then were far away, located on the navigable rivers: the roads were unopened, and owing to the natural condition of the country there were many places where it would have been impossible to construct passable roads; and the slow ox-teams being almost the sole means of transportation, it is not to be wondered at that the people were intensely

anxious to find some means of reaching the older and more important settlements. Consequently they grasped most eagerly at the scheme proposed, and would have grasped at one even more chimerical than this. Beside all this, the rivers, as said above, had a much greater flow of water then than they do now, and the belief was then almost universal that they would become practical and profitable avenues of commerce to all the land.

Walking along the banks of "The Raging Sangamo" in the fall of the year especially, one would hardly think that any one would ever have thought of it being a navigable stream. Nor when we look at Clary's creek or Indian creek we would never dream that they had once driven water-mills for nine months of the year, yet such is the fact. In the early settlement of this country these streams carried almost double the amount of water that flows in them now. As early as the year 1832, V. A. Bogue, of Springfield, conceived the idea of navigating the Sangamon with a steamboat. About that time some visionary poet said:

"And we will make our Sangamo,  
Oufshine, in verse, the river Po."

Mr. Bogue threw his whole energy into the enterprise and the citizens of Springfield gave him their most hearty support. In a letter to the public Mr. Bogue said, among other things: "I shall deliver freight from St. Louis, at the landing on Sangamo river, opposite the town of Springfield, for thirty-seven and a half cents per hundred pounds." The Springfield Journal of February 16, 1832, contained the following paragraph: "We find the following advertisement in the Cincinnati Gazette of the 19th ult. We hope such notices will soon cease to be such novelties. We seriously believe that the Sangamo river can be made a navigable stream for steamboats for several months in the year. Here is the advertisement: 'For Sangamo River, Illinois—The splendid upper-cabin steamer Talisman, J. M. Pollock, master, will leave for Portland, Springfield, on the Sangamo river, and all intermediate ports and landings, say Beardstown, Naples, St. Louis, Louisville, on Thursday, February 2. For freight or passage apply to



Captain Vincent A. Bogue, at the Broadway Hotel, or to Allison Owen." The *Talisman* was a vessel of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, and she landed at Portland, on the 23d of March, 1832. Portland was the town on the south side of the Sangamon, situated between where the bridges of the Chicago & Alton and Gilman & Clinton Railroads now are. The *Talisman* was unable to turn around, and so after a time it backed down the river, never to return, for, getting as far as St. Louis by the latter part of April, that same spring, right opposite that city she burned to the water's edge. In an early day a subscription was raised among the business men of Petersburg to clear the Sangamo of drifts, etc., in order to render it navigable for small steamboats. In this way five thousand dollars was raised, but the enterprise finally failed. About the 20th of April, 1853, a small steamboat, the *Wave*, or *Ocean Wave*, commanded by Captain Monroe, landed at Petersburg but she never went further up the river, nor down it, for that matter. Captain Monroe supposed the distance from Petersburg to the mouth of the Sangamon was about ninety miles. He was firmly of the opinion that a comparatively small expenditure would render the river a profitably navigable stream. So little conception did the early settlers have of the effect of cultivating the land, cutting out the timber, on the rivers and streams that they were led into this absurd opinion. The "*Wave*" waited for a long time for a rise in the waters of the Sangamon but the wished-for never came and finally the proud conqueror of the "raging Sangamo" was forced to succumb, not to its raging floods but to its logs and sandbars and was dismantled here, and its gorgeous trimmings were used to decorate the dwellings of the citizens of Petersburg. Thus ended forever the effort to navigate the Sangamon river. Some old citizens, however, aver that another—a third—steamboat came up the Sangamon as far as Petersburg, while others just as strongly deny it. If such a craft ever grated its keel over the sands of the Petersburg "wharf" its name was never known to the good people of the village or has been entirely forgotten. It is true that the citizens sent Major Hill to

Cincinnati and had a boat built expressly "for Sangamon river ports." It is doubtless true that the boat was built and started to this "port," but it never reached its intended destination. But other old citizens unequivocally assert that it made the voyage to Petersburg but it was too large for this river and after a little while it was sunk in the depths of "The raging Sangamo." They even go so far as to name the buildings which were adorned with the windows, doors, and other parts of the dismantled steamer. So the facts in the case are lost in the oblivion of the forgotten past. So much for "Navigation."

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### RAILROADS.

There are three railroads that enter Menard county. Two of them run almost through its center, while the other barely enters the county on its eastern border. The Jacksonville division of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis runs through the county from the northeast corner to near the southwest corner; and the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis runs almost centrally through the county from north to south. These two lines cross in Petersburg. In an early day the navigation of the Sangamon river was seriously considered, and some attempts made, as the reader may see in another chapter, but when this was proven to be a failure another scheme was proposed. That scheme was to open a canal from Beardstown to Decatur, by way of the Illinois and Sangamon rivers. The legislature in its session of 1834-5 actually granted a charter to this enterprise. The next spring a careful survey was made of the route, but after the expenditure of a vast amount of gas and calculation and suggestion, the scheme was abandoned; but the popular mind was all excitement on the subject of transportation. So in 1852 the legislature granted a charter to the "Springfield & Northwestern Railway Company" to build a road from Springfield to Rock Island, and the route was surveyed crossing Menard county just as the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis has since been built. This enterprise was pushed so far that Menard county voted fifty thousand dollars to aid in



its construction. The people were so enthusiastic that they thought that it could not fail and they went so far as to collect a small per cent of the money voted to pay for the survey. But it is true that

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft agley,"

and the enterprise went up. The people of this county, after this failure, became almost despondent, but in 1856 a new enterprise was proposed which aroused them to action, and their hopes revived. The scheme was the building of a railroad from Jacksonville to Tonica, in La Salle county, to intersect the Hennepin & Sreator road. Tonica is a village on the last named road, nine miles from the town of La Salle. As this road was to pass through Petersburg the people of the county became wild with enthusiasm. The county as a corporate body voted one hundred thousand dollars' stock, and thirty thousand dollars' stock was subscribed by individuals. A charter was granted the "Petersburg & Tonica Railroad," and the subscriptions were legalized. Hon. Richard Yates was made president, and John Bennett and Hon. William G. Greene, both of Menard county, were made directors. Work was soon begun on both extremes and a great amount of grading was done, but in spite of the zeal of the people subscriptions ran short and the work came to a dead stop. About this time Mr. Yates resigned and W. G. Greene was made president and Hon. W. T. Beckman was made a director and superintendent of the road. By almost superhuman efforts funds were raised and the road was completed from Jacksonville to Petersburg, a distance of twenty-eight miles, and in the fall of 1861 the whistle was heard for the first time in Petersburg. Milton Moore was the first agent in Petersburg and William Bacon, the very prince of conductors, had charge of the first train. Many were the anecdotes told of the speed of this first train. There being one train, and the time-table requiring the round trip every twenty-four hours, of course the train *must* run. Fifty-six miles in twenty four hours! Think of it! They still tell of the train waiting for a farmer to shell a "grist" of corn to take

to mill, and of the conductor's strictness in carrying out the time table; so strict that he *helped* shell the corn. Of the lady who had eleven eggs to send to market on the train, and of Mr. Bacon waiting for the hen to lay the other egg, but they do not say that he hurried the hen. One thing is sure; that is that Mr. Bacon was always a gentleman. About the close of the war the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis road proposed to take this Tonica road and finish it to Bloomington and to Godfrey. This was accepted and the road was built on the old grade as far as Delavan in Tazewell county and thence directly to Bloomington, intersecting the main line at that place. Some years later the Kansas City branch was built from Roodhouse to that city. The Jacksonville division was finished in 1867.

In 1852 the charter was granted to the Springfield & Northwestern company to build a road from Springfield to Rock Island. After this charter had lain dead for seventeen years, it was revived by the legislature, in 1869, to a new company, however, allowing them to construct a road on the old survey. Menard county voted one hundred thousand dollars stock in this road and the town of Petersburg voted fifteen thousand dollars. There was a vast deal of trouble over these town bonds, as it went into the courts and created no end of personal bad feeling, and as the courts settled it the best thing to do is to let it lie in the oblivion of forgetfulness.

In the latter part of 1870 work began on the line at Havana but it progressed very slowly. During the year 1871 it was completed across Mason county and a few miles into Menard. In 1872 the cars began to run as far as from Havana to Petersburg. By late autumn in 1873 the road was finished all the way to Cantrall, a distance of no less than thirteen miles from Petersburg! Here another much needed rest was taken and after recuperation from the arduous summer's work it was at last completed in 1874. It is now the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad, with a first-class roadbed, number one rolling stock, and is doing a splendid business.

The Peoria & Springfield road was built by the Peoria & Northern Railroad Company and

was completed in 1898, the first through train running in May of that year. The right of way was paid for liberally and secured without litigation or trouble of any kind. This road runs through the east edge of Menard county, not being more than a mile from the east line at any point, and only runs in the county for a distance of five and a half miles. There are two stations in the county, however, Croft and Fancy Prairie. This is one of the best built and equipped roads in the state, and it does an immense freight and passenger business, especially for as short a line as it is. Two or three years after it was finished it was sold to the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad Company, and has since been run as a part of that system. And it is a very important part of that system, for two reasons, first, because it connects the important cities, Springfield and Peoria, it being sometimes called the Peoria & Springfield Short Line; and second, because it connects the two branches of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railway, namely the main line at Springfield, and the Jacksonville division at San Jose. This road runs through one of the finest agricultural sections of country in the state of Illinois and it has proved one of the greatest boons to a large section of country that could have been given to a people. Thus it is seen that Menard county is amply supplied with railroad facilities for the shipment of its products and for the convenience of travel, but the people are not yet satisfied and still clamor for more, but when the interurban is built from Springfield to Beardstown and running through Petersburg will they be satisfied then?

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#### CRIME IN MENARD COUNTY (No. 1).

Edward Gibbon said: "History is little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind." And Washington Irving says: "History is but a kind of Newgate calendar, a register of the crimes and miseries that man has inflicted on his fellow-man." Take the record of crime out of the annals of the world and there would be but a

very brief paragraph left. For nearly all of history is the record of war and intrigue, and surely these are crimes. Some one has said: "One murder makes a villain; millions, a hero; numbers sanctify the crime." It becomes now my duty to record some of the murders committed in the territory of what is now Menard county.

There has been a large number of crimes committed in this county but only one execution has ever taken place. The murder of Mrs. VanNoy, by her husband (see account in another place) was the first murder on the soil of Menard, for it was while this county was still a part of Sangamon county. Among the most heartless crimes that have disgraced the county were the following: Watkins, shot through his window while holding his infant child in his lap; Robert Carter, of Mason City, murdered in Athens and sunk in an unused well and found a month after; and the murder of Mrs. Charles Houlden, by her husband. Beside these there have been a number of killings in the county. Three or four at Athens; three at Oakford, two at Tallula, one at Curtis and three or four at Petersburg.

In March, 1883, the body of a young lady, Miss Missouri Burns, was found, in the early morning, lying in an unused street, with the throat cut and other evidences of a foul and heinous murder. The body had been hauled there in a buggy and dumped out in the street. Evidence pointed to one Carpenter, a grain dealer and prominent citizen, as the murderer. By a change of venue the case came to Menard county for trial and on the morning of the 12th of March, 1884, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. Joe Sutton, living six miles south of Petersburg, on his way home was hailed by Charles Houlden, who inquired what the verdict in the Houlden case was. Receiving the answer, he went back to his house, which stood some fifteen rods from the road. This was about sunset. Soon after this, screaming was heard by neighbors at the Houlden home, and on their arrival there they found Mrs. Houlden lying with her head hanging over the doorsill, her throat cut from ear to ear, fifteen or twenty knife-stabs in her body, her

head crushed with an ax, and the body terribly bruised by the bootheels of her murderer. As there was no question as to who committed the crime, her son and daughter, aged eleven and thirteen years, having been witnesses of it, a search was at once begun for the murderer. All that night the search continued, but he was not found till the following morning. The murdered woman was Houlden's third wife and he was her fourth husband. Their married life had been a scene of strife and bitterness from the first. Houlden claimed to the very last that he had no recollection of the crime and always told the same story about it. He said that he remembered about going to the house after inquiring about the result of the Carpenter trial, sitting down at the supper table and beginning to drink a glass of milk, but after that all was a blank till he came to himself, as they were hauling him to Petersburg on a sled. Only three minutes before he dropped to eternity he repeated this story to his spiritual adviser, with all the seeming candor that a man could possess, telling the story just as he had narrated it a score of times before. During the time he was in jail and while he was awaiting execution he was as mild and tractable as a child, never showing any irritability or viciousness. On the scaffold he was calm and collected and without a tremor he took his place on the trap and in a very few seconds he dropped to the end of the rope and died without a tremor or a struggle, his neck being broken by the fall. Charles Houlden died on the gallows for the murder of his wife, but the conviction of the writer, after days and nights of association with him, in the loneliness of his cell, is that Houlden was of unsound mind when he committed the crime and was of unsound mind at the time of his execution. He was hanged in the jail in Petersburg at 12:10 p. m. on May 15, 1885.

—Many awful crimes have been committed in Menard county during its history, but we have not space to relate the particulars here. We will only mention a few of the most serious.

In 1857 Joseph Watkins shot and killed his cousin, David Watkins. The latter was sitting by the window in his home, holding in his lap his little girl, some two or three years

of age. About nine o'clock at night he was shot through the window with a shotgun, the load taking effect in his back. He lived a day or two. While there was no doubt of the identity of the murderer, he was never punished. Through some means he was admitted to bail, forfeited it and ran away, and his securities paid the bill and he never returned to this part of the country.

On the 6th of May, 1879, Scott Judy shot Dr. W. P. Cox on the streets of Petersburg within a block of the latter's home. Two balls struck him, one passing through his lungs, causing his death in two or three hours. Judy was tried, but was not punished.

On the 26th of October, 1891, Benjamin Ross, of Greenview, killed Albert Stone on the street of Greenview by shooting two load of birdshot into his body from a shotgun. This was done about midnight and Stone lived two days. Ross was never indicted for the murder. On March 7th, 1892, Jefferson Lewis killed Frank Luck, in Tallula, by shooting him with a pistol. Lewis was sent to prison for a short term.

About ten o'clock at night, on the 18th of July, 1894, Oscar S. Hilton killed George Hohimer at the Lenz Opera House door, almost severing his head from his body with a razor. This was done in a fray and Hilton was cleared.

On the 2d of April, 1900, Elmer Clark shot Harry L. Ball, on the public highway, with a repeating rifle, putting five balls into his body, killing him instantly. Clark was tried and cleared.

In February, 1900, Robert Carter of Mason City, Illinois, paid a visit to the town of Athens, Menard county, and spent a number of days in drinking in company with a crowd of miners and other rough fellows. About the last of the month he was missing and search was begun for him. All that could be learned was that the last seen of him he was in company with a crowd of fellows in the timber southeast of the town, where they had a keg of beer, which they were drinking. The disappearance of Carter became a question in everyone's mouth and all were on the lookout. On the 28th of March, just one month to a day after Carter was last seen, a gentleman, pass-

ing an old abandoned well a mile and a half northwest of Athens, noticed that the rails that had been used in covering it were displaced. His suspicions being aroused, he at once began to investigate. Suffice it to say that the body of Carter was found sunk in the well, a stone weighing eighty pounds being wired to his body, his overcoat and other clothing being all on him. The cold water had preserved the body perfectly, so that there was no question as to his identification. Four men, Leslie Harvey, Richard Garrison, George Moore and James Dixon, were at once arrested under the charge of murder in the first degree. It developed at the trial that they killed him in the woods southeast of Athens, as they claimed, accidentally and put his body in an abandoned coal shaft near by. A day or two after, some children playing near the shaft, lighting newspapers and dropping them in the shaft, ran home in great terror, telling their mothers that they saw by the light of the burning papers a man's body lying at the bottom of the pit. The mothers, thinking it to be just a wild story of the frightened children, said nothing about it for awhile, but something was said and a day or two after a search of the place was made, but no body was found, but the trial disclosed that the guilty parties, hearing the story of the children, went to the shaft at night with a rope, drew the body out and carried it to the old well and dumped it in. The four young men were tried and convicted and are now serving a long sentence in Chester prison.

Scarcely four months after this awful tragedy at Athens, the little town of Oakford came in with a less awful sensation. On July 28, 1900, Matthew Thomas killed George Strow with a billet of wood. Thomas escaped punishment by some technicality.

On the 5th of March there was a dance at a private house in the town of Athens. Some rough characters were present and bad whiskey being freely used, it is not surprising that in the course of the evening a row began. Soon a fight opened and a shot or two were fired and an innocent party, who had no connection with the trouble, was shot and killed. His name was George Rakestraw. Two men were convicted of the crime and sent to prison for a term of

fifty years. One of those convicted, Frank E. Gilcrease, got out of prison, through pardon or some other way, and not long after he was in a railroad accident and had both legs cut off, but recovered, a cripple for life. The other, Thomas Seantlin, is still in prison at Chester, but Governor Yates has commuted his sentence, so that he will be set free in a few months. The people of the county have always thought that the sentence was too severe, as the deed was done in a general row and the parties had no intention of killing Rakestraw or, perhaps, any one else.

On the 7th of April, 1902, John W. Hare, a saloonkeeper of Oakford, was shot by a pistol in the hands of Harry Colson, of the same place, and instantly killed. Witnesses said there seemed to be little, if any, provocation for the act. Colson is serving a sentence in prison for the crime.

Crime is not a very entertaining theme, nor is it a kind of literature to put in the hands of the young, but in a history of this kind the bad as well as the good should be told. Such events as those related above are history and will be often sought for in years to come.

Many other killings have occurred in the county in the past, but those given above are the most remarkable. Ninety-five per cent of them may be traced to the influence of strong drink, directly or indirectly. We are not going to preach a sermon, but just at this point it seems fitting and proper not only to enter a protest against this awful curse, but we can not refrain from denouncing the detestable habit of carrying weapons in this civilized land in this age. Some boys, and some who are men in years and avordupois, will persist in this detestable habit. It is sure evidence of a gross coward to see a great big hulk of a man with a revolver in his hip pocket or a huge knife in a belt. And some boys think it is the first step to manhood to get a pistol and get out and shoot it off and yell like a wild Indian. It is invariably indicative of cowardice and mental weakness. And this habit has led to the commission of hundreds of crimes that would never have been committed but for this practice.

I will relate the first murder in this county and close this chapter with it.

The first murder committed in the territory of what is now Menard county—and, in fact, in Sangamon—was committed in 1826. This was thirteen years before Menard was organized. A man by the name of VanNoy, or, as some spelled it, VayNoy, had settled on what is now the Louis Campbell place, two miles north of Athens and not far from where the Demasus schoolhouse now stands. He had built a log cabin, in which he lived with his wife and a babe, some eight or ten months old. Near the cabin he had built a small shop, in which he repaired guns and did other little jobs. On the morning of the 27th of August, 1826, a neighbor, whose name is not remembered, came early to the shop to have a gunlock repaired. Nathaniel VanNoy was in the shop, but, it seems, had not yet eaten his breakfast. VanNoy invited the neighbor into the house till he should eat his breakfast. They started into the house and when they entered the wife was in the act of putting corn dough into an oven on the hearth, bending over for the purpose, when VanNoy inquired in an angry tone if the meal was ready. She replied that it would be ready in a few minutes. Without a word VanNoy picked up a stick, or had it already in his hand, and struck her a blow on the side. When she was struck she fell over the cradle, in which the child lay, dropping the dough on the child in the fall. The neighbor saw at once that she was dead and said to the husband: "You have killed her." He said: "No, she often falls over that way." They picked her up and laid her on the bed and at once saw that she was indeed dead. VanNoy reached up to where his rifle hung in the rack and hurriedly left the house. When he first took down the gun the neighbor thought that VanNoy was going to shoot him in order to get rid of the witness who saw him kill his wife. So soon as VanNoy had gone the neighbor mounted his horse and started to give the alarm. The nearest neighbors lived near Indian Point and he rode at full speed to the Williams home, and Mr. Jacob Williams, his sister, Miss Salina Williams, a young lady some eighteen years of age (she afterward married Mr. Samuel Moore), mounted their horses and

rode with all haste to the scene of the murder. When they arrived they found the babe lying in the cradle with its face and clothing covered with the dough and the mother lying dead on the bed. Miss Williams cared for the child and other neighbors came in and a runner was sent to Springfield and the sheriff came out, and the next morning VanNoy came in and gave himself up. He stated that he could have taken one of his horses and left, but some strange fascination compelled him to linger around the place where he committed the awful crime. A special grand jury was at once called by Judge Sawyer and a term of the circuit court was called. The grand jurors called, from territory now in Menard county, were James White, Robert White, John N. Moore, Robert Conover and Aaron Houghton. A bill of indictment was presented and a petit jury was called, some of them of Menard county, namely: Bowling Green, foreman, Jesse Armstrong and Levi W. Gordon. The jury was sworn in and the trial was begun on the 29th of August, only two days after the crime was committed. The attorney general of the state acted as prosecutor and two Springfield lawyers, James Adams and Jonathan H. Pugh, defended the prisoner. A verdict of guilty was rendered on the 30th and on the same day sentence was passed on the prisoner and the execution set for the 26th of November, 1826. The execution took place at the appointed time in the hollow just east of the new capitol in Springfield. The execution was public and the citizens of the whole country turned out to the show. It is said that it was the largest gathering that, up to that time, had ever met in central Illinois, it being estimated that at least five thousand people witnessed the death struggles of the heartless wretch. Among those present was Miss Williams, afterward Mrs. Samuel Moore. She was a sister of Colonel Williams, who, in his day, was one of the leading financiers of Springfield. Just before his execution the culprit sent for one Dr. Addison Philleo, or, as some write it, Filleo, and wanted to know of him if he thought a man could be brought to life after being hanged. The learned physician opined that if the neck was

not broken and the subject had not been hanging too long, that there was a possibility that a strong galvanic battery might bring the pilgrim back. VanNoy then told the doctor that if he could bring him back to this world he would be willing to remunerate him quite liberally for his trouble, or, if in case he failed in this benevolent effort, he would generously donate to him his body for dissection in the interest of science and human advancement. Executions were performed at that time by placing the victim in a cart, fastening one end of a rope to a beam and noosing the other end around the victim's neck and pulling the cart from under him. The doctor advised VanNoy to lean as far forward as he could at the critical moment and thus preserve his neck intact, if possible. He followed the doctor's kind advice and his neck was not dislocated, but the sheriff heard something of the arrangement between the two and, fearing some mishap, allowed the body to remain hanging over an hour, and as a consequence the doctor's battery failed to have the desired effect and poor VanNoy's soul never got back to its tenement of clay, but Dr. Philleo was not to be cheated out of doing good in one way or another, so he began right there to dissect the body of VanNoy, but the citizens of Springfield indignantly resented any such barbarity and compelled him to seek a more secluded place for his scientific investigations than the open common. But Dr. Philleo's notoriety did not end here. He removed to Galena, Illinois, and entered the editorial profession. When the Black Hawk war broke out he went with the army as newspaper correspondent. Ford, in his history, relates that on the chase of Black Hawk by General Henry, "on the third day out, about noon, also, the scouts ahead came suddenly upon two Indians, and as they were attempting to escape one of them was killed and left dead on the field. Dr. Addison Philleo, coming shortly after, scalped the dead Indian and for a long time afterward exhibited the scalp as an evidence of his valor."

We said above that vast crowds attended the hanging of VanNoy. Among these was Miss Williams—afterward Mrs. Samuel Moore—and many thousands of others. One scene con-

nected with that hanging was never forgotten by those who witnessed it. On the scaffold the murderer, who was a most excellent singer, asked permission of the sheriff to sing. Being granted the privilege, he stood on the platform, or cart, and sang in full, round tones that old hymn, composed by Dr. Watts, the first verse of which is:

Hark from the tombs a doleful sound,  
My ears attend the cry;  
Ye living men come view the ground,  
Where you must shortly lie.

He sang the entire hymn and then the cart was drawn from under him.

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#### WAR TIMES IN MENARD.

Menard county was headquarters during the Civil war for Missouri refugees. They invariably found not only a refuge, but a hearty welcome among Republicans as well as Democrats. Hundreds, yes, thousands of Missourians, for every reason, were compelled to leave home, property, family and everything else and, without money or friends, seek a more genial climate. In thousands of cases men who had done nothing disloyal were compelled to leave there in order to secure a living for their families. Nothing was doing there; life was in danger every hour, and all the father could do was to leave his dear ones in the midst of pillage, bushwhacking and bloodshed and seek a place where he could make enough to feed and clothe them and send it back to them. Many pitiful cases of this kind could be related, but out of dozens I select just one case, and I beg the reader's indulgence while I relate it just as briefly as I can, and I pledge the writer's honor that it is every word true, just as related, for the writer has means of knowing its truth. A young man, not more than twenty-five years of age, having a wife and two little girls, found that he must emigrate or see his family suffer. Missouri was then under martial law and any man found outside of his own county was liable to arrest and imprisonment in a military prison, perhaps for a long time. He had to cross the entire state in order to get to Illinois. To get a pass was out of the question—



it was impossible. To leave his family there without any friend would be heartless and cruel. What should he do? He had a neighbor who had always been kind to him, so he told him the secret of his intended effort to get to Illinois. So, raising what little money he could, he gave half of it to his wife, kept the other half and started on the perilous trip. At St. Joseph he waited till the ten o'clock train was just ready to start, then he rushed up to the ticket-window in great haste and said: "Aren't you going to give me that ticket at all?" "What ticket?" the agent said. "Why, that ticket to Quincy," he replied. Hurriedly the agent gave him the ticket and he as hurriedly gave him the exact change, and in a moment was on the opposite side of the train from the depot. The night was intensely dark and in consequence he was completely concealed. A squad of soldiers had gone through the train, requiring every passenger to show his pass. He stood on the platform till the train got under good headway and then he went into the car, but at every station of any size a squad of blue-coats came into the cars, going to every one and requiring each one to show his pass, and if he happened to have none he was hustled off in short order, and God only knows where he finally brought up. But the subject of our story, by some strange fortune, was never seen by a soldier on the entire trip. Twice the train was wrecked and they were belated twelve hours and arrived at the Mississippi river at one o'clock a. m. The ice had been strong and teams had been passing over it safely, but it had become so dangerous that rigs were afraid to risk it, and ferry-boats could not get through the ice, so the only way to cross was for several to club together and hire some one who knew the ice to pilot them over with a lantern. But when our friend started down to the edge of the ice to join a club he saw, to his utter dismay, that the ubiquitous blue-coat was there also, to demand the fatal pass. This was despair, indeed. So he backed off into the dark, to meditate and pray. Yes, pray; for he has been often heard to say that he never did pray more devoutly and earnestly than then. He often said that he thought if he was doing right God would take care of him; if not, he had bet-

ter end all his troubles in the bottom of the Mississippi river. So he boldly marched out on the ice. In places the water was more than two inches deep on the ice; other places he could hear the water gurgle in open places in the ice, and these he went around. At last he landed on the Illinois shore and dropped on his knees and gave devout thanks to God. But it is a remarkable fact that one of those who were following a lantern broke through and was with difficulty saved from being drowned.

He wandered around, looking for work that he felt able to do, but finding nothing he engaged to cut cord-wood. He had not performed one day's hard labor in years, having been engaged in school-teaching. He engaged to cut wood at a dollar and a quarter per cord. He bought an ax, on credit, for three dollars and engaged board at four dollars and a half per week. At noon the boss started him into some old, knotty sugar trees and he went at them with a will, thinking all the time of the wife and babies so far away. First his hands blistered; then the blisters broke; then his head began to ache dreadfully. Before night he went to the hotel with a raging fever and in a few hours he was in a wild delirium. Three long weeks he lay there, expenses going on and not a cent coming in, but the Good Father always provides a way. While he was sick some friends learned that the stranger had been teaching a short system of practical arithmetic, and by the time he was up they had made up a school that would pay five dollars per evening. In twelve evenings he had money enough to pay all his bills, send his wife ten dollars, make a present of ten dollars to a Missouri refugee there, who was blind, and to have a little change left. From there he went into Mason county, taught night-school there some, but did not succeed very well, and about February 15th he found himself without a cent. Wishing to go to Menard county and not having the dime to pay the ferriage, he joined a visiting party with two wagons, Dick Witt and George Carpenter, who were on a visit to their kinsman, Croel Stith. But let me go back a little, as I wish to tell the bad as well as the good. On Sunday evening, December 25th, 1864 (many will remember that



Christmas fell on Sunday that year), after walking over thirty miles, that day, he and a boy from Missouri began to try to get lodging for the night, but they were invariably told that they would each have to pay a dollar and a half, an amount they did not have. So they traveled on, trying to get cheaper rates. After dark they approached a nice looking farmhouse, in which they heard the sound of an organ and a number of voices, playing and singing Sunday-school songs. This, said the boy, is the place; these are Christian people, for they are singing Sunday-school songs. So they called the man of the house out and made their wants known. He said they could stay. "What will you charge us?" they inquired. "A dollar and a half each," was the reply. One of them explained they had only a dollar and thirty cents between them, and he refused to let them stay. They plead that it was night and cold, and they had walked over thirty miles and had had no dinner. No, that was his price and he could keep them for no less. Finally, the older man offered him one dollar to allow them to sleep in the house. This he was about to refuse also, when the wife, who had been listening at the door, interposed and begged him to let them stay. "Well, I suppose you can come in," he said gruffly, and led the way into the house. A number of young people were there, singing and playing, among them a red-haired lady, who presided at the organ. After playing and singing quite a while, the dining-room door was thrown open, revealing a long table loaded with all the luxuries of the land; the family and guests, all except the strangers, were invited out, but they were left to their own uninterrupted thoughts. After supper and more singing the man of the house, addressing the strangers, said that they were in the habit of having family prayers, and if they so desired they could remain up with them, or if they wished to retire they could do so. They chose to remain up for prayers.

They occupied a very poor bed, but being tired and not troubled with an over-gorged stomach, they slept sweetly. Before going to sleep, the boy said to the older man: "Why did you not tell the old skinflint that you are a preacher; maybe he would have given us a

snack to eat." The other replied that he did not want the old miser's grub. The next morning the boy arose betimes and when the other came down the stairs he was met by the host, who was all smiles, and asked to lead the morning's devotions, but this was declined. The devotions were very brief and all were invited out to breakfast. The boy went and did ample justice to the meal, but the other firmly refused to go. After the meal the older man tendered the crumpled dollar bill, which the host made a show of refusing, but the traveler said a bargain is a bargain and, laying it on the stand-table, bid them good morning, and the two went on their way. Our devout host will appear again in this true story.

By going in the wagon the traveler got across the Sangamon river without paying ferriage. They arrived at Stith's after dark and the stranger was going on, but Witt and Carpenter insisted that he must stay: that Stith would not take pay, no matter how much money he might have. So, finally, but very reluctantly, he agreed to stay. Arising early in the morning he noticed that the clock on the mantle was not running. He asked Mr. Stith if he might repair it. The reply was that it was old and the jeweler had worked on it time and time again, "but if you think you can help it, pitch in." So by the time breakfast was called the old clock was ticking away on the shelf, having been boiled in ashes, rubbed up and thoroughly put in order. (It ran without repairs for thirty-two years after that fixing.) On Sunday after this, February 19th, our stranger concluded to attend the dedication of a church, which was to take place in the neighborhood. The clothes he had on were mere tatters and rags, but he determined to go any way. The congregation was a very large one and a very finely dressed one. He succeeded in finding a very obscure corner and was observed by but very few. After service he was invited to dinner with one of the old brethren, riding in the back of the spring-wagon, his legs hanging over the hind-gate, the minister who had preached the dedication sermon, riding in one of the seats. To his surprise, when dinner was announced, he was invited to the table with the rest. By some means, some one had learned

that he was a preacher, and the minister insisted on his preaching that evening, but he excused himself on account of the condition of his clothes. The man of the house offered to loan him a suit, but this he declined. His clothes were in perfect tatters, but he finally consented to preach, and in that suit of clothes. To his dismay a larger crowd was present than in the morning. When he arose in the pulpit to announce the hymn many in the audience dropped their heads for shame, but he went on and preached the best he could, and at the close of the service he invited the anxious. A large number came and some were converted. The people gathered around him, insisting that he should continue the meetings, and twenty-nine dollars were voluntarily handed to him by all classes. Having nothing else to do, he agreed to continue the meetings. The women gathered in, the next morning, sent him to town for material, and by the time for service that night they had him a new and decent suit of clothes to preach in. The meetings continued five weeks and resulted in thirty-six professions and thirty-two additions to the church. Before the meetings closed he was employed to preach to that congregation for one year, and had money to send to Missouri for his family and met them in Jacksonville the night that Booth murdered Lincoln. Now, the sequel to this, regarding the man who prayed but would not feel the hungry: In June, following the events just related, our stranger and the lamented Rev. Hardin Wallace were invited to speak at a Sunday-school picnic at Pecan Grove, in Cass county. A very large concourse of people attended, for Brother Wallace always drew large crowds. Brother Wallace and the stranger were sitting in the stand, the stranger on the lookout. Soon the sound of music was heard; then a banner came in sight, carried by none other than the sandy-complexioned host of the memorable Christmas eve. Just behind him was the red-headed organist, whose features the stranger could not forget. They both certainly recognized the stranger's features, for they eyed him furtively all the time. By and by it came the time for the stranger to speak. He made a very passable speech to the children; then at the close he gave them a lesson in prac-

tical Christian kindness, charity and benevolence, and in this he gave an illustration, telling them that not a thousand years in the past, nor a thousand miles from where they were then assembled, two men were traveling and, unfortunately, they were out of money. He went on and told the story in all its details, just as it was. No words can describe the looks of those people during the relation of those little events. They glanced at each other, they grimaced, they blushed and scowled. And when the gentleman, the former host, was called to speak—for he was on the program—he made a complete failure, although usually a good speaker. Although it was in the midst of the war and men's passions were at burning heat, yet all parties gave the stranger a warm welcome and gave to him every assistance in their power. If he should ever forget their kindness or cease to love all alike of all parties, he is an ingrate and should never again ask the sympathy of any man. We often talk about the sociability, kindness and benevolence of the southern people, and it is true they are kind, but the people of Menard county can not be surpassed by any people in any land. Menard county will always live, green and fragrant, in the memory of the Missouri refugees and their children, for not only Democrats, but Republicans as well, vied with each other in the dark days of their trial, and they will never be forgotten for it. That war was a horrid thing, but it leaves a green spot in memory when our minds run back to those dark days and remember the kindness of those who might even have been our foes. When the writer is dead and gone, write on his tomb: "Befriended by Menard." This is the sentiment of a sincerely grateful heart.

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#### WAR OF 1812.

Of course, Menard sent no soldiers to oppose the British in the war of 1812, but as this part of the state began to settle up soon after the close of that struggle it would be strange if none of the survivors of these troubles did not settle here, and there were a large number of them who made this their home, but they have all, long since, gone where they will never more hear the signal sound of strife. It is but just

to their memory to mention them here. Twenty-odd years ago the form of old Captain Rodgers was laid to rest under the leaves and flowers of Rose Hill cemetery after he had reached the age of one hundred and one years. At this great age, if the war was mentioned and inquiry was made as to the trials and sufferings of the war, the old martial fire would come back to his eye and his frame would straighten up and for a few moments he was almost the soldier again. But when the theme was changed he lapsed into the apathy and listlessness of age again. When he died he was buried with the military honors that were his. Tarleton Lloyd was also a soldier in this war. He was born somewhere about the year 1784 and came to Illinois and settled on Rock creek in 1820, among the first settlers who came. A full account is given of him in another place. He died in 1885. William Estill was a soldier in the war of 1812 and some time after its close he came to Illinois and settled down some five miles east of Petersburg, where he lived and died. His first wife was a sister of Colonel John Williams, one of the wealthy men of Menard county. Captains William J. and Samuel and Lieutenant Isaac Estill were his sons; one son, Joseph, lives in Petersburg; and one daughter, Mrs. Luther Jennison, is still living in the vicinity of Greenview. "Uncle Billy," as he was called, was an earnest Christian, an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and loved by all who knew him. He lived to be well up toward ninety years of age and quietly and peacefully passed away at the home where he had lived so long. Other soldiers of this war lived and died in this county, but, unfortunately, we have not the means of knowing the facts to give in this connection. It is a great mistake for people to fail to put in permanent form the record of the lives and history of its leading citizens. We give one more name; Lewis McKay was born about the year 1795 or 1796 and came to Illinois a great many years ago. He lived on Rock creek in the same neighborhood with Tarleton Lloyd, some seven miles south of Petersburg. He enlisted as a soldier when a mere boy to serve in the second war with England. He served till the close of the war and

afterward settled in Illinois. He lived well up in the eighties, was well preserved, and after he had passed the four-score mark was straight as an Indian, his faculties well preserved, except some deficiency in hearing, and was an uncompromising Democrat to the last. Unfortunately, we have not a connected history of his experience as a soldier. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Golden, in Petersburg, June 6, 1884.

There is but one soldier of the war of 1812 still living in the United States and that is Hiram Kronk, of New York, now one hundred and four years old. How we should revere the memory of those men who, through privation and suffering, fought the battles of the country and made possible the liberties and other blessings that we enjoy. But one soldier of the Mexican war still lives in this county. A short time back there were several of these veterans here, but now the only one left is George W. Denton, of Greenview. One soldier of the Revolutionary war, old Mr. Nance, lies buried in the burying-ground at Farmers Point.

"They sleep their last sleep, they have fought their last battle.

They can not be waked by the loud cannon's roar."

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#### MEXICAN WAR.

We have not space to give the entire record of all the wars in which the citizens of Menard county have taken a part, for there are several of them. Abraham Lincoln was captain of a company which was raised in this section of country for service in the Black Hawk war. This company, which contained a number of men from the territory of what is now Menard county, went to the theater of war, but was never in an engagement. All of these men are dead and gone, long ago. Had we the space, we would be glad to give a full roster of their names.

When the war with Mexico opened, congress passed an act authorizing the president to accept the services of fifty thousand men and appropriated ten million dollars to prosecute the war. At the beginning of this war we were engaged in a dispute with England about the boundary of Oregon, our motto being "54, 40

or fight," but as we had one war on our hands, and did not then wish to get into trouble with Great Britain, the boundary was agreed to at the 40th parallel, north latitude. When the call was made for volunteers, the requisition on Illinois was for "three regiments of infantry or riflemen." The call of Governor Ford was issued on the 25th of May, for the organization of the three regiments. At once the whole state was echoing with the notes of martial music and the whole land was ablaze with wild military enthusiasm. The very first man to enroll as a volunteer was the well known J. J. Hardin, a brave soldier—as he afterward proved. In ten days thirty-five full companies were raised and by the middle of June there were forty companies raised, in excess of the call. After these three regiments had rendezvoused in Alton and had been sworn in, Hon. E. D. Baker, member of congress from the Sangamon district, was authorized by the secretary of war to raise another regiment in Illinois. This regiment was promptly and easily raised and was composed of two companies from Sangamon and one company from each of the following counties: Macon, McLean, DeWitt, Logan, Tazewell, Edgar, Perry and "Little Menard." Hon. Thomas L. Harris was tacitly recognized as captain of this company, though no election was held till some time later. The regiment was taken to Jefferson Barracks, twelve miles below St. Louis, and there an election of regimental officers was held. E. D. Baker was elected colonel, former Lieutenant Governor of Illinois John Moore, of McLean, was chosen lieutenant-colonel, and Thomas L. Harris, of Petersburg, major. The Menard county company had eighty-two men. Major Harris promoted making the eighty-third. A. D. Wright was elected captain; William C. Clary, first lieutenant; Shelton Johnson, second, and Robert Scott, third lieutenant. All this company, except William Phillips, who returned home on furlough, and did not return, and Elias Hohimer, who, at New Orleans received permission to return home, the remaining eighty-one men boarded the brig, Mary Jones, and were landed at the mouth of the Rio Grande, in Texas. From here the company marched up the Rio Grande toward Ca-

margo. This was a terrible march, the climate and food disagreeing with the men so that death wrought awful havoc among them. Every day's march was marked by a grave. On that short march twenty-one men died and seven were sent home, being so diseased as to be unfit for service. From Camargo they marched by land to Tampico, a distance of five hundred miles. On this march seven more men died, making thirty-seven from the ranks, by death and disease. From Tampico the command sailed to Vera Cruz by the steamship Alabama. This company was in the battle of Vera Cruz and did not lose a man. From there they marched to Cerro Gordo, and entered the battle with forty-two men, and in the battle they had three men killed and three severely wounded. The killed were George Yocum, Al Hornback and Lieutenant Johnson. Robert Scott, John Ritchey and Cornelius Rourke were severely wounded. Mr. Rourke lost his left leg, it being shot off near his body. He recovered, however, and lived in Petersburg for many years, filling many places of honor and trust, and died at an advanced age, honored and respected by all. The command was discharged soon after the battle of Cerro Gordo, their time having expired, and they reached home in the fall of 1847. We can learn of but one of this company who is still living; that is George W. Denton, a resident of Greenview, in this county.

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#### WAR OF THE REBELLION.

We are not going to write a history of the Civil war, for if we had the time, space and material we would not do so, because there is now much more war literature in the country than is read. But a History of Menard County which did not contain its war record would not be a history of the county. Nothing will be of more interest in the future than a record of those four long, dark years. It is a duty that we owe to the soldiers who took part in this bloody struggle, to preserve the leading facts. Especially do we owe it to the long list of the dead, who laid down their lives for their country's honor; we owe it to the

mained and crippled living, who were lacerated and torn by shot and shell; and last, but not least, we owe it to the widows and orphans of our soldiers who left home with all its endearments, and whose bodies festered in the sun, and whose ashes now fatten the soil of the "sunny South." Menard county had been Democratic in politics for many years, and in the presidential race between Lincoln and Douglas, just at the beginning of the war, notwithstanding the high esteem in which Mr. Lincoln was held by all the people, Mr. Douglas received a large majority of the votes in the county. A large majority of the people opposed the Republican party and its policy, yet when grim-visaged war cast its shadow over the land and the flag was fired on at Fort Sumter, and the blood of American citizens had been actually spilled, the spirit of patriotism ran high and the pulse of all began to beat full and quick; and when the question of union and disunion became the issue then the Democrats and Republicans forgot their old differences and quarrels, and heart to heart and shoulder to shoulder, they resolved to sacrifice all for the Union. But we will not take your time to tell all of the story. Illinois raised six regiments for the Mexican war; for the war of the Rebellion she raised more than one hundred and twenty. So the first regiment raised for the Civil war was numbered the seventh. This regiment was mustered into service on the 25th of April, 1861. The first regiment that had Menard county men in it was the Fourteenth, Company E, of this regiment, being raised in this county. This regiment was called into the state service for thirty days, under the "Ten Regiment Bill." It rendezvoused in Jacksonville and was mustered into the service for thirty days on the 4th of May, 1861. On the 25th of the same month it was mustered into the service of the United States for three years by Captain Pitcher, U. S. A. In July, 1861, it was ordered to Missouri, and its first service was the capture and parole of a rebel force under James S. Greene, former United States senator from Missouri. This regiment was with Fremont in his campaign to Springfield, Missouri. They arrived at Fort Donelson the day after

the fight. From Donelson they marched to Fort Henry and went by transport up the Tennessee river to Pittsburg Landing. Up to this time the regiment had never "smelt gunpowder," but a baptism of fire, in the full meaning of that phrase, awaited them. Here, on the 6th and 7th of April, this command lost, in killed and wounded, fully one-half of those engaged. This is no mere surmise, but is taken from the adjutant general's report. On the evening the 7th that grand charge was made which turned the tide of battle in favor of the Union forces. This splendid charge was led by the Fourteenth, with Colonel Hall at the head of the column. General Veatch, who commanded the brigade to which the Fourteenth was attached, uses the following language: "Colonel Hall, of the Fourteenth Illinois, led with his regiment that gallant charge on Monday evening, which drove the enemy beyond our lines and closed the struggle of that memorable day." If any one has any doubts concerning the storm of lead and iron that this command passed through on that occasion, let him go to Memorial Hall, in Springfield, and count the forty-two ragged bullet holes made in the regimental colors in that one battle, and he will be convinced. This regiment took an active and important part in the battles of Corinth, Memphis and Bolivar. It was also in the siege of Vicksburg till its fall on the 4th of July, 1864. In the latter part of 1863 the Fourteenth and Fifteenth regiments were consolidated into the "Fourteenth and Fifteenth Illinois Veteran Brigade." In 1864, while Sherman was on his march, General Hood made his demonstration against Sherman's rear, in the month of October, and a large number of this brigade was killed, and by far the greater part of the remainder were captured and sent to Southern prisons. Those who escaped in this disaster were mounted and served as scouts during the remainder of the march to the sea. They were the first to drive the Confederate pickets into Savannah, Georgia. In the spring of 1865 the battalion organized, was discontinued, and at Goldsboro, North Carolina, the two regiments were reformed, being filled up by recruits, and Colonel Hall again took command of the old

Fourteenth. The regiment was mustered out of service at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on the 16th of September, 1865, and reached Springfield, Illinois, on the 2d. The aggregate of men belonging to the regiment, first and last, was one thousand nine hundred and eighty, and the number mustered out at Fort Leavenworth was four hundred and eighty. It was in service four years and four months, and during this time it marched four thousand four hundred and ninety miles, traveled by rail two thousand three hundred and thirty miles, by steamboat and transport four thousand four hundred and ninety miles, making in all eleven thousand six hundred and seventy miles. Its officers in their order were: Colonels John M. Palmer and Cyrus Hall; lieutenant colonels, Amory K. Johnson and William Cam; majors, Jonathan Morris and John F. Nolte. Company E was raised in Menard county, eighty men of the county joining it. The first captain was Amory K. Johnson, followed by Frederick Mead, of Petersburg, and he by Henry M. Pedan, of Shelbyville. The first lieutenants, in their order, were: Jacob M. Early, of Petersburg; Ethan H. Norton, also of Petersburg, and Alonzo J. Gillespie, of Bloomington, Illinois; second lieutenants, E. H. Norton and A. J. Gillespie. Of this company, John L. Kinman, of Petersburg, was killed in action, at Shiloh, April 6, 1862. None of this company deserted and the following were discharged on account of disability: John Murphy, James Wilhite, Joseph Todd and Edwin Worth. All of these statements are from the adjutant general's report, and are therefore absolutely correct. One company—Company A—of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Brigade, or properly Battalion, was also composed of Menard county men, but in the eighty men of Company E, of the Fourteenth, and the twenty-four of Company A, of the Battalion, no man is counted twice. The history of the Battalion is sketched in that of the Fourteenth, hence it is unnecessary to repeat it here. These men all saw hard service and were true and tried soldiers. This brings us to the history of the Twenty-eighth Infantry. This regiment was organized by Lieutenant Colonel Louis H. Waters, at Camp Butler, in August, 1861. On the last

day of January, 1862, it was taken to Paducah, Kentucky, and was there assigned to Brigadier General Lew Wallace's Division, in Colonel M. L. Smith's Brigade. On April 6, 1862, they were in the battle of Pittsburg Landing. Before eight o'clock in the morning they were led into that part of the battlefield known as the "Peach Orchard," and the enemy, with the design of turning the Union flank, poured a most galling fire upon that part of the field. Stubbornly and doggedly these Illinoisans held their position, from eight o'clock in the morning till after three in the afternoon, nor did they then retire till orders came directly from Brigadier General S. A. Hurlbut to do so. On Monday, the 7th, they were hotly engaged all day, till victory closed the engagement late in the evening. In all this long and hotly contested battle of two days, this regiment never wavered, nor were its lines ever broken or driven back. During these two days the regiment lost two hundred and thirty nine men, in killed and wounded. In the same year, in May, they were actively engaged in the siege of Corinth, and from there marched to Memphis. In the early part of October the regiment was in the battle of Hatchie river, or Matamora, where it lost ninety-seven men in killed and wounded and missing. They were in the siege of Vicksburg, from the 11th of June till the surrender, on the 4th of July. During the siege a detachment of about eight hundred men from the Forty-first, Fifty-third and Twenty-eighth Illinois and the Third Iowa Infantry was ordered to charge across an open field, six hundred yards wide, and carry a line of the enemy's works, from which twelve dark-mouthed cannon frowned, and behind which lay two thousand men eager for the fray. The bugle sounded the advance; not a man faltered, not a cheek blanched, but on, right on "into the jaws of death rode" the eight hundred. As they came they were met by a pitiless storm of rifle and minie-balls, while the twelve cannon belched a constant storm of fire, lead and iron, and when they reached the works their whole line was swept from every side, so that to persist was annihilation. They retreated to their line, leaving *more than half their number dead, or wounded, on the field.*



Of the one hundred and twenty-eight men of the Twenty-eighth that were in the charge, seventy-three were killed or wounded and sixteen were taken prisoners; eighty-nine left behind, to thirty-nine who returned. In 1864 this regiment re-enlisted, as veterans, and afterward was in the engagements at Spanish Fort and Mobile. During the war this regiment had nine officers killed, nineteen wounded and two died of disease; privates, killed, fifty-two; died of wounds, thirty-four; wounded, two hundred and sixty-five; missing, seventeen; killed by accident, five; died of disease, one hundred and thirty-nine. Of this regiment, F, K and C were all, or in part, from Menard county. Company F contained, in all, one hundred and seven men from this county. The officers were: Captains, William J. Estill and Thomas Swearingin, both of Petersburg; first lieutenants, Isaac B. Estill, Thomas Swearingin and John H. Ewing, all of Petersburg; second lieutenants, Thomas Swearingin and John H. Ewing. There were three of this company who deserted. There were thirty-nine men from Menard county, in Company K. The officers of Company K were: Captains, William R. Roberts and Albert J. Moses, from elsewhere; first lieutenants, John Brewsagh, Fred Gerternicht, Albert J. Moses, John B. Newton and Dennis Pride, the last two from Menard; second lieutenants, John B. Newton, from Menard, and A. J. Moses. Company C, of the Twenty-eighth, had forty-six Menard county men in it. None of the commissioned officers of this company were from Menard. One man of this company, from Menard, was killed in action; this was Deewester.

We come now to the Thirty-eighth regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers. The history of this regiment is one of constant hard work and bloody fighting. Only one company of this regiment had representatives from Menard county, and that was Company G, and there were only twelve of them. Abram Golden was a member of that company and worked up from the ranks to the position of lieutenant, and then was chosen captain. He lived a number of years in Petersburg, engaged in the grocery business. He was a quiet, unassuming man, with a host of friends. He died here several

years ago. His family still lives here: Ed. Golden, of the firm of Watkins & Golden, is his son. Of these twelve men from Menard county not one was killed or wounded and none deserted. The next regiment containing men from this county was the Fifty-first Illinois Infantry. As but few of our men were in this regiment, we give but a very brief account of it. This regiment was organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois, by Colonel Gilbert W. Cumming, on the 24th of December, 1861. Its first service was at Island No. 10, where, on the 8th of April, 1862, it forced the surrender of General Macall, with four thousand men. Afterward it was in the battle of Farmington, and the siege of Corinth. At Mission Ridge, this regiment lost one-fifth of its men that went into action. This regiment took part in the battles of Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Franklin, Tennessee, and other less important engagements. It was mustered out September 25, 1865. In company F, of this regiment, there were eleven men from Menard county. Of these none were officers and none were killed or wounded, but two of the eleven deserted. The Seventy-first Regiment was enlisted for three months' service only. Company G, of this regiment, was partially raised in this county, thirty-seven of the men being from here. Of the officers, only one was from here and that was First Lieutenant James C. Tice, of Petersburg. Of these none were killed or wounded and only one died of disease—this was William H. Graham, from the eastern part of the county. We come now to the Seventy-third Infantry, and we can not, more briefly or pointedly give an outline of the work of this regiment than by quoting the report of Lieutenant Colonel James I. Davidson, as made to Adjutant General Hayne. This report was dated at Springfield, Illinois, March 19, 1867. "Having no record of the regiment with me a history would be impossible. The regiment was organized at Camp Butler, state of Illinois, in August, 1862, and immediately became part of General Buell's army; fought nobly at Perryville, finished under General Thomas at Nashville. The Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry was in every battle fought by the Army of the Cumberland from



October, 1862, until the rout of General Hood's army at Nashville, and the winding up of the whole matter. The only report that I can make, General, is that our dead are found at Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, away in East Tennessee, and then in the succession of battles from Chattanooga to the fall of Atlanta. And when Sherman pushed down south, the Seventy-third remained with General Thomas. It formed a part of Opedyke's Brigade, at Franklin, which saved the day and gave him his star, and lost its last man killed in driving Hood's army from Nashville. It has, more than once, been complimented by its general. It lost heavily in Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Franklin. It had two majors and two adjutants killed, and nearly every officer of the regiment wounded, at some time, several of them several times, but as to the number of killed and wounded, I know not. We left the state one of the largest and returned one of the smallest regiments. Her officers and men, especially her men, have never been surpassed for bravery, endurance, and devotion to the country. I believe that nearly two-thirds of the organization wasted away, either by disease, death or battle during the three years' service." Such is the simple, unostentatious record of this devoted regiment. In Company F, of this regiment, were thirty of the citizens of Menard county. Of the officers of this company none were from this county, except the first captain, George Montgomery, and he served only till the 19th of December, 1862, when he resigned and left the command. Of these three were killed in action, eight died of disease; four were severely wounded, and from this we see that, of this little band that went out from here, to fight the battles of their country, more than one-third of the number were left to sleep amid the flowers of the southland, undisturbed by the roar of battle or the clash of arms, while half the number were among the dead and wounded, when the final account of the regiment was made up. Their comrades in arms "carved not a line and raised not a stone, but left them alone in their glory." From the Seventy-third to the Eighty-fifth, there are to be found no repre-

sentatives from "Little Menard," save now and then the single name of some one who enlisted among strangers. The writer spent days and weeks in the search for such names, in order that the record might be correct, a labor for which he may not even be thanked. But company F, of the Eighty-fifth Regiment, was largely made up from here, it having no less than seventy-five names on its roll of men from this county. This regiment was organized by Colonel Robert S. Moore, at Peoria, on the 28th day of August, 1862. The corps to which it was assigned was commanded by McCook, and the division by General Phil Sheridan. Its first actual experience of war was on October 1, 1862, when it took part in the battle of Champion Hill, at Perryville, Kentucky. After long and hard service it was mustered out June 5, 1865, at Washington, D. C. Company E, of the Eighty-fifth regiment, was largely made up of men from this county; its company officers were all from Petersburg. Of the seventy-five men in this company from this county, just one-third were dead or wounded before the time of service expired. No less than ten of this company deserted. Pleasant S. Scott, who was at first captain of this company was promoted to the position of major, served out his time and returned to Petersburg, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1903 or 1904. We come now to the One Hundred and Sixth regiment, which was organized on the 15th of August, 1862, in Lincoln, Logan county, Illinois, by Colonel Robert B. Latham. It was mustered into service on the 18th of September, of the same year. While this regiment was very useful and did a great deal of very important service, yet it saw but little, if any, of the real tragedy of war. Its service was almost entirely confined to the west, it being west of the Mississippi river nearly all the time it served. The only regimental officer from this county was Lieutenant Colonel John M. Hurt, of Athens, who died at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on the 18th of November, 1864. Company K, of this regiment, was made up in this county and consisted of one hundred and two men. The first captain of this company was Alonzo E. Currier, of Athens. He resigned June 15, 1863,

and was succeeded by George Collier, of Petersburg. But only eleven days after his appointment Captain Collier died of disease and was succeeded by Lieutenant John A. Hurt, of Athens. On the 28th of March, 1865, Captain Hurt was honorably discharged, to be promoted major. Lieutenant Samuel H. Blane then became captain and served to the close of the war. Captain Blane entered the profession of the law after he returned from the war, settled in Petersburg and enjoyed a fine practice during his life. He died in 1901, respected by all. His family still reside in that place. Through a singular providence, or fatality, as some of the members of this regiment put it, they were never permitted to show their prowess on the ensanguined field, but we have no doubt that the motives prompting them to enlist were just as pure and just as patriotic as those of any other command in the service. And we have no doubt that if the opportunity had been given them that they would have won as many laurels as any who fought under the stars and stripes. As said before it was no fault of theirs that they did not fight, for both officers and men enlisted for the purpose of fighting. Of the regiments named there is not one of which an Illinoisan need be ashamed, but there were some that had better opportunities to write deeds of daring, in crimson letters, than others. Among the Illinois regiments which will live in the memory of men we may name the gallant One Hundred and Fourteenth. This regiment was made up of six companies from Sangamon county, B, C, E, G, H and I; two from Cass, A and D; and two from Menard, F and K. The regiment was made up in the months of July and August, 1862, and was mustered into service on the 18th of September following. It was at once sent to Memphis, Tennessee, where it did picket duty until the 26th of November, when it started on the Tallahatchie campaign, as a part of the First Brigade of Brigadier General Lamm's Division. During the winter it marched to College Hill and thence to Jackson and then back to Memphis. On March 17, 1863, it was transported down the river to Young's Point, and afterward went into camp at Duckport, Louisiana. On the 11th of

May, 1863, they were engaged in the battle of Jackson, Mississippi; reached the rear of Vicksburg the 18th and engaged in the siege. On the 11th of August, Colonel James W. Judy resigned, just one month after the surrender of Vicksburg and eighteen days before he had served a year. He was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel John F. King. Samuel N. Shoup acted as colonel after May 11, 1865. The regiment was in the engagements at Wyatt, Mississippi, Guntown, Tupelo and Harrisonville. It also marched after General Price from the Arkansas border to Kansas City and back to St. Louis. On the 3d of August, 1865, they were mustered out. Company C of this regiment, though not credited to this county, had thirty men from Menard in its rank and file. Out of the thirty four were killed in battle; two died of wounds; three were severely wounded, two of whom died; two died in prison; six deserted, and thirteen died of disease. Company F mustered fifty-six men from Menard county. Captain Absalom Miller, of Menard; First Lieutenant Willett B. Taylor, of Cass; and Second Lieutenant Joseph T. Workman, of Menard, were the company officers. Two of this company were killed in action; three were severely wounded, two of whom died; two died in prison; twelve died of disease; and two deserted. Company K, of the One Hundred and Fourteenth was also raised in this county, ninety-two of her citizens being enrolled in it. The company officers were, all but one, from this county. They were: Captains, Samuel Estill and Robert Hornback; first lieutenants, Lucian Terhune and Ezra Fish; second lieutenant, Henry C. Rogge. Of the men, Joseph Denton was killed in action; James Morris and John M. Hart died of wounds; Jesse Knoles lost a leg at the knee, but recovered; four were taken prisoners—William J. Allen, Henry Beckman, Evan McLean and Samuel S. Knoles. Not long before this S. S. Knoles was hit square over the heart by a minie-ball, but a bunch of letters from his affianced bride, whom he afterward married, saved his life. (See account in the sketch of his life, in another place.) Eight of the privates died of disease: David F. Estill, Lou's P. Moore, William J. Denton, George W. Pow-

ell, Isaac F. Estill, William Johnson, Harmon Meyer, Joseph Oswald, Isaac Snodgrass, Rhodes Snodgrass, John W. Trumbo, Walter Taylor, Arthur Thomas and John Yelkin. Eight of the privates, full of chivalry and patriotism, took French leave and deserted. Menard had one hundred and seventy-eight men in this regiment of brave men. Many of them sleep on the hillsides of the south; and many more have passed, since the war, to the other shore, while the remainder are enjoying the liberties that they fought so bravely for, having been engaged so long in the arts of peace as to have almost forgotten those dark experiences in the field. The One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry will now claim a brief notice, as a number of men from Menard served in it. If there were none from this county in the regiment we would be tempted to speak of it, as no record of Illinois soldiers is complete that does not tell something of the daring deeds of this faithful body of men. This regiment was ordered into the field from Camp Butler, Illinois, on October 4, 1862, having been mustered in the 13th of September the same year. Its first active service in the field was when it was ordered to Franklin, Tennessee, in March, 1863, but the mortality in the regiment from exposure, hard marching and bad diet had been fearful. Up to the date just given over two hundred had died or been permanently disabled—they died by scores. After driving General Bragg's army across the Tennessee river on the 24th of June, 1863, they had a respite from battle till the 19th of September. On that day they engaged in the bloody conflict of Chickamauga and that and the following day were days never to be forgotten. On the 20th more than half of the brigade, to which this regiment was attached, were cut down on the field but they held their ground without wavering. This regiment took part in the battles of Chattanooga, Mission Ridge and innumerable skirmishes. In the campaign around Chattanooga the regiment lost two hundred and thirty-five men and ten officers. After this it fought at Dalton, Resaca, Atlanta and other points and was finally in the pursuit of Hood from Nashville. On the 11th of June, 1865, it was mustered out of service

and reached Camp Butler, Illinois, on the 23d of June, in that year. The officers of company K were as follows: Captains, James Steele and Alonzo Pierce, both of Menard, and Philip Riley, of Springfield; first lieutenants, Sylvester M. Bailey, of Salisbury, Philip Riley and Samuel Alexander, of Menard; second lieutenant, Philip Riley. Of this company two were killed in action, three died in prison, six died of disease and six deserted.

The One Hundred and Thirty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry was mustered into the one hundred days' service on the 31st of May, 1864. It guarded prisoners during its time of service, Company I of this regiment had twenty-three Menard county men in its ranks. Ethan A. Norton, of Petersburg, was first lieutenant in this company; the remainder of the twenty-three were in the ranks. As they were never in an engagement, none of them were killed, of course, and none died from sickness, but all returned home when discharged from the service.

The One Hundred and Fifty-second Illinois Infantry was mustered in for one year's service, on the 18th of February, 1865. They were ordered to Tullahoma, Tennessee, and went by way of Nashville, and reported to Major General Mirov for duty February 28, 1865. They were discharged at Memphis, Tennessee, on the 11th of September, 1865. Company A, of this regiment, was raised partly in Menard county. Two men from this county were chosen to office in the company: Merritt Hurst, first lieutenant; and James N. Barger, second lieutenant. None were killed, wounded or taken prisoner, the only reduction being from disease and desertion. Four died of disease and three deserted.

This closes the record of the part taken in the infantry service by men from this county, but the cavalry had several representatives from the county, a record of which we will now give as briefly as we can. The Tenth Cavalry Regiment was the only one which had any considerable number of men from here on its muster roll. The Tenth Cavalry was organized at Camp Butler on the 25th of November, 1861, and on the 15th of the following May Dudley Wickersham was appointed

its colonel. On the 20th of December, 1864, it was ordered to Quincy, Illinois, and on the 13th of the following March it was sent to Benton Barracks, Missouri. From this time on till it was mustered out, this regiment saw hard service. It was made up of a fine lot of men, who were ready and anxious for the fray. It was finally mustered out of the service at San Antonio, Texas, on the 22d of November, 1865, and was ordered to Springfield, Illinois, for pay and final discharge. None of the regimental officers were from this county. Two companies of this command were made up, at least partially, in this county; these were companies A and E. There were, in all, thirty-four Menard county men in Company A, two of whom were officers—Captain Christopher H. Anderson, of Sweetwater, and Second Lieutenant Samuel F. Russell, of Athens. None of Company A were killed in battle, though Samuel Montgomery died of wounds received in action. Seven died of disease. Company E mustered sixty-seven men from Menard county, one of them being an officer; this was Samuel Garber, of Petersburg, he being a first lieutenant. None of these were killed in action, though Simon P. Sampson died of wounds received in fight, and only four died of disease. From some strange cause, which will never be known, the proportion of deserters was excessively large, there being no less than ten out of the sixty-seven who did *not* "Fight and run away."

"To live to fight another day."

But they ran away before they had fought a single battle.

This brings us to the artillery, and only three men from Menard county were in this department of the service, so far as we can learn, and as the adjutant general's report shows. James Ward, of Athens, Menard county, was mustered in as an unassigned recruit, into the First Artillery, on the 20th of March, 1864. Edward L. Bingley, of Petersburg, enlisted, as a recruit, in Battery B, of the Second Artillery, on the 8th of March, 1864, and was mustered out on the 15th of July, 1865. Albert Albertson, of Petersburg, enlisted in Battery K, of the Second Artillery, on the 22d of January, 1862. He re-enlisted as

a veteran and served till the close of the war. He served most of the time, while in action, as No. 1 or No. 2; that is, he either placed the cartridge in the mouth of the gun, or rammed it home. Albertson was in a number of battles, his battery being charged more than once, and many of the men cut down at the guns. Mr. Albertson lived here many years after the close of the war an honored citizen. It is believed that he went west and is, perhaps, dead.

It is impossible to give a reliable list of the men who belonged to this county and enlisted in commands that were credited to other places. We made a thorough search, spending many days in the effort to get every name, but we fear that the list is imperfect. Charles E. McDougal was captain of company E in the Sixty-first Infantry. He enlisted in Greene county. James C. Tice, of this county, was first lieutenant in Company G, of the Seventy-first Infantry. Below we give a tabular view of the enlistments, officers, deaths from various causes, the wounded, deserters, etc., from this county. Had we the space we would be but too glad to give the deaths, date, place, cause, etc., of every soldier from Menard county.

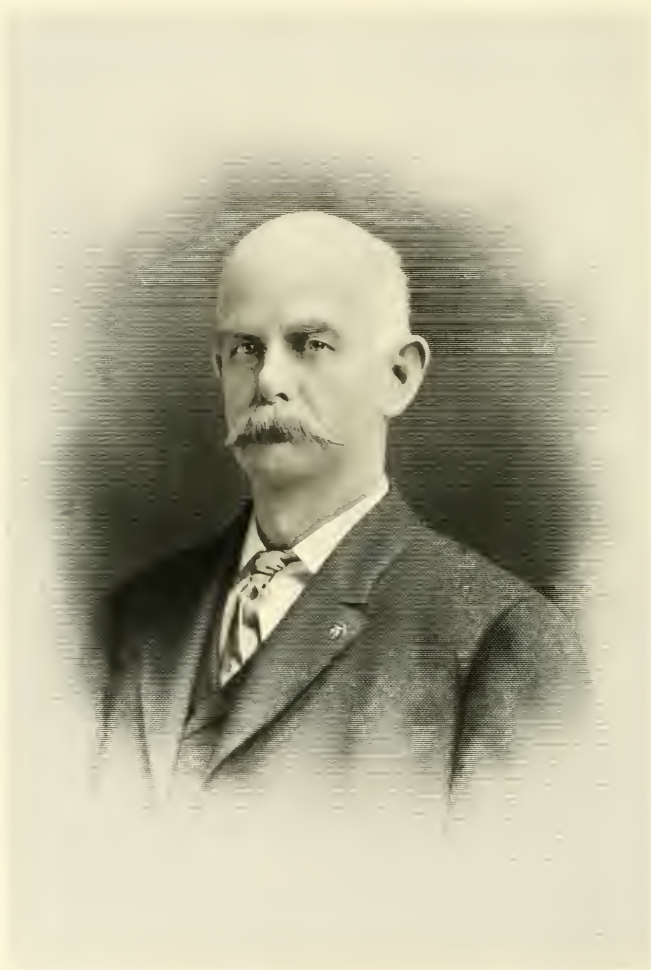
## SUMMARY OF WAR RECORD OF MENARD COUNTY.

	No. Men	Killed	Wounded	Prisoners	Died of Dis-	Deserted
11th Reg., Co. E...	80	1	..	..	..	..
11th & 15th, Co. A.	21	..	..	..	..	..
28th Reg., Co. F...	107	9	3	..	9	3
28th Reg., Co. K...	39	1	1	7	1	..
28th Reg., Co. C...	46	1	..	..	2	1
28th Reg., Co. D...	21	..	..	..	..	..
38th Reg., Co. G...	12	..	..	..	2	..
51st Reg., Co. F...	11	..	..	..	1	2
71st Reg., Co. G...	37	..	..	..	1	..
73d Reg., Co. F...	30	3	..	1	8	..
106th Reg., Co. K...	102	..	..	..	20	..
85th Reg., Co. E...	75	3	6	6	10	10
114th Reg., Co. C...	30	1	1	1	13	6
114th Reg., Co. F...	56	2	3	7	12	2
114th Reg., Co. K...	92	1	3	5	11	8
115th Reg., Co. K...	43	2	..	5	6	5

	No. Men	Killed	Wounded	Prisoners	Died of Dis.	Deserted
133d Reg., Co. I....	23	..	..	..	..	..
152d Reg., Co. A....	48	..	..	..	4	3
10th Cav., Co. A....	32	1	..	..	1	..
10th Cav., Co. E....	66	1	..	..	4	10
2d Artil., Bat. K....	1	..	..	..	..	..
2d Artil., Bat. B....	1	..	..	..	..	..
1st Artil., Bat. E....	1	..	..	..	..	..
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total privates...980	29	17	38	111	50	
Total officers . . . .	31	2	5	..	3	..
Other privates . . . . .	13	3	..	..	9	..
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total . . . . .1,084	34	22	38	129	50	

The total of the deaths of officers and men, from all causes, one hundred and eighty-four. A great many have died since their return home so that veterans of the Civil war are rapidly passing away and it will not be long till the children will look with wonder and awe upon the feeble veteran that still lingers, waiting for taps to sound his discharge from earthly service. The record of the names of all who served in the time of the nation's peril should be preserved, that the coming generations may know who it was, at their country's call, went forth to preserve the liberties of the land. The report of the adjutant general is out of print and is very hard to get, and it will soon be gone, and then the names of many worthy soldiers will be forgotten forever. We only regret that we did not have the space to record every name.





*Geo. A. Kincaid*



# BIOGRAPHICAL

## LEE KINCAID.

Among the most progressive, capable and successful citizens of Menard county is Lee Kincaid, who is engaged in the banking business in Athens and also has other investments which he is controlling with an ability that is indicated in the prosperity that attends his efforts. He is also intimately associated with the social and political life of Menard county and the history of this portion of the state would be incomplete without the record of his career.

Mr. Kincaid was born near Athens on the 14th of February, 1859, and is a son of Thomas Kincaid, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. In taking up the personal history of Lee Kincaid we present to our readers the life record of one whose place in Menard county is acknowledged to be among its foremost citizens. His early education was acquired in the public schools and at the age of fifteen years he entered the university at Champaign, where he remained a student for two years. He then returned to the home farm, where he continued until twenty-eight years of age, when he became the owner of a half interest in the banking business of Scott & Kincaid. Not long afterward he became sole proprietor of the Athens Bank, which he has since conducted, making his a most reliable institution in which he has a large and growing banking business.

Mr. Kincaid is a man of resourceful ability and has extended his efforts into many other lines of activity. He is now prominently identi-

fied with coal mining interests and is president of the Athens Mining Company. In 1892 he assumed charge of its business as general manager, secretary and treasurer and continued to serve in these capacities until 1900, when he was elected to the presidency. He is likewise interested in mining in Mexico, being the president of the Horseshoe Exploration & Mining Company, which is capitalized for one million dollars. He has extensive realty possessions and he manages his fine farm of several hundred acres lying about two miles north of Athens. He also owns the home farm on which his grandfather, Andrew Kincaid, settled in 1834, and he has four hundred acres of land in Menard county, one hundred and thirty acres in Richland county, Illinois, and six hundred and forty acres in Texas. He is the president of the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Illinois, which is growing very rapidly, and from 1889 until 1891 he was a member of the firm of Kincaid & Scott, dealers in drugs and jewelry, while from 1889 until 1892 he was financially interested in a general mercantile enterprise under the firm name of T. B. Turner & Company. Although controlling extensive and important business interests, Mr. Kincaid has yet found time to devote to the public welfare and is interested in everything pertaining to municipal progress and the substantial upbuilding of his county. Three times his fellow townsmen have chosen him to the office of mayor of Athens, which position he has capably filled with credit and honor to himself and sat-

isfaction to his constituents. He has also been elected president of the board of education for four terms and for three terms additional he served as one of its members. Aside from this he has been equally loyal to the welfare of his community, putting forth strong and effective effort in behalf of the general good.

On the 20th of February, 1883, Mr. Kincaid was united in marriage to Miss Sue B. Culver, and unto them were born five children, three sons and two daughters, namely: Elizabeth L., Arthur T., Alice, Homer and Herbert, the last two being twins. In social circles the family occupy an enviable and prominent position and their own pleasant home is justly noted for its gracious hospitality and good cheer.

Mr. Kincaid is well known in fraternal circles, being a thirty-second degree Mason and a past eminent commander of St. Aldemar commandery, No. 47, K. T. He was chosen to the office when he had been identified with the commandery for less than two years. He is also a member of Mahommed Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria and is an honored and valued representative of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and past chancellor of Social lodge, No. 424, K. P. Politically he is an enthusiastic Republican, being a firm believer in the principles of the party, for he thinks that its platform contains the best elements of good government. He is a student of the questions and issues of the day and is a conscientious worker in behalf of his party, while his attractive personality and power of argument have made him one of the most capable supporters of Republicanism in his county. His opinions carry weight in the councils of his party and in 1902 he was one of the leaders of the faction that successfully favored the selection of Hopkins for United States senator. Mr. Kincaid was by his many friends chosen chairman of that memorable Menard county convention. In 1899 he was appointed by Governor Yates a member of the state mining board, a position which he creditably fills. He is a man of firm integrity, just in his relations with his fellow men, honorable in all business transactions and commands the respect of even those who differ from him politically. So important a part has he taken in the work of

public progress along many lines in Menard county that he may well be called without invidious distinction one of the foremost citizens of central Illinois.

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#### H. P. MOULTON, M. D.

Dr. H. P. Moulton, of Petersburg, whose practice is very extensive, showing that his skill has won him the confidence of the public, was born in Maquoketa, Iowa, on the 7th of December, 1873. He is a son of Thomas J. and Lovina (Coleman) Moulton, the former a native of New York and the latter of Ontario. His paternal grandfather, Thomas J. Moulton, Sr., died when his son and namesake was only two years of age and the grandmother afterward removed to Iowa in the '40s, locating in Jackson county among its earlier frontier settlers. There the father of the Doctor was reared to the occupation of farming amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life and after attaining his majority he continued on the old family homestead, where he carried on general farming interests with success. At length his labors brought to him a handsome competence with which he retired from business life in 1898 and has since made his home in Maquoketa, the county seat, in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He is recognized as a man of superior judgment and high moral character and is accorded a foremost position among Jackson county's most public-spirited and worthy citizens. He possessed strong native talent and intellectual force, combined with breadth of mental vision, and his influence has been a potent factor for good in his community.

Dr. Moulton, the third in order of birth in a family of six children, acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Jackson county and afterward entered the University of Iowa, as a student in the medical department, where he spent two years. He next matriculated in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1899, and following the completion of his course there he came to Petersburg, where he located for practice.



DR. H. P. MOULTON.



opening an office on the west side of courthouse square. Almost from the beginning a profitable patronage has been accorded him, for he soon demonstrated his ability to successfully cope with the intricate problems which continually confront the physician in his diagnosis and treatment of disease. He has high regard for the ethics of the profession and has won the respect and good will of his professional brethren as well as of the general public. He makes a specialty of the treatment of diseases of women and children, having devoted much time to those studies while in college. He is an up-to-date physician, keeping well posted on the latest discoveries known to the science by his perusal of the latest medical works and he has a fine library. He is a member of the Central Illinois Homeopathic Medical Society.

On the 18th of March, 1902, Dr. Moulton was united in marriage to Miss Mary Catherine Kreigh, daughter of E. M. and Helen (Pyatt) Kreigh, of Springfield, Illinois, and theirs is one of the pleasant and hospitable homes of Petersburg. The Doctor has one brother and one sister, both of whom are graduates of the Iowa University, and the former, Mark Moulton, is now practicing law in Storm Lake, Iowa. Dr. Moulton was a member of the National Guard at Maquoketa when they were called out during the Spanish-American war and he gained considerable hospital experience at Des Moines, Iowa. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree, and is now a member of St. Aldemar commandery, No. 47, of Petersburg. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and the Odd Fellows lodge, and in the latter has filled all the chairs and is now past grand. His courteous, genial manner, as well as his professional skill, has made him popular, and he is justly classed with the representative citizens of Petersburg.

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#### ROBERT DON LEAVEY MILLER.

Robert D. Miller was born February 3, 1838, in Pettis county, Missouri, near where the city of Sedalia now stands. His father, William A. Miller, was a politician of some notoriety, serv-

ing in the legislature and constitutional convention of Missouri and was a candidate for congress at the time of his death, which occurred March 2d, 1847, when he was forty-one years of age. His mother was Agnes C. Mitchell, born in Tennessee, May 13, 1805. Her father, Captain Thomas Mitchell, removed to Missouri in 1814, when it was a territory, and the family lived for three years, in Coles Fort because of the hostility of the Indians. Her four brothers were the first white men to ferry across the Osage river. Daniel Boone was, for some time, an inmate of that fort and died in that vicinity. Mrs. Miller died in 1886, at the age of eighty-one years.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the subscription schools in north-west Missouri, being reared within four miles of St. Joseph, Missouri. At the age of sixteen he entered Chapel Hill College, taking the full classical course but lacked one year of completing it. He then began the study of medicine, but after eighteen months of hard study abandoned it and read law and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced but very little. Mr. Miller united with the Cumberland Presbyterian church in 1858. In 1861 he was ordained a minister of that church and has preached constantly ever since. At one time it was said that he said the ceremony for one-third of the people married in Menard county. He has attended more funerals than any other man perhaps in this part of the state. He taught school sixteen years and has been in all county superintendent of schools in Menard county for twenty-three years, twenty-two years consecutively. Menard county was the fifth county in the state to adopt a "Course of Study" and this was written and published by Mr. Miller. He organized the Cumberland Presbyterian church in Petersburg and built the house of worship for them and served as their pastor for over six years. He built the church house at Lebanon and also the new Cumberland Presbyterian church in Fancy Prairie. These are three of the best church edifices in the county. Mr. Miller is now (1904) pastor of the church in Fancy Prairie.

Mr. Miller was married to Miss Charlotte A. Riche, December 24, 1856, in Buchanan county,

Missouri. To them have been born seven children, five of whom are still living: Sarah M., wife of Ed. C. Drake, now of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was born December 6, 1857, and married November 27, 1883. Mary A., born August 15, 1863, is still at home, teaching school. Emma E. (Jube), born January 25, 1867, was married to Harmon J. Marbold, June 24, 1891, in Ouray, Colorado. George Mitchell, born January 11, 1869, was killed by the cars March 26, 1879. Leyria A., born February 2, 1873, was married to Dillon L. Ross, attorney at law, October 3, 1894. They live in Council Bluffs, Iowa. R. Pauline, born September 8, 1874, was married to Professor Frank T. Chapman, December 26, 1899. He is instrumental and she vocal teacher of music in Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. Robert D. F., born March 12, 1879, died October 28, 1884. There are fourteen grandchildren living and one dead.

Mr. Miller has spent his life trying, in an humble way, to assist the young in the line of education, both intellectual and moral. He has been an ordained minister for over forty years and his salary has not averaged over two hundred and fifty dollars a year. At sixty-six years of age, he is hale and hearty and can do as much work as at any period of life. Mrs. Miller is enjoying reasonably good health, and they hope to live to celebrate their golden wedding.

#### SAMUEL STONE KNOLES.

The ancestry of Mr. Knoles were English people. He traces the history of the family back to Richard Knolles of Northamptonshire and Norwich, England. He had a son Henry Knolles, who was the father of Edward Knolles. The latter's son, Daniel Knoles, came to America with Lord Delaware and settled in Sussex county, Delaware. Daniel Knoles had a son Edmund Knoles, and he had a son James, who was the father of Richard Knoles. The last named was the father of James Knoles, and he the father of Prettyman Knoles, whose son Asa Knoles was the father of Samuel Stone Knoles, the subject of this sketch.

Asa Knoles was born in Gibson county, Indiana, November 18, 1818, and was the son of Prettyman and Patsy (Greer) Knoles. He was educated in the common schools of the country. In 1846 he removed from Indiana to Illinois and settled in Menard county, where he continued to reside up to the time of his death, which occurred November 17, 1863. Asa Knoles was a Democrat, his first vote being cast for Andrew Jackson and his last for Stephen A. Douglas. He was associated with no secret society; his religious views were liberal; and he lived and died a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He was joined in marriage to Dorcas Stone, of Gibson county, Indiana, in June, 1838. She was the daughter of Thomas Stone, a nephew of Thomas Stone, who represented Maryland in congress in 1776 and signed the Declaration of Independence. The children of Asa Knoles were Samuel S., of San Diego, California; John L., of San Bernardino, California; Jacob J., of Bartlesville, Indian Territory; Martin V., of Linden, Oklahoma; Prettyman M., of Greenview, Illinois; Thomas S., of Los Angeles, California; Eli A., of Greenview, Illinois; Sarah E., deceased; Louisa Stone, of Ontario, California; and Jane and Elizabeth, who died in infancy. Dorcas Knoles died in August, 1857, and Asa Knoles subsequently married Nancy Montgomery, a daughter of William Montgomery, who was a prominent citizen of Gibson county, Indiana, and a representative in the legislature of that state. To this union were born four daughters: Martha Ellen, Margaret Dorcas, Arminda and Arcinda.

Samuel Stone Knoles was born in Gibson county, Indiana, March 20, 1840, and is the son of Asa and Dorcas (Stone) Knoles. His father being a farmer and stock-raiser, Samuel enjoyed no better advantages for an education than the common country schools until when a young man he went one year to Bethel College at McMoresville, Tennessee, taking a course in Latin, German and rhetoric. His experience, habits and tastes in youth were those of the ordinary farm lad in Menard county. He early developed a taste for the law and politics. His first business after leaving school was to teach school in order to en-

able him to acquire a better education preparatory to the study of his chosen profession.

In 1861, when the war cloud hung over the country, he was reading law in the office of General John A. McClelland and Judge N. M. Broadwell in Springfield, Illinois. On August 4, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company K. One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was mustered out August 10, 1865. He was first duty sergeant in his company. Besides many skirmishes he was in the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, May 14, 1863, and at the siege of Vicksburg, and was in the great charges against that stronghold May 19 and 22, 1863. After the fall of Vicksburg he was in the siege and battle of Jackson from July 10 to July 16, 1863. He was in the expedition which left Memphis, Tennessee, June 1, 1864, under General Sturgis, which was disastrously defeated at Brices Crossroads, or Guntown, Mississippi, June 10, 1864. In this battle Mr. Knoles was severely wounded, left on the field and became a prisoner of war. He was shot through the upper portion of the right lung and seriously injured by the concussion of a minie-ball over the heart. This deadly missile was prevented from penetrating the heart by a bundle of letters from Miss Grace Isabelle Terhune, who afterward became his wife and the mother of his children. He was in prison nine months at Mobile, Alabama, Andersonville, Georgia, and Florence, South Carolina. He was sent to the Union lines at Wilmington, North Carolina, March 1, 1865.

At the close of the war Mr. Knoles resumed the study of law under Hon. T. W. McNeely, of Petersburg, and was admitted to the bar in 1869. In November after his return from the army he was elected assessor and treasurer of Menard county, defeating the late Captain S. H. Blane by a small majority. In 1867 he defeated his cousin Jesse Knoles for the same office by a majority of two hundred votes. In 1870 he was elected to the house of representatives of Illinois from the district composed of Cass and Menard counties, defeating Hon. William T. Beckman by a majority of over seven hundred votes. He also served as states

attorney for Menard county and city attorney for Petersburg.

Mr. Knoles was married to Miss Grace Isabelle Terhune, December 27, 1865. She was a daughter of William Terhune of Menard county. To this union three children were born, namely: Carrie L. Hoyt, of Foster, California; E. Effie K. Fouché, of Petersburg, Illinois; and Fred T., of San Francisco, California. They are all married, and there are eleven grandchildren. Mrs. Knoles died May 29, 1872, and her remains repose in Rose Hill cemetery. In November, 1872, Mr. Knoles removed to Chanute, Kansas, where he met and married Miss Lois Barrett, a daughter of William D. Barrett, of Wooster, Ohio, and a sister of Dr. Joseph Barrett, who was a surgeon in the Twenty-third Ohio Regiment during the Civil war, the only regiment in the history of the country that ever furnished two presidents—Hayes and McKinley. To this union were born two sons and one daughter: Asa B., of San Diego, California; William D., of San Francisco, California; and Mila M. Schulenburg, of San Francisco. Each of them now has a son.

Mr. Knoles is now located at San Diego, California, and is engaged in the practice of law. He is also United States commissioner for the southern district of California. He was reared a Cumberland Presbyterian, but is broad and liberal in his religious views, holding that that which a person conscientiously believes and practices is the true religion for that person. He belongs to the Masons, the Eastern Star and the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a Democrat, his first vote being cast for Hon. T. W. McNeely for the constitutional convention of 1870. His first vote for president was a white bean for General George B. McClellan in Andersonville prison.

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#### CHARLES H. LOCKHART.

Charles H. Lockhart, who is interested in general farming in township 19, was born in Menard county, on the 12th of October, 1868, his parents being John H. and Mary (McDonald) Lockhart. The father was born



in Kentucky, October 26, 1821, and after arriving at years of maturity was married in that state to Miss McDonald, whose birth had there occurred in July, 1827. In 1851 they came to Illinois and for sixteen years John H. Lockhart was engaged in farming in Menard county, on land which he purchased and improved. Subsequently he removed to Scotland county, Missouri, where in 1867 he purchased one hundred and fifty acres of timber land. There he built him a home and resided there until his death, which occurred in 1894. A number of years previous to that time he had been called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in November, 1880. They were both church members the former identified with the Baptist denomination and the latter with the Christian church. In their family were eight children, who are yet living: Mrs. Henrietta Knowles, Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlap, Mrs. Mary McReynolds, William, Mrs. Malinda Mitchell, Thomas E., George R. and Charles H.

The last named was reared upon the old home farm in Menard county and throughout his entire life he has carried on agricultural pursuits. After attaining his majority he resided in St. Joseph, Missouri, for a year, but later returned to the old homestead farm in this county. He lived with his wife's parents for one year, during which time he engaged in farming on the William Claypool place. Subsequently he rented a part of the old homestead belonging to his father-in-law and has been farming here continuously since.

On the 15th of September, 1890, Mr. Lockhart was united in marriage to Miss Emma J. Tackelson, who was born January 31, 1871, and is a daughter of Uler and Emma (Jenson) Tackelson, both of whom were natives of Norway, the former born January 20, 1820, and the latter on the 13th of August, 1827. They were married in Norway and in 1853 they came to the United States, settling in Springfield, Illinois, where they remained for about a year. They then removed to Indian Point, Menard county, and in 1858 when Mr. Tackelson had saved a sufficient sum of money as the result of his work as a carpenter and house builder he purchased eighty acres of land. Subsequently he bought two additional tracts of eighty acres

each, which he improved, transforming his land into a productive and valuable farm and in addition to this at the time of his death he was also the owner of ten acres at Irish Grove and one hundred and sixty acres in Nebraska. He departed this life April 15, 1904, and his wife died March 10, 1897. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom four are now living: Tack, born August 13, 1851, in Norway; Augusta, born May 12, 1854; John H., born February 26, 1869; and Emma J., born January 31, 1871.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart has been blessed with two children: Ralph, born May 15, 1895; and Howard W., October 17, 1899. Interested in the cause of education Mr. Lockhart desires that his children shall have good opportunities in that direction. For the past six years he has been a member of the school board of his district and is still serving in that capacity. He and his wife attended the Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Lockhart is a member, and in his political views Mr. Lockhart is a Republican. The greater part of his life has been passed in Menard county where he has a wide acquaintance and enjoys the favorable regard of many friends.

#### CAPTAIN SAMUEL HARRISON BLANE.

Captain S. H. Blane was a native of Menard county, born January 17, 1840. His parents were George and Mary (Alkire) Blane, who resided upon a farm near Greenview. George Blane, with his three brothers, came from Ireland and located at what is known as Irish Grove about the year 1830. On the old family homestead in the vicinity of Greenview Samuel H. Blane was reared to manhood and the district schools provided him his early educational privileges, which were supplemented by study in the North Sangamon Academy. He was but twenty-one years of age when the country became involved in civil war. In the meantime he had taken up the study of law, but on August 15, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company A, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry; on June 26, 1863, he was promoted to second lieutenant of Company K; on March 30, 1864, he was again pro-



*S. A. Blane*



moted to first lieutenant; on May 19, 1865, he was promoted to captain of said company, and he was mustered out July 12, 1865.

When his military service was ended Captain Blane resumed his interrupted study of law, which he pursued as opportunity afforded until he was admitted to the bar, on January 9, 1871. Almost immediately he secured a good clientage, which constantly grew in extent, connecting him with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of his district. His mind was analytical and logical and he presented his case in the clear light of cogent reasoning. The Petersburg Observer said of him: "That he never persuaded a man into litigation when he did not see the justice of his claims to such an extent that he should win. He seemed to care less for fees than individual or neighborhood harmony. In his decisions he was not only deliberate, but carefully weighed justice. He had no use for misrepresentation and deception for the purpose of gaining a point. What he sought was the truth and on this he built the foundations for the many important trials in which he was engaged. He was always fair to the opposing side in litigation and thus made friends of the men against whom he obtained verdicts." Captain Blane remained an active member of the bar up to the time of his demise and for some years was associated in practice with his son Frank E. Blane, and the firm maintained a foremost place in the ranks of the legal fraternity, their clientage being of a distinctively representative character. In 1884 Captain Blane was elected state's attorney of Menard county, having the distinction of being the only member of his political party to hold the office in this county.

On the 4th of January, 1866, occurred the marriage of Captain Blane and Miss Mary J. Spear, and as the years passed five children were added to the household, namely: Frank E., Mrs. Nora A. Brahm, Mrs. Iona L. Shepherd and Mrs. Myrtle Whipp, all of whom are now living; and Eva Maria, who died in 1872, at the age of two and a half years.

Captain Blane was prominent in Masonry, being a valued representative of Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M. He also belonged to

Estill Post, G. A. R., of Petersburg, and in the line of his profession was connected with the Bar Association of Menard county. When twenty years of age he became a member of the Christian church and continued his active and helpful identification therewith up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 17th of June, 1901. Resolutions of respect were passed by Clinton lodge, by the bar and county officials of Menard county and by the church with which he was so long connected. His funeral services were held at his late home on the Sunday succeeding his demise. His entire life was permeated by his religious faith and his pastor at the funeral services said: "His religious convictions were deep, unflinching and abiding; no one ever questioned the sincerity or reality of his Christian character. He believed and he lived by his belief; and yet his tolerance toward all opinions and shades of honest belief transcended all bounds of creed and won for him the confidence and love of people of widely divergent standards of thought. His humility was profound, and yet it was of that noble type that served to exalt him in the eyes of all who ever knew him. Self-assertion had no part in his mental make-up; but a serene self-knowledge, dignity and calmness of purpose, as native to him as the air he breathed, secured for him the respect of all with whom he had dealings, and gave him an influence far beyond the confines of his immediate sphere of life. Of his loyalty as a friend, his public-spiritedness as a citizen, his nobility, devotion and unselfishness as a husband and father, as his grandeur as a man, it would take a volume to speak. Well might it be said that we have had few such men as he, and his life and memory will be a lasting benediction upon all who knew him."

#### FRANKLIN P. ELDRIDGE, M. D.

Dr. F. P. Eldridge, well known as a capable physician and surgeon of Greenview and also interested in business affairs in the county as a dealer in coal, was born in Menard county, September 18, 1853. His father, William Eldridge, was a native of England, whence he

was brought to America by his parents when three years of age, the family home being established in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1810 he made his way westward, settling in Menard county, which was then largely a frontier district, bearing little resemblance to this highly improved portion of the state. He turned his attention to farming about six miles east of Greenview and continued to make his home upon that place until 1890, when he removed to Greenview, where his death occurred May 6, 1902, when he was seventy-six years of age. His widow still survives him and now makes her home with her son Dr. Eldridge at the age of seventy-seven years.

Dr. Eldridge acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of his native county and his more specifically literary instruction was obtained in Lincoln University, where he spent three years as a student. Having formed the determination to make the practice of medicine his life work he then matriculated in Rush Medical College, where he was graduated with the class of 1878. Locating for practice in Greenview, he remained here for six months and subsequently removed to Kilbourne, Illinois, where he spent seven years. On the expiration of that period, however, he returned to Greenview, where he has since made his home and a large and important patronage has been extended him. He is now examining physician for several insurance companies. He carries all of his own drugs and by constant reading and study he keeps in touch with the progress of the medical fraternity. He belongs to the Brainard District Medical Society, the Menard County Medical Society and the State Medical Society, and in the practice of his profession he displays careful preparation and conscientious service in the performance of his professional duties. Dr. Eldridge has considerable valuable property, including a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres which he rents, also town realty, is one of the five owners of a coal mine which is being developed under the name of the Greenview Coal & Mining Company, and he also owns five hundred acres of cotton land in St. Francis valley in eastern Arkansas, which he purchased in 1903 and which is very fertile,

bidding fair to become a very valuable property.

On the 31st of July, 1819, Dr. Eldridge was married to Miss Emma Whitney, a daughter of Alonzo Whitney, of Indian Point. They have five children: William Roy, who died February 28, 1902, at the age of twenty-two years; Lucia, who was born June 21, 1882, and died May 28, 1900; Homer, who was born August 28, 1884, and is at home; Arstella, who was born December 22, 1886; and Earl, born August 3, 1896. Dr. and Mrs. Eldridge hold membership in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and he is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to the lodge, chapter and commandery. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and in fraternal circles has the warm regard which is extended him socially and professionally.

#### HON. HOMER J. TICE.

Homer Jenison Tice, an agriculturist living within ten miles of his birthplace, was born February 5, 1862, in Athens, Menard county. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and a review of his career brings to mind the remark of George Washington that "Agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable calling of man." That Mr. Tice has enjoyed the fullest confidence and respect of his fellow citizens is indicated by the fact that he has three times been elected to represent his district in the state legislature and on other occasions, both by appointment and election, he has been called to positions of public trust.

Mr. Tice is a son of Jerman and Mary (Jenison) Tice, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. Upon the home farm he was reared, developing a love for agricultural life that has been one of the strong elements in his character. A sincere attachment for nature in all its phases has led him to continue in the walk of life in which his early youth was passed and his farm represents one of the most attractive features of the landscape with its well tilled fields, modern buildings and good equipments. He is progressive in all of his methods,



HOMER J. TICE.





also extremely practical, and while quick to adopt new methods his judgment is rarely at fault in determining their usefulness as resultant factors in making his labor a success. His present home is near Greenview, within ten miles of his birthplace, and his entire life has been passed in this community.

Another salient element in the character of Mr. Tice is his love of books. From boyhood his books have been his constant companions and he claims as his best friends some of the master minds in literature. His interest in political questions is that of the public-spirited citizen who recognizes the obligation as well as the privilege that comes with the right of franchise. He has made a close and thorough study of the many issues which divide the two great parties and has been unfaltering in his advocacy of Republican principles, while at the same time earnestly opposing any misuse in municipal or state affairs and the modern methods too often practiced by the politician who places self-aggrandizement before the general good. Three times he has been the candidate of his party for the general assembly and represented his district in the house in the thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and forty-third legislative sessions of Illinois, where he became recognized as an able and active working member, concerned largely with constructive legislation. He was appointed a member of the Illinois and Michigan canal board by Governor John R. Tanner. He has a wide acquaintance among the leaders in politics in Illinois and no one receives more favorable regard. He managed the campaign of Lawrence Y. Sherman for governor in the spring of 1904 and made many warm friends by his manly course. While doing everything possible for his candidate he did not antagonize party leaders. The same year he was elected by the Republican state convention as a member of the state central committee at large, and was chairman of the committee which framed the primary election laws of Illinois.

In community interests Mr. Tice also figures prominently and is the champion of many measures that have proven of marked value. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Old Salem Chautauqua of Petersburg, Illinois.

He was a delegate to the National Corn Congress held in Chicago for the purpose of devising plans for introducing corn products as food in the different countries of Europe, and as a delegate represented Illinois in the Trust Conference, composed of delegates from every state in the Union, held in Chicago in September, 1899, for the purpose of considering and discussing the problem of trusts, both the above delegateships being by appointment of the chief executive of the state. In Masonry Mr. Tice has attained high rank, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter, commandery, consistory and shrine, and of the first named he is a past master. He also affiliates with the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

On the 23d of May, 1883, Mr. Tice was married to Miss C. M. Emilie Warnsing. They have two sons living: Evert Homer and Karl German, and have lost one son, Herman Warnsing. Mr. Tice stands as a representative of our best type of American manhood. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community, his ability well fitting him for leadership in political, business and social life. In political thought and action he has always been independent, carrying out his honest views without fear or favor. He commands the respect, confidence and good will of men prominent in the state, but in his home community where he is best known he has the love and unqualified esteem of those with whom he is constantly associated, and who have broadest knowledge of his personal worth.

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#### JOHN H. KINCAID.

John H. Kincaid, who carries on general farming and is also engaged in the breeding and raising of fine horses, was born July 9, 1818, on the old family homestead where he now resides, his father being John Kennedy Kincaid, who is represented on another page of this volume. Our subject supplemented his educational privileges by study in the North Sangamon Academy, which is located about a quarter of a mile west of his present home. He continued upon the old homestead farm with his parents until twenty-eight years of age,

when he was married and went to a home of his own, removing to a farm near Irish Grove, where he continued his residence for seven years. On the expiration of that period he bought the old home place, built a new residence thereon, also a good barn and, in fact, has added many other modern structures and equipments, so that the farm is supplied with all of the accessories found upon a model farm of the twentieth century. He is engaged in the raising of standard bred trotting horses and has bred the following: Twillmo, with a record of 2:17.34; Rodney Corbitt, 2:29.14; Frances Corbitt, 2:29; Carol Almar, 2:30; and Lina Prue, 2:19; and he also owns Guy Corbitt, No. 11726. He held a sale of thirty-two head of his fine horses on the 14th of September, 1904.

On the 20th of February, 1878, Mr. Kincaid was married to Miss Ella Culver, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Culver, who were natives of Menard county and are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid have two children: James Earle, born October 9, 1880; and John Kennedy, born December 29, 1885.

Mr. Kincaid was made a Mason at Greenville, July 4, 1871, and still affiliates with the blue lodge at that place, and with the chapter and commandery at Petersburg and the consistory and Mystic Shrine at Peoria. In his life he exemplifies the tenets and teachings of the order, conforming his relations with his fellow men to the principles of the craft. In politics he is a Republican but has always refused office. Himself and family are members of the Presbyterian church and he has for a number of years been a ruling elder. Mr. Kincaid is now comfortably situated on a very fine farm of six hundred acres, well improved, and his property is the visible evidence of his life of enterprise, diligence and perseverance.

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#### DAVID S. FRACKELTON.

Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Petersburg than David S. Frackelton. He has been an important factor in business circles and his popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending in-

tegrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of Menard county. He has for almost forty years stood at the head of a leading banking institution of the county and his career is notable from the fact that without any special advantages to aid him in early manhood he has steadily progressed, winning his way to the foremost position among the successful business men of his county and at the same time gaining an untarnished name.

Mr. Frackelton was born in Dromore County Down, Ireland, on the 14th of February, 1827. His father, William Frackelton, was a native of the same locality and there wedded Elizabeth Waddell. He died when his son David was but six years of age. The lad remained a resident of his native land until 1843, when with a brother he came to the new world, crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, which was thirty-five days in making the New York harbor after leaving the European port. Four years later his mother came to America. Mr. Frackelton, of this review, went to Ireland for her, but the letter stating that he would be there was lost in the mail and ere he reached his destination she started for New York and when he arrived he was greeted with the news that his mother had already sailed to America. He hurried back and found her with friends in New York and afterward brought her and his sister to Menard county. Mrs. Frackelton was a member of the Presbyterian church, strict in her religious faith and living a life of absolute conformity with her belief. Her father had been a minister of the Presbyterian church in Dromore, Ireland, for more than thirty years. Mrs. Frackelton continued a resident of Menard county until her death, which occurred in 1872, when she was eighty-four years of age.

Landing in America Mr. Frackelton and his brother remained in New York only a few days and then made their way to Illinois, and going out about eight miles from Springfield they established a subscription school in which Mr. Frackelton taught for six months, while his brother continued teaching for nine months.



*D. S. Frazer*



At the end of the half year the subject of this review was offered a situation by W. M. Cowgill and came to Petersburg in 1844 to become a clerk in a general store, receiving fifty dollars per year in addition to his board and washing. He occupied that position for two years and his salary was increased to one hundred and fifty dollars per year. His business aptitude and capability being fully demonstrated in that time, he was then admitted to a partnership under the firm style of William M. Cowgill & Company and this relation was maintained for eleven years. His brother Robert also became a partner at the same time and when they severed their business relations with Mr. Cowgill they continued merchandising together under the style of R. & D. Frackelton, continuing to conduct their enterprise until 1874. In connection with that business they began banking in 1865. Robert Frackelton died in 1874 very suddenly and David S. Frackelton was then alone in business for about two years. On the expiration of that period he admitted his son Charles to a partnership and the firm name was changed to D. S. Frackelton & Company, the mercantile enterprise being conducted with success until 1899, when they disposed of the store in order to give their entire attention to the banking business. In 1898 his son David became a partner in the bank. The Frackelton Bank was organized in 1865 and has had a continuous and prosperous existence for forty years. The present bank building was erected in 1889 and is a model structure, splendidly equipped. A general banking business is carried on and from the beginning the firm has enjoyed a prosperous career as representatives of the financial interests of Petersburg, conducting their business along safe, conservative and yet progressive lines. Mr. Frackelton owns both city and country property, including a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres.

On the 15th of March, 1856, occurred the marriage of Mr. Frackelton and Miss Louise Chandler, a daughter of Dr. Charles Chandler, a native of Connecticut. Her parents were married in the east and in 1830 located at what is now Chandlerville, Illinois, the town being named in honor of her father. Both are now

deceased and Mrs. Frackelton has also passed away, her death occurring in December, 1885. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Frackelton were born three sons and three daughters and five of the number are now living. Charles, who married Iona O. Antle, a daughter of Dr. Antle, of Petersburg, is a representative citizen of the county engaged with his father and brother in the banking business and also secretary of the Roschill cemetery. He is one of the elders of the Presbyterian church, is a Republican in politics and has served as city treasurer and for several terms was a member of the school board. He wields a wide influence in public affairs, his course being characterized by unflinching loyalty to the general good and his efforts in behalf of his city have been far-reaching and beneficial. Robert Frackelton, the second son, is engaged in the manufacture of printing presses in connection with his uncle as a stockholder in the Chandler & Price Company, of Cleveland, Ohio. He is secretary and treasurer of the company, which is conducting an extensive business. He, too, is a Republican, staunch in his advocacy of the party principles and is deacon in the Calvary Presbyterian church at Cleveland. Clara and Louise are at home with their father. David, the youngest son, is connected with his father and brother in the banking business and is manager of the Charter Oak elevator. In 1901 he married Caroline Roberts, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and they have one daughter, Mary Louise. Like the others of the family he is an earnest Republican and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Both Robert and David Frackelton are graduates of the Illinois College at Jacksonville, and Louise completed a course in the Jacksonville Female Academy of that city.

David S. Frackelton has always been a champion of Republican principles, yet has never sought or desired office. He is now the oldest living member of the Presbyterian church of Petersburg and through long years served as one of its elders. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt and notably reliable. Tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose, a genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time joined to every day com-

mon sense are the chief characteristics of the man. He has been watchful of all the details of his business and of all indications pointing toward prosperity and from the beginning he had an abiding faith in the ultimate success of his enterprise. He has gained wealth, yet it has not been alone the goal for which he was striving, for he belongs to that class of representative American citizens who promote the general prosperity while advancing individual interests.

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#### THOMAS C. HILL, M. D.

Dr. Thomas C. Hill, a physician and surgeon living upon one of the fine farms of Menard county, was born in Middletown, Illinois, October 14, 1864, and is a son of Dr. Green Hill, who for many years was one of the most prominent physicians and honored citizens of this portion of Illinois. He was born near Franklin, Tennessee, on the 1st of July, 1813, and was a representative of an old southern family of distinction, his paternal ancestors having resided in North Carolina, while his maternal ancestors were residents of Virginia. The late Hon. Benjamin Hill belonged to a branch of this family.

Dr. Green Hill supplemented his early educational privileges by study in Franklin Academy, which he entered when sixteen years of age. At that time the institution was under the presidency of Bishop James H. Otey, of Civil war fame. After a year Dr. Hill entered upon the study of medicine in Nashville and when he had completed a course in the Transylvania College of that city by graduation he entered upon the practice of his profession at his old home. He was then but twenty-two years of age and he spent two years in the vicinity of Franklin, Tennessee, after which he removed to Columbus, Mississippi, where he was located for ten years and in connection with the practice of medicine and surgery he conducted a drug store there. In March, 1850, he arrived in Elkhart, Logan county, Illinois, but in 1852 he removed to Middletown where his remaining days were passed in the active practice of his profession, his labors being of the ut-

most benefit to his fellow men. At the time of his death he was the oldest practicing physician in Logan county. When he took up his abode within the borders of the county there were few physicians there and his practice necessitated long journeys often in inclement weather. He would frequently see wolves and other wild animals while crossing the prairies. No bridge spanned Salt creek and many times he had to swim that stream in order to pay a visit to a patient. He was frequently away from home two or three days at a time, making his calls on the sick, and he had many long, tiresome rides in the saddle, but he never hesitated in the performance of any professional duty and his devotion to those who needed his services made him the loved family physician in many a household. Money was very scarce with the early settlers in those days and, in fact, almost the only coins or specie which the Doctor saw during the first year or two of his residence in Logan county was what he brought with him from Tennessee, for he usually received pay for his professional services in corn. Through a long career he maintained an enviable reputation as a skillful and successful physician and as an intelligent, honorable and upright citizen. Reading and investigation kept him thoroughly informed concerning the advance made in the medical fraternity and while he was never quick to discard the old and time-tried methods of practice he was always ready to adopt new ideas and improvements that would aid him in his professional work.

Soon after arriving in Logan county Dr. Hill in 1836 entered seven hundred and twenty acres of land in Hurlbut township, and also purchased twenty acres of timber land. He made a trip to this state on horseback in about ten days, bringing the money with which he paid for his land in his saddle bags. The entire section cost him but one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and he paid three dollars per acre for having the land broken, ox teams being used in doing the plowing. The Doctor retained possession of his land until he returned to Illinois in 1850, when he sold it for seven dollars per acre. For many years he had a pleasant home in Middletown and a farm of



DR. GREEN HILL.





one hundred and twenty acres in the township. In the early days of his residence in Illinois the family lived in a log cabin and wolves occasioned them much trouble. Those animals would crawl under the house and the children would punch them with pokers through the cracks in the floor so as to drive them away. Deer were very plentiful and venison was a common dish upon the family table.

In his political affiliation Dr. Hill was an ardent and life-long Democrat. Fraternally he was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he was long a consistent member of the Christian church of Broadwell. Speaking of his church relationship Elder T. T. Holton, his pastor, said:

"During his residence at Columbus, Mississippi, he acted as one of the elders of the congregation. There being no congregation at Middletown, his membership was with the church at Broadwell. Dr. Hill kept in touch with all the great work of the brotherhood. He contributed regularly and liberally, not only to the home church, but to our missionary enterprises. Upon his desk could always be found fresh copies of our best papers, and he was well read in the early history of the Disciples. He had many strong points in his character, and was one of the most entertaining and companionable men I have ever known. Had he achieved nothing else, the rearing and education of such a noble family of sons would be an honorable distinction."

Dr. Hill was married three times. In 1834 he wedded Miss Martha Ann Kirkpatrick, and they became the parents of two daughters, Mary and Sarah. The latter died at the age of sixteen years and the former married John Brandon, of Franklin, Tennessee. She and her husband are now deceased, leaving six children. Mrs. Hill died in Mississippi, and Dr. Hill was afterward married in that state to Sarah Van Meiddleworth, of Auburn, New York, who died in Logan county in 1858, leaving two daughters, Catherine, now the wife of Lewis Varney, a lawyer of Saratoga Springs, New York; and Ella, who married C. C. Baker, of Austin, Texas. For his third wife Dr. Hill chose Miss Martha R. Caldwell, of Logan county, and they became the parents of five

sons: Green E., who is living in Girard, Illinois; T. C., of Fancy Prairie; John H., of Mechanicsburg, Illinois; Harry C., of Streator, Illinois; and Talbert F., of Athens, Illinois. The sons have followed in the footsteps of their father in many respects. They have endeavored to exemplify in their lives his teachings concerning the development of an upright character and they have also all become physicians and are now successfully engaged in practice in the various communities in which they reside. In September, 1891, all of the sons met together with their mother in family re-union in Middletown, and the occasion was a most enjoyable one.

Dr. T. C. Hill, of Fancy Prairie, attended the public schools of Middletown and later entered upon the study of medicine under the direction of his father, while subsequently he attended lectures at Rush Medical College of Chicago, entering that institution in 1886. He was graduated with the class of 1888 and then located for practice in Fancy Prairie, where he remained for about a year, when he removed to Sweetwater, Illinois, spending nearly fifteen years in active and successful professional services there. But at length failing health compelled him to seek a needed rest and he spent the winter of 1903 in Los Angeles, California. After returning to Illinois he located upon his farm in township 18 in order to still continue a quiet life and to give his sons the advantage of farm life.

Dr. Hill was married on the 4th of September, 1888, to Miss Mollie Hall, the youngest daughter of James P. and Mary (Pearce) Hall. He has purchased the interest of the heirs in the old Hall farm property and this is now his home. He has between four and five hundred acres of valuable land. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Hill have been born three children: Thurman R., who was born July 12, 1889; Thomas G., who was born October 12, 1891; and Mary P., born August 25, 1898. Dr. Hill is a Democrat in his political affiliation and fraternally has been identified with Greenview lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M., for five years. For eight years he has been a member of the Christian church at Sweetwater, Illinois, and his life, like that of his father, has been guided

by honorable motives and upright principles. He has a wide and favorable acquaintance in his section of the state and no history of this portion of Illinois would be complete without mention of the Hill family.

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#### H. H. MARBOLD.

H. H. Marbold, a prominent representative of the business interests of Greenview and Menard county, has made consecutive advancement in an active career, wherein success has been won through methods which neither seek or require disguise. Watchful of opportunity, he has made good use of the advantages which are common to all, and by his unflinching diligence and careful investment has gained gratifying prosperity. As a banker and livestock dealer he is well known and to the latter industry has devoted his energies since his boyhood days.

Mr. Marbold was born in Badbergen, the province of Hanover, Germany, April 21, 1835, his parents being John H. and Maria E. (Sherhorn) Marbold, both of whom were natives of Hanover, the former born May 7, 1800, while the birth of the latter occurred on the 2d of February, 1809. His name was John H. Wernsing, but he was adopted by his aunt, Mrs. Catherine (Adlheit) Marbold, the provision being named that he was to assume her name. He was married on the 3d of November, 1829, to Marie E. Sherhorn, and they became the parents of six children, of whom two are now living. The mother departed this life in September, 1863, and the other members of the family came to America in 1847, landing at New Orleans on the 17th of November. In 1846 J. W. Wernsing, an own brother of J. H. Marbold, went with his wife to Germany to visit Mr. Marbold, who had a fine farm in the province of Hanover. After discussing with his brother the possibilities and opportunities of the two countries Mr. Marbold decided to sell his farm in Germany and come to America, which he did in 1847. After a short time spent in New Orleans, they made their way to Petersburg, Menard county, where they arrived on the 6th of December, 1847. They remained in

Petersburg for about three years, after which the father purchased two hundred acres of land near the village of Greenview, and the family settled thereon. Since that time the property has constituted the Marbold homestead.

H. H. Marbold acquired a good literary education and also received good training in business methods under the direction of his father, who furnished him means with which to enable him to trade in cattle when quite young. He has since successfully followed the business and by careful purchases and judicious sales has added annually to his income. As he found opportunity he also added to his landed possessions which now aggregate four thousand acres, upon which he grazes and feeds a large number of cattle each year. The extent of his operations in this direction have made him one of the leading stock dealers of central Illinois.

A man of resourceful business activity he has also extended his efforts into other lines and as a banker is also widely known. In 1876 he erected a large two-story brick building in the village of Greenview, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars, in which was established a bank, conducted under the firm name of Marbold, Alkire & Company. The relationship was maintained until 1879, when Mr. Alkire withdrew, M. M. Engle, who was the silent partner of the firm, continued with Mr. Marbold until 1883, when he, too, disposed of his interests, leaving Mr. Marbold as sole proprietor of what is recognized as one of the most reliable and trustworthy financial concerns of this part of the county. He has followed a safe, conservative policy and yet one in which progress has kept him abreast with the spirit of the times in business affairs. In 1890 he acquired one hundred shares of the capital stock of the First National Bank of Petersburg and in May, 1891, secured twenty more, while later an additional purchase made him the holder of two hundred and forty shares altogether. Long business experience and careful consideration of possibilities and trade conditions have enabled him to so conduct his affairs as rarely, if ever, to make a mistake in matters of business judgment, and the straightforward policy to which he has ever closely adhered proves what





MRS. H. H. MARBOLD



*W. W. Tharbold*





many are inclined to dispute, that prosperity and an honorable name may be won simultaneously.

On the 28th of June, 1860, Mr. Marbold was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Hackman, who was born near Ueffeln, in the province of Hanover, Germany, January 14, 1810, and came to America in 1857. They were married in Beardstown, Illinois, and became the parents of six children, three of whom are living. Those deceased are Dora, who was born July 24, 1874, and died February 26, 1877; Henry H., who was born April 6, 1874, and died February 19, 1877; and a babe, who died in infancy. The living are Anna M., the wife of Henry Wernsing, born August 24, 1861; H. J., born April 17, 1865; and Benjamin F., born December 14, 1877. In 1870 Mr. Marbold returned to his native country with his father, his wife and two of their children, but they were blockaded on account of the German and French war and had to return by way of Holland to Grimsby, England, thence to Liverpool and on to New York city. In 1896 Mr. Marbold again crossed the water, this time being accompanied by his wife and his sister, Mrs. Annie Engle, and his son Benjamin, who had just graduated from the military school at Worcester, Massachusetts. While in the fatherland he found and purchased an old desk that had been in the Marbold family for almost two hundred years and had it shipped to his home in Menard county. It is a very large piece of furniture—a desk and bookcase combined—made from oak and veneered with black walnut finely finished inside and out. It contains mainly secret drawers, containing some of the laws made by Napoleon, which the people were ordered to destroy after the French emperor was banished.

Mr. Marbold is a man of strong domestic tastes, and his devotion to his family has ever been one of his salient characteristics. The death of his wife therefore came as a particularly telling blow to the family. On the 24th of August, 1903, Mrs. Marbold, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Wernsing, started for the north on a visit and pleasure trip. She was not in good health at the time, but no alarm was felt. While visiting in Duluth, Min-

nesota, however, she was taken ill and a summons brought her husband and children to her bedside. She passed away September 15, 1903. Her friends cherish her memory, for she was one of the most beloved women of Menard county, possessing the traits of character which endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. She presided over her attractive home with gracious and cordial hospitality, and her kindly spirit was manifest in her tactful treatment of all. Elmwood, the beautiful family home, was the center of her universe, and all felt better who came within the radius of its cheering influence. The funeral services were held in the German Lutheran church and interment made at Rose Hill. Many and beautiful were the floral tokens of love and respect seen about the bier, and the church was inadequate for the large concourse of people who thus attested their love and friendship. Many from neighboring towns and more remote places were in attendance; hers was the largest funeral ever held in Greenville.

The three surviving children occupy homes which were given them by their father, those of H. J. Marbold and Mrs. Wernsing being among the finest residences of this part of the state, while Benjamin F. resides at the old home once occupied by his sister Mrs. Wernsing. The present elegant home of Mrs. Wernsing would grace the boulevards of any of the finest and largest cities of either America or Europe. It is built entirely of stone with great broad verandas on three sides and the interior finishing is thoroughly in keeping with the outside. It is without doubt the finest residence in central Illinois and there is nothing to compare with it in Menard county.

Mr. Marbold has been a student of the conditions of the county and its possibilities and his support can always be counted upon in relation to measures which have for their object the general welfare. In fact, statistics show that the Marbold family have done more toward the development and improvement of Menard county than any other family here living. Mr. Marbold came to this country as an American citizen and has the strongest attachment for the country and her institutions.

His political allegiance is given the Democratic party, and he is a firm believer in the principle of free trade, having given thoughtful and earnest consideration to the question, his opinions being fostered by study at home and also of conditions abroad.

In the summer of 1904 Mr. Marbold gave a tract of eight acres of land to be used as a cemetery for Greenview and at this writing, in November, 1904, he is erecting a memorial gate in memory of his wife. It is built of pressed brick and Bedford stone and granite, the memorial inscription to be upon the granite. This beautiful city of the dead is a splendid tribute to the memory of one whose life was devoted so largely to promoting the comfort and happiness of those around her and whose many acts of kindness cause her memory to remain as a beneficent influence with all who knew her.

Mr. Marbold has been liberal in his contributions to moral and educational enterprises, and the churches and schools of his neighborhood have found in him a warm friend. Menard county owes much to his progressive spirit and too much can not be said in his praise, for he has been indeed the advance agent of prosperity to the community at large and it is with the greatest pleasure that we present the history of himself and family to the readers of this volume, knowing that therein the younger generation will find a worthy example to pattern after. He is a man of unabating energy, of unfaltering honesty and industry that never flags, whether in connection with public affairs or private interests, and without invidious distinction may well be termed one of the foremost men of Menard county.

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#### ANDREW C. JUHL.

The German element in our American citizenship is an important one. The Teutonic race has taken an active part in the civilization of the world and the sons of the fatherland who have come to America have been quick to adapt themselves to the conditions of the new world and to take advantage of business openings here afforded. Mr. Juhl, possessing

many of the sterling characteristics of his German ancestry, has become a well known representative citizen of Menard county. He resides in range 8, township 18, where he carries on general agricultural pursuits, his birth occurring January 29, 1852, in Schleswig-Holstein, which province was then a part of Denmark. His parents were Hans and Mary (Smith) Juhl, and the father was a farmer by occupation. He being the eldest in a family of eleven children inherited his father's property in accordance with the laws of succession and thus became the owner of seven tuns of land, amounting to from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty acres, according to American measure. He has one sister who is yet living in Schleswig-Holstein upon a farm and who is the wife of John Winter. Hans Juhl carried on agricultural pursuits in his native country throughout his entire life and died in the year 1891, when seventy-seven years of age. In his family were twelve children, of whom Andrew C. is the third in order of birth. The record is as follows: Matt, who resides in Webster City, Iowa, having large farming interests in that part of the state; Hannah, who is the wife of Pete Miller, a resident of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Andrew C., of this review; Peter, who is engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery in New York city; Christina, who married Andrew Smith, but both are now deceased; Magdalena, who married Luther Smith and resides in Denmark; Mary, who is the wife of Pete Orup, also living in Denmark; Hans C., who is a retired farmer residing in Omaha, Nebraska; James, who lives in township 18, Menard county; Christopher, who makes his home in the same township; Louisa and Mary, both of whom are married and reside in Denmark. This is a remarkable record for longevity, there being but one death in this large family of children. The mother is also yet living in Denmark and is now seventy-four years of age, her birth having occurred in 1830.

Andrew C. Juhl acquired his education in the public schools of Denmark and has always followed farming. He came to America in 1873 when about twenty-one years of age, for he had heard favorable reports concerning busi-



RESIDENCE OF H. H. MARBOLD



ness opportunities in the new world and thought that he might acquire a competence more rapidly in this country. Accordingly he crossed the Atlantic and beginning work as a farm hand, he was employed in this way three years. On the expiration of that period he thought his capital was sufficient to justify him in carrying on farming on his own account and therefore he rented a tract of land, beginning its further development and cultivation. He continued to rent land for about six years then with the money he had acquired through his own labors he made his first purchase of land in 1884. Since that time he has added at intervals to his property and he now owns five hundred and twenty acres worth eighty dollars per acre. He raises grain, horses and hogs, but gives no attention to cattle, for he did not find them profitable. He has made all of the improvements upon his farm and now has one of the best properties in the agricultural districts of Menard county. Everything about his place is kept in excellent condition and the farm is the visible evidence of his life of carefully directed labor, for he came to America empty-handed and all that he has achieved is the reward of his persistent effort and diligence.

In 1876 Mr. Juhl was married to Miss Louisa Baker, who is of German birth and who prior to her marriage resided in Sand Ridge, Menard county. Six children have been born unto them: Hall, who resides at home; Walter, now deceased, who married Alice Smith and since his death his widow has made her home with her father, S. M. Smith; Ollie, who married Walter Watkins and is living in township 18, Menard county; Hattie, who is the wife of William J. Houghton; Emma, who resides upon the home farm at the age of fifteen years; and Elsie, who is twelve years of age and completes the family.

Mr. Juhl is a Republican in his political belief and has been called to serve in several local offices, acting as school trustee, as school director and as road commissioner. He belongs to the Lutheran church, while his wife is a member of the Methodist church. Both are worthy of the esteem in which they are so uniformly held and they certainly deserve re-

presentation in this volume. Mr. Juhl has not been disappointed in America, its advantages and its prospects and has never had occasion to regret his determination to establish his home in the new world, for here he has prospered as the years have gone by and is now one of the substantial farmers of his locality.

#### HORACE A. WOOD.

Horace A. Wood, now living retired in Petersburg, was until recently engaged in the nursery business. He was born on the 30th of June, 1842, in Cattaraugus county, New York, a son of Solomon and Ann (Shewman) Wood. The father was born in the Empire state in 1812 and was of English lineage, while his wife was of German descent. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a militia man in New York at an early day and when the country became involved in the second war with England he enlisted in its defense and served throughout the period of hostilities. Solomon Wood was reared to manhood in the state of his nativity and throughout his business career followed the occupation of farming. His birth had occurred in Putnam county, New York, but he removed from that section of the state to the western part, settling near Ithaca and later he took up his abode in Cattaraugus county, where he became a landowner and carried on agricultural pursuits. He married Miss Ann Shewman, who was of German lineage, born in New Jersey in the year 1814. It was soon after their marriage that they removed to western New York, taking up their abode near Olean, which was the starting place for the western emigrants, the travelers securing their outfits there and proceeding from that point down the Allegheny river. Solomon Wood died in 1890 at about the age of eighty-five years, and his wife passed away three years previously when about the same age. In their family were five children, of whom Horace A. was the fourth in order of birth. Abraham, the eldest, spent his entire life in New York. Harriet, deceased, was the wife of Sylvester Gray, who lived in the state of New York, where Mrs. Gray spent her entire

life. She had three sons and three daughters. Halsey, who owns the old family homestead in western New York, married Sarah Maybe and they have one daughter and an adopted son. Jennie, the youngest of the family, became the wife of Montville White, and both are now deceased. They resided in the Empire state and had one son and three daughters.

Horace A. Wood began his education in the district schools of his native state and afterward continued his studies in an academy in Rushford, New York. Later he attended a private school and subsequently went to Poughkeepsie, where he entered Eastman's Business College, completing his education by graduation from that institution. On putting aside his text-books he began traveling for a nursery company, his territory being principally Illinois. Later he embarked in the nursery business in Menard county on his own account and grew nursery stock for seven years. He then dealt in nursery stock for a number of years and was at one time connected with a business of manufacturing bed springs and mattresses, following that pursuit for about thirteen months. He owns seventy acres of land adjoining the corporation limits of Petersburg. In Menard county and this part of the state was known as an enterprising and reliable business man, and whatever success he achieved is due entirely to his own labors, for he started out in life on his own account with limited capital.

In 1869 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wood and Miss Lizzie Miles, a daughter of James Miles, whose biography appears elsewhere in this volume, and unto them were born three children, two sons and a daughter: Florence, born in 1874, is now the wife of Dr. George Spears, who is engaged in the practice of dentistry in Petersburg; Beulah, born in 1881, is a graduate of the Petersburg high school and has spent two years as a student in the State University of Illinois and is now teaching in Menard county. Harlington, born in 1884, is also a graduate of the Petersburg schools and was a student in the State University, where he pursued the study of law. He is now teaching school, but will continue his law studies in 1905.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wood hold membership in the Christian church and their children are also identified therewith. He gave his political support to the Republican party until 1896, in which year he voted for William Jennings Bryan, but he has again become connected with the Republican party and he is enabled to support his position by intelligent argument because he keeps well informed upon the questions and issues of the day. He began life as a poor boy, but his financial valuation is now creditable. His life has been one of activity and usefulness and has been characterized by the most unswerving integrity and honor in all his business transactions and in his varied relations with his fellow men.

#### THOMPSON WARE McNEELY.

Thompson Ware McNeely was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, October 5, 1835. His father, Robert T. McNeely, and his mother, Ann Maria (Ware) McNeely, were natives of Kentucky but were married in Jacksonville, Illinois, September 11, 1834. The mother died in Jacksonville, July 25, 1839, and our subject then came to live with relatives in Menard county, where he has resided ever since. His father came to Petersburg in 1842 and engaged in mercantile business, residing there until his death December 17, 1886.

After coming to Menard county, Mr. McNeely spent a number of years on a farm and then entered his father's store as a clerk. After one year at Jubilee College near Peoria, Illinois, he entered Lombard University at Galesburg in 1852, from which he was graduated in June, 1856, with the degree of A. B., and the same college conferred upon him the degree of A. M. in 1859. Mr. McNeely began the study of law in July, 1856, and in the following October he went south and taught school in a private family on a plantation near Woodville, Mississippi, for some months, studying law at the same time. Returning to Petersburg he was admitted to the bar in August, 1857, where he has since then been in the active practice of law. In November, 1858, he entered the law department of the Univer-





WILLIAM H. B. 2





sity of Louisville, Kentucky, from which he was graduated in the following March with the degree of LL. B.

In November, 1861, Mr. McNeely was elected as a delegate to the constitutional convention of Illinois from Menard and Cass counties, in which body he served as a member. In 1868 he was elected on the Democratic ticket as a member of congress from the ninth congressional district of Illinois, composed of the counties of Menard, Cass, Mason, Fulton, McDonough, Schuyler, Brown and Pike, and was re-elected from the same district in 1870, serving from March 4, 1869, to March 4, 1873. He was appointed by the Democratic state convention of Illinois and served as a delegate to the Democratic national convention which was held in Baltimore in 1872. In 1878-9 he served as chairman of the state Democratic central committee of Illinois. In 1892 he was elected and served as one of the presidential electors for Illinois, voting for Mr. Cleveland. In 1896 he was again nominated as a presidential elector by the Democratic state convention but was defeated as were all others on the ticket. He has always supported and voted the Democratic ticket, taking an active interest in every campaign.

On November 27, 1872, Mr. McNeely was married to Miss M. H. Dirickson, daughter of Colonel L. L. Dirickson, of Berlin, Maryland. They have one child, Bettie, the wife of Nelson H. Greene, of Tallula, Illinois. In religion Mr. McNeely is an Episcopalian and is an officer in the local church. He is a Mason and has served as master of his lodge; high priest of his chapter; and eminent commander of his commandery. He is a Scottish Rite Mason, and has received the thirty-second degree of that Masonic order. He is also a Knight of Pythias, a Modern Woodman and an Elk.

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#### REINHARD ONKEN.

Among the citizens that Germany has furnished to the new world is numbered Reinhard Onken, who has many of the sterling characteristics that have always been notable among the German people—the energy, capability and

strong purpose. He was born January 11, 1846, his parents being Herman and Mary (Gerdes) Onken, who were also natives of the fatherland. The former died December 24, 1865, and the latter in February, 1860.

Reinhard Onken spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native land, attended school in accordance with its laws and afterward, still in conformity with the rules that govern German citizenship, he entered the army, serving from November 1, 1867, until the 5th of September, 1871. A war broke out in 1870 and on the 4th day of August of that year he went with his command to the French line. On the 16th of the same month he participated in the battle of Marslatour, the engagement lasting from morning until eight o'clock at night, while the loss on each side was over twenty-five thousand. The next engagement in which Mr. Onken participated was that of Gravelotte, the fighting beginning at noon and continuing until night. He was in seven pitched battles altogether, serving with the cavalry forces.

Not long after his release from military service Mr. Onken determined to establish his home in America and arrived in Menard county on the 1st of April, 1872. Here he was employed by the month as a farm hand until 1880, when he rented the Alkire farm near Sweetwater for a year. He afterward rented the H. H. Marbold farm until 1888, when with the money that he had saved from his earnings and through his economy he became the owner of a farm of his own. In fact he had purchased this in 1886, but did not take up his abode thereon until 1888. Since that time he has continually and successfully engaged in general farming and in the raising and feeding of stock and has fine farm animals upon his place, dealing only in high grades of cattle and horses. He came to this country empty-handed, but has steadily worked his way upward and is to-day the owner of two hundred and seventy acres of fine land, splendidly improved with good buildings and equipped with all the accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century.

Mr. Onken was married to Miss Amelia Meyer, a daughter of Herman H. and Dorothy

(Hackman) Meyer, both of whom were born in Germany. Mr. Meyer also came to this country in very limited financial circumstances, but through his energy and activity and by reason of his honorable conduct he became a representative citizen of Menard county. He was born February 16, 1826, and died April 27, 1902. His wife was born on the 7th of March, 1834. The year 1854 witnessed their arrival in America and for about a year they remained in St. Louis, where Mr. Meyer was employed in a brickyard and in driving teams. He came to Menard county in 1855 and for some time worked by the month in the employ of Mr. Marbold, and by his economy and industry he saved sufficient means to enable him to purchase two hundred acres of wild land near Salt creek. He then put forth every effort toward the improvement of this place that it might become a productive tract. Later he was enabled to purchase two hundred acres near by and also improved this.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Onken has been blessed with four children: two having died in infancy. Those living are: Herman E., born May 26, 1881; and Margaret Maria, born August 7, 1887. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Onken has for twelve years been a member of the school board in his district in which capacity he does everything in his power to promote the cause of education. In politics he has always been a staunch Democrat and in his citizenship has been noted for his loyalty to America and her best institutions.

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#### H. E. WILKINS, M. D.

Among the members of the medical fraternity practicing in Petersburg who deserve special mention because of their capability and consequent success is Dr. H. E. Wilkins, to whom is accorded a gratifying patronage in recognition of his careful preparation and his skill which arises therefrom. He has spent his entire life in this state, his birth having occurred in Greenville, Bond county, on the 21st of July 1865. His parents, Dr. D. and Maria M. (Gwyn) Wilkins, are natives of Laporte,

Indiana. In 1857 the father removed to Illinois, settling in Greenville, Bond county, where he has since engaged in practice, although he is now largely living retired, being seventy-nine years of age. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding, May 11, 1904, and the festivities were participated in by many friends, for they are among the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Bond county. At the time of the Civil war Dr. D. Wilkins offered his services to the government, enlisting in the One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, under Colonel John B. Reed. He served almost from the beginning of hostilities until the latter part of 1865, and after his return home he acquired a very extensive practice, which brought to him a good financial return. From the time of the establishment of the board of pension examiners he served as one of its members, acting in that capacity until he resigned on account of advanced age, at which time he was succeeded by his son, Dr. David R. Wilkins. The father is a prominent and valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is also identified with the Masonic fraternity.

Dr. H. E. Wilkins began his education in the primary school of Greenville and there continued his studies until he had completed the high school course, being graduated with the class of 1886. Whether inherited tendencies or environment shaped his course it is impossible to determine, but at all events he resolved to make the practice of medicine his life work and to this end entered the Missouri Medical College of St. Louis, Missouri, where he spent three and a half years in study and was then obliged to put aside his text-books because of failing health. His case was diagnosed as tuberculosis and it was arranged that he should spend six months in Kansas, six months in Colorado and six months in the mountains, but at the end of the first six months he was so improved that he returned to Greenville.

There Dr. Wilkins was married, on the 24th of December, 1890, to Miss Mary E. Habich, a daughter of Joseph H. Habich, a representative farmer of Bond county. They lost two children that were born unto them: Daisy Ruth, who died at the age of two years; and Madie



*B. F. Marbold.*



Jewell, who died at the age of six and a half years. On the 25th of September, 1901, a son was born, to whom they have given the name of James Habich Wilkins.

After his marriage Dr. Wilkins returned to Geneva, Kansas, where he had previously practiced, and again taking up his professional duties, he continued a member of the medical fraternity of that place for two and a half years. On the expiration of that period he pursued a course of study in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, and was graduated on the 11th of March, 1893. In addition to the regular work he pursued a special course on diseases of women and children, for which he received a special diploma, and in his practice he has been very successful along those lines.

Following his graduation he returned to Bond county and took up the practice of medicine five miles east of the old homestead, where he remained until 1895, when he removed to Sorento, Bond county, settling fifteen miles north of the old home. When he had practiced in that locality for nine years he came to Petersburg and succeeded Dr. J. C. Fisher in the conduct of a practice which under his guidance has grown in both volume and importance. He belongs to the Bond County Medical Society and also to the Menard County Medical Society.

Dr. Wilkins is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is serving as senior deacon of his lodge. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Mutual Protective League and was one of the leaders and promoters in establishing a camp of the Sons of Veterans in Petersburg. His political support is given the Republican party and he was its choice for the position of coroner in 1904. Both he and his wife are consistent members and very active and efficient workers in the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Petersburg, in which he is now serving as a ruling elder and also as clerk of the sessions. His life has been actuated by high and worthy principles and motives, as is indicated by his strict conformity to the ethics of the profession, his honorable relations with his fellowmen and his advocacy

of any cause which has for its object the real betterment and improvement of the community.

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#### JOSEPH COLSON.

Joseph Colson was born June 29, 1860, on the farm in Menard county now occupied by August Winkleman. He is a son of Samuel and Maria (Watkins) Colson, early residents of Illinois, the father living in this state at the time of the memorable deep snow—an event which has become historical in the annals of the state. In the family were six children, of whom five are living: Charles, who resides near Oakford, married Julia Brown and they have seven living children; Calvin W., who resides upon his father's farm, wedded Ollie Eden and they have three children, two daughters and a son; Joseph is the third in order of birth; Annie is the wife of David Stitch, a farmer residing at North Atterberry, and they have two sons and two daughters; Jennie, a twin sister of Annie, is the wife of Theodore Dohrer, who is in the government service at Arkansas City, Kansas, and they have three sons, including twins; one child, Mae, died on the home farm at the age of eighteen years and was buried in Oakland cemetery.

Joseph Colson pursued his education in what was called the Sampson school. It was seated with long benches and there was a large stove which would take in a stick three or four feet in length. It was difficult to maintain discipline in those days, schools being noted for their unruly character, nor did the pupils always tread "a flowery path of knowledge." On the home farm Mr. Colson received instructions as to the best methods of planting and harvesting crops and raising stock. He has always engaged in farming and he first began business on his own account on the A. Winkleman farm, which was then owned by his father. There he lived for a year.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Colson chose Miss Martha Bell, the wedding being celebrated December 24, 1879. Her parents were Austin and Elizabeth (Arnold) Bell, and the Bells were among the early settlers of Little Grove. Both her father

and mother were born at Walnut Ridge, Menard county. After his marriage Mr. Colson engaged in farming south of Oakford for a year and later lived for one year about a quarter of a mile from that place. He afterward removed to the William Lewis farm, upon which he lived for five years and then settled on the Walter Lynn place, now known as the Walker farm. There he lived for three years, at the end of which time he removed to his present farm, taking up his abode in a little house which stood in the old orchard. There he lived for three or four years, after which he returned to the Walker place and again made it his home for four years. He afterward returned to his present farm, occupying the same old house, and later he took up his abode on his father's old homestead. He has been fairly successful, always carrying on general farming, and he is now operating two hundred and forty acres of land on the old home place and rents one hundred and twenty-five acres. He has lived a life of industry and energy and whatever success he has achieved has resulted therefrom.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Colson have been born seven children and the family circle remains unbroken by the hand of death. These are Nora Ellen, who was born November 28, 1880; Matt H., born October 12, 1882; Annie, born May 4, 1884; Elizabeth, born March 24, 1888; Myrtle, born March 4, 1889; Edith, born November 28, 1890, and now attending school in Atterberry; and Samuel, born September 9, 1896. The children have been provided with good common-school advantages and all belong to the Methodist church in Atterberry. In his political views Mr. Colson is a Democrat and is now serving as central committeeman, taking an active interest in the party, its progress and success.

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#### AUGUSTUS F. BEARD.

Augustus F. Beard, who has long been identified with the farming interests of Menard county, has been a witness of America's progress and improvement for more than three-quarters of a century. He was born at New

Boston, Merrimack county, New Hampshire, on the 25th of August, 1827, his parents being Andrew and Rachel (Marshall) Beard, who were also natives of the old Granite state. Mr. Beard is descended from Scotch-Irish ancestry, the family being founded in America by three brothers, Andrew, Joseph and Archibald Beard, who came from Coleraine, County Londonderry, Ireland. Archibald landed in Virginia in 1764 and two years later Andrew and Joseph crossed the Atlantic to Boston, Massachusetts, but never saw the other brother after coming to this country. Andrew Beard, who was our subject's great-grandfather, was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1710, and in his native land married Lydia Goadly, who was related to the family of Commodore Porter and was visited by him while his fleet was at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Her father was an English officer in the American Revolution, while her son William fought against him as a member of the Colonial army. On coming to the new world Andrew Beard brought with him his family, the son William being then fifteen years of age. From Boston the family proceeded north into New Hampshire and stopped over night at Bedford, that state. During the night their landlady gave birth to twin girls and the following morning William was invited in to see them. As he was leaving the mother said she would give him one of them and strange to relate he married one of them in later years. She bore the name of Jane Burns and was closely related to the noted Scotch poet Robert Burns. They were married on the 20th of March, 1790. William Beard was born in Coleraine, Ireland, October 20, 1751, and was the eldest son of Andrew Beard, who was a blacksmith by occupation. In June, 1775, while working on a building on his father's farm, in New Boston, William received the news that the British had landed in Boston and with the consent of his parents he immediately repaired to Charlestown to take up arms in defense of his adopted country. His mother's last words to him as he was leaving home were: "Go, son, and fight for your country, and if the enemy ever see your back never let me see your face again." He participated in the battle of Bunker Hill and was one of the forty to





*Anna M. Wiering.*



volunteer to bring some cattle across a neck of land under a raking fire from the enemy in order to prevent their capture. The Revolutionary war records of New Hampshire mention that after the battle the government allowed him four shillings for repairs on his musket. Investigation has shown that at the storming of the heights he shattered his gun stock over the head of a British soldier who had stabbed him in the face with his bayonet. In 1777 Mr. Beard received an ensign's commission and was one of the scouts that commenced the attack on the enemy at Bennington. It was here that General Stark on entering the fight uttered the historic words, "We conquer to-day or Molly Stark will be a widow." Although in several engagements Mr. Beard was never wounded except as before mentioned and at the close of his service returned home with an honorable military record. Although entitled to a pension he nobly refused it. He followed farming and blacksmithing and continued to make his home in New Hampshire throughout the remainder of his life. His death occurred January 2, 1832, and his wife died February 9, 1830.

Andrew Beard, the son of William and the father of our subject, was born January 30, 1791, and was a life-long resident of New Hampshire. He also devoted his energies to farming and blacksmithing, working at his trade when the smith had to make his own nails and do all work by hand. He lived an active, useful and honorable life and became the owner of a good farm in his native state. He taught school for a time and was a member of the New Hampshire legislature. In 1816 he married Elizabeth Cochran, a daughter of Deacon Cochran, and to them were born two children, John and Margret. John married Emily Marshall, of Unity, New Hampshire, to whom were born two sons, George and Clarence. Margret married Hiram Angell and they had one child, Emily. For her second husband she married John Gilmore, but both Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore are now deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Beard died January 11, 1826, and her husband subsequently married Rachel Marshall and removed to Newport, New Hampshire. Her death occurred March 30, 1860, and he

passed away March 31, 1861. By the second union there were two children: Augustus F., of this review; and Ann Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

Augustus F. Beard is indebted to the schools of Newport, New Hampshire, for the educational privileges he enjoyed in youth. His training at farm labor was also ample, for at an early age he began assisting his father in the development of the fields. After attaining man's estate he followed the occupation to which he had been reared and became the owner of seventy-five acres of land in New Hampshire, which he afterward sold prior to his removal to the Mississippi valley. During the Civil war he enlisted at Newport as a musician in the Sixteenth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry but was soon discharged on account of illness. He came to Menard county, Illinois, in 1862, and here he resumed farming operations on a tract of land west of Petersburg. He purchased his first land here in 1892 and is now the owner of a good farm of three hundred and fifty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, adding to it many modern equipments and improvements.

At Sunapee, New Hampshire, November 6, 1851, Mr. Beard was united in marriage to Miss Nyrba Hurd, a daughter of Hiram and Esther (Patten) Hurd. Her father was born in Newport, New Hampshire, June 3, 1800, and was of English lineage, and her mother, who was born in Deering, that state, December 22, 1804, was also of English descent. Mrs. Beard was born June 8, 1833, and pursued her education in New Hampshire. Her father came to Illinois in 1851, journeying by rail to Springfield and thence coming to Petersburg by stage. He purchased land here and at the time of his death was the owner of between six and seven hundred acres. He prospered in his undertakings in the west and developed an excellent farm, which made him one of the substantial agriculturists of his community. He died May 26, 1886, and if he had lived seven days longer he would have attained the age of eighty-six years. His wife died February 11, 1892, at the age of eighty-seven years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beard have been born

two sons, both of whom are living. Hiram, who is now forty-eight years of age, married Miss Lillie Simons, and they reside two miles southwest of Petersburg. They have one son, Leon, who is now twenty-one years of age. Irvin H., forty-four years of age, married Ellie Lewis, and they reside a quarter of a mile west of Petersburg. Their children are three in number: Mabel, eleven years of age; Willis, aged eight; and Marshall, six years old. Irvin H. Beard obtained a first grade certificate and taught school in De Witt county, was also a teacher for several years in the country schools of Menard county and later engaged in teaching in the city schools of this county. His attention, however, is now given to agricultural pursuits.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Beard has supported the Democratic party. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and are a well known old couple of this portion of the state. Although Mr. Beard has advanced far on life's journey, in spirit and interests he seems yet in his prime, still superintending his business affairs and taking an active interest in all that pertains to the progress, improvement and up-building of this locality. In all the relations of life he has been honorable and upright and he is now spending his declining years in peace and quiet, enjoying the confidence and friendship of many with whom he has been associated.

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#### WILLIAM W. STONE.

It is always of interest to examine into the history of a self-made man and note the qualities in his character that have brought him success. William W. Stone deserves to be ranked among this class and after many years active identification with agricultural interests he is now living a retired life in Greenview. He was born at Irish Grove, Menard county, on the 11th day of May, 1833, representing one of the old pioneer families of this state. His parents were Ambrose Lee and Catherine (Walker) Stone, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. The father

came to Menard county in 1828, casting in his lot among the frontier settlers, and here he turned his attention to farming, which he carried on continuously until his death, which occurred on the 27th of May, 1865. He had long survived his wife, who had passed away in 1843.

William W. Stone acquired his early education in the public schools and afterward spent six months as a student in Iowa. His training at farm labor was not meager for in his youth he was instructed in the best methods of cultivating the fields and caring for the stock. To his father he gave the benefit of his service until he was about thirty years of age, after which he engaged in farming for himself, carrying on agricultural pursuits uninterruptedly until about fifteen years ago, when he put aside the more arduous cares of an active business life and removed to Greenview. He still, however, owns the farm which his father entered from the government on coming to Illinois more than six decades ago. This is a good property well improved and he also has some real estate in Greenview. That he has prospered in his undertakings is due to his careful management, persistency of purpose and laudable ambition and he is now the owner of realty interests that return to him a good income and enable him to enjoy a well merited rest.

Mr. Stone has been twice married. In September, 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Frances Harding, a native of Kentucky, and they became the parents of three children: Charles, who is conducting a drug store in Greenview; Kittie J., the wife of Dwight Smith, also of Greenview; and Emma E., the widow of Aaron Hatfield. Mrs. Stone departed this life in 1876 and in 1878 Mr. Stone was again married, his second union being with Eliza J. Stone, a native of Illinois, who died in 1880.

Mr. Stone has spent his entire life in Menard county, covering a period of seventy-one years, and has therefore been a witness of the greater part of its growth and development. In his boyhood days there was much land that was still uncultivated and the homes of the settlers were very primitive as compared with the fine residences which are now seen through-



RESIDENCE OF HENRY WERNING



out Menard county. He assisted materially in the substantial upbuilding of this portion of the state, especially along agricultural lines, and has ever manifested a keen interest in the general work of improvement.

#### BERTON W. HOLE, M. D.

Dr. Berton W. Hole, who is engaged in practice in Tallula, where his ability has found recognition in a large and growing patronage, was born in Mason county near Havana, Illinois, October 11, 1870, his parents being William H. and Rebecca Susan (Dieffenbacher) Hole. The father was of English lineage, while the mother was of German descent. His birth occurred near Salem in Washington county, Indiana, and his father was a native of Ohio. The paternal great-grandfather, Daniel Hole, came from England to America and was the founder of the family in the new world. At the time of the Civil war William H. Hole espoused the cause of the Union and enlisted in the Eighty-Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served under Sherman, participated in the battles of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Ringgold, Kennesaw, Resaca, Atlanta, the march to the sea and the Carolina campaign, after which he participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C. He was a brave and loyal soldier, doing his full duty as a defender of the Union cause and he is now an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He still resides near Mason City in Mason county. He has always followed farming and now owns a good tract of land in that locality. He lost his first wife in Havana, Illinois, in 1877, and has since married again. He has one brother and one sister living: Thomas A., who is a retired farmer residing in Havana; and Mrs. Maria Lafton, also living in Havana. Berton W. Hole is the second in a family of three children, but Edgar, the eldest, died at the age of eighteen months. His sister, Garnet, is the wife of W. S. Chestnut, who is a farmer but resides in the town. They have two children, a son and daughter.

Berton W. Hole was educated in the country schools and at the high school of Havana,

in which he was graduated in the class of 1889. He then entered the medical department of the Northwestern University, where he completed a course by graduation in 1892, the degree of Medical Doctor being then conferred upon him. Having thus qualified for practice he opened an office in Virginia, Illinois, in the summer of 1892, but remained there only until September of that year, when he came to Tallula and entered into partnership with Dr. C. M. Robertson. This relation was maintained until 1897, when Dr. Robertson retired and Dr. Hole has since been alone in business, enjoying a large and lucrative practice. He is very careful in the diagnosis of a case, is seldom at fault in his judgment, and in his practice has displayed a thorough knowledge of the science of medicine with correct application of its principles to the needs of suffering humanity. He belongs to the Menard County Medical Society, to the Sangamon County Medical Society, the Brainard District Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and through the interchange of thought and experience in these organizations he keeps in touch with the advancement which is being continually made by the medical fraternity. He has further prepared for his professional duties by post-graduate work in the Post-Graduate Medical College of Chicago, which he attended in 1899. He is now secretary of the pension board of Petersburg, Illinois, and he has a large general practice in Tallula and the surrounding district.

In June, 1894, Dr. Hole was united in marriage to Miss Sarah I. Robertson, a daughter of Dr. C. M. Robertson. She acquired her early education in Tallula and afterward attended the Female Seminary at Jacksonville, Illinois. Both the Doctor and Mrs. Hole are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and they are prominent socially, the cordial hospitality of the best homes of this part of the county being freely extended to them. In his political views the Doctor is a stalwart Republican, ever supporting the party since attaining his majority and although he has never sought office he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has



been a school director and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Masonic fraternities, the latter at Pleasant Plains. He was made a Mason at that place in April, 1903. In a profession where advancement depends solely upon individual merit he has steadily worked his way upward and in the enjoyment of a large practice is now daily demonstrating his ability to successfully solve the intricate problems which continually meet the physician.

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#### HARMON J. MARBOLD.

Harmon John Marbold was born in Greenville, Illinois, on the 17th of April, 1865, and is a son of Henry Harmon and Margaret (Hackman) Marbold, who were both born in Germany but came to America when quite young and were married in this country. Extended mention is made of the family on another page of this volume. The early life of Harmon J. Marbold was that of the average farmer boy, spending his summers on the farm and attending the common schools in winter until fifteen years of age. He then entered the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois, where he spent three years. Soon after this he took a six months' course in a business college at Lexington, Kentucky. Later he spent a year in Bremen, Germany, under the instruction of a private tutor.

From boyhood Mr. Marbold has been a lover and admirer of horses, especially of trotting horses, and early began training the horses on the farm in this admired accomplishment. Later he became a driver of no mean ability, having driven on the same track with Bud Doble, Ed Geers and other noted drivers. Some years ago he opened the trotting stable on the Marbold stock farm at Greenville, Illinois, and subsequently Grand Baron became the head of a stable of well bred trotting horses. Grand Baron, whose breeding is of the very best, had a record of 2:12 $\frac{1}{4}$ . In the summer of 1898 he was on the grand circuit pitted against The Monk, Pare Devil and others, and at Glens Falls, New York, they were to trot for a purse of two thousand dollars. Two days before the race was to come off, while exercis-

ing, Grand Baron fell dead on the track from heart disease. Mr. Marbold had been offered twelve thousand dollars for him a few days before he died. Mr. Marbold still raises trotting horses and trains but does not follow the races. He is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising, operating a farm of over seven hundred acres. His home is one of the most beautiful places in central Illinois and is finished in the latest and most approved style.

On the 24th of June, 1891, Mr. Marbold was united in marriage to Miss Emma E. Miller, the third daughter of R. D. and C. A. Miller, of Petersburg, Illinois. They were married in Ouray, Colorado, and to them have been born the following children: Margaret Ann, born March 22, 1892; Pauline Miller, born March 26, 1894; Anna Marie, who was born October 17, 1896, and died May 8, 1897; Charlotte Riche, born October 17, 1898; and Helen Agnes, born November 22, 1899.

Mr. Marbold was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Menard county in 1900 and re-elected to the same office in 1903. He is an active and successful business man, energetic and public spirited, and honorable in all his dealings with men. He is modest and unassuming in manner, but firm and self-asserting when necessary. His character is best seen in the family circle, where he exhibits the traits of a faithful husband and father. He is highly respected in the community where he has lived all his life, having a host of friends and but few enemies.

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#### C. D. McDONGALL, D. D. S.

Dr. C. D. McDougall, engaged in the practice of dentistry in Petersburg, was born in Oneida county, New York, January 25, 1869. He is descended from Scotch ancestry and is a representative of one of the old families of the Empire state. His grandfather, John McDougall, resided there and Isaac and Hannah (Jones) McDougall, parents of Dr. McDougall, were natives of Oneida county. In the year 1853 they removed to Petersburg, where they have since resided, and for the past few years



*H. Marbold*



the father has lived retired from business cares.

In the family were nine children, of whom Dr. McDougall is the youngest. Three of the number are now deceased. The Doctor was only about four years of age at the time of the removal of the family from New York to Illinois and in the public schools of Petersburg he acquired his literary education, completing his course by graduation from the high school with the class of 1890. He afterward engaged in teaching school for two years, but regarding this merely as an initial step to other professional labors, he matriculated in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, where he completed the regular course and was graduated in 1895. Returning to Petersburg he opened an office on the west side of the square, where he remained for four years and then removed to his present suite of rooms on the south side of the square. His office is well equipped with the latest improved appliances known to the science of dentistry and in his practice he manifests the two qualities which are absolutely essential to success—mechanical ingenuity and thorough understanding of the principles of dentistry.

On the 29th of October, 1896, in Petersburg, Dr. McDougall was married to Miss Bertha Hutcherson, a daughter of William and Emma Hutcherson. Her father died a number of years ago, but her mother is still living. Mrs. McDougall was educated in the Petersburg high school, completing her course in the same class of which her husband was a member, and then both took up the work of teaching, which she followed until her marriage. She was a lady of natural refinement and culture, as well as intellectual force, which endeared her to a large circle of friends, and caused her loss to be deeply felt, when on the 16th of September, 1897, she was called from this life. She left one daughter, Bertha Galie, born September 11, 1897.

Dr. McDougall is a prominent Mason, having attained the Knight Templar degree of the York rite, the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is an active member of the High School Alumni Association of Peters-

burg and also of the Alumni Association of the Chicago Dental College, which meets each year in Chicago. His attention is largely devoted to his professional duties, and laudable ambition, thorough collegiate preparation and earnest devotion to his chosen calling have secured to him gratifying success and consecutive advancement.

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#### ALONZO L. STURGIS.

Alonzo L. Sturgis, a representative farmer of township 19, was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, November 17, 1856, but in early boyhood days was brought to Menard county by his parents, Daniel and Sarah (Brooks) Sturgis. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and in early life removed to the west. After residing for some time in Missouri he brought his family to Menard county in the fall of 1861 and continued in active business here as a farmer and stock-raiser until called to his final rest in the year 1875. His widow still survives him and is now living in Greenview, having passed the seventieth mile-stone on life's journey on the 9th of May, 1901. In their family were five children: Alonzo L.; Elizabeth, the wife of Johann Pierce, of this county; William B., who is married and resides in Menard county; Nancy J., who died May 30, 1838; and Susan, the wife of Morris Stone, of this county. The parents were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and were people of genuine worth and of the highest respectability.

The boyhood days of Alonzo L. Sturgis were quietly passed in Menard county, there being no event of special importance. He worked in the fields upon the home farm and acquired his education in the public schools. Under his father's direction he learned the best methods of caring for the stock and of cultivating his crops and after his father's death he continued upon the old homestead place with his mother until twenty-four years of age, at which time he was married and went to a home of his own. He resided in Greenview for one year and on the 5th of November, 1882, removed to Irish Grove on the old Sturgis homestead.

Subsequently he took up his abode upon the home farm and since the first of March, 1896, has there carried on general agricultural pursuits and the raising of stock. For thirty-two years he operated a threshing machine each season, but during the past two years has not engaged in that business.

On the 24th of December, 1880, Mr. Sturgis was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Cleveland, a daughter of William H. and Hannah H. (Trumbo) Cleveland. Her father was born August 13, 1838, in New York, and after his removal to the west established his home in Menard county, Illinois, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years. After the inauguration of the Civil war, aroused by a spirit of patriotism, he offered his services to the Union and on the 11th of September, 1861, became a member of Company E, Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry. He was wounded at the battle of Belmont, Missouri, in November, 1861. The regiment received its first baptism of fire under General McClelland, forming the right wing of the attacking force, and inspired by its brave colonel it drove against the enemy in the midst of a perfect hail of bullets and canister. Mr. Cleveland was honorably discharged February 18, 1862, but he re-enlisted as a member of Company F, Twenty-eighth Volunteer Infantry at Petersburg, June 18, 1864. Later he was with Company C, there having been a consolidation effected on the 27th of June, 1864. He then served with Company C until mustered out after the close of the war, on the 15th of March, 1866, at Brownsville, Texas. He arrived at Camp Butler May 13, 1866, and was there paid off. He is now living at Guthrie Center, Guthrie county, Iowa. During the interval between his first and second periods in military service he lost his wife, who died July 19, 1863, and he afterward married again and is now living with his second wife in Iowa. The children of the first marriage are Alonzo, who was born August 4, 1861, and died November 21, 1884; and Mrs. Sturgis.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis are the parents of four children: Lawrence E., who was born May 6, 1882, and is at home; Rolland E., who was born October 2, 1884, and died on the 22d

of November, following; Loren E., born April 18, 1886; and Raymond S., born July 14, 1889.

In his political views Mr. Sturgis is a stalwart Republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of the party, and he is now serving as one of the school directors and also as road commissioner of his township. He is a member of Myrtle lodge, No. 470, I. O. O. F., at Middletown, has filled all of its chairs and has been a delegate to the state lodge. His wife is connected with the Rebekah degree, the woman's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows society, has held all of the offices therein and she, too, has been a delegate to the state lodge. Mr. Sturgis belongs to the Modern Woodman camp, No. 178, of Greenview; the Farmers Mutual Protective Association, No. 207, at Greenview, and both he and his wife are members of the Court of Honor, connected with Pleasant Valley lodge, No. 59, at Middletown. They have many waria friends in fraternal circles and are held in high esteem throughout the county where Mr. Sturgis has spent almost his entire life, while Mrs. Sturgis has been a life-long resident of this portion of the state.

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#### ANDREW GADDIE.

Andrew Gaddie is a self-made man, whose life history can not fail to prove of interest, as it indicates what may be accomplished through strong and determined purpose, guided by honorable effort. Long a resident of Menard county, he is now largely living retired from active business cares, although he is yet to some extent engaged in buying and shipping stock. In community interests he has been an active factor and the trust which his fellow townsmen have in him has been indicated by his election on various occasions to county offices.

Mr. Gaddie was born on the Orkney islands of Scotland, on the 31st of May, 1837, and when but thirteen years of age he went to sea with his maternal uncle, David Spence as a cabin boy. He followed the sea until nineteen years of age, after which he returned home and attended school for two years. On the expiration of that period he came to the United



RESIDENCE OF H. J. MARBOLD





States in company with his sister Jane, crossing the Atlantic in 1859, and since that time he has continuously made his home in Menard county—one of its respected and worthy citizens, co-operating in many measures for the general good. He filed his paper, indicating his intention of becoming an American citizen, August 23, 1862. A few days before this he had manifested his loyalty to the government by joining the Union Army, enlisting on the 14th of August, 1862, as a private under Captain John A. Hurt, of Company K, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, the capture of Little Rock, Arkansas, and other engagements and was discharged at Little Rock, October 14, 1864, after more than two years of active service, on account of disability. In the meantime he had been detailed as a recruiting officer under Captain Christie with offices at Atlanta, Illinois, and he thus sent many soldiers to the front.

After his discharge Andrew Gaddie returned to Menard county and in 1867 he purchased a farm of two hundred acres in township 18, range 5 west. He then turned his attention to the production of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also to the raising of live stock. He purchased his farm of Robert A. Creswell, of McLean county, September 23, 1867, and as he found opportunity he added to his possessions until he now owns three hundred and twenty-six acres of very rich and arable land, which for many years returned to him good harvests and now yields him a gratifying financial income. In 1891, however, he put aside the active work of the fields and retired to private life, removing to Greenview, where he purchased a home, which he has since occupied. He has continuously engaged in shipping stock since 1866 and follows this pursuit to some extent at the present time. In addition to his home farm he has two hundred and ninety acres of land two miles north of Greenview and one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the corporate limits of the city on the west, together with five acres of timber land in Irish Grove. He also owns the home that he now occupies, together with four lots there and across the street he has a nice cottage sit-

uated on two lots. He also has a nice house and lot north of town and when he first took up his abode in the city he formed a partnership with G. G. Spear, now deceased, in the conduct of a grocery and meat market, but not meeting with the success that he anticipated in this venture he sold out October 1, 1893. He has now retired from all business interests, save that to some extent he yet buys and ships stock.

Mr. Gaddie has been called to several public offices by his fellow townsmen who recognize his ability and trustworthiness. He was first elected county commissioner in 1876, was re-elected in 1879 and 1882 and again in 1885, serving in all through twelve consecutive years upon the county board. He was also a member of the school board for twenty-one years and was president of the town board of Greenview for one year. He has ever exercised his official prerogatives in support of the measures which he deemed would prove of greatest benefit to the majority and his interest in the welfare of his county is deep and sincere.

On the 20th of November, 1866, Mr. Gaddie was married to Miss Sarah Keene, a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Warner) Keene, of Menard county. Unto them have been born eight children: John T., born February 17, 1868, is residing upon the old homestead; Cora Nellie, born November 8, 1869, is the wife of George A. Stevens and resides across the street from her father; Katie Gertrude, born January 27, 1872, is the wife of Frank Montgomery, now living on her father's farm north of Greenview; Charles H., born January 25, 1873, resides upon the old home place; Mary Emma, born March 14, 1876, is the wife of Seymour Sanders, of Greenview; Jessie Artamise, born January 26, 1878, is the wife of Ernest Tripp, a hardware merchant of Greenview; Mattie Ann, born December 5, 1880, is the wife of Elijah G. Spears, of Greenview; Elsie Margaret, born August 31, 1882, is the wife of Charles Ramsey, and they reside with Mr. Gaddie. Mrs. Gaddie, who was born October 8, 1848, died April 22, 1887, and on the 13th of August, 1896, Mr. Gaddie was again married, his second union being with Eliza A. Con-

ant, of Menard county, who was born November 10, 1842, and died September 26, 1901.

Mr. Gaddie attends the Presbyterian church and is a member of Hurst Post, G. A. R. His political allegiance has long been given to the Democracy. He certainly deserves the praise that is accorded the term of the self-made man, for he never inherited a cent nor does he owe a single cent, yet he is the possessor of extensive and valuable property interests, all of which have been acquired through his unfaltering enterprise, capable management and judicious investment.

### KIRBY S. JOHNSON.

Kirby S. Johnson, who for twenty-two years has been a resident of Menard county, where he has been very successful in the conduct of general farming and stock-raising interests, now makes his home in township 19, range 5 west, near Middletown, Illinois. He was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, on the 23d of October, 1860, and is a son of John S. and Luellen (Bradley) Johnson, who were also natives of Kentucky, the father born November 12, 1817, and the mother on the 25th of December, 1818. John S. Johnson spent his boyhood days with his parents on the old family homestead in Kentucky and after his father's death he began the operation of the old home, comprising three hundred acres of rich land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. He was also extensively engaged in the raising of mules and hogs and found that a profitable source of income. His corn crops were among the largest produced in this section of the state. He bought mules and hogs for the markets of West Virginia and North and South Carolina, and drove his stock to those states, there being no railroads at that time to furnish shipping facilities. He made two trips each year, walking the entire distance. At the time of the Civil war he became a member of the southern army and remained in the service until the close of hostilities. In 1874 he married Luellen Bradley and they became the parents of five children, four sons and a daughter, but two died in childhood. The three now living are: Elizabeth, the wife of

James Shront, a resident of Missouri; George T., who married Miss Josie Jackson and is now living in Kentucky; and Kirby S. The father long figured prominently in business life and public circles in his part of Kentucky, and there he died on the 1st of April, 1901, respected by all who knew him. His wife had passed away July 1, 1894.

Kirby S. Johnson remained with his parents during the period of his youth and obtained his education in the public schools of Kentucky. In 1882, however, he bade adieu to parents and friends and started out in life on his own account, coming to Menard county, Illinois, where he secured employment with Thomas Kincaid as a farm hand, being thus engaged for eighteen months. He then married the daughter of his employer, Miss Harriet Kincaid, the marriage taking place on the 14th of January, 1885. Her father was born in Bath county, Kentucky, October 15, 1822, and married Miss Lucinda Patterson, whose birth occurred in Hardin county, Ohio. They became representative and prominent farming people of Menard county, where they spent their remaining days. Mrs. Kincaid died April 14, 1872, and Mr. Kincaid's death occurred February 7, 1900. They were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, but the first two died in infancy. The five now living are Lee, a resident of Athens, who was born February 7, 1857, and married Miss Susan B. Culver; Mrs. Johnson, born December 31, 1861; Louie J., who was born August 16, 1861, and is the wife of Harry R. Jones, who resides near Athens; Lucy B., who was born October 30, 1867, and is the wife of U. J. Hale, of Jacksonville, Illinois; and Annie S., who was born May 9, 1871, and is the wife of Isaac Jones, who resides near Ellston, Iowa.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson has been blessed with five children, all sons: Harry D., born July 17, 1886; Thomas K., born August 4, 1889; Hugh F., born November 8, 1892; Vincent K., born May 29, 1896; and George L., born March 26, 1900.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Johnson removed to Jackson county, Missouri, where he carried on farming for a year, and they



MR. AND MRS. K. S. JOHNSON.



then returned to Menard county, where, in 1886, he began the operation of one hundred and twenty-six acres of land. He afterward purchased this property and he now has two hundred and sixty acres, on which he carries on general farming with good success. He has also been well known in connection with stock-raising. At one time he was extensively engaged for ten years in the raising of fine horses for driving and for the track, and he had a track upon his farm for training. He developed some good racing stock and raised and sold many good roadsters. On the 8th of June, 1899, he held a public sale and disposed of all the fine bred horses which he had at that time. He had during that period several fine stallions, which he kept for breeding purposes; In more recent years he has given his attention to draft horses, and at the present writing, in the fall of 1904, he has upon his farm twenty head of horses, ninety head of cattle, two hundred hogs and fifty sheep. He is regarded as one of the leading stockraisers of this part of the country, and has handled many fine animals.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Masonic fraternity. His political allegiance is given the Democracy and he has served for three years as county commissioner, but is not an aspirant for office and has declined to become a candidate for other official positions. He has been school director, however, for twelve years and the cause of education finds in him a warm and helpful friend. He and his wife attend the Presbyterian church. In his business career he has steadily worked his way upward, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path and he now occupies an enviable position among men of affluence in Menard county.

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#### JEFF JOHNSON.

Jeff Johnson is one of the best known citizens of Menard county, few having longer resided in this part of the state. He is, indeed, an honored and respected pioneer settler and he receives the veneration and esteem which should ever be accorded those of advanced years whose lives have been worthily passed. He resides in

Athens precinct and the old homestead farm was also his birthplace. He was born October 3, 1828, his parents being William and Cynthia (Williams) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Bath county, Kentucky. The father was born January 8, 1801, and was reared in the county of his nativity. After arriving at years of maturity he married Miss Cynthia Williams and immediately afterward they started for Illinois, arriving in this state in the fall of 1823. They were among the first permanent settlers of Menard county. Mr. Johnson secured a claim, entering the land from the government, and built a cabin, which was at the head of Indian creek, his farm being included within the borders of our subject's property. He continued to reside here until his death, which occurred about 1843. He was noted for his honor in all business transactions and in every relation of life, and he was a man of quiet and refined habits, unassuming in disposition and yet whose genuine worth caused him to enjoy the regard and confidence of all with whom he was associated. He never sought public office, in fact, always refused all offers made him for political preferment. He enjoyed more the even tenor of farm life and domestic quiet and happiness. He reared a family of seven children, of whom only two are now living: Jeff and John, residents of Menard county. Those deceased were: Mrs. Hannah Bracken; Melinda, wife of Edward L. Sweeney; Joseph; and Elijah, who was killed by the Indians in California in 1853.

Jeff Johnson, whose name introduces this record, pursued his education in an old log school house in Menard county, with a punch-con floor, slab benches and an immense fireplace and other primitive furnishings. Little was taught beyond reading, writing and arithmetic, but experience and observation have added greatly to his knowledge and he has kept in touch with the progress of the world through reading. After leaving school he began farming on the old home place and throughout the greater part of his life he has carried on agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He was a breeder and buyer of hogs and cattle and made a specialty of raising what was known as short-horn Christmas cattle. As there were no ship-

ping facilities in Menard county at that time he drove his cattle to St. Louis to market. At the time of the Civil war he traded extensively in mules and horses and making judicious purchases he was also able to make profitable sales. His business has been carried on successfully and what he has acquired has come to him as the direct result of his enterprise, careful labor and management and his keen business foresight. He now owns four hundred and fifty-five acres of land in this county and a section in Kansas.

On the 30th of December, 1858, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Riley, who was born in Piqua, Miami county, Ohio, September 21, 1836. Her parents were Nathan Pratt and Bethany (Jackson) Riley, the former a native of Middletown, Connecticut, and the latter of Findlay, Ohio. When she was eight years old the family came west and settled in Logan county, Illinois, but two years later removed to Beloit, Wisconsin, where they spent eight years. At the end of that time they returned to Ohio, where Mrs. Riley died. Subsequently the father again came to Illinois and died at the home of our subject in 1898, at the age of eighty-eight years. In his family were ten children, of whom four are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one daughter, Anna, whose birth occurred on the old homestead in 1867 and who is now the wife of E. G. King, a prominent attorney of Lincoln, Illinois. They have three children. Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Johnson has been many times solicited to become a candidate for office but has steadily refused, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs and his leisure time to the enjoyment of the pleasures of home. He has always given a staunch support to the Republican party, however, since its organization. He has contributed his full share to the material progress and upbuilding of the county and he takes a just pride in what has been accomplished. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past with its pioneer conditions and environments and the progressive present with its modern civilization and splendid improvements. He can relate from memory many incidents concerning the early

days and of later development and is considered authority on all subjects relating to the pioneer history of Menard county, where for seventy-six years he has made his home, residing continuously upon one farm.

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#### FRANK E. BLANE.

Frank E. Blane, a son of Captain S. H. Blane, was born near Greenview, this county, October 16, 1866. He obtained his elementary education in the public school of Menard county and was graduated from the high school of Petersburg in 1884. He attended Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois, two years and subsequently matriculated in Knox College, at Galesburg, Illinois, where he graduated with the class of 1888. At Knox College he was a member of Delta Chapter of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He entered upon the study of law with his father as preceptor and on the 11th day of January, 1891, was licensed to practice law. He at once became a partner of his father under the firm name of Blane & Blane. This connection continued until the junior partner was elected county judge in the fall of 1898. He served on the bench until June, 1902, when, owing to his father's ill health, he resigned his official position to again become his father's partner in the law business, this relationship continuing until the death of Captain Blane.

Frank E. Blane was twice elected city attorney of Petersburg, in 1891 and 1893. He is a member of the Christian church at Petersburg and an active Mason, being a member of Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M.; Dewitt chapter, No. 119, R. A. M.; St. Aldemar commandery, No. 41, K. T.; and Mohammed Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

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#### ALMON G. HURD.

For many years actively engaged in farming in Menard county and at an early day identified with the educational development of his district, Almon G. Hurd is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his former



Frank E. Blane





toil. He was born in Sunapee, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, on the 13th of March, 1838, his parents being Hiram and Esther (Patten) Hurd. The Hurd family is of English lineage and was established in Massachusetts in early colonial days by Peter Hurd, the great-grandfather of our subject, who settled in New Hampshire near the present site of Concord. There he carried on agricultural pursuits. He was accompanied on the voyage by two brothers, one of whom established his home in Connecticut, while the other went south to Virginia. Peter Hurd became the owner of land in the Old Granite state and there he resided until called to his final rest. He was also accompanied to America by the great-grandfather of our subject, who likewise made his home in New Hampshire and there reared his family. The grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and participated in many of the battles that occurred in the eastern section of the country. Hiram Hurd, born and reared in New Hampshire, also carried on agricultural pursuits. He wedded Miss Esther Patten, who was of Scotch-Irish descent. Her father was also one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war, serving as a private, and he likewise represented one of the oldest American families. Hiram Hurd was one of a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are now deceased. He had a brother, John A. Hurd, who came to Illinois in 1838 and settled in Beardstown, where he owned land and reared a family of one son and two daughters. The son died while serving his country in the Civil war. One of the daughters, Mrs. Celania C. Dickerson, now resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Hiram Hurd remained in New Hampshire until after his marriage and the birth of several children. He came to Illinois in 1854, bringing with him one son and one daughter, having lost five children during their residence in the Old Granite state, all of whom died in early life save Irvin, who was nineteen years of age at the time of his demise. Mr. Hurd settled upon the farm where his son Almon G. now resides and he became one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of this county, adding to his landed possessions from time to time until he had acquired about eight hundred acres.

He had secured one hundred and sixty-eight acres before his arrival here, locating this with a land warrant given his brother John A., who served as a soldier. Mr. Hurd continued to reside in Menard county for many years and was respected as a worthy pioneer and upright citizen. His birth had occurred in 1800 and he was therefore eighty-six years of age at the time of his death in 1886. His wife passed away in 1891 and her remains were interred by his side in Oakridge cemetery. Both were consistent and faithful members of the Christian church and Mr. Hurd had given stalwart political support to the Democracy.

Almon G. Hurd began his education in the schools of New Hampshire and continued his studies at Indian Point, Illinois. He left school, however, at the age of sixteen years and afterward devoted his entire attention to farm labor. He had assisted in the cultivation and improvement of the old homestead in the state of his nativity and after coming to the west he aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm. He began agricultural pursuits on his own account on the farm where he yet resides, and as a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Mary J. Miles, a daughter of James Miles. She was educated in the common schools and in 1867 she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Hurd. They became the parents of two children: Harvey A., who was born July 14, 1869, was educated in Petersburg and became a traveling salesman for the firm of Thomas & Clarke, cracker manufacturers of Peoria, Illinois. He rose very rapidly in business, but in the midst of a very successful career he was taken ill and died on the 21st of August, 1901, at the age of thirty-two years, his remains being interred in Oakridge cemetery. Iona O., who was born February 13, 1874, is the wife of Hardy Peterson and they reside with her father. They had one son, Myron Dale, who was born November 4, 1902.

In early manhood Mr. Hurd engaged in teaching school at Little Grove and Brush College, also at Tice and at Little Brick, but the greater part of his time and attention have been devoted to agricultural pursuits upon the old homestead, on which he has now lived continuously since 1854. He has promoted mod-

ern improvements here, carrying forward the work of progress until he has a splendidly developed farm property, and in his business dealings he is always just, fair and accurate. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party. He belongs to the Odd Fellows society and his wife is identified with the Rebekah degree, while both are members of the Christian church and take a helpful interest in the various church activities. A half century has passed since Mr. Hurd arrived in this county and its remarkable changes are familiar to him, for he has witnessed its development from pioneer conditions to a state of advanced civilization and improvement.

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#### WILLIAM GOFF.

William Goff, who is now living retired, was once engaged extensively in stock-dealing in Menard county and he is now residing in township 18 upon a fine farm of two hundred and eighty-five acres, his attractive home being surrounded by beautiful shade and fruit trees of his own planting. He has traveled far on life's journey and in the evening of life he receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded one of advanced years, whose career has been actuated by upright principles and honorable conduct. He was born in Green county, Kentucky, August 19, 1822, the second son of William and Amy (Trent) Goff. His parents were also natives of Kentucky, and in 1825 they came northward to Menard county, Illinois, remaining for a short time in Clary's Grove, after which they removed to a farm five miles southeast of the present site of Petersburg. Not long afterward the father died and the mother, who was a splendid type of the noble pioneer women, not only cared for her fatherless children but also succeeded in retaining possession of the claim, improving it and laying by some money. In the family were seven children.

William Goff spent his youth and early manhood amid conditions which are always found in a frontier district. His educational privileges were extremely meager and he earned his first money when twelve years of age by

riding horses, tramping out wheat. The sum thus gained he invested in a pig, thus entering upon his first business transactions. He sold this at a profit and as he found opportunity from time to time he purchased other stock until he had quite a herd of young cattle. He was a successful trader and he continued to thus engage in stock-dealing until about thirty years of age, when, thinking it time that he own property, he entered forty acres of land from the government in Mason county, Illinois. On the expiration of two years he sold the tract there and purchased eighty acres in Sugar Grove precinct of Menard county, trading a horse in part payment for this land and giving also sixty-five dollars in cash. He then cut logs, which he hauled to a little sawmill and had them converted into lumber, with which to build his first house. This pioneer structure, which is fourteen by sixteen feet, is still standing and is one of the landmarks of the neighborhood. When he moved into the little home he had but fifty cents in money and an ox team. He had incurred indebtedness in order to complete the house, but he possessed a resolute spirit and strong determination and his unflinching courage and willingness to work have been the means that have enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way steadily upward to success. He had been installed in his new home for only a brief period when he broke forty acres of prairie land for Mr. Brasfield at two dollars per acre and with this amount he paid for the building of his house.

On the 24th of October, 1844, Mr. Goff was united in marriage to Miss Mary D. Westfall, who was born in Pennsylvania, October 10, 1824. Her parents removed to Des Moines county, Iowa, in 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Goff resided upon a farm in Sugar Grove precinct and as opportunity offered he purchased more land until he had one hundred and sixty acres. This he mortgaged for one thousand dollar and used the money to buy stock. He often had as high as seventy-five head of fat cattle at one time. These he purchased for about twenty-six dollars per head and sold them for one hundred and six dollars per head, thus realizing a good profit on his investment. He





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM GOFF.



WILLIAM GOFF AND FAMILY.





also sold mules enough at one time to buy fifty head of cattle. On another occasion he bought ten old sows for ten dollars each and after letting them run in a lot for six weeks he fattened them and sold them for twenty-five dollars each. He continued to feed cattle and hogs for ten years and has had some very fine stock, his best cattle weighing as high as sixteen and seventeen hundred pounds. He has always made money in the stock business, for being an excellent judge of stock he was enabled to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. In 1860 he bought fifty head of cattle for fourteen dollars per head and after feeding them sold them for forty-five dollars per head, receiving payment in gold at a time when that currency was at a premium. These he bought in Knox county and drove them to Menard county. On another occasion he purchased a herd of cattle for which he paid fifty dollars per head and after feeding them he received one hundred and twenty-five dollars per head. He also bought a yoke of oxen for sixty dollars, which he afterward sold for two hundred dollars. Mr. Goff became very widely known as a very extensive and prosperous stock-raiser and dealer, and his business was carried on along progressive and profitable lines for a number of years, or until 1889, when he sold his stock to his son Fred and since that time he has practically been living a retired life, he and his wife occupying their fine home in Sugar Grove precinct, which is surrounded by shade and fruit trees of his own planting. He here has two hundred and eighty-five acres of rich and valuable land, which is the visible evidence of his life of thrift and industry. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Goff were born ten children, and the group picture here represented shows four generations of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Goff being the great-grandparents.

While business cares have largely occupied his time and attention Mr. Goff has also found opportunity to devote to public interests. He served as road commissioner for one year and was school director for fifteen or twenty years. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, believing firmly in the principles of Democracy, and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church and have long taken an active and help-

ful part in its work, contributing to its support and doing all in their power to promote its progress. One of the venerable citizens of Menard county, Mr. Goff is honored as a patriarch of this community and it is with pleasure that we present to our readers the record of his career.

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#### JOHN W. DONALDSON.

Among the younger and yet enterprising and successful farmers of Menard county John W. Donaldson is numbered. He was born August 9, 1876, and is a son of Walker Richard and Rebecca (Sowers) Donaldson. His father was born in Bath county, Kentucky, July 16, 1824, and was a son of Alexander and Sarah (Power) Donaldson, who came to Menard county in 1850, settling on a farm on Salt creek. Their family numbered twelve children. W. Richard Donaldson, after arriving at man's estate, had come to Menard county six months before the arrival of his parents. In 1852 he made an overland trip to California with a large flock of sheep, starting in the month of February and arriving in the Sacramento valley in October of that year. For four years he remained on the Pacific coast employed in various ways and upon his return to Illinois he engaged in the live-stock business, becoming an extensive dealer, widely known in this connection in Illinois and Missouri. About 1867, however, he concentrated his energies upon the development and improvement of his land and upon his farm he spent his remaining days. During and after the war, however, he made many trips into Missouri, which at that time was in a very unsettled condition and he bought and brought to this state many droves of cattle, which he sold to farmers. His life was often endangered by bushwhackers, but he possessed great courage and persevered in his business career. He ultimately became the owner of land in both Missouri and Illinois. He had manifested his loyalty to the government at the time of the Mexican war by enlisting as a soldier of Company G, Third Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, serving under General Scott and participating in all of the engagements

from the coast to the ancient city of the Montezumas. He died in his sixty-eighth year after about a year's illness and was survived by his wife and four sons, who resided on the homestead farm containing five hundred acres of valuable land. A local paper in speaking of Mr. Donaldson, said: "He was the soul of honor. His word was as good as his bond, and while he would resent an injury or defend a friend with a vengeance that was terrible to opponents, there was no better-hearted, whole-souled citizen than 'Dick' Donaldson. Politically he was of the General Jackson type. He sought no office, but no Democrat in this county has been a candidate for or elected to an office until his recent illness that does not owe him a debt of gratitude. In all political contests the warmer the battle, there, in the thickest of the fight, Dick Donaldson was sure to be, as can be attested by many citizens of the present day. There are few who have not their faults. He may have had his, but they were so overshadowed by generous and more noble traits of character that they were made insignificant. All who knew him can truthfully say that Walker R. Donaldson was an honorable citizen, a good neighbor, a true friend, and a kind husband and father."

John W. Donaldson was reared under the parental roof upon the old homestead farm, which is still his place of residence. He attended the public schools and was instructed in lessons of industry and economy on the old homestead. He early learned the best methods of producing good crops and caring for the stock and throughout his business career has engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He both buys and feeds stock for the market and in June, 1904, he shipped three carloads of cattle and two carloads of hogs to the Chicago market.

On the 26th of October, 1898, Mr. Donaldson was married to Ruth Armeling, a daughter of John H. and Caroline M. (Pugh) Armeling, the former born in Badbergen, Hanover, Germany, March 2, 1841, and the latter in Nanticoke, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1811. In his early childhood days the father was brought to America and his first lessons in walking were received on the deck of

the ship on which the voyage was made. With his parents he came to Mason county, Illinois, where he has made his home up to the present time, following the occupation of farming throughout the period of his manhood. He has been prominent and influential in community affairs, has served as a member of the school board, gives his political support to the Democracy and religiously is identified with the Methodist church. In his family are eight children, five of whom have been school teachers, including Mrs. Donaldson. She holds membership in the Methodist church and in his political views Mr. Donaldson is a Democrat. He has worked earnestly and persistently since attaining adult age and is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the county and is also classed with the successful agriculturists.

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#### JOHN K. KINCAID.

John Kennedy Kincaid, one of the most influential factors in the moral development of Menard county, and one whose business record was alike creditable and worthy of emulation, resided for a half century in this part of the state and was respected and honored wherever known. A native of Kentucky, he was born in Bath county, June 30, 1808, and was the eldest in the family of eleven children born unto Andrew and Anna P. (Caldwell) Kincaid. His grandfather, Archibald R. Kincaid, was a native of Ireland and in early life came to the new world, locating in Virginia, where he resided until 1780. He then removed with his family to Bath county, Kentucky. His son, Andrew Kincaid, was at that time four years of age. The latter remained upon his father's farm until 1807, when he was united in marriage to Miss Anna P. Caldwell and established a home of his own. In 1834 he removed to Illinois, locating in township 18, Menard county, on land purchased from Ellis Branson. After a long, useful and honorable career he died in 1872 at the age of eighty-seven years.

John Kennedy Kincaid spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the state of his nativity, pursued his education there and came to Illi-

nois two years previous to the removal of the other members of the family, arriving in this state in 1832. He made his way up the Illinois river to Beardstown and walked from there to Springfield. Soon afterward he removed to Menard county and devoted his time and energies to various pursuits, following carpentering, farming and school-teaching up to the time of his marriage. He afterward gave his attention exclusively to agricultural pursuits and placed his land under a very high state of cultivation. Viewed from a financial standpoint, he was entirely a self-made man, for when he arrived in Illinois he had a capital of only fifty dollars. As the years advanced and his financial resources increased he invested in land and became the owner of a valuable farming property, in the development and cultivation of which he acquired prosperity. He labored persistently, his efforts directed by sound judgment and strong purpose, and he became recognized as one of the most successful, prominent and influential citizens of Menard county.

In March, 1836, Mr. Kincaid was united in marriage to Miss Vienna Williams, a daughter of James Williams, and for more than a half century they traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. They became the parents of fourteen children, but only five are now living. Mr. Kincaid was most devoted to his family and his pleasure was not in the accumulation of wealth, but in bestowing upon his wife and children the comforts that money could secure. He was also most generous in his support of the church and kindred movements, and the poor and needy found in him a warm and liberal friend. He was sixteen years of age when his parents united with the Presbyterian church and at the same time brought all of their children under the holy ordinance of baptism. The impressive ceremony was never forgotten by John K. Kincaid and it was not long before he made public profession of his faith in religion, remaining to the close of his life a most earnest Christian, whose faith was proven by his works. Almost immediately after uniting with the church he and a young companion organized a Sunday-school, which met in his father's home, and later they did a most

meritorious work by forming a Sunday-school for the colored people. He was always deeply interested in the colored race and did much for the improvement of those who lived in his community. He rejoiced in the honor of being personally acquainted with the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, and his work in behalf of the black race was attended with good results. He was a frequent and generous contributor to the work of the board of freed-men. On coming to Illinois he joined the North Sangamon Presbyterian church, just two years after its organization, and on the 5th of June, 1837, he was chosen ruling elder, which office he filled with marked fidelity and great ability for almost fifty years. He was active in the various departments of church work, was the teacher of the Bible class in the Sunday-school for almost half a century and labored not only for his local church, but also supported the various branches of church work, being a liberal contributor to home and foreign missions. The cause of education received his hearty endorsement and he did much for the local schools. He was one of the principal founders of the North Sangamon Academy, which for many years afforded the best preparatory preparation for college in the county. Reform, progress and improvement might be termed the keynote of his character. He departed this life February 16, 1887, and his wife, who was born May 4, 1817, passed away March 29, 1888. Theirs was a most congenial married relation and they were not long separated in death. Some one who knew Mr. Kincaid long and well said: "In him the union of business and Christian life was most beautifully portrayed and lived. He improved his opportunities for material advancement, yet was never neglectful of his duties to his fellow men or his Creator, and he left behind him an example which is an inspiration to all who knew him."

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#### G. W. SPEARS, D. D. S.

Dr. G. W. Spears, engaged in the practice of dentistry in Petersburg, was born in Tallula, Menard county, May 1, 1869, a son of G. C. and Elizabeth Spears, the former born in Ken-

tucky on the 18th of April, 1822, while the latter's birth occurred in Menard county. In their family were nine children, of whom G. W. Spears is the seventh in order of birth.

Reared under the parental roof, Dr. Spears devoted the greater part of his boyhood to the acquirement of a good education in the public schools of his native town, and when he had mastered the more specifically literary branches of knowledge he entered upon the mastery of the principles of dentistry, matriculating in the Chicago Dental College, where he completed the regular course and was graduated on the 1st of May, 1902. Immediately afterward he came to Petersburg. He did not have long to wait for patients and his business has grown continually, so that he now has a large and gratifying practice. He is familiar with the latest methods known to the science, has his office equipped with the latest improved dental appliances, and his skill in performing the mechanical work connected with the profession has secured him a very desirable patronage, which indicates that he has found favor with the public.

On the 1st of January, 1902, Dr. Spears was united in marriage to Miss Florence Wood, of Petersburg, a daughter of H. A. Wood, one of the old settlers and prominent residents of Menard county. The Doctor and his wife are members of the Christian church, have many friends and occupy an enviable position in social circles here. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge, and in the line of his profession he is a member of the Alumni Association of the Chicago Dental College and also belongs to the Illinois State Dental Society. He is a Republican in politics, but cares nothing for public office.

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#### OTTO F. LENZ.

Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Petersburg than Otto Ferdinand Lenz, who has been an important factor in business circles here, being connected with a number of industrial and commercial enterprises which have direct and important bearing upon the commercial activ-

ity and consequent progress and prosperity of his city. In his life work he displays many of the sterling characteristics of the German people from whom he came. He was born in Arnswalde, in the province of Brandenburg, Germany, on the 4th of January, 1862. His paternal grandfather, William Lenz, was also a native of that locality and was a carpenter and builder. There he reared his family, including William Lenz, Jr., the father of our subject. He, too, became connected with building operations and was thus engaged throughout the entire period of his business career. He married Henrietta Martin, also a native of the province of Brandenburg.

Otto F. Lenz is indebted to the public school system of Germany for the educational privileges he enjoyed and remained under the parental roof until eighteen years of age, when he resolved to try his fortune in the new world. Accordingly, in 1880, he came to the United States, making his way direct to Petersburg, Illinois, where he has since made his home, and in his business career he has steadily progressed, making his energy and enterprise a commercial possibility, manifest in the successful control of various enterprises. For four years he was engaged in coal mining and in 1885 he began learning the bottling business, with which he has since been connected. In the spring of 1886 he established a plant of his own, developing the business now known as the Petersburg Bottling Works. Here he manufactures and bottles pure and high grade carbonated beverages, using none but distilled water, and the superior quality of the product brings a ready sale on the market. Mr. Lenz is also the proprietor of the Edmunds Mineral and Sulpho Hygeia Springs, the waters of which are famous on account of their medicinal qualities as shown under careful chemical analysis. These springs are located across the river from Petersburg. The bottling business is now very extensive, his plant being fitted up with the latest improved machinery and facilities in that line, and his trade is constantly growing. Mr. Lenz has not limited his efforts, however, to this line of commercial activity, but has been the promoter of other business interests and is now the vice president of the Petersburg Coal



Otto F. Lenz



Mining Company and a director in the Virginia Canning Company, of Petersburg. He forms his plans readily, is determined in their execution and his keen foresight makes his judgment of value in trade transactions.

On the 26th of April, 1889, Mr. Lenz was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Speulda, of Springfield, Illinois, a daughter of William Speulda, who was for a number of years successfully engaged in the jewelry business in the capital city, where he died during the early girlhood of his daughter Minnie. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lenz have been born five children, two sons and three daughters: Carl, Hattie, Bertha, Paul and Marie.

For almost a quarter of a century a resident of Menard county, Mr. Lenz has figured in public affairs. He is public-spirited and in connection with the city government has promoted public measures of lasting benefit. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to become an American citizen for in this country, where the road of opportunity is open to all, he has not only developed a profitable business but has also gained many warm and valued friendships.

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#### JOHN E. WHITE.

John E. White, now living in Athens precinct, opened his eyes to the light of day on the old homestead farm in a log cabin, his birth occurring October 15, 1851. Although the farm was then largely unimproved it is now a well developed tract of land, the fields being rich and arable and returning to the owner a golden tribute for the care and labor he bestows upon them.

The parents of Mr. White were R. F. and Rachel E. (Roach) White, the former born February 27, 1819, in Laclede county, near St. Louis, Missouri. With his father, Robert White, he came from his native state to Illinois about 1823, the family home being established at Kickapoo, near Lincoln, where Robert White secured a tract of wild land and carried on farming for a short time. He afterward removed to within a quarter of a mile of the home farm of John E. White and there he

carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising until his death, being one of the early prominent settlers of this section of the state. As a pioneer he took helpful part in laying the foundation for present progress and prosperity, assisting materially in reclaiming the wild land for the purposes of civilization. R. F. White was reared on the old family homestead and assisted in the farm work, so that he gained practical knowledge of the labor incident to the improvement of the fields. He was also active in many public affairs, contributing to general progress, being one of the first trustees of the Indian Point school, his associate being Mr. Canby, a well known and highly honored old settler of Menard county. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey R. F. White married Miss Rachel E. Roach, who was born near Nashville, Tennessee, on the 28th of February, 1824. They traveled life's journey together for many years, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, adversity and prosperity and upon the old homestead farm now occupied by their son John E. they reared their family. The death of R. F. White occurred December 7, 1893, when he was seventy-five years of age, and his wife passed away on the 19th of February, 1894, at the age of seventy years. The county thus lost two of its well known pioneer residents, people whose worth was widely acknowledged.

John E. White pursued his education in the Indian Point school and then and now known as the North Sangamon Academy. Later he attended Lincoln University and when he had acquired a good education he put aside his textbooks and returned to the home farm, where he has continuously carried on agricultural pursuits with the exception of one year, when he farmed near Irish Grove. He has been very practical as well as progressive in his methods. The field devoted one year to a certain kind of crop has the next year been used for the raising of a different cereal and thus the land has been kept in rich condition. The latest improved machinery has been used in carrying on the work of the farm and all modern equipments and accessories are found upon the White homestead.

Mr. White married Miss Emma Jane Derry,



a daughter of James Madison and Martha (Pollock) Derry, both of whom are now residents of Petersburg. This marriage has been blessed with three children: Letta E., who was born February 20, 1886, and died August 25, 1888; Edith E., who was born July 8, 1889; and Robert E., born November 1, 1897. The two younger children are yet at home.

Mr. White is a trustee of the Lebanon cemetery and is an elder of the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian church, to which his wife also belongs. He affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Athens and he gives his political support to the Democratic party, as have his ancestors. He has never sought or desired office, leading a quiet life in this respect, but in business he has always been found energetic and diligent, laboring earnestly to secure a comfortable competence that will enable him to provide his family with all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

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#### HENRY S. HOUGHTON.

Henry S. Houghton is capably conducting important business interests and also carrying on agricultural pursuits in township 19, range 7 west. He is a native son of Menard county, born on the 15th of September, 1861, his parents being S. M. and Cherry (Lemar) Houghton, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The father, who was born December 1, 1810, was brought to Illinois in his early boyhood days and worked at farming in his youth, assisting in the arduous task of developing new land. His boyhood was largely a period of earnest toil. He helped to support the family and later, when he found opportunity, he bought land at Little Grove and afterward purchased the tract of land upon which his son, Henry S., now resides. This he improved, transforming it into a cultivable tract, which yielded to him good harvests. He owned three hundred and ninety-six acres at the time of his demise, having almost the entire amount under cultivation. He raised and fed many cattle and hogs for the market. He led a very busy and useful life, while in all his business transactions his dealings were characterized by the

strictest integrity. He was the owner of the first spring wagon in Menard county and ever manifested a progressive spirit, which prompted him to use the latest improved machinery and to adopt new ideas that would prove of practical benefit. His death occurred on the 15th of January, 1889, while his wife, who was born on the 18th of February, 1818, survived him for more than fifteen years, passing away March 30, 1904. They were married in Sangamon county, Illinois, and they became the parents of ten children: John and Harriet, who died in infancy; Eliza and Catherine, also deceased; Anna, who died at the age of eight years; Emma, the wife of John Waring; Walter, who is married and resides in Bradley, Illinois; Mary Ellen, who is married and makes her home in Missouri; Henry S.; and Elvira, who is the wife of B. H. Hutcherson and resides in Petersburg.

At the usual age Henry S. Houghton entered the public schools and when not engaged with the duties of the school room he performed such labor upon the home farm as his age and strength would permit. He continued to reside on the old homestead until his marriage, when he began working for himself and later he took charge of the old home property, being at that time about twenty-five years of age. He has since carried on general farming and stock-raising and annually feeds and ships to the market about two carloads of cattle and two hundred head of hogs. He owns as fine a team of Norman three-year-old colts as can be found in Menard county, bred by Gaines Green. He bought out the interest of the other heirs in the old home place and now owns three hundred and seventy-six acres of land, which is very valuable and productive. He administered his father's estate, acting without a bond and in August, 1904, was discharged from that office, having settled up the business. His father trusted him entirely with the property valued at twenty thousand dollars. He has always been progressive in his farm work and he introduced the first corn cutter and binder in the northern part of the county. In addition to his farming interests he is the superintendent of the Sand Ridge Pole & Line Telephone Company. In connection with C.



H. S. HOUGHTON.



S. M. HOUGHTON.



MRS. S. M. HOUGHTON.



J. M. RUTLEDGE.



MRS. J. M. RUTLEDGE.



MRS. H. S. HOUGHTON.



W. Shipley and W. D. Masters he organized the company and Mr. Houghton built the lines and pushed the work to successful completion. He is also inspector and collector for the Central Union Telephone Company in the Sand Ridge district and he is the secretary of the Concord Cemetery Association.

Mr. Houghton was married February 15, 1882, to Miss Emma Rutledge, a daughter of James M. and Margaret (Harris) Rutledge, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter a native of Kentucky, born on the 8th of October, 1821. They were married in Sangamon county, Illinois. Mr. Rutledge had come to Menard county with his parents when a mere lad, the family home being established about four miles north of Petersburg. There he continued to reside until twenty-six years of age, when he was married and began farming for himself. He also engaged in stock-raising. He carried the chain for Abraham Lincoln when he was making the surveys in this part of the state and worked with him many days. On one of his trips to St. Louis with Abraham Lincoln and his uncle John Rutledge they saw a white man whipping a negro and Mr. Lincoln remarked that if he had the power he would put a stop to that, little thinking that some day it would be within his power to loosen the bonds that fettered three million slave people. While driving hogs from his home to the Beardstown market on one occasion Mr. Rutledge, then but a boy, was chased by wolves, but he succeeded in driving the animals away and returned to his home in safety. For many years he carried on general farming, but about six years prior to his death he left the farm and removed to Petersburg, where he lived retired until called to his final rest. Unto him and his wife were born fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters, of whom six are now living: Mary, the wife of John Moore, a resident of Petersburg; James B., who is married and resides in Missouri; Harriet, who is the wife of Andrew Park; Catherine, the wife of John Clary; Mrs. Houghton; and Harvey, who is married and resides in Springfield. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Houghton has been blessed with one son and three daughters: Charles E., who mar-

ried Mrs. Daisy Dowell; Celestine M., Kittie C. and Ruth F., all at home.

A staunch Republican in his political views, Mr. Houghton has served for one term as county commissioner, filling that office for a term beginning in 1898. He has been chairman of the county board for two years and he has been school director and trustee for twelve years, while at the present time he is one of the directors of the old Salem Chautauqua. He belongs to the Petersburg Driving Club, is a member of Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg, and is a charter member of the Court of Honor there. He and his family hold membership in the Christian church and he is a most liberal and public-spirited man. He possesses the qualities of a successful business man and a desirable social companion, and among his more strongly marked characteristics is his unswerving fidelity to duty. His private interests must always give way to the public good, and thus he has become honored and esteemed by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance or who have met him in a business way.

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#### ALEXANDER DONALDSON.

Alexander Donaldson, a representative of one of the old and valued families of Menard county, was born in this county, on the 18th of April, 1811, his parents being Walker Richard and Rebecca (Sowers) Donaldson. The father was a native of Bath county, Kentucky, born on the 16th of July, 1824, and died on the 10th of January, 1892. The mother, who was born in Ohio, died February 10, 1898, at the age of fifty-seven years, seven months and eight days. R. W. Donaldson came to Menard county when twenty-one years of age and was married here by R. D. Miller. Here he successfully carried on agricultural pursuits for many years and reared his family upon the home farm.

Alexander Donaldson spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads of the present day period. He has resided continuously upon the old homestead, where he now carries on general farming and stock-raising and in his work he manifests

good business ability, careful management and unflinching purpose.

On the 14th of February, 1899, occurred the marriage of Mr. Donaldson and Miss Lizzie Allison. Her parents, James and Ann (Montgomery) Allison, were natives of Ireland, the former born in September, 1835, and the latter in May of the same year. They came to the United States in 1858, locating in Delaware, where they resided for some time. In 1864 they arrived in Petersburg, Illinois, and remained residents of Menard county until 1902. Mr. Allison carrying on the occupation of farming. In 1902, however, he removed to Logan county, where he now makes his home. He had visited America when fifteen years of age, but had afterward returned to Ireland, and subsequent to his marriage again came to the United States, believing that he would have better business opportunities in the new world. In this hope he was not mistaken, for he found the opportunities he sought and by diligence and persistent energy he has worked his way steadily upward from a humble financial position to one of affluence. Unto him and his wife were born seven children: Martha, James, William, Elizabeth, Sarah, John and Alexander. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson has been born a daughter, Dorothy E., whose birth occurred September 18, 1900.

Mr. Donaldson, whose worth and ability are recognized by his fellow townsmen, has been called to serve as school director, having occupied the position for two years. He votes with the Democracy and is interested in the growth and upbuilding of the party, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His wife is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and they are respected young people of the community, having many warm friends in Menard county.

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#### JUDGE MILTON B. HARRISON.

Judge Milton B. Harrison, who died November 24, 1904, was one of the most distinguished lawyers that has ever practiced at the Menard county bar. No political preferment or mere place can ever add to the power or in-

crease the honor which belongs to a true and educated lawyer. It is well known that the peace and prosperity of every community, in fact, of the nation, depends upon a wise interpretation as well as upon a judicious framing of the law. A well known jurist of Illinois said, "In the American state the great and good lawyer must always be prominent, for he is one of the forces that control society." Judge Harrison ranked with the distinguished representatives of the Menard county bar and always stood as a safe conservator of the rights and liberties of the people. He was the defender of popular interests, the champion of freedom regulated by law and the firm supporter of good government. Moreover, he was one of the native pioneer sons of Menard county, Illinois, and it is therefore with signal consistency that we present the record of his career. His was a life of marked fidelity to duty, of exceptional ability and comprehensive understanding of the principles of jurisprudence. He stood as the arbitrator of justice, was impartial, of well balanced intellect, was thoroughly familiar with the law, possessed an analytical mind and also a self-control that enabled him to lose his individuality, his personal feelings, his prejudice and his peculiarities of disposition in the dignity, impartiality and equity of the office to which life, property, right and liberty must look for protection.

Milton Bryant Harrison was born June 7, 1824, on the old family homestead now owned by Harry Houghton, south of the city of Petersburg. He was a son of Ezekiel Brian Harrison, a minister, who was born in Virginia, July 19, 1786. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Ann James Bell, was born in the same state, June 14, 1792. His paternal grandparents were Ezekiel H. and Mary (Brian) Harrison, also natives of Virginia. His parents were married in Rockingham county of the Old Dominion and removed with their family in 1823 to Menard county. They had ten children, of whom Mrs. Enoch Megrely is now the only surviving member.

Judge Harrison began his education in a log schoolhouse at Old Salem. The little "temple of learning" had slab seats upon wooden pegs, oil paper taking the place of window glass,





*Mattie W. Harrison*





*Mr. B. Harrison*



and the room was heated by an immense fireplace. The teacher was Menter Graham. His second teacher was Thomas J. Nance, who held sway in an upper room in the residence of James Goldsby and Judge Harrison was then seven years of age. His third teacher was S. Skaggs and the school was held in a vacant house on Goldsby's farm. He afterward continued his studies in a room in the residence of Jesse Maltby, the teacher being Miss Bonney. The next school which he attended was taught in a vacant house on the farm of his brother, John Harrison, the teacher being Miss Emily Chandler, who was also his first Sunday-school teacher. Again he became a student under Menter Graham at the Hardshell Baptist church, followed by study under Lewis B. Wynne. At the age of nine years he attended the Farmers Point school, the building having been erected by his father, E. B. Harrison, Jesse Maltby and James B. Goldsby, Sr., and others. His subsequent teachers were J. F. Harrison, John Goldsby and H. Lightfoot. Later he attended school in Petersburg, where he received instruction from F. McCarty and C. B. Waldo. He was also a student under W. C. Pierce at Lick Creek in Sangamon county and it was in that locality near Leamoi that he taught his first school in 1846. While a student in early boyhood he studied his spelling at night by the light of the pine knots, for there were too many others in the family sitting around the tallow candle for the younger members of the household to get near the light. While teaching school he studied law at night just to know it and profitably employed his time, while keeping up his habit of remaining home evenings while other young men played games "out." Later he conducted a tanyard and a brickyard on land west of his home. He afterward turned his attention to the bakery business in 1847 in Petersburg in connection with George Davidson and conducted this until the fall of 1848, when he sold out. In the spring of 1849, when twenty-five years of age, he entered into partnership with J. F. Harrison, with whom he remained for a year, after which he engaged in teaching school. From 1853 until 1855 he was again with J. F. Harrison as a merchant of Peters-

burg and later was with O. L. Carman, who was succeeded by his brother, E. G. F. Harrison. This partnership lasted for two years, when Judge Harrison purchased his brother's interest. He was again with J. F. Harrison from 1865 until 1869, and was with M. F. Moore from 1869 until 1873, under the firm name of Harrison & Moore. For some time he was thus associated with mercantile interests and displayed excellent business ability and executive force. He was also called to public duties, being made deputy collector of internal revenue of the ninth congressional district of Illinois under W. G. Green. On the 20th of January, 1864, he was appointed collector of internal revenue by Abraham Lincoln, which office he filled until failing health compelled him to resign. During a part of that time he made an enrollment for Menard county of the persons subject to draft and was himself enrolled in both Menard and Fulton counties. It was his earnest desire to go to the front in defense of the Union and the old flag, but his health would not permit. He, however, was a most patriotic and loyal-spirited man and did everything in his power at home to promote the progress of the war and secure the triumph of the Union arms.

Judge Harrison finally decided to try farming in order that the outdoor exercise might prove beneficial to his health, which had become greatly impaired during the close confinement in the sheriff's office. For several years he followed agricultural pursuits west of Springfield and in 1883 he removed with his family to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in the hope of being benefited physically, for his health was still in a precarious condition. After thirteen months among the mountains and springs in that part of the country he returned with his family to the farm, where they resided for a few months and then established his home in Petersburg in order that he might educate his daughters in the city. There he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred on Thanksgiving evening at 8:20, November 21, 1901. Thus passed away a man of unimpeachable character. His life was a record of honesty, justice, patience, urbanity and industry.

Judge Harrison's political support was ever given to the Republican party. In 1816, when twenty-two years of age, he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, then a candidate for congress. He had been acquainted with Lincoln at Old Salem when the martyred president there worked in a mill, to which Judge Harrison would often carry corn on horseback to be ground. He again voted for Lincoln in 1860, when he became candidate for the presidency.

Judge Harrison was married to Mrs. Mel-drum Sutton, nee Hunter, on New Year's eve at Jacksonville Centenary church just at the close of a watch meeting in 1810. Her death occurred October 2, 1899, and thus he survived her for five years. She had been a fitting companion of her husband, possessing a bright, sunny disposition, combined with a quiet, modest demeanor. She was educated in Jacksonville Academy. She was a kind and loving wife and mother and had a host of warm friends. Her interests centered in her home, which was justly celebrated for its hospitality, and because of her many good traits of character she was beloved by all who knew her. Unto Judge and Mrs. Harrison were born two children. M. H. Belle is now the wife of Barton S. Osborn, who resides on a farm four miles south of Petersburg, and they have two children, George Harrison and Ernest Barton. Miss Frances Harrison, the younger daughter, is also a resident of Menard county.

Judge Harrison became a member of the Methodist church when fourteen years of age, a society being formed at his home, and lived a consistent Christian life, being an earnest worker in behalf of the cause of religion and of education. In fact, he stood as the champion of every measure which he believed would contribute to the general good. The beautiful new Methodist church west of the square is a fitting monument to his untiring efforts in the work for his Master. In private life he was distinguished by all that marked the true gentleman. His was a noble character, one that subordinated personal ambition to public good and sought rather the benefit of others than the aggrandizement of self. In Menard county, where he spent almost his entire life,

he was numbered among the most honored citizens and received the highest regard and esteem of people of all classes. It was his earnest wish—often expressed—that his accounts might be settled for both this world and the next and that he might owe no man anything when he died. Justice and right permeated his entire career. He was a kind, loving and indulgent husband and father and his splendid qualities so endeared him to those with whom he came in contact that at his death Menard county mourned the loss of one of its most honored and representative citizens.

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#### ARCHIE S. KINCAID.

Archie S. Kincaid, whose fine modern residence stands in the midst of a well-improved tract of land constituting one of the fine farms of township 18, is a representative of the younger generation of agriculturists who are proving to what a high state of development the land of Menard county can be brought through modern farming methods. A native of this county, he was born February 24, 1817, and is a son of John A. and Etta G. (Simpson) Kincaid, who are also natives of Menard county, the father born March 24, 1845, and the mother April 8, 1845. In his youth John A. Kincaid assisted his father in breaking the prairie land with ox teams and otherwise assisted in the arduous task of developing a new farm. He was but twelve years of age when the schoolhouse at Indian Point was built, and he hauled the water that was used in mixing the mortar. He was about twenty years of age when he went to Iowa, where he became connected with the cattle industry, assisting in driving cattle from that state to Illinois. He was thus engaged for two years. The cattle thus brought to Menard county were fed by his father and others and afterward sold in the city markets. His father was extensively engaged in feeding both cattle and hogs, having from one hundred and fifty to two hundred head of cattle each year. John A. Kincaid remained at home until twenty-five or twenty-six years of age, when he began farming for himself, and for many years he figured as one of the

more progressive and successful agriculturists of this county. At the age of twenty-eight years he married Miss Etta G. Simpson, and they began their domestic life on his farm. He continued to carry on the work of the farm until 1895, when, in order to educate his children, he removed to Champaign, where he lived until 1902, when he took up his abode in Springfield, where he is now living a retired life. In 1897 he met with the misfortune of losing his right hand in a planer, being engaged in the planing-mill business in Champaign at that time. After the accident he sold his planing-mill and removed to Springfield, where he is now enjoying a well-merited rest from further labor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. John A. Kincaid have been born eight children, four sons and four daughters: Charles H., who was born May 8, 1875, and is now living in Arkansas; Archie S.; Laura, who was born October 20, 1879, and is living at home with her parents; Frank B., who was born September 10, 1880, and who has recently returned from the Philippines, having served as a member of Troop A, Fifteenth United States Cavalry; Hugh S., who was born October 23, 1882, and is living in Colorado; Edna M., born August 23, 1885, Maud, born June 12, 1888, and Pearl, born May 9, 1891, all at home.

Archie S. Kincaid was provided with liberal educational privileges. After attending the public schools at Indian Point he attended the high school at Champaign, Illinois, from which he was graduated, and then entered the State University there, in which institution his education was completed, well qualifying him for the conduct of his business interests and the discharge of life's practical and responsible duties. He was always interested in athletics, and while attending the high school was a member of the football team and also of the Athletic Association. The Champaign was the champion high school team of the state and Mr. Kincaid won several medals in athletic meets.

After completing his education Mr. Kincaid purchased his brother's interest in some live stock and farm implements, which he had owned conjointly with Jack Flanigan, with

whom our subject remained in partnership for a year. Their business relationship was then dissolved and Mr. Kincaid has since been in business alone, raising cattle, hogs and horses. He is also extensively engaged in the raising of grain and sells from two to three thousand bushels of corn and from ten to fifteen hundred bushels of oats each year. He has just completed a commodious modern residence upon his farm, which was built after plans which he drew and which is one of the most attractive homes of his part of the county.

Mr. Kincaid married Miss Idella Mellinger, a daughter of William C. and Jennie (Wiggins) Mellinger. Her father, born December 8, 1848, is still living, but her mother died August 25, 1888. Both were natives of Sangamon county and Mr. Mellinger was educated in the public schools there and remained at home with his parents until twenty-two years of age, after which he began farming on his own account, and has continued in this business down to the present time, now operating two hundred acres of land in Menard county. He has also engaged in the raising of hogs and cattle and has a good property, which his labors have made a profitable investment. Unto him and his wife were born four children: Idella, born October 5, 1880; Clarence, born January 17, 1883; Annie, born August 29, 1885; and Florence, August 21, 1887. After losing his first wife Mr. Mellinger married Mrs. Anna L. Cantrall, and they have one son, Sherman S., born December 14, 1891.

Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid are well known in social circles, having many friends, and they enjoy the unqualified regard of all who know them. In politics Mr. Kincaid is a Republican and in public matters he is interested, especially where they have direct bearing upon the county and its welfare.

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#### WALTER S. TAYLOR, M. D.

Dr. Walter Sherwood Taylor, who is engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery in Tallula, was born on the 8th of July, 1873, in the town of Milo, Bureau county, Illinois. He is a son of Dr. William L. and Emma H.

(Jenks) Taylor. The Taylor family is of Scotch-Irish origin and Dr. William L. Taylor was born in Kentucky, where he spent the days of his boyhood and youth. Preparing for the practice of medicine, he afterward engaged in professional duties for some time, but subsequently engaged in the real-estate business. He died in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1876.

Dr. Walter S. Taylor, having acquired a good literary education, entered upon preparation for the practice of medicine as a student in Barnes Medical College of St. Louis, Missouri. He was graduated with the class of 1899 and opened an office at Carman, Illinois, but after a short time went to Buffalo, this state. Subsequently he removed to Denver, Colorado, for the benefit of his own health, and on the expiration of that period he returned to Tallula, where he lived for a short time prior to the period of his residence in the west. Upon again coming to Tallula he purchased property and he now has a good practice in the town and surrounding country. He is a member of the Menard County Medical Society and the Illinois State Medical Society. In addition to his collegiate work he enjoyed the benefit of a year's hospital experience and he entered upon the practice of medicine and surgery well equipped for the arduous duties which devolve upon the physician. The public recognizes his capability and accords him a liberal patronage.

On the 7th of June, 1899, Dr. Taylor was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Jack, a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah C. Jack, who removed from New Jersey to the west, settling in Illinois. Her father is now deceased, but the mother still survives and makes her home with her children. Mrs. Taylor was born in Buffalo, Sangamon county, Illinois, and at the usual age entered the public schools, wherein she advanced step by step through successive grades until she had completed the high school work. She afterward engaged in teaching for three years and was then married. She has three brothers and three sisters, Ida, Dora, Carrie, John, Benjamin and Edwin, all of whom are yet living. The home of Dr. and Mrs. Taylor has been blessed with two children: Marjorie, born August 10, 1900; and James Sherwood, born January 30, 1901.

Dr. Taylor is a stalwart Republican, supporting the party since age gave to him the right of franchise. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. He may well be termed one of the leading citizens of his community because of the active and helpful support which he gives for the promotion of educational, material and moral interests of Tallula.

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#### JOHN A. RIDGE.

John A. Ridge, who is meeting with fair success in his farming labors in Menard county, was born in Scott county, Indiana, March 6, 1860, his parents being Samuel A. and Mary (Kenney) Ridge. The father was born in Indiana, October 9, 1830, and came to Menard county in 1870, bringing with him two dry-goods boxes, containing the household effects, and one hundred dollars in money. He worked by the day and month for eight years as a farm hand in the employ of Colonel John Williams and others. At the end of that time he rented land and then carried on farming for himself for eighteen years, during a part of which time his only son, John A. Ridge, worked with him, and later he went to live with his son and there he was called to his final rest May 1, 1904, the funeral services being conducted by the Rev. R. D. Miller, who has officiated at all such occasions for the family. His wife passed away on the 28th of May, 1890. In their family were four children, two sons and two daughters, but John A. is the only one now living. Susanna B. died March 6, 1879; Lena died July 29, 1881, and an infant son on the 27th of January, 1876.

John A. Ridge spent the first ten years of his life in the state of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. His youth was a period of earnest and unremitting labor in which he had few advantages. His education, however, was acquired in the public schools. After arriving



SAMUEL A. RIDGE.



MRS. SAMUEL A. RIDGE.



JOHN A. RIDGE AND FAMILY.



E. C. REED.



MRS. E. C. REED.





at years of maturity he was married to Miss Mary E. Reed, a daughter of Ephraim C. and Ann Elizabeth (Gibbs) Reed. Her father came to Menard county from Kentucky in 1834 with his mother and her family of children, his father being at that time in the Mexican war. Ephraim Reed was born in Kentucky, October 28, 1830, and when sixteen years of age he began work as a farm hand. When twenty-one years of age he commenced farming on his own account on what has now long been known as the old Reed homestead. He has added to his original purchase from time to time until he is now one of the extensive farm owners of the county, having seven hundred acres of arable land on which many improvements have been made. There are five houses upon this tract, all in good condition. There are also a number of substantial barns and other modern equipments. On the 17th of November, 1853, he was married to Miss Ann Elizabeth Gibbs, a daughter of William and Margaret Gibbs and with her parents she came to Illinois from Maryland in 1839. Her birth occurred in the latter state, May 31, 1827. The journey westward was made with team and they were six weeks upon the way. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have two living children: Mary E., born in September, 1858; and Edward C., who was born in December, 1860, and is now living in Menard county. Those deceased are Elizabeth Jane, Katie Ann, wife of Gus Jones, and an infant unnamed. Mr. and Mrs. Reed are members of the Presbyterian church, contribute generously to its support and take an active interest in its work. For nine years or more he has been a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. In politics he is a staunch Republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party. He ranks today as one of the most prosperous men of the county and he enjoys in high measure the respect and good will of his fellow citizens, because he has always been found reliable in all business transactions, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellow men in any business affair.

The wedding ceremony of Mr. and Mrs. Ridge was performed by Rev. R. D. Miller on the 24th of February, 1891, and four children

were born to them: Ephraim and Samuel, twins, born February 1, 1896, both died in infancy; Mary E., born April 28, 1899, also died in infancy; John E., born June 22, 1901, is the only one living.

Not long after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ridge removed to their present home. They have a fine brick house surrounded by shade and fruit trees and everything about the place is in excellent condition. Mr. Ridge is one of the largest stock feeders in the county and during the recent strike at the stock yards in Chicago he shipped a carload of hogs to that market. He now has on hand about two hundred and fifty head of hogs, which he is feeding for the market. He owns in Menard county two hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in central Illinois and it is well known that there is no richer agricultural district in all the country than that of Menard county. He is very progressive in his business and he owes his success entirely to his own labors. He started out without assistance and has received no aid from any one, but has worked on persistently and energetically and is now the owner of valuable farming property. Mr. Ridge is a member of Floral lodge, No. 644, I. O. O. F., at Athens, and the Modern Woodmen camp at Sweetwater. He is identified with the Republican party, politically, and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He belongs to the Presbyterian church, while his wife is a member of the Christian church and both are widely and favorably known in Menard county.

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#### ELIAS WATKINS.

Elias Watkins, whose farming interests claim his time and energies and return to him a good annual income, was born September 29, 1870, his parents being Samuel and Mary (Woolridge) Watkins. He was the fourth in order of birth in a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters. He began his education at Little Grove and was afterward graduated in the Tallula high school with the class of 1891, completing the course on the 29th of May, of that year. He has always engaged in farm-

ing, having assisted in the work on the old family homestead in his early boyhood days. He began farming on his own account in connection with his brother, Evan G. Watkins, upon their father's place at Little Grove, and there he remained for two years. In the fall of 1903 he located on his present farm, which consists of two hundred and twenty acres belonging to his father. He owns an adjoining eighty acres and is a very progressive agriculturist.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Watkins chose Irene Louise Fischer, the wedding being celebrated November 13, 1895. Her parents were John G. and Berta D. (Wright) Fischer. Her father was a native of Germany and came to America in 1853 when nineteen years of age, settling at Petersburg. He had been educated in his native country and after his arrival in the new world he conducted the first drug store at Petersburg, an establishment which has had a continuous existence, it being now the property of George F. Lathringer. He married Berta D. Wright and they became the parents of eight children, all of whom are living, three sons and five daughters, namely: Dora, the wife of Dr. J. B. Vance, a practicing physician of Springfield, Illinois; Ella, the wife of E. B. Lyons, who is principal of Brown's Business College at Danville, Illinois; Catherine, the wife of Dr. Paul Newcomer, a physician and surgeon living in Denver, Colorado; Irene Louise; John D., a ranchman living at Landers, Wyoming, where he has spent five years; George W., who is engaged in the telephone business; Francis B., who is at Gillett, Wyoming, where he has been connected with the sheep industry; and Ethel B., the wife of William Swift, a mechanic of Petersburg, by whom she has one son. Mrs. Watkins is a graduate of the high school of Petersburg of the class of 1894, and the following year she was married.

Our subject and his wife have a wide and favorable acquaintance in Menard county, where they have always resided and the circle of their friends is constantly growing. In his political views he is a Democrat and in November, 1904, was elected county commissioner by a majority of four hundred and twenty and at the present writing, in November,

1904, is a candidate for re-election. He and his wife belong to the Episcopal church in Petersburg and he is prominent in Masonry, being made a Mason at Petersburg in November, 1899, and now holding membership in Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M.; DeWitt chapter, R. A. M.; and St. Aldemar Commandery, K. T., all of Petersburg. His wife is also connected with the Order of the Eastern Star and in his daily life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft, which has made this the strongest fraternal organization of the entire world. He is also venerable council of Atterberry camp, No. 11554, M. W. A.

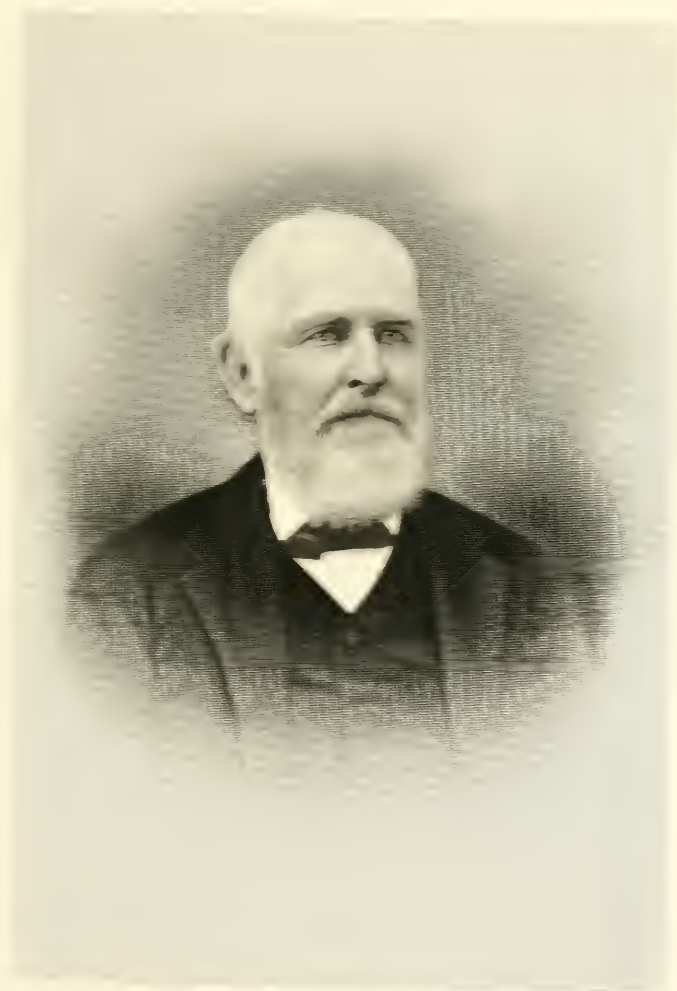
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#### THOMAS KINCAID.

Thomas Kincaid, one of the honored early settlers of Menard county, was born in Bath county, Kentucky, October 15, 1822, and was of Irish ancestry. His paternal grandfather, Archibald R. Kincaid, was born in Ireland and on emigrating to America settled near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There he was married to Miss Townsley and he continued to reside in the Cumberland valley of Pennsylvania until 1795, when with his family of ten children he removed to Bath county, Kentucky.

Andrew Kincaid, the father of our subject, was at that time four years of age. He remained upon his father's farm until his marriage in 1807, Miss Ann P. Caldwell, a native of Bath county, Kentucky, becoming his wife. She was born in 1787 and remained a resident of Kentucky until many years after her marriage. In 1834 Andrew Kincaid came with his family to Illinois, settling in township 18, Menard county, on land which he purchased of Ellis Branson. His family then numbered nine children, but one died soon after the removal to Illinois. After a long, useful and honorable career, Andrew Kincaid passed away in 1872 at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

In 1831 Thomas Kincaid accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois. The family home was established on a farm at Indian Point and there he spent his boyhood days, early becoming familiar with the arduous task of developing a new farm. As the years passed



*Thomas F. Lucas*



he became an influential and prosperous farmer of Menard county, extensively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and by reason of his keen business ability he amassed a considerable fortune previous to his retirement from active business life, which was necessitated by failing health.

In early manhood Mr. Kincaid married Miss Lucinda Patterson, the wedding being celebrated October 18, 1819. The lady was born in Hardin county, Ohio, and died April 13, 1874. In their family were seven children, of whom two died in infancy. Those living are Mrs. Hattie Johnson, the wife of Kirby S. Johnson, who is represented on another page of this volume; Lonie, the wife of Harry R. Jones; Lucy, the wife of U. J. Hale, of Jacksonville, Illinois; Anna, the wife of Isaac Jones, of Aspen, Colorado; and Lee, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

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#### GEORGE C. ROBERTS.

George C. Roberts, who is filling the position of postmaster at Greenview and is also engaged in dealing in harness and saddlery there, was born in Athens, Illinois, February 3, 1858, his parents being James T. and Alvira (Hartwell) Roberts. The father was born November 28, 1832, in Winchester, Virginia, and lost his father when but five years of age. When a youth of ten years he became a resident of Athens, Illinois, where he attended school for about five years and at the age of fifteen he was taken to the Mexican war as a bugler by his uncle, J. B. Backenstos. After seven months' service he was sent home with two officers, Captain Bradford and Lieutenant Barrett. Mr. Roberts did not return to the scene of conflict, but soon afterward began learning the blacksmith's trade, in which he became an excellent workman, following that pursuit continuously until the country became involved in civil war. On the 6th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, and participated in a number of very important engagements, including the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Spring

Hill, the two battles of Nashville, Franklin, Resaca, Tunnel Hill, Buzzard's Roost and Dalton. Just after the battle of Chickamauga there was an order sent to his captain to have the regiment fall in line and a call was issued for a volunteer to go back to Bridgeport, Tennessee, a distance of twenty-five miles, for the pay rolls, which were in the desk of the company. No member of the regiment volunteered and the officers would not detail a man. Mr. Roberts then asked the captain what the call had been made for, and when told he offered to go if they would furnish him a horse. He started that day and at night he was on top of the mountain. Seeing a cabin, he made his way to it and found that it contained an old couple, man and wife, who were Union people. He gave them his rations and asked them to prepare supper for him. He then started in search of food for his horse. The old man sent him a mile and a half to get corn and told him that the rebel cavalry were in that locality each day and to be on the lookout. While Mr. Roberts was on one side of the corncrib five rebel cavalry men were on the other side, and while they were getting their corn he made his escape by crawling through the grass on his hands and knees for a distance of two hundred yards. However, he returned to the cabin in safety and there partook of his supper, which was prepared of cold corn, hardtack and coffee. The old couple offered him a bed at night, but he preferred to sleep in the woods and the next morning he started again on his journey. He reached the foot of the mountain at twelve o'clock and at Sequashville he saw a general and other officers at a cabin door. The general hailed him and asked him where he was going, and on replying to the question he was requested to show his pass. He was there delayed over a day and a half until the general found out where he had come from and such information concerning the road, for they were on their way to the camp which Mr. Roberts had left and had been misdirected. General Longstreet and his men were just across the river, and when Mr. Roberts rode along the mountain side he had to keep his horse between the rebel troops and himself. His horse was shot once, but he continued on his way. He traveled the

remainder of that day and at night arrived at Bridgeport, where he camped with seven invalid Union men. The next morning he overhauled the desk, procured the papers that were wanted and he also found the company's flag, which he put in his knapsack. He then started to return to camp, slept in the woods that night and the next day about three o'clock reached his destination. He was discharged as a drum major and the flag which he brought back was given to him and is still in his possession. He was honorably discharged June 11, 1865, at Camp Harker, Tennessee, following the close of hostilities, and then returned to Athens, Illinois, where he again engaged in blacksmithing. He followed that pursuit there until December, 1868, when he came to Greenview and established a blacksmith shop, which he conducted successfully until failing health caused him to retire from the business in 1884. In early manhood he had married Miss Alvira Hartwell, who was born in Vigo county, Indiana, July 21, 1834. They had three children: Maria Ann, now the wife of I. H. Primm, of Mason City, Illinois; Marcie E., who married Thomas Brewer, and died February 22, 1898; and George C. The parents are members of the Christian church and they reside at Greenview, where they have many warm friends.

George C. Roberts was educated in the schools of Greenview and at the age of sixteen years began learning the harness-maker's trade, which he followed as an employe until 1881. In that year he began business for himself, a few doors north of his present location, and he has since conducted harness and saddlery making, securing a good patronage, which makes his business profitable. In December, 1900, he was appointed postmaster of Greenview and discharged the duties of that office in connection with his commercial interests. He has likewise been a member of the town board and the school board, and in his political affiliation he is a staunch Republican, never failing to exercise his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party.

On the 10th of March, 1881, Mr. Roberts was united in marriage to Miss Hattie E. Cleveland, a daughter of Charles and Ann Wood Cleveland, the former a native of Vermont and the

latter of Illinois, but both are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have been born nine children: Etta May, born March 13, 1882, died April 2, 1891; Pearl E. and Earl E., twins, born July 19, 1884, died on the 13th and 16th of August, 1885, respectively; Herschel, born April 11, 1885, is in partnership with his father in the harness business; Harry F., born August 26, 1887, is at home; Fern, born December 21, 1891; James T., born March 30, 1893; Dorothy Marie, born January 14, 1899, and Ann Louise, born April 2, 1902, are all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts hold membership in the Christian church and are deeply interested in all that pertains to the moral as well as the material development of their county. Fraternally Mr. Roberts is connected with the Modern Woodmen camp, No. 178; with Greenview lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M.; and also the Fraternal Life Reserve. He has spent his entire life in this part of the state and has become a substantial business man of Greenview, his success being largely due to the fact that he has continuously engaged in the business in which as a young tradesman he embarked, gaining a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which has resulted in excellent workmanship and secured a liberal patronage.

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#### A. W. HARTLEY.

A. W. Hartley, who for fourteen years has been connected with the office of county clerk, twelve years as deputy and two years as superior officer, was born in Rock Creek precinct of Menard county, on the 20th of June, 1854. He comes of English lineage and represents an old English family that was established in America prior to the Revolutionary war. His grandfather, Eli Hartley, was born in Adair county, Kentucky, on the 29th of July, 1799, and in early manhood was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Hamilton, a daughter of James Hamilton, of Kentucky. After the birth of two of their children they removed to Illinois, settling in Brown county, where two other children were added to the family. The mother died soon afterward upon the home farm,





MR. AND MRS. A. W. HARTLEY.



which was situated near Clayton, Illinois. At a later date the grandfather removed to Garden Prairie, Menard county, where he established his home in 1850, there residing until his death, which occurred on the 13th of December, 1870. He was prominent and influential in public affairs and he served for fourteen years, from 1825 until 1839, as justice of the peace for Brown county. He was a man of unbiased judgment and his decisions were never reversed in the higher courts. He ranked high in the estimation of his fellow townsmen and he was particularly capable in office, having a logical and analytical mind. Had he confined his attention exclusively to the law he would undoubtedly have attained notable success.

Nathan Hartley, the father of A. W. Hartley, was born in Kentucky, but was reared in Brown county, Illinois. He married Artemisia Duncan, a native of Menard county, and they began their domestic life upon the farm on which their son, A. W. Hartley, was born. For many years the father carried on agricultural pursuits with good success, continuing his farming operations up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 23d of October, 1903. The homestead place is located about seven miles south of Petersburg and is still in possession of the family. Mr. Hartley was a public-spirited man, interested in the establishment of the county and its further improvement and he filled a number of township positions in a capable and acceptable manner. In the family were five sons and three daughters, and four sons and one daughter are now living, at this writing in the fall of 1904.

A. W. Hartley, the eldest of the family, acquired his elementary education in the district schools and by reading and observation has added largely to his knowledge. He engaged in teaching school in early manhood, but regarding this merely as an initiatory step for further professional labor, for it was his desire to become a member of the bar and in the fall of 1885 he began reading law in the office and under the direction of T. W. McNeely. He continued his studies until May, 1888, when he successfully passed an examination for admission to the bar. He then entered the county building as deputy clerk in the office

of the county clerk in the fall of 1890 and his services were so acceptable that he was continued in that position until 1902, when he was elected county clerk, in which capacity he is now serving.

On the 25th of June, 1891, Mr. Hartley was married to Miss Margaret A. Bone, a native of Menard county and a daughter of E. L. Bone. They now have one son, Paul Bone. Mr. Hartley is a member of the Masonic lodge and also of the Modern Woodmen camp at Petersburg. He is a representative of an honored pioneer family and because of this and also by reason of his personal worth he deserves representation in this volume.

#### CHARLES T. ROGERS.

The old Rogers homestead in Menard county was the birthplace of Charles T. Rogers, his natal day being June 16, 1867. He is a son of S. T. and Melinda (Trumbo) Rogers, who were also natives of this county, a fact which indicates that both the Rogers and Trumbo families were established in this part of the state in early pioneer days. The paternal grandfather came from Kentucky to Illinois and aided in laying the foundation for the present development and progress of the county. S. T. Rogers has followed the occupation of farming as a life work and both he and his wife are still residing on the old homestead.

In the district schools Charles T. Rogers acquired his education and when twenty years of age he began farming upon the place where he now resides, having here two hundred acres of land, which is rich and productive. He has since erected a good residence and other buildings upon his place and, in fact, has made all of the modern improvements that are there seen. His land is under a high state of cultivation and the well tilled fields return to him rich harvests. He is also quite extensively engaged in the raising and breeding of short-horn cattle, fine road horses and registered Duroc Jersey hogs, and as a stock-raiser he has met with excellent success, his annual sales of cattle, horses and hogs bringing to him a good financial return upon his investments.

On the 23d of August, 1887, occurred the marriage of Charles T. Rogers and Miss Mattie E. Estill, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Estill, the former a native of Menard county and the latter of Indiana. They are still residing in this county, their home being about a mile south of the Charles T. Rogers farm. Unto our subject and his wife has been born an interesting little son, Thomas E., whose birth occurred September 6, 1893. Mrs. Rogers is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, of Petersburg, and like her husband has many friends in her native county. Mr. Rogers belongs to Roland lodge, No. 69, K. P., and is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is serving as a member of the school board at the present time and in matter of citizenship is never remiss, but gives his earnest co-operation to the support of all measures that he believes will promote general progress and improvement. He has a wide acquaintance in the county where his entire life has been passed and where he has so directed his efforts as to win the good will and trust of his fellow men.

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#### AUGUSTUS KERR RIGGIN.

Augustus Kerr Riffin, deceased, was one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers, as well as one of the most prominent citizens of his community, his home being five miles east of Petersburg. He was the third child born in Menard county and his natal day was April 23, 1822. His father, Harry Riffin, was a native of Tennessee, born September 2, 1793, and was of Irish descent. Coming to Illinois in 1817, he first located in the American bottom and then with his brother settled in Madison county at a place called Troy, they being the principal parties in laying out the town. There they embarked in merchandising, but were unsuccessful in that business. On the 2d of March, 1820, Harry Riffin was united in marriage to Miss Miriam Lee Rogers, a native of New York and a descendant of John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom for religious principles. Her father, Matthew Rogers, was from Con-

necticut and removed from that state to New York. He married Miriam Lee Morse, who was connected with the Morse family, of whom Professor S. F. B. Morse was a distinguished member. In 1818 Matthew Rogers came to Illinois and settled near Athens, where he built a frame barn, which was the first frame building erected north of the Sangamon river. The Rogers family are connected with the Lees of Virginia, of whom General Robert E. Lee was the most noted. During his residence in Menard county Harry Riffin followed the occupation of a farmer and possessed the confidence and esteem of the community. On several occasions he was a candidate for public favors, but was defeated, which was not surprising, as his opponents were generally such prominent men as Logan, Edwards and Lincoln. He and his wife were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and lived to a good old age. The family has been distinguished for longevity, some even living to the age of one hundred years. Harry Riffin had six children, four of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Mary Ann, wife of Claiborne Hall, of Athens; Augustus Kerr; Eliza Maria; and Anninda Priscilla, wife of McKinley Jones, of Athens.

Augustus Kerr Riffin was reared amid pioneer scenes and could relate many interesting incidents of frontier life in this region. As his parents were great friends of education and progress, they gave their children every school advantage that they could and "Gus" was early qualified for teaching, which profession he followed for several years. He attended McKendree College and completed his education at Illinois College in Jacksonville, where he numbered among his classmates General Lippincott and John L. Stocking. After teaching school for several years he studied law in the office of Major Harris, of Petersburg, and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced his profession. He served two terms as circuit clerk and on his retirement from office in 1860 turned his attention to farming, which occupation he followed up to within the last year or two of his life, when his sons relieved him of the management of the farm. He gave considerable attention to stock-raising, making a





*A. K. Riggins*



*Mary C. Riggan.*





specialty of shorthorn cattle, and found that branch of his business very profitable.

On the 26th of November, 1874, Mr. Rigglin married Miss Mary C. Deal, who was born six miles west of Bloomington, in McLean county, Illinois, April 12, 1850, and was a daughter of Samuel C. Deal, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rigglin were born three children. Harry, born October 9, 1876; Augustus K., born October 5, 1878; and Samuel Chesterfield, born January 5, 1881. They are now carrying on the home farm. The eldest son was married November 29, 1899, to Irene Walker and lives a quarter of a mile north of the old homestead.

In politics Mr. Rigglin was a staunch Democrat and he always took a very active and prominent part in political affairs, no private citizen of this county contributing more of his time and money to the cause of his party than he did. Socially he was a Mason, and at his death, which occurred July 27, 1903, he was laid to rest with Masonic honors. He was a man highly honored and respected by all who knew him and when he passed away the community realized that it had lost one of its most valued and useful citizens. Mrs. Rigglin died January 10, 1905, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss.

#### SAMUEL C. DEAL.

Samuel C. Deal, deceased, was born in Waynesboro, Rockingham county, Virginia, on the 28th of October, 1815, and spent his early life in that state. In the fall of 1849 he came to Illinois and settled in Dry Grove township, McLean county, about five and a half miles west of Bloomington, within a mile and a half of the farm on which he died. There he engaged in general farming and stock-raising for fifty-two years and was a very successful business man, accumulating one thousand acres of land. Of excellent business ability and executive force, he carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook and before his demise he decided to divide his property among his children rather than leave it to the court to divide. Accordingly, he called his children to the home and disposed of the en-

tire estate, reserving only a small competence for himself that he believed would supply him with all that he might need for the remainder of his life, expressing the desire that if anything was left it should be divided equally among his children at his death.

On the 21st of October, 1837, Mr. Deal married Miss Priscilla Brown, who was born in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1817, and was a daughter of Rev. John Brown, the eldest son of a German nobleman. After visiting the new world and seeing the destitution that prevailed, he returned to Germany and informed his father that he had decided to become a minister. Although his father told him if he did this he would be disinherited, it did not change him from his purpose, and all he received from his father's estate was a library valued at two thousand dollars. He was the first German Reformed preacher in the United States and could preach in seven languages, being highly educated.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Deal were born nine children: John B., now living upon a farm in Jefferson, Greene county, Iowa, has thirteen children, and with the exception of two all are married and in good health. Samuel A. is living near Danvers, Illinois. Mrs. Elizabeth E. Elkins makes her home near her brother Samuel. Newton died in childhood. Mrs. Mary C. Rigglin is represented on another page of this volume. Jane died in infancy. Mrs. S. Addie Wright is living west of Bloomington, Illinois. Emma resides on the old homestead. Mrs. Virginia E. H. Staubus is living in Dry Grove township, McLean county. The daughters married well-to-do farmers and all are widows at the present time with the exception of Emma.

Mr. Deal was a ruling elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian church for fifty-four years and took a very active part in church work. He was noted for his affable disposition, excellent tact and his kindly spirit, and enjoyed the highest regard of neighbors and friends, being frequently called upon to aid in settling difficulties because of his uniform fairness and spirit of justice. He was exceedingly kind to the poor and generous in his contributions to the needy. His life was indeed actuated by a

worthy Christian spirit. In his political faith Mr. Deal was an ardent Democrat and was frequently called upon to accept public office. Although he was never an aspirant for political preferment, he took great interest in politics and consented to serve as county assessor, as road commissioner, as supervisor and in other positions of public trust. He died on the 25th of January, 1903, having long survived his wife, who passed away June 5, 1875. She was a lady of very sweet disposition, whose religious faith and principles were manifest in her daily life and she was greatly beloved by her family. She and her brothers and sisters were devoted to their parents and were especially helpful to their mother during their father's absence on ministerial duties. He was a pioneer preacher of the west, having fourteen congregations under his charge at one time. His sons were all sent to college, the mother being able to care for the family affairs and superintend the business interests in a capable manner during her husband's absence.

#### LAWRENCE L. LOOBY.

Lawrence L. Looby, whose farming interests are valuable and have been developed through his energy and perseverance, was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, on the 29th of May, 1846, his birthplace being in the parish of Kilfeode. His parents were John and Winifred (Hanley) Looby, and the former died in 1855, while the latter died in 1860, so that Lawrence L. Looby was left an orphan at the age of sixteen years. Two years later he became a resident of America, landing in Boston, Massachusetts, where he resided for about five years, working at the carrier's trade. He then sought a home in the west, coming to Menard county, where he worked by the month as a farm hand for about two years. He was then employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company from 1868 until the road was completed in 1869. He worked along the line from Omaha to Greenview and Point Rocks and also from Menard county to California. He was afterward employed in the line of his trade in San Francisco, spending about eleven months in California, after which he

returned to Menard county. Later he went to Chicago and served on the police force of that city under Captain Michael Hickey, Superintendent Kennedy being in charge at that time, while Mayor Odell was mayor of the city. He served on the force for two years and two months. He afterward worked in the stockyards for a year in the employ of John Brennock, after which he returned to Menard county and secured employment as a farm hand.

On the 1st of January, 1880, Mr. Looby was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Boyer, a daughter of Charles and Mary (Humphrey) Boyer. Her father was born in England and was the son of John Boyer, the owner of a large estate in that country. Mr. Looby now has in his possession the probate of the will of Robert Boyer, deceased, father of Charles Boyer, dated November 23, 1803, and executed by John Wills. Mr. Looby also has parchment deeds showing the transfer of land in England to his wife's father and his brother John, the deed bearing date of August 1, 1765. Charles Boyer came to America prior to November 1, 1839, and settled in Sangamon county, for at that date he received from the United States a patent for three hundred and twenty acres of land in that county. He afterward added to his property and at his death he left three hundred and fifty-nine acres of highly improved land, which is now in possession of Mr. Looby and constitutes the home farm of the family. His wife was a native of New York. Both were members of the Presbyterian church and in his political views he was a Republican. Mrs. Boyer died at the age of sixty-three years, Rev. R. D. Miller conducting the funeral services, while Mr. Boyer died October 11, 1878, and thus passed away two of the honored pioneer citizens of central Illinois.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boyer were born three children: Frank, Lizzie and John. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Looby has been blessed with six children: John E., who was born December 19, 1880, and died in infancy; Mamie, who was born December 19, 1881, and is now acting as her father's housekeeper; Kittie, who was born in 1882 and died in infancy; Winnie, who was born in 1884 and died in childhood; Charles, who was born January 27, 1886, and is

living at home with his father; and William H., whose birth occurred August 7, 1891, and who is also upon the home farm. The wife and mother died December 17, 1900, at the age of forty-seven years, and her death was deeply regretted by many friends. She was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and was ever devoted to the welfare and happiness of her husband and children.

Since his marriage Mr. Looby has been engaged in general farming and stock-raising and has worked earnestly and persistently to accumulate a comfortable competence. He is now the owner of a valuable property and his land is well improved, having been placed by him under a high state of cultivation. He is a member of the Catholic church and in his political views is a Democrat, but has had neither time nor inclination to seek public office, preferring to give his attention to his business affairs, in which he has met with creditable success. He is the owner of many valuable and interesting old heirlooms. In addition to the papers mentioned above, he has in his possession a diamond setting for twenty-four diamonds surrounding a case containing a lock of hair cut from his father-in-law's head. This setting was made one hundred and twenty years ago. He also has a solid gold bracelet set with diamonds that was worn by his wife's grandmother and likewise a pair of her slippers. Another of his possessions is a solid gold snuff box that was used by his wife's father and grandfather, and also his parents, and is now one hundred and fifty years old. A solid silver bowl, which has been handed down as an heirloom, bears the date of December 6, 1703. He likewise has parchments which are deeds and land grants dating back as far as 1500 and which transfer the title of lands in England to the Boyer family.

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#### SAMUEL M. SMITH.

Samuel M. Smith, who for forty years has resided on his farm in Petersburg precinct, and whose landed possessions have been acquired almost entirely through his own efforts, his perseverance and indefatigable industry, was born

December 23, 1855, at Port Kennedy, Pennsylvania. He is a son of John T. and Jane (Hutchison) Smith, who came from the north of Ireland to the new world. His grandparents were natives of Scotland, whence they removed to the Emerald isle, where the father and mother of our subject were reared. The grandparents died in Ireland. John T. Smith was born January 6, 1821, and his wife's birth occurred about the same time. They were married in their native country and later crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling at Port Kennedy, where the mother died when her son Samuel was only two years old, passing away in 1855, her remains being interred in the First Presbyterian cemetery at that place. Not long afterward the father came with his family to Illinois, arriving in Menard county in 1856. Ere leaving the east, however, he had married again, having on the 27th of June, 1855, wedded Miss Margaret McMillen. Throughout his entire life John T. Smith followed the occupation of farming. About 1860 he purchased land, buying fifty-nine acres of the farm upon which his son Samuel now resides. To this he afterward added, for he prospered in his undertaking and became one of the substantial farmers of the county. In the early days of the Republican party he gave to it his support, but after the Emancipation Proclamation was written he became a Democrat and continued to affiliate with that party until his death. A staunch advocate of Protestantism, he held membership with the Orangemen and with the American Protestant Association, and he belonged to the Presbyterian church. He died May 26, 1891, thus passing away when about seventy years of age. He had three children by his first marriage. William, the eldest, born December 9, 1847, died August 17, 1849. John W., born April 11, 1850, is living in Weatherford, Parker county, Texas. He was married in that state and follows farming there. He went to Texas in 1879 and he now has a farm of four hundred acres, which he owns individually, and seven hundred acres which he owns in partnership. Samuel M. is the third of the family. By the father's second marriage there were four children, all of whom died in infancy with the exception of Leah Jane, who

married David Dowell, who owns and operates a farm near Atterberry. They have three daughters and a son.

Samuel M. Smith was reared to the occupation of farming and pursued his education in the Little Grove school. In his youth he was trained to the duties and labors of the farm and gained practical knowledge of the best methods of conducting farm work—tilling the soil and raising stock. He has carried on general agricultural pursuits on his own account since 1849, and his landed possessions, covering two hundred and ninety acres, have been acquired entirely through his own efforts save that his father gave him eighty-six acres of land. It is all in Petersburg precinct. He raises grain and also stock and feeds both cattle and hogs.

On the 6th of March, 1849, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Sophia J. Kirby, who was born August 26, 1858, a daughter of Elias and Letitia (Lonsberry) Kirby, who came originally from Pennsylvania and are now living near Atterberry, Illinois. Her father has passed the age of seventy years, while her mother is now sixty-five years of age. They are the parents of twelve children: Sophia J., wife of our subject; Josephine, who died in infancy; A. J., who married Isabel Valentine and resides at Conway Springs, Sumner county, Kansas; Christina, wife of J. C. Atterberry, of Atterberry; Eben K., who married Ollie Pantier and lives near Atterberry; Frank, who married Mary Goldsby and resides in Athens; George, who died in infancy; Arvilla, who lives with her parents; Lyman L., who died in infancy; Clarence, who is also with his parents; Dora, wife of James Greenhaugh, living near Oakford; and Scott, who married Etta Griffith and lives near Petersburg.

Mrs. Smith was reared in Menard county and, like her husband, she attended a subscription school. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith have witnessed much of the development and growth of Menard county and are numbered among the worthy and respected early settlers. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born eight children: Ira A., born December 5, 1849, married Ida M. Ishmael and they have two children. They reside in Cass county, Illinois, five miles west of

Atterberry, where Ira follows farming. Samuel E., born May 7, 1881, died October 6, 1887. Alice Leah, born October 24, 1882, became the wife of Walter Juhl, who died February 9, 1903, and she now resides with her father. Emery J., born May 7, 1884, Jesse K., born February 11, 1888, John T., born October 26, 1890, Goldie E., born October 20, 1894, are all at home. One child, born October 3, 1896, died on the 2d of November following, unnamed, and was buried in Oakland cemetery. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Predestinarian Baptist church. In his political views Mr. Smith is a Democrat and has served as school director for twelve years, taking an active interest in the schools and doing everything in his power to increase their proficiency. Matters of public progress and improvement claim his attention and receive his co-operation. He has led a quiet, useful and honorable life, devoted to his farming interests, whereby he has provided a comfortable home for his family.

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#### JERMAN TICE.

Jerman Tice, deceased, was a life-long resident of Menard county and as an agriculturist was prominently identified with its growth and development. He was born near Athens on the 27th of November, 1834, and was a son of Jacob and Jane Tice, who were natives of Maryland and Virginia, respectively. His paternal grandparents came to this country from Germany. Jerman Tice was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys in a frontier settlement and his education was acquired in the early schools of this county. During his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the labors of the home farm and at times worked by the day or month for neighboring farmers. Throughout life he followed agricultural pursuits and in April, 1869, purchased a farm near Greenview, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest on the 23d of October, 1895. In connection with general farming he also engaged in the raising and feeding of stock.

Mr. Tice was married November 30, 1856, to Miss Mary Jenison, who was born near Peters-



JERMAN TICE.





burg, Menard county, September 18, 1834, and was descended from Scotch ancestors, who on crossing the Atlantic settled in New England. Her parents were Rev. John and Martha (McNabb) Jenison. Her father was born in Massachusetts and at the age of nine years accompanied his parents on their removal to New York. From that state he came to Illinois at an early day, locating in Menard county, where he followed farming and also engaged in preaching, being a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. For some time he served as justice of the peace and died January 30, 1852, honored and respected by all who knew him. In his family were eight children. Mr. Tice was one of a family of eleven children, and to him and his wife was born a son, their only child, Homer J., who is represented elsewhere in this volume.

Politically Mr. Tice was identified with the Republican party, but never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring the quiet of private life. At one time he affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a man highly respected and esteemed by all with whom he came in contact either in business or social life.

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#### WILLIAM MEYER.

William Meyer, whose intense and well directed activity caused his business career to prove so successful that he is now enabled to live retired and yet enjoy many of the comforts and luxuries that go to make life worth living, was born in Hanover, Germany, October 18, 1833. His father, also a native of Hanover, was an architect and was a very successful man of his day and locality. Mr. Meyer has nephews in Germany who are now extensively engaged in the manufacture of fancy goods, conducting a very profitable enterprise.

After leaving school William Meyer began learning the trade of a watchmaker and jeweler and later he went to Switzerland to perfect himself in that work among a people who are the acknowledged leaders of the world along those lines. When twenty-one years of age he came to America, landing at New York in

1855. He had heard favorable reports concerning the business opportunities of the new world and hoping that he might benefit his financial condition he crossed the Atlantic and established his home in Zanesville, Ohio, where he followed his trade for a year. He next located in Springfield, Illinois, but after a few months removed to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he remained for a year. He then came to Petersburg, on the 7th of September, 1857, and established a jewelry store, which he conducted for fourteen years, following the business until failing health caused his retirement. He has since traveled extensively and has practically regained his health, besides deriving much pleasure and gaining much useful and interesting information from his travels. He is now living retired in an elegant residence on the elevation south of Court Square.

On July 28, 1879, at Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Goucher, by Rev. S. C. Thomas. They lost their only daughter, Elsie, and their only living child is Fred W. Meyer. The hope that led Mr. Meyer to seek a home in America has been more than realized for he here found the business opportunities he sought and by improving business conditions he won for himself a place among the substantial residents of his adopted city. His personal characteristics, too, are such as have gained him warm friends and strong regard, and in Petersburg and Menard county he is highly esteemed.

Fred W. Meyer, the only child, was born in Petersburg, July 23, 1880, and at the usual age entered the public schools, wherein he advanced through successive grades until he had completed the high school course by graduation with the class of 1898. He then entered Notre Dame University, at Notre Dame, Indiana, as a student in the law department, and was graduated from that institution in 1902. In the fall of the same year he was admitted to the bar and entered upon active practice in Petersburg. Already he has secured a good clientele, and his thorough preparation, laudable ambition and unflinching energy speak well for a successful future as a representative of the legal fraternity of his native city. Mr. Meyer was married in January, 1904, to Miss Lynn

Greene, a native of Menard county and a daughter of Gaines Greene, of an old family of that name. The young people are popular in Petersburg, where the hospitality of the best homes is cordially extended them.

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#### GEORGE B. WELSH.

There is no history in this volume which illustrates more clearly the fact that success may be won through perseverance and honorable effort than does the record of George Baxter Welsh, who is indeed a self-made man, having worked his way upward from a humble financial position to one of affluence. Although he is now the owner of an excellent farm of four hundred and fifty acres in Tallula and Petersburg precincts, he came to this county without capital and was first employed as a farm hand.

A native of Scotland, Mr. Welsh was born in Dundee, April 1, 1838, his parents being John and Joanna (Baxter) Welsh. When the old established church of Scotland was divided because of difference of opinion among its membership, Mr. and Mrs. John Welsh withdrew from the old organization and became members of what was known as the Free church, and their son George was one of the first pupils in the schools established by the new denomination. For long generations the ancestors of the family had resided in Scotland. The grandfather of our subject was a farmer there, but the father became a grain merchant. He married Miss Baxter, whose people were largely engaged in manufacturing; making a specialty of sail cloth and bagging. Her father, however, lived retired from business for many years. Her cousin, David Baxter, was a member of parliament. Mrs. Joanna Welsh died in Scotland, after which her husband married Mrs. Elizabeth Bruce, a widow, and crossed the Atlantic to America with his family, settling on a farm near Toronto, Canada, in 1839. He had five children. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits there and at his death, which occurred in 1896, his remains were interred in a cemetery north of Toronto.

George B. Welsh is the eldest of his father's family. Eliza, the second child, married Andrew Miller, who resides at Thornhills, Canada, not far from Toronto. John is married and resides at Listoll, in Upper Canada. James married and resided in Stockton, California. He served as mayor of that city and was president of the First National Bank there. He learned the miller's trade in New York and went to the west a poor boy, but at the time of his death he had amassed a fortune of almost a million dollars. He died July 26, 1904, leaving a wife and three daughters. William resides at the old home at Thornhills, Canada.

George B. Welsh spent the first eleven years of his life in his native country and then accompanied his father to Canada, after which he had no opportunity to attend school. His youth was largely a period of unremitting toil and he labored persistently and earnestly to get a start in the business world. He came to Illinois in 1863 and the first year worked as a farm hand for twenty-five dollars per month. He afterward operated rented land for about eight or ten years, and then, his labor, economy and careful management having brought to him some capital, he purchased a tract of land in Little Grove. To his original purchase of three hundred acres he has since added two hundred acres, so that he is now one of the extensive landowners of the county, his possessions being valuable, because of the many improvements he has placed upon his farm and the high state of cultivation under which he has placed his fields.

In 1860 Mr. Welsh married Miss Catherine Miller, a daughter of Nathan Miller, who belonged to an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family and came from the Keystone state to Illinois in the fall of 1863, bringing with him his two children. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Welsh are as follows: John, who lives in Cass county, Illinois, married Lillie Wilson, of Menard county, and they have three daughters. Joanna is the wife of Robert Wood, who resides on a farm four miles east of Petersburg, and they have two sons and a daughter. Geimes G., who is living south of Petersburg and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellow, married Elizabeth Held and they have





*G B Wilsch*



*Catharine Webb*



two sons and a daughter. George, who was a miller, lives with his uncle James in California. Herbert, a graduate of the high school of Tallula and of the Springfield Business College, is now at home. Christina and May are also at home and the latter, after graduating from the Tallula high school, taught for two years. Minnie attended the high school of Tallula and later entered the Illinois Woman's College, at Jacksonville, Illinois, where she is studying piano and voice culture. Mrs. Welsh is a member of the Christian church at Tallula, to which all of her children belong save John and George. The family occupies an enviable position in social circles and the Welsh household is a hospitable one.

Politically Mr. Welsh is a Republican, conversant with the questions and issues of the day, but never an aspirant for office. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in Clinton Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., at Petersburg, more than thirty years ago. He has always been true to its teachings, exemplifying in his daily life the beneficent spirit of the craft.

#### WILLIAM B. WILLIAMS.

William B. Williams, whose loyalty to his country has never wavered and whose interest in her welfare has never abated since he wore the blue uniform and fought for the preservation of the Union in the Civil war, is a well known resident of township 18, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He was born in this county, May 29, 1813, and is a son of Joseph and Huldah (Francis) Williams. The father was born in Kentucky, April 3, 1812, and in 1823 became a resident of Menard county. In early manhood he engaged in farming, but at the age of twenty-four years turned his attention to general merchandising at Decatur, Illinois. After five years' connection with commercial pursuits he resumed farming and continued in that vocation until he started for the Pacific coast. In the meantime he had married Miss Huldah Francis, who was born in Hartford, Connecticut, May 10, 1812, and in 1829 came to this county. By their mar-

riage they became the parents of seven children, six sons and a daughter, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of two. On the 3d of April, 1851, the father started for Oregon, accompanied by his sons. They traveled with three ox-teams, and on the 7th of May left Omaha. They did not see a house from that time until they reached Oregon, and they experienced the usual hardships and trials incident to crossing the plains at that early day. On the 5th of November, 1851, they reached the Cascade mountains and making their way to the mines of California, Joseph Williams there engaged in mining for about two years, when he was murdered by the Indians, in May, 1853. His wife had died in Illinois, December 10, 1848, ere his emigration to the Pacific coast. Only two of the family are now living—William B. and Newton A. The latter, born October 17, 1815, now resides at Greenview. He was married October 17, 1815, to Miss Mary C. Cox, and they had nine children, seven of whom are living.

William B. Williams was not yet eight years of age when he started with his father for California, but celebrated his birthday on the way. He remained in Oregon until 1853, when he returned with his five brothers to the home of their uncle, John Williams, and soon afterward went to live with their aunt, Mrs. Cynthia Johnson. The return journey had been made by way of the isthmus of Panama, thence by sailing vessel to New Orleans and up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Beardstown, thence across the country to Menard county. Mr. Williams of this review continued to live with his aunt until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry. His company was composed of Menard county men and the regiment went into camp at Lincoln, Illinois, August 15, 1862, being mustered into the United States service on the 18th of September. On the 7th of that month they moved to Columbus, Kentucky, and on the 10th to Jackson, Tennessee. On the 6th of December occurred the first death in the regiment—that of E. Rankin, of Company C. During an engagement Sergeant Henry Fox, of Company H, climbed up the timbers



of the bridge and crossed that structure under the fire of the whole rebel force, on his way to Jackson for re-enforcements, and although this was a most perilous undertaking he accomplished it in safety. Later the regiment was sent further north to guard railroad stations. The prisoners paroled by General Forrest were sent to Benton Barracks and exchanged in the later summer of 1863. The balance of the regiment was ordered to Bolivar, Tennessee, in March, 1864, and about the 31st of May moved on to Vicksburg. While en route the boat which was transporting the troops was fired upon at close range off Island 63 by several companies of Rebel infantry and two cannon, and Captain Beizely's son was killed at the first fire, while a few others were also killed and about twenty-five wounded. After serving in the trenches at Vicksburg a few weeks the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois was sent forty miles up the Yazoo river to repel a Rebel force and, returning by forced marches, was harassed by the enemy; while under the scorching summer sun many of the soldiers were prostrated by the heat. The regiment lost more men on that trip than from any other cause during its term of service. The One Hundred and Sixth served in the line of battle at Vicksburg until after its surrender and was then ordered to Helena, Arkansas, and took part in the advance on Little Rock, participating in its capture. It was in the battle of Clarendon, Duxalls Bluff, Pine Bluff, Benton, Hot Springs, Lewisburg, St. Charles, Dardanelles and Brownsville and performed its full share in crushing out the rebellion. Its members suffered many privations and hardships, marching through swamps and bayous, fighting and foraging, and its history shows a long list of casualties. Mr. Williams was always most faithful to his duties and returned home with a most creditable military record.

After the war Mr. Williams engaged in buying and shipping stock and in 1869 he purchased a farm at Middletown, Logan county, Illinois, where he resided until 1896. He then disposed of that property and purchased a farm in Missouri, where he lived for two years, after which he returned to Indian Point and settled on the old Williams farm, where he remained

until 1894, when he took up his abode on his farm in township 19, where he lived until March, 1902. Then selling his property he removed to Valparaiso, Indiana, in order to afford his daughters better educational privileges, returning thence to the place where he now resides.

On the 1st of November, 1870, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Anna M. Whitney, a daughter of Alonzo H. and Mary A. (Kincaid) Whitney, who came to Menard county in the early '30s. Her father, who was born April 16, 1816, and died November 9, 1871, spent the greater part of his life in this county. He owned and operated a farm and also worked at his trade of carpentering, being one of the industrious, energetic men of his community. Associated with Mr. Thatcher he built the Presbyterian church at North Sangamon. His wife, who was born January 26, 1818, died November 11, 1891. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are now living: Mrs. Williams, born December 4, 1848; Dewey L., who was born September 29, 1851, and is now married and living in Kansas; Emma E., who was born January 24, 1856, and is the wife of Dr. F. P. Eldredge; and Frank H., who was born December 28, 1860, and is living in this county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams has been blessed with seven children: Mary H., who was born August 5, 1871, and died May 5, 1872; W. H., who was born July 15, 1873, and was married to Maud Turner, August 24, 1898; Grace, who was born April 1, 1875; Luemma, who was born April 16, 1877, and was married August 16, 1899, to John Clond, of Indiana; Arthur, who was born March 27, 1880, and died July 21, 1887; Cynthia, who was born September 27, 1883; and Paul, who was born June 2, 1887, and died July 29, 1887.

Mr. Williams is a valued member of Pollock Post, No. 200, G. A. R., of Athens, and maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades in this way. He is also prominent in Masonry, belonging to Greenview lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M.; DeWitt Chapter, No. 119, R. A. M.; and St. Aldemar Commandery, No. 47, K. T. He has been a member of the school board of his district for fifteen years and the

cause of education finds in him an effective champion. He strongly endorses the principles of the Republican party and is never remiss in citizenship, while all the duties of public and private life he discharges with equal fidelity.

#### GEORGE U. SPEARS.

George U. Spears, who is engaged in general farming in Tallula township, was born April 4, 1844, about three miles east of Tallula, in Clary's Grove, his parents being W. G. and Eliza (Myers) Spears, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The family was established in America at an early period in the colonization of the new world, the great-grandfather of our subject being at one time a resident of Virginia, whence he removed westward to Kentucky. The grandfather was a farmer and slave owner of the Blue Grass state. W. G. Spears removed from Kentucky to Illinois in 1829, settling three miles east of Tallula in Clary's Grove, where he followed the occupation of farming. Unto him and his wife were born four children, a son and three daughters, George U. being the second of the family. His sisters are Ellen, Kate and Rebecca Jennie. Ellen married S. H. Bergen and is now a widow residing in Guthrie, Oklahoma. She has three sons, one of whom is a druggist, while another is a traveling salesman, representing a St. Louis house. Kate married John Frank, editor of a paper of Jacksonville, Florida. They have one son, who is engaged in the newspaper business. Rebecca Jennie is the widow of W. J. Huggins and resides in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

In the country schools Mr. Spears began his education, which he continued in the schools of Tallula. He put aside his text-books when nineteen years of age and began farming for himself on his mother's land east of Tallula. After remaining there for two years he spent a year south of Tallula and afterward bought a homestead of two hundred and eighteen acres, which he cultivated for two years. Later he sold out and went to Warren county, Illinois, settling near Greenbush, where he purchased one

hundred and sixty acres of land. When he had followed farming there for a brief period he sold his property and returned to Menard county, where he purchased two hundred acres. Since that time he has added seven hundred acres, so that he is now one of the most extensive landowners of the county, his possessions aggregating nine hundred acres of very rich and productive land. In addition to general farming he raises stock and feeds cattle. His business interests have been carefully conducted, his transactions being guided by sound judgment, and although he is now numbered among the prosperous farmers of the county, it is all due to his carefully directed and straightforward dealings.

In December, 1866, Mr. Spears was united in marriage to Miss Frances Green, a daughter of J. G. Green, who was one of the early settlers of this part of the state, having arrived in 1824, when few pioneers had established homes in this locality and when much of the land still remained in its primitive condition. He settled south of the old town of Salem and there reared his family. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Spears have been born seven children: Jesse married Margaret J. Stout and resides in Petersburg. They have one daughter, Ada, who is eleven years of age. Carrie, who was educated in the schools of Tallula and in the Jacksonville Female Seminary, is at home. William G., who spent one year as a student in Eureka College, at Eureka, Illinois, and one term in Brown's Business College at Springfield, is now farming on his own account and resides with his parents. Lena is a graduate of the Woman's Methodist College, at Jacksonville, Quincy, Mo., who attended the Tallula high school and after his graduation spent a year in the Illinois College, at Jacksonville, is farming for himself on eighty acres of his own and also on his father's place. Grace B. was educated in the Tallula high school and in the Woman's College at Jacksonville. Sarah E., also a graduate of the Tallula high school and a student in the Woman's College at Jacksonville, completes the family.

Mr. Spears endorses the principles of Democracy and was elected to the office of county commissioner for three terms. He proved a most

capable official and his energies were exerted for the best interest of the county, which profited by what he did. He is a man whom to know is to respect and honor, and he receives the admiration of his fellow men for what he has accomplished and their respect because of the straightforward methods by which he has won his prosperity.

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### HENRY C. LEVERING.

Henry C. Levering was born on the 1st of January, 1849, his parents being Cave and Catherine (Von Felden) Levering. His mother was born in Germany and came with her parents, George and Margaret Von Felden, to America at an early age. His father was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and when a young man came to Illinois and after spending several years in Springfield took up his residence in Petersburg, entering the employ of A. D. Wright and afterward engaging in business for himself. He was married to Miss Von Felden in Petersburg and to them were born eleven children, nine surviving to maturity, eight of whom are still living: Mrs. Robert Carver, Aaron, Thomas, Mrs. Lester Redmon, Cave, Charles, Harvey M. and Margaret. Harvey M. Levering, the youngest son, has been actively identified with the political life of the county, having been elected by large majorities to fill the office of county clerk for three successive terms, and is at the present time holding the position of master in chancery.

Henry C. Levering was married in Petersburg, November 6, 1872, to Julia Chatterton, the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Miles) Chatterton. She was born in Springfield February 15, 1855. Her mother was reared in Menard county where her parents, George C. and Jane Miles, settled at an early day, coming from Kentucky. Mr. Levering entered mercantile life as a grocer and was very successful in that line. He was associated in a partnership with Martin Nicolai, which relation was continued for some time, when the firm of Harms, Levering, Nicolai & Company was formed. This was succeeded by Harms, Levering & Clary, and after the retirement of

Mr. Clary became Harms & Levering. In 1890 they erected the present brick business block at the southwest corner of court house square, one hundred and twenty-four by one hundred and two feet. The building was constructed for departments—groceries, dry goods, clothing and notions—and had a stock and facilities for the conduct of a general mercantile business second to none in this part of the state. Mr. Levering was very active in the development of this business, which was conducted along modern lines of progress, and he instituted fair and honorable methods which would bear the closest scrutiny. He was also interested quite extensively in stock-raising and continued in both lines up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 3rd day of July, 1903, the community thereby losing a very prominent and influential citizen whose value was widely recognized. His name had long figured in connection with mercantile interests here and always stood as a synonym of honorable dealing and progressive effort. He was a Mason and a life-long Democrat, but always held patriotism above politics. He was a man of unblemished character, tireless energy and unbounded industry.

He is succeeded in business by his two sons, his only children, Paul and Harry C. The firm of Harms & Levering was discontinued, the young men retaining the clothing and grocery departments under the name of Levering Brothers. They are of good business ability, alert, energetic, quickly recognizing possibilities, finding in each transition stage of their business career opportunity for further advancement and bid fair to sustain the reputation their father made as an honorable man and a useful citizen.

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### ANDREW PARK.

Andrew Park, who since March, 1877, has resided upon his farm on sections 3 and 10, township 18, where he owns and operates one hundred and fifty-five acres of land, was born in Paisley, Scotland, July 22, 1846, his parents being James and Rebecca (Purdon) Park, who were also natives of the land of the heath-



MR. AND MRS. H. C. LEVERING.



er. The father's and mother's people came from the lowlands of Scotland and he was a farmer by occupation. The Park family were landowners there but going security for a man lost their property. Both the parents of our subject were members of the Presbyterian church of Scotland. Leaving his native country in 1862, James Park crossed the Atlantic to America and made his way westward to Petersburg. His brothers, Matthew and Thomas Park, had come to Illinois many years before and had entered land from the government when much of it was still unclaimed. An aunt, Annie Barclay, emigrating from Scotland to Virginia, afterward came to Illinois and purchased the farm whereon Andrew Park now resides, he having bought the land from her. Another aunt, Mrs. Margaret Shepard, came from Scotland to Illinois at the time of the arrival of Thomas and Matthew Park. All are now deceased.

In the family of James and Rebecca Park were nine children, seven daughters and two sons, as follows: Isabella married Christopher Rose and they resided in Scotland, but both are now deceased. Their son Christopher is now a resident of Antelope county, Nebraska. Elizabeth is the deceased wife of William Wilson, a resident of Scotland, and they had four children. Rebecca died in infancy. Rebecca married William Finley and is now a widow, residing two and a half miles northeast of Petersburg. Annie married Anthony Clark, a resident of Bement, Piatt county, Illinois, and they have three children. Andrew is the sixth of the family. Margaret is the widow of George W. Hollis, resides in the Petersburg precinct and has nine children. Agnes is the wife of Harry Houghton, living five miles south of Petersburg, and they have six children. James died at the age of twenty-four years.

In the public schools of Scotland Andrew Park acquired his education, and while still living in that country he began earning his own living by working as a farm hand, receiving thirty dollars in compensation for six months service. Coming to the United States in 1862 he has found in the freedom and appreciation of this great western country, with

its livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured, the business opportunities he sought and is today one of the substantial farmers of his adopted county. He was employed on his father's farm for a time and also worked for others and then when his labor had made possible the purchase of a tract of land, he began farming for himself upon the place which has been his home since March, 1877. He has here one hundred and fifty-five acres of good land and he also owns fifty acres near the Brush schoolhouse, and because of the careful cultivation bestowed upon his fields the farm has become very productive and therefore profitable.

On the 19th of August, 1885, Mr. Park was married to Miss Harriet Rutledge, a daughter of McGrady and Margaret (Harris) Rutledge, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Park have two children, both of whom are living. James H., born August 2, 1887; and Stella R., born June 17, 1892. Both are students in the public schools.

Mr. Park's views on the temperance question are indicated by the support which he gives to the Prohibition party. He belongs to the Cumberland Presbyterian church and his influence is always a factor in behalf of law and order, justice, truth and right. He has led a very busy life, and, realizing that labor is the basis of all honorable success, he has worked on persistently year after year and is now in possession of a comfortable competence as the result of his earnest toil.

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#### JOHN H. BEHRENS.

John H. Behrens, who is extensively and successfully engaged in the raising of stock and in general farming in Greenview township, was born on the 8th of February, 1865, in Menard county, and is of German lineage. His parents, Henry and Mary (Hildebrand) Behrens, were both natives of Germany. The father, leaving that country, sailed for New Orleans and thence proceeded up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, Missouri, while his wife, on coming to America, made her way

by water to Havana, Illinois. They were married in this state and in order to provide for his family Henry Behrens carried on agricultural pursuits. He worked hard and his careful management enabled him to acquire a handsome competence. As his financial resources increased he made judicious investments in real estate and became the owner of extensive landed possessions, having seven hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1882. He had survived his wife for about three years, her death having occurred in February, 1879. They were the parents of five children, two sons and three daughters, of whom two sons and a daughter are now living, namely: John H.; William; and Mary, the wife of J. Wohler, of Menard county. An uncle of Mr. Behrens of this review is still living. He is John Hildebrand, of Grundy county, Missouri, and on the 12th of August, 1904, celebrated the seventieth anniversary of his birth. On that occasion a party was held in his honor, at which Mr. Behrens of this review was present.

Upon the old homestead farm John H. Behrens spent the days of his boyhood and youth and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. Since attaining his majority he has carried on the same pursuit and is now well known as a successful stock-raiser and feeder. He has about one hundred and fifty head of cattle upon his place at this writing, in the fall of 1904, together with ten head of horses and mules and about one hundred and twenty head of hogs. He has recently shipped sixty-five head to the Chicago market. His landed possessions comprise five hundred and five acres and because of his property and his business capacity and enterprise he deserves to be ranked among the leading and substantial agriculturists of Menard county.

On the 22d of November, 1887, Mr. Behrens was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Stroker, a daughter of Garret and Julia (Miller) Stroker, in whose family were four daughters and a son, all of whom are living in this county with one exception: Lizzie, born June 20, 1862, is now Mrs. Behrens; Anna, born February 8, 1864, married William Behrens, a

brother of John H. Behrens; Mary was born March 8, 1867; Mrs. Amelia Koester, born December 11, 1869, is living in Nebraska; Henry, born December 25, 1871, makes his home with his eldest sister. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Behrens have been born four children: George, born September 13, 1888; Edward, born December 28, 1889; Franklin, born October 14, 1891; and Oscar, born July 9, 1899. The children have been reared upon the old home farm upon which their father spent his boyhood days and where he has always carried on his business interests.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Behrens are consistent and loyal members of the German Lutheran church, contributing generously to its support. In his political views he is a staunch Republican, keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day and thus being able to support his position by intelligent argument. For the past twelve years he has been a school director and he is now road commissioner, a position which he has held at different times until his incumbency covers nine and a half years. In the discharge of his duties he has ever been prompt and faithful and all who know him recognize in him a man who is reliable and trustworthy in business, loyal in citizenship and devoted to his family and friends.

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#### J. W. WERNISING.

J. W. Wernsing, one of the prominent pioneer merchants of Menard county whose enterprising spirit and business foresight largely advanced commercial conditions in Petersburg, was a native of Hanover, Germany. He acquired his education there and remained in the fatherland until 1828, when he determined to come to America. Reports from the new world presented a story of business conditions and possibilities that attracted him, and thinking that he might win more rapid advancement in a country with livelier competition where results were more quickly secured, he came to the United States and located in Springfield, Illinois, where he entered the employ of John Taylor, who then had charge of the land office.







JOHN W. WATSON



MRS. M. L. FISHER



Later he formed a partnership with James Taylor, a son of his employer, for the establishment of a dry-goods store at Petersburg, and they opened their stock of goods in a wooden building in what was known as the old town, this being one of the pioneer mercantile enterprises of the place. Prosperity attended the efforts of the new firm, the business keeping pace with the growth of the town and the settlement of the surrounding district, and later they erected a brick store building now occupied by the First National Bank and the store adjoining it on the north side. For a number of years Mr. Wernsing was actively connected with the conduct of this business.

In public affairs Mr. Wernsing was also prominent and his efforts contributed to the general upbuilding and improvement of his city and county. He had been a resident of Illinois for only a few years when he enlisted for service in the Black Hawk war, going to the scene of hostilities under command of Colonel Merriam and serving until the Indian uprising was quelled. He was at one time circuit clerk for a term, and his influence was always given on the side of improvement and progress, and proved a potent element in the substantial upbuilding of Petersburg.

On the 8th of May, 1845, Mr. Wernsing was united in marriage to Miss Minerva L. Smith, and his death occurred May 10, 1858, but he is yet remembered by many of the pioneer settlers of Menard county as a man and citizen of sterling worth. His wife, now Mrs. Fisher, is one of the oldest living settlers of Menard county, having located here with her parents in 1830, when a young girl of eight years. They came from Indiana, but her father and mother were originally from Kentucky. After losing her first husband Mrs. Wernsing was again married, becoming the wife of Desbrieh Fisher, in 1861. Their married life covered about a third of a century, Mr. Fisher passing away on the 12th of April, 1894. Mrs. Fisher is now in her eighty-fourth year. She has property in Menard county and also in San Diego county, California, and for the past thirteen years has made her home in the latter place, but during that time has made twenty-two trips to Menard county, and at this writing is now

visiting relatives here. The memory of few, if any, of the residents of this locality dates back to a more remote period in the history of Menard county, and she has intimate knowledge of the events which have molded its policy, promoted its growth and shaped its annals. She occupies a foremost place in the regard and warm esteem of a very large circle of friends in Menard county.

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#### H. M. LEVERING.

H. M. Levering, master in chancery of Menard county, was born in Petersburg, December 13, 1867, and through much of his active business career has been connected with the public service—a fact which indicates his reliability and efficiency. His father, Cave Levering, was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and was united in marriage to Miss Catherine von Felden, a native of Germany. On his removal to Illinois he located in Springfield, where he remained for a few years, and thence came to Petersburg, where he turned his attention to merchandising, in which field of business activity he continued until within a few years of his death, when he retired to enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

The eighth in order of birth in a family of nine children, H. M. Levering was educated in the public schools of Petersburg and then entered his brother's store as a salesman, being thus employed for eight years. On the expiration of that period, in 1889, he was elected county clerk and was twice re-elected, thus serving for three consecutive terms. On his retirement from that office he was appointed master in chancery, in which capacity he is now discharging his duties in a most capable and commendable manner. He regards a public office as a public trust and brings to the discharge of his duties the same enterprising spirit and keen discernment which he manifested when controlling private business interests.

In August, 1889, Mr. Levering was married to Miss Celia Combs, a native of Menard county and a daughter of Amos Combs. She died January 25, 1895, and her death was deeply regretted by many friends to whom she had

become endeared through her many good traits of heart and mind. She left two children, Leigh and Warren. In 1896 Mr. Levering was again married, his second union being with Miss Nellie C. Hutcherson, a native of Menard county and a daughter of William T. Hutcherson, who died in the '80s. There is one son of this marriage, William.

Mr. Levering is prominent in Masonic circles, belonging to both the lodge and chapter. He also holds membership relations with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Maccabees. He has a wide acquaintance in the county where his entire life has been passed and where he has so directed his energies as to gain recognition as a leading and representative citizen, owing to his devotion to the public good and his co-operative support of all measures which he deems will promote the welfare and substantial up-building of city and county.

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#### GEORGE NEWELL VAN EMAN.

George Newell Van Eman is the owner of a good tract of land in Athens precinct and to the development and improvement of his farm he is devoting his energies with the result that he now has a productive tract, constituting one of the best farming properties of his locality. He was born in Hollidays Grove, West Virginia, on the 9th of July, 1855, his parents being W. W. and Ellazanna Van Eman. The father was a native of Burgettstown, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the mother's birth occurred in the same county near the village of Cross Creek, Virginia. W. W. Van Eman devoted his early life to farming and teaching school, following the educational profession for twelve years. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, renting a tract of land and subsequently he and his brother purchased a farm. At a later date he bought his brother's interest and subsequently he sold the entire place and removed to a farm near Farmer City, Illinois, where he also bought land, taking up his abode there in 1879. For about nine years he continued

the cultivation and improvement of that place and in 1888 he sold out and became the owner of a tract of land near Champaign. There he spent two years, after which he bought a farm near Webster City, Iowa. He bought and sold twice while in that district and he now owns a fine farm near Esterville, Emmet county, Iowa, upon which he is residing. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and is also a stock-raiser, breeding shorthorn cattle. His farm work has been carefully conducted and basing his success upon earnest labor he has worked persistently to acquire a good and profitable property. He has found in his wife a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey, she having carefully managed the household affairs, while he has conducted his farming interests. Unto them were born seven children, of whom five, three sons and two daughters, are now living.

George Newell Van Eman, the eldest of the family, is indebted to the public school system of western Pennsylvania for the educational privileges which he enjoyed in his youth. When he had mastered the branches of learning usually taught in the public schools he began farming with his father at Farmer City, Illinois. He afterward spent seven years in DeWitt and Piatt counties as a renter and then returned to Menard county, locating upon his present farm, a part of which was left to his wife, while the remainder he purchased. They now have one hundred and fifty-two acres and the greater part of the land is under a high state of cultivation, for Mr. Van Eman has continued the further work of development and improvement until it is now an excellent farm, supplied with all modern accessories and equipments.

On the 15th of October, 1885, Mr. Van Eman was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. White, the ceremony being performed by Rev. R. D. Miller. The lady was born and reared in Menard county and attended school at Indian Point until eighteen years of age, after which she was a student at Lincoln University in Lincoln, Illinois, for a time. After completing her education she engaged in teaching until within a short time of her marriage. She is a daughter of R. E. White, who was

born in St. Clair county, Illinois, but was only a few months old when brought to Menard county, thus becoming one of the pioneer settlers of this region. He was married near Jacksonville in Morgan county, Illinois, to Miss Rachel Roach, a native of Tennessee, and to them were born seven children, of whom three reached years of maturity, one of these being John E. White, who is represented elsewhere in this volume. The father was a Democrat in politics and was an influential and honored citizen of his community. Mr. and Mrs. Van Eman have one son, Frank White, who was born December 18, 1886, and is now assisting his father in the operation of the home farm.

In his political views Mr. Van Eman is a Republican, unflinching in his advocacy of the party and its principles. He and his family are members of the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian church, the house of worship standing near their home upon land given for that purpose by Mrs. Van Eman's grandfather. Their influence is ever on the side of right, order and progress and in all of his business dealings as well as in private life Mr. Van Eman is just and fair, so that his name has become a synonym for integrity in all trade transactions.

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#### CHARLES NUSBAUM.

The true measure of success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, there is particular interest attaching to the career of Charles Nusbaum, since he is a native son of the place where he has passed his active life and so directed his abilities and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens of Menard county. He is engaged in the practice of law and has won for himself an enviable position in the ranks of the legal fraternity.

Born in Petersburg, on the 13th of January, 1860, Mr. Nusbaum is of German lineage. His grandfather, Bernhard Nusbaum, was a native of Bavaria, Germany, in which country Abra-

ham Nusbaum, his son and the father of our subject, was also born. The latter came to America in early manhood and located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was afterward joined by his father and the other members of the family, and there the grandfather continued to make his home until called from this life. Abraham Nusbaum, however, removed from Ohio to Petersburg about 1850 and established a mercantile enterprise which he continued to conduct until 1874, being very successful in the work. He was married to Miss Sarah Salzenstein and they became the parents of two sons.

Charles Nusbaum, the younger son, was a public school student and after his graduation from the high school he continued his studies in the Illinois College at Jacksonville. In 1879 he completed a course there by graduation and with good literary knowledge to serve as the basis of his professional learning he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated with the class of 1881. Two years later he entered upon active practice in Petersburg, where he has since remained, long maintaining a foremost position in the ranks of the legal fraternity in Menard county. From 1888 until 1896 he served as states attorney. The zeal with which he has devoted his energies to his profession, the careful regard evinced for the interests of his clients, and an assiduous and unrelaxing attention to all the details of his cases, have brought him a large business and made him very successful in its conduct. His arguments have elicited warm commendation not only from his associates at the bar but also from the bench. In addition to his law practice he is interested in financial circles of the city, having succeeded his father as a director of the First National Bank of Petersburg. He is also one of the directors of the Lanning Harris Coal & Grain Company, of Kansas City.

On the 25th of October, 1893, Mr. Nusbaum was united in marriage to Miss Clara Stearn, a native of Lincoln, Illinois, and a daughter of Samuel and Jeanette (Rosenberger) Stearn. They have one son, Carl. Fraternally Mr. Nusbaum is a Mason and a Knight of Pythias



and is in full sympathy with the beneficent teachings of those orders. He was made a Mason in June, 1903, in the Petersburg lodge. He owns a nice residence on the Hillside, and he and his wife are popular and have many friends in Menard county, while their own attractive home is noted for its warm-hearted hospitality.

#### JOHN Q. SPEARS.

John Q. Spears, who has prospered as an agriculturist and is now practically living retired, was born on the 8th of November, 1828, and is today one of the revered patriarchs of his community, having passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey. His parents were George and Maria W. (Blankenship) Spears, honored pioneer settlers of Menard county. His paternal grandparents were George and Mary (Neely) Spears, residents of Kentucky, who were identified with the pioneer development of that state. A sketch of the grandmother will be found on another page of this volume.

George Spears, Jr., was born in Green county, Kentucky, March 9, 1805, and was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life upon his father's farm. He acquired a good common-school education, was early trained to habits of industry and economy, and in 1824, when nineteen years of age, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, the family home being established at Clary's Grove in Menard county. The grandfather died April 10, 1838, at the age of seventy-four years, while his wife passed away January 26, 1852, at the very advanced age of ninety years, five months and twenty-seven days. He had taken a helpful part in the early improvement and upbuilding of the county and is classed among the worthy pioneers whose efforts are still very beneficial in the present condition of progress and prosperity in this part of the state. George Spears, Jr., attained his majority in Menard county, became identified with its agricultural interests and prospered in his undertakings, making judicious investments in property until he was the owner of two thousand acres of land. He

did much for the county along the lines of agricultural development and improvement. In 1829 he burned the brick and erected a residence which is still standing, it being the second brick house within the territory now embraced in the counties of Sangamon, Menard, Cass, Mason and Logan. His wife died June 23, 1878, and he passed away August 27, 1891. They were the parents of five children: Mary C., the wife of William T. Beckman; William N., deceased; John Q.; Henry C., who has also passed away; and Elizabeth F., who married George C. Spears.

John Q. Spears was born on the old family homestead in Menard county and is indebted to the common schools of that period for the early educational privileges he enjoyed. The first school building at which he attended was an old log structure with slab seats, greased paper windows and a large fireplace. He began his studies when only four years of age. The first day he received a whipping, three or four on the second day and six on the third day because he could not say his alphabet. The path of learning, therefore, was not a flowery one to him in his early day. Experience and observation have added largely to his knowledge and in this manner as well as through his training in the schoolroom he managed to acquire a good business education.

Mr. Spears has always followed farming and has kept abreast with the progress of the times, as primitive machinery has been replaced by that of modern manufacture and as the crude methods of early days have given way before the present manner of cultivating the soil and caring for the crops. At one time he was the owner of eleven hundred and seventy-six acres of land in Menard county, constituting a very valuable property, and he also owned land elsewhere until his property interests aggregated twenty-six hundred acres. He afterward gave to his sons one hundred and sixty acres of good land and he still retains possession of three hundred and twenty acres. Other business interests have likewise claimed the time and attention of Mr. Spears. For six years he was engaged in the dry-goods and lumber business in Tallula, being forced into the business on account of loaning money to a party who could



MR. AND MRS. JOHN Q. SPEARS.



not pay. He also carried on a dry-goods and grocery trade at Roodhouse for the same length of time, and on disposing of that he was engaged in the grocery business at Tallula for two years and a half. Thus his efforts have been directed into various fields of activity and his sound judgment and untiring industry have been resultant factors in bringing him very gratifying success.

Mr. Spears has been married twice. On the 2d of May, 1851, he wedded Susan J. Merrill, a daughter of Jacob Merrill. She died December 14, 1873, leaving three children: William H., the eldest, born June 20, 1859, now resides in Petersburg; James J., born February 27, 1861, is living in Tallula; and Charles G., born July 6, 1869, makes his home upon the farm which was once occupied by his father. For his second wife Mr. Spears chose Martha R. Turner, a daughter of John L. and Mary (Hawkes) Turner, of Mason county. She was born October 16, 1837, and their marriage was celebrated December 2, 1875.

Mr. Spears cast his first presidential vote for Winfield Scott, giving his political allegiance to the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the Republican party, with which he continues to affiliate. The election of 1904 fell upon his birthday and he has voted at fifty-six elections, having never been ill upon a single election day. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. In March, 1854, he became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was made a Mason on the 11th of the following April at Petersburg, on the site of the new school building. He now belongs to Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M.; De Witt chapter, No. 119, R. A. M.; and to St. Aldemar commandery, K. T., of Petersburg.

Among other interesting relics Mr. Spears has a wooden box engraved in imitation of a German Bible, made about 1782, near Detroit, Michigan, by a man who was then a prisoner among the Indians. He also has a piece of the floor of the house at Rocky Hill, three miles north of Princeton, New Jersey, where Washington wrote his farewell address; and a piece of the root of a tree from Washington's home at Mt. Vernon. One of the oldest native

sons of Menard county, his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and progressive present. He is familiar with the history of the county during its pioneer epoch and has watched it emerge from frontier conditions to take its place with the leading counties of this great commonwealth. He has ever manifested a pride in what has been accomplished and has borne his full share in the work of public improvement in his locality. Although seventy-six years of age he is still hale and hearty and possesses a most wonderful memory and genial nature—one whom it is a great pleasure to meet and converse with as he has a fund of most interesting stories of pioneer days when Abraham Lincoln was one of the boys in this county. His wife is also a most pleasant and estimable lady and their home is noted for its hospitality.

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#### MARY NEELY.

Mary Neely was born the fourth of a family of ten children, born to William and Margaret (Patterson) Neely, near the French Broad River, in the state of South Carolina, on the 20th day of August, 1761. Her parents were of Irish and Welsh extraction. At what date they came to America is not known, or whether they were born in South Carolina. Neither is it material to the subject of this sketch. Mary seemed to be a great favorite of her father's, but in that early day schools were scarce, and books were few, and nothing like system was attempted in what few schools there were in the rural districts; and owing to circumstances that followed, six weeks was all the schooling she ever had. Her early days were spent, as those of most of those hardy pioneers, in carding and spinning wool and flax, and assisting the men in their endeavor to make a living for the family. She was just past her eighteenth birthday when her father became restless, on account of the Indians being driven back, and concluded to emigrate to the territory (then belonging to North Carolina), now state of Tennessee. Moving a family at that time and in that direction was a hazardous undertaking. So her father, with six other pio-

neers, set about making preparations to move their household effects, he choosing a large poplar tree in which the country abounded, and dug out for himself a canoe, the dimensions of which were fifty-six feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep, the largest of the fleet made from a single tree; but there were some of larger dimensions, but made from two trees. When it was completed he added four inches to the depth by nailing on strips, into which, after launching, he placed seven grindstones for ballast. After selling his landed possessions for thirty thousand dollars in Continental money, he loaded his household goods into this canoe, leaving the balance of the family to come by land, bringing with them ninety-six head of cattle and some forty head of horses, to what is now Neely's Bend, in the Cumberland river, some ten or twelve miles east of the present site of Nashville, Tennessee, the Bend taking its name from him. Taking Mary with him, with the other part of the fleet he embarked on their perilous enterprise down that crooked stream to its junction with the Tennessee; then down the Tennessee to nearly opposite Nashville, near the Mussel Shoals, then across the country, stopping where the city of Nashville now stands, where they found an unfinished pole cabin, but they were afraid to remain on account of the many signs of Indians, but journeyed on in a short time, to the present site of the village of Goodlettsville, some two miles north of the junction of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, and its Henderson branch, and there built a fort, the remains of which were still visible in 1873, and I presume are to this day. Here some twenty families gathered for mutual protection, numbering between thirty and forty men able to bear arms. William Neely seems to have been the leader, as his counsels were sought in every enterprise. Neely put his stock, both horses and cattle, down in the bend of the river for the purpose of getting food, being protected to some extent from marauding bands of Indians. One of the great needs to all civilized nations is salt, and to their great delight they discovered a small spring on the bank of the river from which they could supply that demand, although it is so strongly impregnated with

sulphur that its use now for the manufacture of salt would not be thought of for a moment; but to those sturdy pioneers it was a God-send. The stock required no feed except what they could get from the cane brakes and pea vine; but not so with the people, although bear, deer and turkeys were abundant. The great danger was in hunting them, but a brave man, such as composed that little band of Spartans, will brave any danger to appease the hunger of his wife and little ones. In this manner did they live, some guarding while others felled the great giants of the forests. The following summer they had to live on meat and vegetables, as their little stock of flour and meal was long ago exhausted. But from the maples that were abundant in the bend from which they could supply themselves with sugar and molasses, with plenty of meat and vegetables, which grew luxuriantly, they managed to keep soul and body together until roasting ears grew; but when the corn became hard a new difficulty presented itself—they had some corn, but no mill to grind it; but as necessity is the mother of invention, they soon made a mortar in which they pounded it, taking the finest for bread, while they made hominy of the coarser. It was at this period the incident occurred which changed the whole course of young Mary's life. About thirty of the men were at the spring, about two and one-half miles from the fort, making salt and clearing off ground for cultivation the next year, thinking all were comparatively safe, as no sign of Indians had been noticed for quite awhile. On Friday evening Mary concluded to go with some of the men to the spring; having the chills at the time, she thought the water would be beneficial to her, taking some of the softest corn with her to grate for a hoe cake for her father's supper. About two hours before sunset her father told the men all to go to the fort, and he and Mary would stay there alone. Some of the men protested, saying it was dangerous to leave him and Mary thus exposed; but he being a man without fear thought there was no danger, and persisted in remaining. Seeing expostulations and persuasion was of no avail, the men went to the fort. No sooner were the men out of sight than three Indians that had been lurking in

the cane, whose eagle eyes saw that his gun was some little distance from him, sprang upon him before he could reach his gun, and cleft his head open with their savage tomahawk, while Mary stood, thoughtless of her own safety, hallooing to him to run for his gun; but when the murderous tomahawk had done its work, she fainted, and when consciousness returned, two Indians had her one by each arm, dragging her more dead than alive, to their canoe, which was concealed in the cane. She could have secreted herself easily where she might have remained safe until the men returned from the fort had she had presence of mind to have done so, but heroine as she was, to see that dear father struck down in the vigor of his manhood, was too much for her poor young heart to bear. Through her long life afterward, she would refer to that as the saddest day of her whole life. Poor child—who would doubt this, a girl nineteen years of age, full of hope in anticipation of a bright future, seeing her father's life blood flowing from his dear head; then, as if that was not enough to satisfy their savage brutality, to tear from that head the scalp, more savage than a hyena. Think of this, you that were born in the lap of luxury, surrounded by friends and all the blessing that civilization brings, what our grandfathers and grandmothers had to endure, those that first tried to make a permanent settlement in Kentucky and Tennessee, yea, we may add, from the Atlantic to beyond the great Father of Waters, even to the Pacific ocean. After the murdering of Mary's father, they made haste to get away. They crossed over the river to the north and traveled for three days due north before they came to the balance of their band; and when they reached their savage comrades Mary fully expected they would murder and scalp her, but to her astonishment, they did not. Then she concluded she was spared for future torture, well knowing their savage nature. The Indians held a council, and finally gave her the choice of becoming the wife of a young buck, or a servant to the chief, and she chose the servant's place. Little did she think when she made the choice, that it would be respected, but the idea of becoming the wife of the brute who murdered her father was so re-

pulsive to her noble nature that death would have been far preferable. For three weeks after her father was killed she could not shed a tear. She often said afterward that she felt that she would give the world if she could cry, but her poor heart was too full. All that long and weary march, when unperceived by the Indians, she would make marks on the trees to guide those who might pursue, or as a guide to her if she should make her escape, but, poor child, their vigilant eye was ever on her. Day after day, and night after night, did she watch, wait and hope for deliverance, but, alas! Hope would spring up to be dashed to the ground. Even the stars through the long watches of the night, seemed to mock her in her misery. One day, while brooding over her desolation, the tears began to fill her eyes, and when she could weep, what a relief to her poor heart, which she continued to do for many days. Finally, one of the savages said, "What makes you cry so?" She replied, "You killed my father." As if to pacify her grief he said, "If I had known it was your father, I would not have killed him," which seemed to her savage mockery. Day after day did she perform the work assigned her, but not willingly. They kept her hands bound as a precaution against her attempting to escape, binding her in the evening and taking off the thongs in the morning, when her services were wanted. A favorite pastime with them in the evening was to get out the scalps they had taken, to dry them in front of the fire. What must have been her feelings, to see those demons take her father's scalp and hold it up before her eyes, pretending to be drying it, and as though that was not enough, would trim off the corners and cast them at her feet, when she would collect together, make a hole in the ground with her hands, and bury them, which she did with her hands crossed and bound in front of her. Her captors did not cease their vigilant watch over her for a long time, but after they had reached the vicinity of the Mammoth cave, in Kentucky, they became less watchful, and allowed her to sleep unbound. One night, while encamped under a beech tree into which a grape vine had climbed, she watched her opportunity, when her enemies were asleep, climbed up and secreted herself

among its branches, remaining there until morning, when search was made for her, but she nowhere could be found. She becoming aware that they would not leave the camp without making a more thorough search and would remain there longer than she could remain in the tree, answered their call and came down, to their great delight, for they had found by this time that she was too valuable a servant to give up. When she was captured she had a few needles which she well knew how to use, and did what sewing they required.

By this time winter had come, and in a short time the smallpox made its appearance, when the whole band was stricken with that dreadful disease, except an old squaw. Mary was broken out all over her body, and swelled to such an extent that she had to stand on her hands and knees, which were the only spots that were not covered with sores. She was blind for four days, and to add to her misery, she was without clothing of any kind except a cotton garment, and a blanket; and all the fire she had was a small stick, the end of which was set on fire, and by steadily pushing it against a large log kept herself from freezing, as there were none to wait on her, and if the Indians had not been similarly afflicted she would have gotten but little care. While she was thus afflicted, their scanty supply of meat gave out, and they were reduced to the painful necessity of drinking bears' oil, of which the Indians seemed to always carry a supply, but of which she could not partake, as her stomach rebelled. When the pox began sloughing off the old squaw made her an ointment of the leaves of the prickly pear, and bears' oil, and gave her to anoint her face and hands, which effectually prevented them from leaving scars. When the Indians recovered they soon procured meat enough to satisfy their immediate wants, and that is all the Indian seems to care for. It was now spring of the year, and they set off north, hunting and skulking in the brush for white men who, at times, had to depend on game for their supply of food. Sometimes the Indians would be entirely out of anything to eat and would resort to the bears' oil, which poor Mary could not drink. On one occasion they were without food for ten days, and all

the poor girl had to eat during that time was a piece of white oak bark that she peeled with her knife, which she had carried with her since her capture. On the tenth day, about ten o'clock, they killed a bear, but were afraid to remain long in that locality, so they cut out such parts as they desired, and Mary cut out about a pound of the fat along the loin, and devoured raw, which, of course, came near costing her her life; but the old squaw made herself useful in her case, gave her some tea made of herbs, and she soon was relieved. There is one good trait in the character of the Indians—they will divide whatever they have to eat even with their prisoners. At a subsequent time they killed a quail and divided it into fourteen parts, not omitting to divide the entrails. On another occasion they killed a large blacksnake on which they feasted. That summer seemed to be hard on them. They were passing through the Indiana territory, and theirs was a small band, only fourteen, including their captive. Three or four of that number were squaws, and they were in constant dread of the whites. They camped at the French Licks for some days, while there, and in sore distress for something to eat. An eruption occurred just after dark about a quarter of a mile northeast of their camp. A great flash of light seemed to burst from the ground, accompanied by a loud report, which shook the earth for quite a distance, which greatly excited the Indians. The bucks all went to ascertain the cause. When they started they gave strict orders that no noise was to be made at the camp, but they had not been gone a great while when a deer that had probably been frightened by the explosion, or the Indians, came running in the direction of the camp, and halted within a few feet of the camp. Notwithstanding the positive orders of the old chief, his old squaw pointed to Mary and to the gun, when she raised the gun and killed the deer in its tracks. The Indians supposing the whites had attacked them, came running back to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. They were told that it was Mary who had fired the gun and killed the deer. On the instant the old chief raised his tomahawk to brain her for daring to disobey him, when the old squaw caught his arm and





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pointed to the deer, when his wrath immediately subsided, and he appeared greatly delighted. The following day the Indians revisited the locality where the great light burst up from the ground, the night previous, and brought back many specimens which they supposed was lead ore, but when they failed to melt it with all the appliances they possessed, they pronounced it money. Specimens of silver have been found there occasionally ever since, and no doubt there is a deposit of silver ore in that vicinity, to what extent is not known.

The Indians now commenced their march to the north, keeping as close to the Wabash river as possible. The next winter found them in northern Indiana. Here they suffered much from the cold of the long winter that followed. Think of it, you that have warm houses, and comfortable clothing, of spending a winter in northern Indiana out of doors with no shelter but the starry heavens, no clothing but a thin cotton garment and a blanket. It was during that winter that an incident occurred that caused quite an unusual stir among the Indians. They had gotten so far away with their captive, that they were comparatively careless with her, supposed she never could get away from them, and they had ceased to keep such a close watch on her. So, one night she lay down after a hard day's work, rolled herself up in her blanket, and was soon oblivious to her surroundings. During the night it began to snow, and by daylight there had more than a foot in depth fallen. When the Indians got up no Mary was to be seen. They made search for her in all directions, without success. Finally, abandoning the hope of ever finding her, one of the Indians threw a pole back in the snow, which fell with considerable weight on her, as she lay there all unconscious of her surroundings. The sudden shock awoke her, and with a spring she was on her feet in an instant, to the amazement and delight of the Indians. When she awoke she was in a profuse perspiration. After the first exclamation of joy at her discovery, their brutal instincts returned, and they compelled her to cut and carry twenty poles to burn before they would allow her to come to the fire to warm.

Finally, warm weather returned, when the

band went out on foraging expeditions, coming in bringing many scalps with them, and some horses. After a time the horses strayed away, and all hands, including Mary, were sent or went to hunt for them. Mary and the chief's son's wife went in company. Mary had a rising on the bottom of her foot, caused by a bruise which made her quite lame. Consequently, she could not walk as fast as her companion. The little squaw asked her why she did not walk faster, when she replied she could not on account of the sore on her foot, to which the squaw made reply, "Let me see it," and when she held her foot up for inspection the little savage hit it with a large club she was carrying, which rendered her foot so painful that she was compelled to go to camp, where Mary laid in her complaint to the old squaw, and when her husband came in she told of the treatment Mary had received, whom the chief called into his presence, and she corroborated the story of the old squaw, and exhibited her foot. This enraged the old chief and he called up the young squaw, and administered to her such a beating as Mary had never witnessed before; in fact, until she was sorry and pleaded for the young brute. Although her treatment by the Indians was brutal in the extreme, yet she was of such a tender and sympathetic disposition that she rebelled at unnecessary punishment.

The next move the Indians made was toward the east. In their journeyings they came to a British trading post, presided over by a British officer, where the Indians halted and bought some trinkets of the officers, the officers taking in exchange human scalps, among which was Mary's own father's. She tried to get him to buy her of the Indians, to which he replied, saying he would buy no more live scalps, when all the indignation that her young heart was capable of mustering arose, and she commenced to taunt him with his nefarious business, which so aroused his ire that he threatened to cleave her head from her shoulders, which she dared him to do. In that house, strung on a wire, she saw infants' scalps, the hair on which was not more than an inch long. What think, kind reader, of a government that will resort to such nefarious measures, murdering women

and children? It may be said that the government did not do that, but they did by their savage tools. Here was a man, a British subject, an officer of its army, and in its pay, stationed there for the purpose of inciting the Indians to murder; not only so, but to buy the scalps of infants and their mothers, that they had butchered. No wonder the British government will not allow these things published in their history of the war of the Revolution. It is a disgrace that will never be effaced from its history. No other civilized government on earth has ever resorted to such measures. No wonder the brave hearts of the Irish people rebel at their tyranny. The heart turns sick at the contemplation of such deeds of infamy, and turning from the dark deeds, we are about to enter a brighter chapter.

They were now nearing Detroit, Michigan, and camped just outside of the stockade, where the French showed Mary every kindness; in fact, it was their business to buy or steal prisoners from the Indians. In her case, the Frenchman who undertook to get her away took a plan which he was sure would succeed. That is, he tried the effects of fire water; so he brought them a quart of whisky, of which they all partook very freely, except the old chief, who remained sober to watch, as is the Indian custom. The Frenchman remained talking with the Indians until near sunset; then he informed the old chief that his wife would want the cup to put milk in to feed the baby, during the night, well knowing he would order Mary to return it to its owner. The chief turned to her and bade her take the cup home, when she pretended to refuse (as she was sick with the chills at the time,) she well knowing that he would repeat the order, which he did with a threat of splitting her head open with the tomahawk if she refused; when she arose, going to their treasure box (as she carried the keys,) unlocking it with the intention of getting a pair of silver shoe buckles that belonged to her, but was unable, in her excitement to get but one; and afraid of delay, left the keys in the lock, not wishing to take anything belonging to them. Imagine, if you can, the joy that was swelling up in her heart, mingled with fear, that after two long years of most cruel

imprisonment she was now about to be free; but that some move made, a word spoken, might dash all her hopes to the ground. She thought of home, of friends, although she knew she was separated from them by hundreds of miles; but she hoped to yet be spared to see them. The terrible uncertainty of her escape being successful, seconds seemed to her hours. She, when prudence dictated to her to tarry no longer, took the cup and hastened as fast as she could to her destination. The lady to whom she was sent was standing in her yard when she arrived, told her to throw the cup over the fence, and go with her brother, who was waiting to accompany her, which she did. The brother taking off his own coat and hat bade her put them on and he tied a handkerchief around his head, as was the custom of many of the French. When they arrived at the gate of the stockade, it was nearly dark, and the gates closed. Her guide made the usual request to be admitted, when the guard answered, "Who comes there?" "A friend to the king," was his response; but turning to her, in a low whisper, said, "A friend to our country at present." They were admitted and Mary was taken to her friend's mother's, who at first concealed her in the cellar. The next day the whole town was aroused, and a vigilant search made, which was unsuccessful. Going to the lady where she returned the cup to inquire she said the girl came to the gate and threw the cup in the yard, and went off as if she was mad. After making thorough search outside of the stockade, they inquired of the guards at the gate, who said no woman had passed through the gate on the evening before, but two men had, which completely put them off their scent. After a few days they ceased their search for the time being. Mary was kept in the cellar for a few days; then the old French lady moved her up stairs and gave her some sewing to do, and she remained there unmolested for about three weeks, until one day, unthoughtedly, she stood up in front of the window to shake the wrinkles out of a shirt she had just finished. Just opposite a tailor had a shop and saw her, and in a few days he got drunk and told the Indians, and they came and demanded to search for her, which could not be denied, as the post

was in the hands of the British, and they had their garrison to enforce their orders, and why should they not let their friends (the Indians) search, if need be help them, capture women and children, well knowing in many cases the Indians would scalp their victims and burn them at the stake. Shame! Shame! on a nation that would resort to such methods to gain a victory. But thanks to our great Creator they were not permitted to carry out their hellish designs in enslaving a people that had tasted of liberty although thrice baptized in blood. The great watchword to them was "Liberty or death."

So thorough was their search for Mary, the old Frenchman put her in his money vault, built in the wall of the house, where she stood on thousands of gold and silver, so afraid she dared not breathe, even. She was afraid the beating of her heart would attract their attention. So cautious was her friend in concealing her that he had whitewashed the doors so it would appear as the wall of the house; but had to leave the keyhole open to furnish air. Oh, what think you, kind reader, must have been her feelings after braving all the dangers she had passed through, and when she had unexpectedly found friends, to be thus basely betrayed, each moment expecting to be discovered, when a move of the foot or a loud breath would betray her hiding place and surely cost her her life; when within touch of those savage brutes she could hear threats that they would burn her alive if they ever got hold of her again. But thanks to an overruling Providence, they were not permitted to find her, and she lived many years afterward, to relate these tales to her children, grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. Finally, the Indians gave up the search and she remained with her friends for some weeks. But such was the constant dread of the enemy that her friends were compelled to send her out to an island, about nine miles from the shore, which was the first time in over two years she could breathe easily. There she found about ninety who had been prisoners like herself, waiting a vessel to take them away. Finally, a vessel landed, and they were bidden to come aboard, which invitation did not need to be repeated. When all

was ready, they set sail for the east; but mind you, they were yet in the hands of the British government, and prisoners of war. How does that sound—prisoners of war. But such was the fact. When they got out on Lake Erie they encountered a severe gale, which became so severe they were liable to go to the bottom every minute. The passengers and crew were ordered below, and every wave sweeping the deck. The hatches battened down, and everybody seasick, nearly. Mary tried it for awhile and she concluded she would rather take the chances of being washed overboard than be cooped up in that intolerable stench; so when the hatches were raised to admit air she ran up the stairway and refused to go down again. The captain seeing her pluck, caught her by the hand and with the other caught a ring around the mast, and in that way they were able to stay on deck until the storm had passed. Finally, they landed, when they obtained a row-boat to take them to Niagara Falls, which they were unacquainted with, and came near going over. Being rescued, they disembarked and walked down to Lake Ontario, where they embarked for Lake Champlain, and where they arrived in due course of time. Here a new difficulty to Mary arose,—the first intimation that she was a prisoner of the British government, and where she found an officer ready to take their paroles. She and two other girls and an old man had set out alone to go south; the colonel (for that was his rank) ordered them to halt, but Mary urged them on, saying they were no soldiers, and would sign no parole; but the officer was persistent, telling them he would not permit them to go unless they signed it. Finally, after he had followed them a little way, Mary turned to him and said: "If you follow us to that bend in the road, I will cut a switch, and these two girls and I will give you such a switching as you never experienced in your life." He persisting in his efforts to get them to sign, and they refusing, Mary told him she could not be a soldier, but she could run bullets. "Now," said she, when almost to the turn in the road, "you dare go around that turn so as to be out of sight of your soldiers, and we will whip you so you can not walk back," and she stepped to the side of the

road and began to cut the switch, when he hesitated and finally stopped, when the general mounted a stump and hallooed for the girls who had backed out the colonel, when Mary remarked: "Cheer up, girls, the general is not against us"; and the colonel left them without further molestation, to pursue their journey. By this time winter had set in, but the feeling of being free and on their road home filled Mary with new hope. Who can imagine what her thoughts were, hundreds of miles away from her kindred, not knowing that one of them was alive, and they having no intelligence from her, not knowing whether she was dead or alive.

Afoot, without money, except a few dollars, and in a country where prisoners were continually passing and the people unable to do much for them, she struggled on until she reached Philadelphia, where she got in company with a family by the name of Riddle, that were going to Virginia, and she engaged to go with them: that is, they agreed to let her go if she would pay her own way, and help them drive the stock, to which she readily consented, and she made herself useful, as the sequel will prove; for when they got to the Susquehanna river, there was an old leaky skiff there, and she asked permission to ferry herself across, of the ferryman, to which he readily consented, not thinking she could manage a boat, but when he saw how soon she was on the other side of the river, he was undeceived. The family all got across, and all their stock except an unruly cow, which they could not get into the boat. Mary told the ferryman if he would take her across she would bring the cow over. Seeing her exploit with the skiff, he consented to do so; when she landed she caught the cow by the nose with one hand and by the horn with the other, and held her until they reached the other shore. Young ladies, how many of you of the present day could or would do that? Not many, I fancy. The family with which she journeyed finally reached their destination in Virginia, in midwinter. Here Mary stopped with a family by the name of Spears, where she was employed as a domestic. Now she was away from the fear of molestation of Indians, and for the first time in nearly

three years she had enjoyed the luxury of sleeping in a bed. All this time she had a faithful brother who had not ceased his inquiry for her, although the most of the family had given her up as dead. During her absence her mother had been killed by the Indians, also some of her brothers. This faithful brother mounted his horse, rode through Kentucky and into Virginia, looking and inquiring of emigrants, when he fell in company with a man who saw her hold the cow in the ferryboat while crossing the Susquehanna river, which he related and farther stated that she was left-handed, which clue, slight as it was, gave her brother hope, and he kept on his journey, inquiring of every one that he hoped to gain any information from. Finally, he stopped on Sabbath to feed his horse. Just as the farmer had given the horse his feed, the brother inquired if he knew of any one who had been a prisoner with the Indians. He said yes, there was a girl at the old man Spears', that had come there last winter, and after a further description of her, he mounted his horse without giving him time to eat, and put out to see if it was his long lost sister. When he arrived she had gone to church, and he sat and conversed with the old man, who satisfied him that it was none other than his sister. Finally the old man Spears saw his daughter, wife and Mary coming down the lane, and he said to Neely: "There comes three women down the lane; is either of those your sister?" He looked a moment, and replied, "Yes, the one in the middle is." When the women came in, Mary passed by him, and threw her bonnet and shawl on the bed, when he raised his head to observe her. With an exclamation of delight she sprang into his arms, exclaiming: "My brother! My brother!" Oh! what a delightful reunion, dear reader. Can you imagine, then, the intelligence from home, mother dead, two brothers, also, butchered by the inhuman and relentless savages. Home broken up and the remnant of the family had to flee for their lives. But after three long years, midst dangers such as fall to the lot of very few, indeed, she was permitted to behold the face of a dear brother. Truly, it was happiness, mingled with sorrow. In a few days she and her brother set out on one horse for

Carpenter's Station, in Lincoln county, Kentucky (now Casey) where they arrived in due time, and where she met an older sister, and the remnant of the family; but further progress toward their home in Tennessee was hazardous in the extreme. In fact, Indians were all around the fort: so that it was dangerous to venture out of sight of the fortification where they remained for a long time. After a time Mary's older sister married a man by the name of Spears, who was a son of the Spears she stopped with in Virginia. Two of the Carpenters were, also, sons-in-law of the old man Spears. The Spears and Carpenters lived there for many years before the Indians were driven back so that farming could be done with any degree of safety. After a few years some of Mary's brothers ventured back to Tennessee to find everything destroyed, stock driven off and utter desolation prevailing in their once prosperous neighborhood; but the Indians had also been driven back from their immediate vicinity, but in close enough proximity that, like a pack of sleuth hounds, they could pounce upon isolated and unsuspecting settlers, which became so annoying that a general and concerted raid was made on them, and they were driven back to western Tennessee, after which the settlers lived in comparative safety.

On the 24th day of February, 1785, Mary was united in marriage to George Spears, shortly after which she and her husband moved to Green county, Kentucky, and lived in the outside house of the settlement for four years. Many times did they have to flee to the fort (Grey's) and twice to Carpenter's, sixty miles away. Many an Indian was made to bite the dust by an unerring rifle in the hands of a Neely. As one of Mary's brothers told the writer, he had killed six of the rascals, but that had not compensated him for the friends they had killed. This brother (Samuel) was with his mother when she was killed, he only nineteen years of age; but he had the satisfaction of killing their chief, who, he supposed, killed his mother. On another occasion he killed five while they were crossing the Tennessee river. He would shoot the one paddling the canoe, and by the time another would get the paddle and get the canoe straightened on

its course, he would shoot that one, and so on until he killed five out of eight that started across. The old man, in relating the circumstance many years after, said if the river had been wide enough he would have gotten them all. This brother remained in Neely's Bend and lived to a good old age, surrounded by a large family of children. He and his companion now lie buried near the old homestead. His wife was a Watkins, a sister of the late Samuel Watkins, founder of the Watkins Institute, Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Spears, seeing the great need of a physician in the early settling of Kentucky, and having gained a considerable knowledge of the Indians how to treat the prevailing diseases of the country, now turned her attention to the study of medicine, more particularly the treatment of white swelling, or hip disease, and chronic sores, in which she was very successful. Such became her fame that her practice extended for many miles, hundreds of cases coming to her house, until at times it was converted into a veritable hospital. For fifty years she treated white swelling, with success in every case, never failing in a single instance, while the medical fraternity were pronouncing it incurable. Still, they called her a quack, little up-starts that had M. D. attached to their names, would sneer at the idea of a woman knowing about the sciences. But she cared about as much for their abuse as a good general would if an enemy was to fire tow wads at his army out of a popgun. But as time went on such men as Dr. Dudley, of Kentucky, McDowell and Merriman of St. Louis, and many other eminent physicians acknowledged her ability particularly in the treatment of white swelling or hip disease, chronic sores, and, in fact, almost every disease that the human family was subject to, and sent her many cases, in the treatment of which she was very successful. She never despaired of effecting a cure in the worst cases that presented themselves and was successful in a remarkable degree; in fact, a failure in her case was a rare exception in which she took great delight, not in the fact that she could and did cure cases that were pronounced incurable, but from a consciousness that she was doing a duty that was incumbent upon her; neither did she exult



in the fact that she was in possession of knowledge that others were not, as no one was more willing to impart knowledge than she, and oftentimes would she say, during the latter part of her life, that she would be glad to communicate all the knowledge she had acquired if any one was willing to learn. But it seemed as if those near her acted as though they felt she would always be with them, as two or three generations had come and gone during her life, and yet she remained, and but few would be willing if they had the knowledge, to undergo the hardships that she did for the compensation that she received, which did not amount to a decent board bill. I have in mind a son of Mr. Mumford, who laid out the town which bore his name in Kentucky, who had the misfortune to be thrown from a cart on which was a hoghead of tobacco, and falling under the wheel had his leg broken, or, rather two and one-fourth inches of both bones crushed and broken through. Mr. Mumford being a man of means, sent and had four of the most noted surgeons of the state to visit his son, whose unanimous opinion was, the leg must be amputated; but the boy was fifteen years old, and let them know he had something to say. He said: "Send for Mrs. Spears; if she says cut it off, so be it; I will never consent unless she says so." So his father posted a boy after her, thirty-five miles, and she returned with him the same evening; and the most noted surgeon, who had come ninety miles, slayed to see, as he expressed it, what an old woman would do with a case like that. Well, he had the pleasure of seeing what she would do with it. This was in April, and she said to him: "You come back in October, and I will show you that leg sound and well." "Well, Madam," said he, "in four days leg and boy will both be under the ground." "Never fear," was her laconic reply. And sure enough, in October following he drove ninety miles; to his utter astonishment found the boy sound and well, and further, said it was the greatest feat in surgery that had ever been performed, and reported it as such to the medical journals of that day. These facts I obtained from a younger brother in 1813, who is willing to make affidavit to every word. The brother lived to

be sixty-five years old. Many other cases as remarkable could be recited and verified by indubitable evidence, but we deem it unnecessary, as, if all the good deeds of this remarkable woman were written, they would fill a large volume, for it seemed her whole business in life was to do good to others. If she had charged as other physicians did for their services, she could have been twice a millionaire, but her whole life seemed spent in doing good to others and without compensation. Never was it too cold, or the weather too stormy for her to go to the relief of suffering. Her husband had served a short time during the Revolutionary war, when he was only sixteen years old. When the Indians had been driven out of that part of Kentucky, and were giving the government a good deal of trouble in Indiana territory, General Harrison called on Governor Shelby for troops. Mr. Spears raised a company, and went as its lieutenant, and continued in the service until their services were no longer needed, and from the close of the war of 1812-15 they were permitted to live in peace and by their own fireside. She continued to live in Green county, Kentucky, until August 10th, 1824, when they sold their possessions and moved to Sangamon county (now Menard), Illinois, which at that time was wild and sparsely settled, where the Indians still remained, but not in their immediate vicinity. But they came every fall to hunt, but were friendly. Blackhawk did stir up a fuss in 1833 Mr. Lincoln raised a company in which Mrs. Spears' youngest and only living son was orderly sergeant, but their services were not needed, as General Scott, with sufficient troops of the regular army, had preceded them, and compelled Blackhawk to sue for peace, when he and his tribe were moved beyond the Mississippi river. Mrs. Spears, at this period, was getting well advanced in life, being seventy-two years old; but considering the hardships she underwent in early life, was still as vigorous as most ladies at forty. The country being new, physicians were scarce, so she continued to visit those who needed her assistance, and her patients came from Missouri, Iowa and from all over the state of Illinois, with white swellings and chronic sores of all descriptions, and

none went away in a worse condition than they came. In fact, in my recollection she cured them in every instance, and it was not a few isolated cases she treated, but of the worst type, and just such cases as physicians had failed on. Although, as stated, she had no advantages of an early education, she was a good reader, and employed a great deal of her time in reading useful and instructive books, not neglecting the greatest of all books, the Bible. Her husband died on the 16th day of April, 1838, after they had walked together for more than fifty years. One by one her children died, until she was left with her oldest daughter and her youngest son. In 1843, she, with a nephew and his wife and her little grandson, visited her only brother, who still lived in Neely's Bend, whom she had not seen for thirty years. Although eighty-two years of age, she would not consent to go in any other manner than in a farm wagon, which she had fitted up with a mess box and camp equipage, camping out each night, as she contended that a change of diet would be injurious to a person of her age. When she arrived at the old homestead, which she had not seen for more than thirty years, she drove to the front gate and hallooed. Her brother coming to see what was wanted, asked if she could remain there over night. Without waiting to reply, her brother said: "Is it possible that is old Mary Spears?" and the scene that followed cannot be described; to see those old people clasped in each other's arms, and crying for joy; but their hearts were too full to utter a word. She remained with him for a month, when they parted to meet no more on this earth, but with a hope in the near future, of meeting on the other shore, where they will meet to part no more, and where father and mother, brothers and sisters that had been so cruelly snatched away from them in this life by the cruel hand of the savage will be there to greet them, where no fear of the tomahawk or the scalping knife will ever be known, for God, the everlasting Father and His Son shall reign. But their parting was sad to contemplate; one had passed four score years, the other nearing the seventy-eighth mile post, and with the full knowledge that in a few short years they would meet again; but still to know

that must be the last time they should ever behold each other's face in this world—they held each other's hands in silence, then each turned, he to go to his home, and she to her home in Illinois, where she arrived in two weeks. People came by the score to greet her on her safe arrival, and for relief from their various ills. Although she long since had passed the allotted time for man to live; had arrived at that extreme age when the body and mind fail; although her physical strength was gradually wearing away, her mind seemed as clear as a person of thirty.

At the risk of being ridiculed, I must be permitted to relate an incident that I witnessed. In about the year 1836, while the great war president was a resident and postmaster at Salem, Illinois, he became very fond of Mrs. Spears' company, and seemed never to tire of hearing her relate her experience while prisoner with the Indians, and would often walk over to her home on Saturday evening, and remain until Monday morning. The last visit he made her before removing to Springfield, when he went out of her door, she followed him into the yard. He turned about and said: "Grandma, I am going to Springfield; maybe I'll never see you again;" while he took her hand between his long, lean hands, said, "Good-bye—God bless you," and she returned his salutation by saying, "Good-bye, Abram, God bless you," when both stood for a moment while the tears trickled down their cheeks. Finally, as their hearts could bear no more, they both relaxed their grasp, he turning to go, walking off at a brisk pace, while she seemed transfixed to the spot for a moment. In a short time she turned to the writer, and said: "That is a very smart young man; I would not be surprised if he was president of the United States some day." Many years after this the writer was telling Mr. Lincoln, in the presence of his brother-in-law and a few others, of the remark on the occasion of his last visit. He sat for a moment in silent contemplation, then remarked: "She was a pretty good guesser, was she not?" (That was while he was a candidate); and he further said she was the most remarkable woman he had ever seen.

Mrs. Spears was very methodical in her

habits. She abhorred the use of calomel and quinine, contending that both were not only useless, but injurious. Very little medicine would she prescribe or use, contending that nature was its best remedy. She was a member of the Baptist church for nearly seventy-five years. Her deportment was always that of a true Christian. While charitable to others, she was firm in the right, as she understood what was right. As long as she lived her whole desire seemed to be to do good to others. During the latter years of her life she would weave and sew just as though she was compelled to do so to gain a livelihood, which very much annoyed her son, he thinking the community would look upon it as neglect, and got a young minister whom she thought a great deal of, to talk to her and try and induce her to give up trying to do anything. As he afterward remarked, he soon found he was giving advice on a subject he knew but little about, as she replied to him: "My brother, I know I don't have to work, but I do it for my own good." Said she, "I have seen many old people who ceased to take exercise and as a consequence, they could not eat food which would strengthen the body, and the mind, as a consequence, would become inactive and weak; and I don't want to get into that condition, for if it is the will of God, when my mind fails I would like to go, as I have no desire to live after my mind has lost its power to contemplate the goodness and mercy of that God who has preserved and watched over me through the vicissitudes and varying changes of a long life."

A few years after she moved to Illinois, she had brought from Kentucky two of her old slaves, children, a boy and a girl. It would be more proper to say two of a family she had been the slave of, for she truly made a slave of herself for her colored people. The girl lived with her until near the close of her life, when she left her and went to Springfield. The boy remained with her during her life; in fact, remained in the family until his death.

Mrs. Spears lived until the 26th day of January, 1852, retaining her intellect to within one hour of her demise, fully realizing that her time had come. At her death she was ninety years, five months and twenty-six days old. It

was the privilege of the writer to assist in nursing her in her last illness, and I have never seen any one that bore their affliction with more patience, or who seemed to have more judgment in directing her attendants how to attend her wants with the least trouble. She gave directions how she wanted to be buried, and exacted a promise of her granddaughter's husband (who was a carpenter) that he would make her coffin of walnut lumber (as she wanted something that would last), all of which was carried out to the letter, and she was buried in the family cemetery in the midst of the farm she had lived on so long, by the side of her husband, and surrounded by a daughter, grandchildren and many other friends, and many have joined her company since, in the great Beyond. She has left to us an example of what perseverance will do, even under the most trying disadvantages. Hers was truly a school of adversity, but prompted by the highest motives, she was able to attain to a position among the people of her extended acquaintance that any one might envy and strive to emulate.

When Mr. and Mrs. Spears came to Illinois in October, 1824, there was no church organization in Central Illinois. She and her husband, two daughters, a son-in-law and eight other pioneers organized the Clary's Grove Baptist church on December 25th, 1824, at their residence (a log cabin), which is believed to be the first church organization in Central Illinois. Their meetings were held at their residence and her daughters', for a number of years until they built a very commodious brick dwelling which served their purpose much better; but after a time her companion having died and her youngest son and wife, with whom she made her home having united with the church, they concluded to build a hewed log house to serve as a schoolhouse and also a meeting house, which answered the purpose for a time, it being twenty by thirty feet in dimensions; but as time went by emigrants were continually arriving. Her son had built a sawmill, one of the very necessary things in a new country, and concluded that their place of meeting was too small to meet the requirements of the rapidly growing congregation. With the help of his son-in-law, who was a carpenter,

and a small contribution from a few others, he built a very commodious house of worship, for that early day, thirty by forty feet, a substantial frame, in which the congregation worshipped until death ended her long and useful life. Although long since dead, yet her influence still lives, and how long it will continue Eternity alone can tell. History does not give us the example of many of the pioneer women of the west that is more interesting than this noble and remarkable woman, of her early privations, her great trials during her imprisonment with the Indians, her escape and struggle to get home and amongst friends. We of the present generation have but little conception of the trials our parents and grandparents endured, to bequeath to us our civil and religious liberties. To read it, it sounds like fiction, but to hear it as it fell from their lips, we must feel, although it is strange, yet how true!

#### GRANDPARENTS OF GEORGE SPEARS.

William Neely, date of birth not known; killed by Indians October, 1780.

Margaret Patterson (Neely), wife of William Neely; born May 25th, 1737. His wife was killed about two years later; 1782.

#### CHILDREN.

Jean Neely, born Friday, July 7th, 1755; married Jacob Spears; died near Carpenter's Station, Lincoln county, Kentucky.

Elizabeth Neely, born March 8th, 1757.

Isaac Neely, born March 24th, 1759; was killed by Indians at Neely's Gap, near Carpenter's Station, Lincoln county, Kentucky.

Mary Neely, born August 20th, 1761. Subject of this sketch.

Martha Neely, born April 25th, 1764.

William Neely, born December 12th, 1766.

Samuel Neely, born May 30th, 1769. This son was present at the killing of his mother, and killed the head Indian, who was very large, measuring some three feet from shoulder to shoulder. He died on the old homestead, in Neely's Bend, Tennessee.

Margaret Neely, born December 20th, 1772. John Neely, born May 16th, 1774.

Jane Neely, born December 31st, 1776. Married Thomas Buchanan, and joined the Shakers with her husband, and moved to their settle-

ment, near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Their daughter was living with the Shakers in 1879, at which time she was over eighty years of age.

#### GEORGE C. REED.

George C. Reed, proprietor of a grocery and meat market at Greenview, as a member of the firm of Reed Brothers, was born in Menard county, April 9, 1860, and is a son of W. W. P. Reed, who is represented elsewhere in this work. In the public schools of the county George C. Reed acquired his education and in the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared, remaining at home until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life on his own account. He worked as a farm hand for two years and then rented land and began farming on his own account. After two years, however, he removed to Greenview, where he turned his attention to the livery business, conducting his barn for about nine years. He then sold out and bought eight acres of land in Pike county, Illinois, and once more resumed farming, but after a year he returned to Greenview, where he established a livery barn, of which he was proprietor for a year. He then traded his farm for a stock of hardware in Keokuk, Iowa, and went to that city, but after two months he brought his stock of merchandise to Greenview, where thirty days later he sold it. He was next a partner in the general mercantile firm of Hatch, Alkire & Reed, with which he was associated for a year and a half, when he sold out and established his present store in connection with his brother, W. M. Reed. Under the firm style of Reed Brothers they are conducting a grocery and meat market and have a good trade, which they easily retain because of their honorable dealings and earnest desire to please their patrons.

On the 23d of August, 1891, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. Fahay, a daughter of James and Mary Fahay, now of Petersburg. They have two children, Edith May, born May 15, 1891, and Ruth R., born June 25, 1895. In his political affiliation Mr. Reed is a Democrat and he has served on the town board for two terms. Fraternally he is

connected with Loyalty lodge, No. 181, K. P. He has a wide acquaintance in the county which has always been his home and the fact that many of the staunchest friends are numbered among those who have known him from his boyhood days is an indication that his career has been worthy of public confidence and esteem.

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#### JESSE M. OTT.

Jesse M. Ott, who for many years has been one of the forceful and honored factors in business circles in Petersburg and one whose influence has not been a minor element in public affairs, has attained prominence through the inherent force of his character and exercise of his native talent and the utilization of surrounding opportunities. He has won notable success in business, yet it is not this alone that entitles him to rank as one of the foremost men of his day in Menard county. His connection with the public interests of his city has been far-reaching and beneficial for he has aided in shaping the municipal policy and in promoting the social, educational and political development of this portion of the state. His patriotic citizenship and his interest in community affairs has taken tangible form in his zealous labors for the improvements instituted through aldermanic measures. He is now serving for the fourth term as mayor of Petersburg, having been elected for a fourth time in 1903.

Mr. Ott was born in Petersburg township, Menard county, on the 29th of March, 1855, and is a son of Nimrod Ott, a native of Louisville, Kentucky. The family is of German lineage and the grandfather was born in Germany. The founder of the family in America was the great-grandfather of Mr. Ott, who on crossing the Atlantic established his home in Kentucky at the time General Boone was making his explorations in that state. Mr. Ott there carried on farming in pioneer times and the grandfather, who also became a farmer, spent his entire life in the Blue Grass state. Nimrod Ott and his brothers, however, removed to Indiana, locating in Harrison county, where some branches of the family are still found.

Nimrod Ott was a blacksmith by trade and in 1849 he removed from Indiana to Illinois, locating on a farm five miles west of Petersburg, where he engaged in farming, having a valuable tract of land there of two hundred and fifty acres, upon which he made his home until 1868, when he sold that property and took up his abode in the county seat in order that he might afford his children better educational opportunities. His death occurred in Petersburg in 1895. He married Miss Perlina Gum, also a native of Kentucky, and they had eight children.

Jesse M. Ott, the youngest, acquired his education in the public schools of Petersburg and after putting aside his text-books engaged in clerking in a drug store for two years. He then turned his attention to teaching in the public schools, which profession he followed for seven years and the periods of vacation during that time were devoted to employment in a drug store. In 1883 he entered the insurance field, in which he has since continued and has built up an extensive clientage, representing a large number of the leading insurance companies of the country. In 1885 he also extended the field of his labor by becoming connected with the coal trade and has since conducted business along this dual line.

Mr. Ott has been particularly prominent in community affairs in Petersburg and is a recognized leader in the ranks of the Democratic party. Whether in or out of office he has labored earnestly and effectively for the promotion of the general welfare. He was elected police magistrate and held the office for eight years, when in 1891 he was chosen mayor of the city by popular suffrage. He served at that time by re-election for three consecutive terms and retired from office as he had entered it, with the confidence and good will of all concerned. Again he was chosen mayor in 1903 and is now holding the position. His previous service was a guarantee of the business-like and progressive administration and in the substantial improvement and progress of Petersburg are seen many evidences of the co-operation and active support of Mr. Ott.

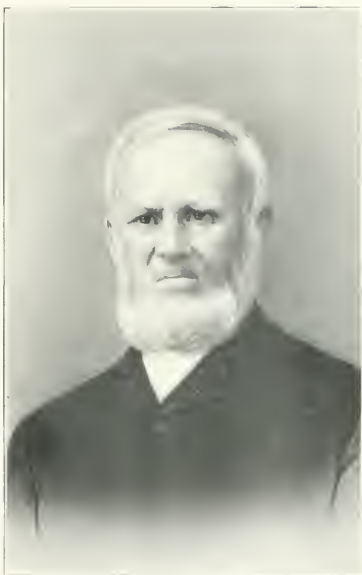
On the 18th of August, 1877, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ott and Miss Emma Craw-





Jesse M. O'S





MR. AND MRS. NIMROD OTT



ford, who was born in Menard county, was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Crawford, and died on the 16th of August, 1898. They had four children: Lester B., who is now bookkeeper in the First National Bank, of Petersburg; Lyman E., a resident of Minnesota; Nona P., who is now in the office with her father; and Jessie A., deceased. On the 10th of October, 1899, Mr. Ott was again married, his second union being with Miss Emma Woldridge, also a native of Menard county, whose parents, Richard and A. M. Woldridge, are now residing in Petersburg. They have one child, Marion A.

Mr. Ott has passed through all of the chairs of the Knights of Pythias lodge and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Petersburg. He owns a fine residence in this city and also valuable real estate on the south side of the public square and farm property in Menard county. Entering upon his business career without friends or advantageous circumstances to aid him he has placed his dependence upon indefatigable energy and labor, which are the sure and safe foundation of all prosperity and to-day he is accounted one of the substantial as well as one of the most influential and representative men of Petersburg.

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#### FRANK A. KING.

Frank A. King, who follows farming near Oakford, was born upon his present place February 24, 1867. He is a son of Marshall J. and Eliza E. (Caldwell) King, who are represented elsewhere in this volume. At the usual age he began his education by attending the Oakford graded school, which he attended until about twenty-one years of age. It had been arranged that he was to pursue a college course, but his father thought that he had better return to the farm and he gave up his cherished plan. He now owns the old family homestead, comprising two hundred and eighty acres, and in all of his farm work he has displayed a comprehensive, practical spirit which has been a resultant factor in bringing him a good financial return.

Mr. King was married to Miss Amelia E. Schoneweis, September 26, 1889. Her parents,

Chris and Sophia Schoneweis, are residents of Menard county. Both were born in Germany and came to America in childhood. They were married here and as the years have gone by her father has acquired considerable property. In recent years he has retired from farming, the income from his property being sufficient to supply him with all of the necessities and many of the comforts of life. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belonged. She died December 9, 1902.

In December, 1890, Mr. King removed to Missouri and secured a farm near Ethel, Macon county, along the Santa Fe Railroad. There he remained until 1893 when he returned to Illinois and took up his abode on the J. M. Johnston farm east of Atterbery, there residing for a year. On the expiration of that period he purchased the old family homestead in 1895 and has continued to make it his place of residence since that time. He has placed many improvements thereon and has added to the original purchase another eighty acres, so that he has two hundred and eighty acres in one body. This land is well cultivated and the fields yield golden harvests in return for the care and labor he bestows upon them. The buildings are kept in good repair and an air of neatness and thrift pervades the place. Unto Mr. and Mrs. King have been born six children: Elsie S., born June 2, 1891; Marshall C., born July 28, 1893; Irving E., born June 11, 1896; Esther M., born March 21, 1899; Carl F., December 27, 1901; and Norma M., born October 12, 1904. The three older children are attending school in Oakford.

Mr. King is a Republican in his political views and is the present county commissioner for a three years' term. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is also a member, and they take an active interest in the church work, Mr. King serving at the present time as one of its trustees. He also belongs to the Modern Woodman camp and to the Independent Order of Good Templars and his affiliation therewith indicates his position in regard to the liquor traffic. He is interested in all that tends to uplift humanity

and to improve conditions of life for his fellow men and his example in this respect is certainly well worthy of emulation.

### PETER P. GROSBOLL.

Peter P. Grosboll, a representative and prosperous agriculturist of Menard county, resides upon a farm which has become historic from the fact that it was upon this place, in an old frame building that Abraham Lincoln tried his first lawsuit. Mr. Grosboll is a native of Denmark, his birth having occurred in North Schleswig (now a part of Germany) on the 3d of November, 1855. His father was a dairy farmer and stock-raiser and owned a good tract of land in his native country, where he spent his entire life. He married Magrady Rosenbaum, also a native of North Schleswig, and, like her husband, she spent her entire life in that country. The father was twice married and had nine children by the first union and five by the second. Three sons of the first marriage are now living in the United States: Jep P. Grosboll, who came to America in 1872, when nineteen years of age, and is now living in Menard county; Peter P.; and Martin, who crossed the Atlantic at the age of eighteen years and is also a resident of Menard county.

Peter P. Grosboll acquired his education in the land of his nativity, attending school between the ages of six and sixteen years, and the following year, 1873, he came to the new world, making his way direct to Petersburg. He began to work by the month as a farm hand and was employed in that way for two or three years, at the end of which time he had gotten enough money ahead to enable him to rent a farm and begin agricultural pursuits on his own account. Later, when his industry and economy had brought to him sufficient capital, he purchased two hundred acres of land, west of where he now resides, known as the old Hatfield farm, and after conducting it for a time he sold that property and bought two hundred and eighty acres of rich land in township 18, range 7, on which he is now living. He is a stock-raiser and cattle-

feeder and he has bred many fine animals. He always has high grades of stock upon his place and his farm is splendidly improved with modern equipments. His business has grown to extensive and profitable proportions and he is now classed with the well-to-do citizens of Menard county.

It was upon his farm, in an old house which has since been torn down, that Abraham Lincoln pleaded his first law suit. The suit grew out of some trouble over a woman's misfortune. Lincoln was surveying at the time upon the place and the woman's friends asked him to plead the case and he did so. A lawyer from Beardstown was on the defense and regarded Lincoln as an opponent whom he could readily conquer. Lincoln, in his opening address to the jury, pointed to the man and said, "I will compare him to a white dress which can be soiled but made white again," and then, pointing to the woman, he said, "She is like a glass bottle, which, crushed against a stone, is ruined forever." Lincoln won the suit. Ann Rutledge was buried upon this farm but her remains were afterward interred in the cemetery at Petersburg.

On the 3d of August, 1880, Mr. Grosboll married Christina Kjar, a native of Denmark, whom he wedded while on a visit to his native country. They had been schoolmates in youth. Unto them have been born five children: Anna M., born May 16, 1881, was educated in the district schools and was married December 15, 1903, to Harry Shirding. They reside in Petersburg and he has large farming interests near the city. Ella R., born July 24, 1883, was also educated in the public schools and is at home with her parents. Matha Marie, born February 2, 1885, was graduated at the high school of Petersburg in 1903. Henry Cyrus, born January 5, 1887, attended the district schools and is now assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm. Paul Harry, born May 23, 1891, is still a public school student.

In 1888 Mr. Grosboll and his family returned to Germany on a visit, but because he had refused to serve in the German army, or rather preferred leaving that country forever than become a soldier, he was notified by

the government officials upon his return that he must leave the country within twenty-four hours. Being now a naturalized American citizen, he appealed to the American legation and Uncle Sam took up the case with the result that within a few hours he received notification that the German government recalled the order and he could remain until the following January. He still has in his possession the letters from the American legation and his passport.

Mr. and Mrs. Grosboll are members of the Lutheran church. Since becoming an American citizen he has given his political support to the Republican party, and for nine years he has served as a school director. His business career has been one of steady progression. Hoping that he might improve his financial condition in the new world with its superior business opportunities, he came to the United States, and his native energy, strong purpose and laudable ambition have enabled him to gain a fair measure of success, while his example proves conclusively that prosperity may be won through persistent labor, directed by the valuable quality of common sense.

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#### JOHN E. POND.

John E. Pond, a representative of the agricultural interests of Greenview township for many years, was born in Menard county, August 4, 1851, and is therefore by birth as well as training and preference a western man, possessing the spirit of enterprise and progress which have been so characteristic of the middle west. His father was David B. Pond and his paternal grandfather was Rev. Billions Pond, whose birth occurred at Plymouth, Connecticut, June 26, 1781. He was married October 11, 1801, at Camden, Oneida county, New York, to Miss Rhoda Orton, and for his second wife he chose Mrs. Melissa Moore. In early life he determined to devote his energies and talents to the work of the ministry and was ordained in the Presbyterian church at Camden, New York. In 1837 he removed to Illinois, settling eight miles west of Springfield. His ministerial labors were mostly in

connection with the Bible and Tract Societies and he did much good as a pioneer preacher in the promotion of the moral development of central Illinois. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-three years, five months and twelve days, passing away December 8, 1874.

David B. Pond, the father of John E. Pond, was born July 5, 1822, in Camden, New York, and accompanied his parents to Illinois when fifteen years of age. He acquired a common-school education, remained under the parental roof and assisted in the work of the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated on the 25th of March, 1845, Miss Susan A. Moore becoming his wife. Throughout his entire business career he carried on general farming and stock-raising in Sangamon and Menard counties and he died in Los Angeles, California, December 31, 1892. He had taken an active and helpful interest in community affairs, his labors proving effective in promoting the general welfare. For many years he was a member of the school board and the cause of education found in him a warm friend. An active member of the Presbyterian church, he served as one of its elders for twenty years. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party. Unto him and his wife were born two children: Tryphenia and John E. The former, born August 7, 1849, was married November 25, 1874, to Cornelius Lyman, and is now living in Dayton, Washington. After losing his first wife, David B. Pond wedded Mary E. Watson, who is now living in California.

No special event of importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for John E. Pond in his youth. He worked in the fields when not engaged with the duties of the schoolroom and remained at home until twenty-three years of age, when he was married. He wedded Miss Alice Buchanan, a daughter of James C. and Louisa (Obourn) Buchanan. Her father was born at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1831, and was married at Warrensville, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, August 1, 1852, to Louisa Obourn, whose birth occurred in 1835, and who was a daughter of Thomas Obourn. Her mother bore the maiden name of Miss Reeder and, like her husband, was a native

of Pennsylvania. At the time of the Civil war James C. Buchanan responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in June, 1861, as a member of Company C, Eighth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and while in this service he died in October, 1863, at Washington, D. C., and his remains were interred in Arlington cemetery. His widow survived him for a number of years and passed away March 16, 1877. They had two children, Mrs. Pond, who was born September 27, 1855; and Mrs. Clara Pond, born October 23, 1857.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Pond has been blessed with three children: Nellie E., Mabel S. and Clara L. At the time of their marriage they came to Menard county and Mr. Pond began farming on the place where he now lives, the land having been given to him by his father. He has since successfully carried on general farming and stock-raising and he has a well improved property and raises high grades of stock, which annually find a ready sale upon the market. In all of his business undertakings he is reliable and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he begins. His business affairs claim much of his attention and yet he has found opportunity to aid in the promotion of public enterprises, withholding his support from no movement which he believes will contribute to the general good. He served as clerk of the school board for twenty-one years, which included seven consecutive terms and in his political views he is a staunch Republican. He and his wife and their children are members of the Presbyterian church and he has served as one of its deacons. The Pond household is noted for its warm-hearted hospitality and the members of the family receive the respect and confidence of all with whom they have been associated.

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#### JOHN T. HALL.

John T. Hall, owner of a good farm in township 19, range 5 west, was born August 24, 1851, in Menard county and is a representative of one of the old pioneer families. His father, Wesley Hall, was born in Virginia,

June 2, 1811. He was twice married and by his first wife, Elizabeth, he had two sons: Amos, who was born March 25, 1836, and died July 25, 1842; and Augustus, who was born November 5, 1837, and died about 1884. The mother died March 12, 1839. For his second wife Wesley Hall chose Miss Nancy Ferguson, who was born in Kentucky, February 9, 1821, and they became the parents of the following named: Charles W., who was born June 26, 1842, and is now living in St. Clair, Missouri; Bethena J., who was born July 24, 1845, and died March 20, 1870; John T.; Amanda L., who was born June 19, 1853, and died September 2, 1877; Ann E., who was born March 16, 1856, and is now the wife of Dr. C. F. Whitney, of Washington, D. C.; Thomas H., who was born December 25, 1857, and is now living in Scranton, Iowa; and Laura F., whose birth occurred July 26, 1860, and who is now the wife of J. H. Piper, of Mount Zion, Illinois. Her father, on leaving his old home in Virginia, made his way westward to Indiana, and locating at South Bend was employed by the Studebakers of that city. He hauled wheat to the Chicago market before the city was incorporated and he lived in the middle west when it was a great frontier region in which the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun. On leaving Indiana he came to Menard county at an early epoch in its development, when the land was all wild prairie or was covered with dense timber. From Pekin, Illinois, he hauled the lumber with which to build his first house and amid frontier environments he began his life here, sharing with other early settlers in the hardships, trials and privations which fall to the lot of the pioneer. He was one of the founders of the county and he took an active part in promoting the legal status of the community as well as in advancing its material improvement through his agricultural interests. His death occurred on the 26th of November, 1893, and his second wife, surviving him for about eleven years, passed away on the 23d of January, 1904.

John T. Hall has spent his entire life in Menard county, and his education was acquired in the public schools, such as were found at



MRS. NANCY HALL.





that day. Farm work largely occupied his attention during the period of his youth, for he assisted in the cultivation of the old home place, remaining on his father's farm until twenty-eight years of age, when he was united in marriage on the 30th of December, 1880, to Miss Lottie E. Norton, daughter of Curtis J. and Mary E. (Wiley) Norton, the former born in the state of New York, April 24, 1831, while the latter was born in Wells, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1836. They were married in the Empire state and came to Menard county about 1863. For fourteen years, or until March, 1877, they resided in Logan county, just across the line from Menard county, where Mr. Norton carried on general farming. He afterward removed to Larned, Kansas, where he now makes his home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Norton were born eleven children, of whom nine are living: Mrs. Hall, whose birth occurred April 7, 1857; William J., who was born November 12, 1859, and is now living in Ottawa, Kansas; John T., who was born October 1, 1863, and is a civil engineer, residing in the city of Mexico; Curtis H., who was born September 12, 1865, and resides in Larned; Henry H., whose birth occurred February 19, 1868, and who is also a resident of Larned; Grace L., who was born May 13, 1872, and is living in Larned; Mary A., who was born May 3, 1874, and was married June 5, 1901, to William Tomlinson and is living in Ottawa, Kansas; George F., who was born March 22, 1876, and was married September 15, 1901, his home being now in Colorado City, Colorado; and Lucy I., who was born July 26, 1878, and resides in Larned. The members of the family now deceased are Franklin L., the third child, who was born November 14, 1861, and died August 7, 1865; and Charles G., the seventh child, who was born March 24, 1870, and died October 2, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall have one child, Mary E., born December 1, 1889. They reside upon a good farm in township 19, Mr. Hall purchasing at the time of his marriage sixty-eight acres of land, to which he has since added a ten acre tract. He now carries on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising and has well tilled fields and high grades of horses,

cattle and hogs. In his business he is energetic and persevering and what he possesses has been gained through his earnest labors. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and his political allegiance is given to the Republican party.

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#### THOMAS SCOTT.

Thomas Scott, who is engaged in the livery business in Greenvew, was born in Canada on the 19th of May, 1867, his parents being William and Margaret (Smith) Scott. The father was a native of Canada and the mother of Scotland and when six years of age she was brought to America by her parents, the voyage covering six weeks and four days in a sailing vessel. William Scott is a farmer by occupation and has spent his entire life in Canada, where he is still living at the age of sixty-eight years, while his wife died July 31, 1904.

In the country schools of Canada Thomas Scott was educated and he remained at home until twenty-two years of age, during which time he gained practical and intimate knowledge of farming methods through the assistance which he rendered to his father. After attaining his majority he started out in life on his own account. He worked by the month in connection with race horses until he came to Greenvew and in 1898 he entered the employ of H. J. Marbold, having charge of his noted racer, Grand Baron, until 1900. He then entered the services of Lewis Pierson, with whom he continued for a year, when he purchased a livery barn, formerly owned by Reed & McDonald. This he has since conducted and now has a good patronage. Earnestly desiring to please his customers he has prospered in the business, owing to his straightforward dealing and because of the excellent accommodations which he can afford the public in the line of fine carriages and good horses.

On the 9th of December, 1896, Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Palmer, a daughter of Montgomery and Belle Palmer, who were natives of Illinois and are now resi-

dents of Iowa. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Scott is connected with Loyalty lodge, No. 181, K. P. In his political views he is a Democrat, but he never seeks nor desires office, for he wishes to devote his entire time and energies to his business affairs.

#### DAVID NEFF.

One of the most attractive farm residences of Menard county is the home of David Neff, situated on section 9, township 18. It was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars, contains twelve rooms, is built in modern style of architecture and is supplied with the latest conveniences. Around the house are stone walks, and shade trees dot the well kept lawn. Altogether the home presents a most pleasing appearance and within an air of comfort and of hospitality abounds.

Mr. Neff, a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, was born August 25, 1852, his parents being Martin and Helena (Bowers) Neff, both of whom were natives of the Old Dominion. The Neff family is of German lineage and was established in America at an early day. Martin Neff, born in 1814, turned his attention to farming on attaining man's estate and in 1854 he removed westward to Illinois, settling in Petersburg township, where he purchased land. His farm of two hundred acres soon gave evidence of his careful supervision and cultivation, and yielded to him good crops. He reached the advanced age of eighty-six years ere his earthly pilgrimage was ended, and his wife died in 1871. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters: John, who resides two and one-half miles east of Petersburg, in Indian Creek township; Hannah J., who died when about forty-five years of age; Barbara, who married John Gerdes, and now lives with her brother John, while her husband lives in the Soldiers' Home in Quincy, Illinois; David; William H., who married Susa Jackson and since her death has married again; and Lydia V., who resides with her uncle, John Tice, in Petersburg.

David Neff was less than two years of age when brought by his parents to Illinois and

he was educated in the schools of the old town of Salem. He has always been a farmer. He was reared to this occupation and has made it his life work. He first farmed south and west of Petersburg, and he was enabled to purchase his land by hewing wood. He made his last purchase in 1899 and he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of rich land, all of which he has placed under a high state of cultivation, so that it is now a well developed property. He has also added substantial buildings, including his fine residence, and the place is a monument to his thrift and enterprise.

On October 16, 1879, Mr. Neff was married in Petersburg to Margaret V. Park, a daughter of Matthew and Ellen (Vonfelden) Park. Her father came from Paisley, Scotland, to America in early manhood and, settling in Menard county, he purchased land and began the development of the farm upon which Mr. Neff now resides. Mrs. Park was a native of Germany and came with her parents to the United States at the age of fourteen years, the family home being established in Mason county, Illinois. Mr. Park died April 4, 1873, and his wife's death occurred December 9, 1880. They were well known people of this locality and enjoyed the warm regard of many friends.

Mrs. Neff acquired her education in the public schools of Petersburg and remained at home up to the time of her marriage. Five children have been born unto our subject and his wife: Ellen H., born December 29, 1881, attended the district schools, continued her studies in Petersburg and has engaged in teaching for two terms. Martin Luther, born June 23, 1884, was educated in the district schools and the graded schools of Petersburg and lived for a time in Argentine, a suburb of Kansas City, Missouri, but is now at home assisting his father on the farm. Edna E., born November 6, 1887, is now in her second year in the high school of Petersburg. Matthew Park, born May 16, 1893, and Annie C., born August 14, 1896, are attending school.

Mr. and Mrs. Neff hold membership in the Methodist church at Petersburg and he votes with the Republican party. Both are well known in the county seat and the surrounding



DAVID NEFF AND FAMILY.



district and receive the favorable regard and good wishes of many friends. Early realizing that perseverance will overcome all obstacles and that earnest and diligent labor will gain advancement in the business world, Mr. Neff through those means has steadily worked his way upward until he is now one of the more prosperous agriculturists of his community.

#### R. B. GODBEY.

R. B. Godbey, who is the owner of six hundred acres of the rich farming land of Menard county, and whose business capacity has been demonstrated in his successful control of his agricultural interests, was born in Rush county, Indiana, January 11, 1830. His parents, Russell and Elizabeth (Brown) Godbey, were natives of Virginia and in 1829 left that state for Illinois, but stopped during the winter in Indiana, where the birth of our subject occurred. In the spring they continued on their way and located a mile south and a mile and a quarter west of where R. B. Godbey now resides. The father built a log house upon a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, which he entered from the government, and began the improvement of a farm, transforming the wild prairie into richly productive fields. He afterward added to his property and at the time of his death was the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land. He took an active part in the pioneer development of this part of the state and aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present progress and prosperity of the county. He located here when this was a pioneer district and he not only assisted materially in the upbuilding of the county, but was also acquainted with many of the prominent men of the time. He was a warm personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, who at one time surveyed a piece of land for Mr. Godbey and the latter paid Lincoln for his work with two dressed deer skins, which Lincoln took to Aunt Hannah Armstrong, who sewed them upon his pants to protect him while he was going through the brush. Mr. Godbey died December 25, 1888, at the age of eighty-eight years, his birth having occurred

November 2, 1800. His wife, who was born February 15, 1799, died in 1851.

R. B. Godbey pursued his education in the subscription schools, which he attended for about three months each year, and he also spent one winter in Jubilee College, in Peoria county, Illinois. He performed the strenuous labor incident to the development of a new farm and remained upon his father's place until twenty-three years of age, when he removed to his present home in township 19, range 6 west. Here he broke the prairie and after placing his land under the plow he planted his crops and in due time gathered good harvests. He erected all of the buildings now upon his place, his home being built in 1861, and he has always kept everything in good repair, conducting his farm work along progressive lines. In connection with the cultivation of grain he has also engaged in the raising of stock, principally feeding cattle, but in recent years he has largely left the active work of the farm to his sons. His landed possessions cover six hundred acres, the greater part of which lies in one body.

On the 20th of March, 1854, Mr. Godbey was united in marriage to Miss Susan Montgomery, a daughter of Charles L. and Eliza Montgomery, who came to this county from Virginia about 1821. Her father engaged in farming and died here about eighteen years ago. His wife, long surviving him, died about three years ago, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Godbey have been born nine children: Eliza Elizabeth, born August 19, 1855, is the wife of Clavin Crawford, now of San Bernardino, California; Charles R., born in 1857, died in infancy; Edward Everett, born in 1859, resides near his father; Harry H., born January 12, 1862, died in June, 1902; George, born in 1864, is living upon the home farm; Emma and John died in infancy; Bertha died at the age of three years; and Eva, born April 26, 1871, is the wife of John Downey, a farmer of this county.

Since 1870 Mr. Godbey has been a member of the Masonic lodge of Greenview, and in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft. His wife is a member of the Christian church. Politically a Democrat, he keeps well

informed on the questions and issues of the day, but has never been an office seeker. He served, however, for twenty years as a member of the school board. His interest has centered along lines of public activity which conserve the general good and his co-operation has not been withheld from any movement which he believes will contribute to general progress and improvement.

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#### JOHN W. TERHUNE.

John W. Terhune, an enterprising farmer and business man and one of the worthy and valued citizens of Menard county, whose influence is ever on the side of right and progress, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, near Flemingsburg, January 20, 1853, his parents being James and Ann Elizabeth (Harrison) Terhune, who were also natives of Kentucky. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to Menard county in 1853, locating at Petersburg, but after a short time he removed to Indian Point and subsequently purchased land near Curtis. There he began farming and stock-raising and continued to reside near Curtis until his death, which occurred in November, 1881, when he was fifty-six years of age, while his wife died in May, 1886, at the age of fifty-five years.

John W. Terhune acquired his education in the common schools of Menard county and remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age, when he removed to the farm on which he now resides. It was purchased for him and his wife by her father shortly after their marriage. In 1885 Mr. Terhune added to it a tract of eighty-eight acres and has since bought other property until now his landed possessions aggregate four hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land, upon which he has placed many improvements. He has tiled the fields, erected substantial buildings and now has an excellent farm which, in its neat and thrifty appearance, indicate the careful supervision of a progressive owner. He also aided in organizing the telephone company and was its president two years.

On the 26th of March, 1879, Mr. Terhune was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Smoot, a daughter of W. C. and Catherine (Engle) Smoot. Both Mr. and Mrs. Terhune are earnest and consistent Christian people and take a very active and helpful part in church work. For a number of years he has been and is now an elder in the Presbyterian church at Sweetwater, Illinois, is superintendent of the Sunday-school and for twenty-two consecutive years was a Sunday-school teacher. His wife is superintendent of the Sunday-school of the Christian church and has been for ten years. Mr. Terhune has also been a leader of the choir and has taken a most helpful part in various lines of the church activities. For seven generations, with one exception, his family have been represented in the church eldership. He has been vice president of the Sunday-school Association of Menard county for a number of years and has attended many Sunday-school conventions, taking a most active interest in the training of the young, realizing its importance as a preparation for after life. In politics Mr. Terhune is a Republican and has served as president of the board of school trustees for a number of years. He has always taught temperance by both precept and example and has favored every movement which has for its object the betterment of humanity, while his labors and influence have proven no unimportant factors in advancing the moral standard of his community.

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#### EDGAR S. CHEANEY.

Edgar S. Cheaney is accorded a position in the front rank of the leading and representative business men of Petersburg, his native city, where his birth occurred on the 13th of November, 1858. At the usual age he entered the public schools, where he pursued his studies until thirteen years of age, when he entered upon his business career as an employe in the lumberyard of Colonel C. D. Bourke, remaining there for three years. On the expiration of that period he embarked in the grocery business on his own account and for five years conducted his store, meeting with sig-



nal success in the undertaking. He then sold his store and again became connected with the lumber trade, going upon the road as a traveling salesman. He continued in the business in that capacity for twenty-two years and gained a wide and favorable acquaintance with lumber dealers in the territory through which he traveled. He confined his business mostly to central Illinois and was a most successful salesman, annually securing a large amount of business.

About 1887 Mr. Cheaney joined his father, J. W. Cheaney, in the establishment of a lumber business at Petersburg under the firm name of E. S. Cheaney & Company, his father taking charge of the local yard, while our subject continued upon the road. He soon secured a large and reliable class of patrons, making the business profitable and extensive. The father died February 21, 1902, at which time E. S. Cheaney purchased his interest in the business and has since been sole proprietor. He left the road January 1, 1904, and has since given his attention to the management of the business from the headquarters in Petersburg. The yard is one hundred and twenty-five by one hundred and fifty-two feet and the business is constantly increasing. At Athens Mr. Cheaney bought out the lumberyard of T. A. Swearingen & Company, in February, 1904, and is conducting that in connection with the Petersburg business. He has comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the lumber trade, is familiar with the various kinds of wood and their value as a building material as well as a marketable commodity, and he is now classed with the most successful business men of Menard county.

In July, 1888, Mr. Cheaney was united in marriage to Miss Mary S. Miller, of Pekin, Illinois, a daughter of P. J. Miller, now of Athens. This marriage has been blessed with five children: Edgar, now deceased; Caroline, Herbert H., James W. and Francis.

Mr. Cheaney belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias Fraternity and the Hoo Hoo, a national organization of lumbermen. He has a wide acquaintance in central Illinois and wherever he has gone he has made friends by reason of his

unfailing courtesy, his deference for the opinions of others, his social nature and his genial disposition. Throughout the greater part of his life he has been connected with the lumber trade and his recognition of a commercial possibility leading to success has been supplemented by straightforward dealing that has gained him the confidence and the patronage of many with whom he has come in contact.

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#### JOSEPH A. SMEDLEY.

Joseph A. Smedley was born May 2, 1850, on section 21, township 18, adjoining the one on which he now lives. His present place, comprising one hundred and twenty acres, was traded in the early days for a shotgun, an entire section being given in exchange for the firearm. Cultivation, however, carried on by former generations of the family and by our subject have wrought a wonderful transformation in the appearance and value of the land, which is now worth one hundred dollars per acre.

The Smedley family is of English lineage and the ancestry of Joseph A. Smedley can be traced back to Christopher Smedley, the great-grandfather, who was sent to sea by his older brothers, who were angry with him. He lived to the advanced age of one hundred and eleven years and six months. Becoming a resident of America, he was married in Pennsylvania and afterward removed to Kentucky. He had three sons, including Thomas Smedley, the grandfather of our subject, who, with his brother William, went to St. Louis, Missouri, at an early day and later came to what is now Menard county, Illinois, then a part of Sangamon county. He settled at Clary's Grove and there reared his family. He had five sons and five daughters, three of whom were born in Kentucky, while the others were born on the old family homestead in this county. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 20, township 18, and was the first man to settle upon the prairie adjoining where Joseph A. Smedley now resides. He took an active and helpful part in reclaiming the wild land for the uses of the white man and assisted

materially in the early development of the county—a work which has since been carried forward by the family in later generations. Thomas Smedley had ten children, as follows: Sarah married Spencer Merrill and they reside in Little Grove. William is the second of the family. Richard, who lived in Menard county on the farm which is now owned by Mrs. Marthena Gumm, was a soldier of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and died in the service. Irene, deceased, was the wife of John N. Osborne and lived in Jacksonville. Eliza became the wife of Barton Osborne and they resided on the old Smedley homestead, but both are now deceased. He was a member of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry in the Civil war. John, who was a member of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was a quartermaster sergeant and served throughout the war. He was under Grant at Shiloh and Vicksburg. He was educated for the ministry, engaged in teaching for a number of years and is now living in Cass county, Illinois. Thomas, who resides in Bloomington, this state, was also a member of the Fourteenth Illinois Regiment, was the regimental fifer and, being captured, was confined in Andersonville prison. Hannah, deceased, was the wife of David Bell, a resident of Dakota. He was an orderly in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry and was with Sherman on the celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea. Christopher, who was orderly sergeant in the same regiment and likewise marched with Sherman's Army to the coast, is now living in Pittsburg, Kansas. Catherine married Anson Ferguson, whose military service was with the same regiment, and who went to the sea under Sherman. He was wounded in the head, but recovered from this, although he was afterwards killed by a mule.

William Smedley, the father of Joseph A. Smedley, was born in Kentucky, but in his youth accompanied his father on his removal to Menard county, where he spent his remaining days. He was reared among the wild scenes of pioneer life and assisted in the arduous task of developing a new farm. He followed agricultural pursuits throughout his en-

tire life and was known as an energetic, capable business man, who carefully controlled his farming interests. His early political support was given the Whig party and on its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, with which he continued to affiliate until his death. He held membership in the Christian church. His wife bore the maiden name of Martha Hurd and they became the parents of seven children: Christina, who died at the age of eight years; Joseph A., of this review; John Thomas, who died at Coldwater, Florida, where he was following the occupation of farming; Edwin, who was a machinist and died at his home in Jacksonville, Illinois; Martha, who married a Mr. Allen, but both died of yellow fever about 1889; Nancy, who died in infancy; and Hamden Jewett, who owns and operates a farm near Athens.

Joseph A. Smedley was reared in his father's home and pursued his education in a private school at Petersburg. He was trained to habits of industry on the home farm, assisting in its further development and cultivation until twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself. He makes a specialty of bee culture. He was married October 7, 1875, to Henrietta Godwin, a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Truitt) Godwin, who resided in Missouri, where Mrs. Smedley was reared and educated. The father was born in Virginia, and the mother in Baltimore, Maryland, where they were married. They came west about 1853 and settled in Montgomery county, Missouri, where Mr. Godwin entered a large tract of land and was a slave holder. Mrs. Smedley has two brothers and two sisters living, three of whom are residents of Missouri, while one lives in Colorado. Four children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Smedley: Charles Frederick, who was born September 7, 1876, married Adriane Masline and resides in Jacksonville, Florida; Arthur E., who was born October 5, 1878, married Daisy Gumm and is now a student in the Chicago Veterinary School, but owns property in Menard county, where he makes his home; Harry R., born August 11, 1882, married Clara Acree, and now resides upon the old homestead, but expects to remove to a farm

near Athens in the spring of 1905; Marshall A., born July 20, 1885, was educated in Petersburg and is now at home.

Mr. Smedley first voted with the Republican party, but has since supported the candidates of the Democratic and People's parties, and is independent in support of the political measures which he deems will bring the greatest good to the greatest number. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church and take a helpful part in its work. Having always lived in this county, Mr. Smedley has a wide acquaintance within its borders and receives favorable regard and friendship from the majority of those with whom he has been brought in contact, either through business or social relations.

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#### WILLIAM ENSLEY.

William Ensley, whose farming interests are represented by a good tract of land in the vicinity of Atterberry, was born June 12, 1828, in Pickaway county, Ohio, his parents being Christopher and Elizabeth (Gold) Ensley, both natives of Pennsylvania, the father being of Dutch lineage, while the mother was of English descent. Removing to Ohio, they settled in Pickaway county in 1828, their home being along the canal between Circleville and Columbus. The father secured a tract of land on the Scioto river bottom and there began the development of a farm. The work of improvement and progress had been carried on for so brief a time that many primitive conditions yet existed. He afterward came to Illinois, settling in Babylon, Fulton county, where his death occurred in 1845. His wife, long surviving him, died at the home of her son William, about a half a mile east of Atterberry, in 1872.

William Ensley, on pursuing his education, was a student in a little log schoolhouse, but his opportunity even there was limited as his services were needed upon the home farm. At the age of twelve he began work for others, being employed as a farm hand for five years at eight dollars per month. The last summer which he spent in Ohio he dropped broom corn

by hand over a tract of one hundred and fifty acres. Subsequently he came to Fulton county, Illinois, and established his home near the dam across Spoon river, the town being called Babylon. There he worked for one man for five years at eight dollars per month.

On the 25th of January, 1855, Mr. Ensley was married to Miss Chloe Helen Aylesworth, a daughter of Philip and Chloe (Goodell) Aylesworth, the former a native of Providence, Rhode Island, born April 20, 1797, and the latter of New York. The mother died during the infancy of her daughter. There were two sons and two daughters in the family: Philip S., who died in 1849 at Petersburg, Illinois; Charles, whose death occurred in 1835 at Meredosia, Illinois, when he was two years of age; Annie M.; and Chloe H. The former married John H. Roland, who resided at Grand Island, Nebraska, and died in March, 1901. They had three children, two sons and a daughter, and the sons are married, one now living at Hastings, Nebraska, and the other at Lincoln, that state. Mr. Aylesworth, the father of Mrs. Ensley, removed from Rhode Island to Pennsylvania when sixteen years of age and had come to Illinois in 1822 and here he formed the acquaintance of Chloe Goodell, who had been brought to this state during her childhood by her parents. They were married in Sangamon county and Mr. Aylesworth operated a ferry at Meredosia, Illinois, for seven years, while subsequent to his marriage he removed to Menard county. He was an old time surveyor and in this connection he assisted materially in the early development of the state, laying out the towns of Beardstown and Meredosia. He also surveyed and laid out the state road from Meredosia to Quincy by way of Camp Point. At the last named place he camped out and called it Camp Point and this name has been retained down to the present. In 1835 he established his home in Fulton county, being the first white settler in Lee township, living on an old Indian farm called Potato Hollow. He there entered ten quarter sections of land and was at one time the wealthiest man in the county. He not only carried on farming pursuits on an extensive scale, but also owned a mill which he rented. He entered most of

the land east of Atterberry and in course of time became the owner of thousands of acres. At one time he was the owner of the land on which the city of Jacksonville now stands. He was also prominent and influential in public affairs, held the office of justice of the peace for a time, was sheriff of Morgan county, and he named the town of Babylon in Fulton county. His efforts were of marked benefit to the state in its development and substantial improvement. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and was familiarly known as Uncle Phil. His death occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Aylesworth, near Ellisville, December 22, 1883. It was largely through his personal influence that congress passed the pre-emption laws.

William Ensley purchased his first land of his wife's father and afterward bought his present farm from John Stitch. As his financial resources have increased he has added to his property from time to time until he is now the owner of six hundred acres, which he has acquired entirely through his own efforts, save a tract of eighty acres that was inherited by his wife. He has lived upon his present farm since 1856 and has wrought a great change in its appearance because of the improvements he has made and the high state of cultivation under which he has placed his fields.

Mrs. Ensley, who was born July 8, 1837, in Fulton county, has become the mother of eight children, but the eldest, Luella, died in infancy. Those still living are Henry Elmer, born August 8, 1864; Harvey Lee, born December 11, 1870; and Nettie Alice, born March 17, 1884. The elder son married Hartie Barr and they reside at Waverly, Morgan county, Illinois, where he is engaged in business as a grain dealer. They have three children, one son and two daughters and they are members of the Methodist church. Harvey Lee, residing on a farm near Atterberry, married Jessie Thorne and they have one child—a daughter.

Mr. Ensley gives his political allegiance to the Democracy and has served as roadmaster, but has never been very active as a politician, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, which he has capably conducted. He is seldom at fault in matters of

business judgment and his energy has proven a very effective factor in winning success. His life has indeed been a busy and useful one and at all times it has been characterized by honorable purpose, so that he receives the good will and respect of those with whom he has been associated.

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#### GEORGE W. HATCH.

George W. Hatch, figuring prominently in the business circles of Greenville, his business activity contributing to the general prosperity as well as his individual success, is now secretary and general manager of the Greenville Coal & Mining Company, as superintendent and manager of the Middletown Coal Company at Middletown, Illinois, and is the senior member of the firm of Hatch, Jones & Bergen, general merchants of Greenville. A native son of Menard county, he was born a mile and a half north of the city in which he yet makes his home, on the 15th of October, 1861, his parents being George W. and Amanda M. (Martin) Hatch. His parental grandfather, who was a sea captain, followed the sea for many years and was at length lost at sea.

George W. Hatch, Sr., the father of our subject, was a native of New Jersey and was twice married, his first wife being Mary Brewer. Their wedding was celebrated March 10, 1846, and to them were born three sons, namely: William N., a resident of Oakland, Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising and owns over five hundred acres of land; John B., who died September 5, 1869; and Thomas N., who died August 23, 1858. The mother of these children died March 30, 1855, and the father was married August 25, 1855, to Amanda M. Martin, who was born in Illinois, September 3, 1833, and was a daughter of John and Highland (Ferguson) Martin. Her parents were both natives of Kentucky and at an early day removed from that state to Illinois, settling at Baker's Prairie, where the father carried on farming and stock-raising. The mother and four of her children died within two weeks. One daughter, Mrs. Alexander Rhoades, is still





MR. AND MRS. G. W. HATCH, JR.



MR. AND MRS. G. W. HATCH, SR.





living, her home being at Springerton, Illinois. By his second marriage George W. Hatch, Sr., had five children, our subject being the only son. The daughters were Margaret A., who was born June 26, 1856, and married C. H. Denton, of Athens, Illinois; Mary H., who was born October 1, 1857, and is now the wife of J. R. Arnold, of Greenview; Emma J., who was born November 26, 1859, and died August 30, 1877; and Laura E., who was born April 4, 1863, and died April 30, 1879.

In early boyhood days George W. Hatch, Sr. came to Menard county and in his youth he worked by the month as a farm hand. He afterward entered land from the government and devoted his energies to its cultivation and improvement until 1868, when he retired from agricultural life and removed to Greenview, entering the firm of Hatch & Arnheim, general merchants. He also conducted a lumber yard and milling business and erected many of the first houses of the city. His business interests thus extended to many lines and proved beneficial to the community by advancing the commercial and industrial prosperity which is the basis of all progress and substantial upbuilding. In 1873 he sold his varied business interests, save his mill, which he conducted until his death. He passed away May 25, 1874, at the age of forty-seven years and nine months. His widow long survived him and her death resulted from a fall on the 17th of August, 1903, when she was seventy-one years of age.

George W. Hatch was a public school student in Greenview and in 1880 he entered the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso, Indiana, leaving that institution on the day that James A. Garfield was nominated for the presidency. He then returned to Menard county and in June, 1880, he engaged in the livery business, but after nine months he sold out and took a three months' trip to the west, visiting Denver and Leadville, Colorado. On the expiration of that period he retraced his steps eastward as far as Iowa and on the 3rd of July, 1881, he returned to Menard county. About that time he assisted in the organization of the first coal company formed here and in November of the same year he embarked in the furniture and undertaking business, which

he carried on for about three years. On the 23rd of December, 1884, however, he removed to a farm and was successfully and continuously engaged in agricultural pursuits for six years, or until November, 1891, when he returned to Greenview. Here he began handling horses and in 1892 he became actively associated with commercial interests as a dealer in hardware and implements under the firm style of Hatch & Propst. A man of resourceful business ability, readily recognizing and improving opportunity, he has been associated with many lines of endeavor that have proved of practical value and benefit to the city and at the same time have advanced his individual prosperity. He built the first opera house of Greenview at a cost of eight thousand dollars, but the building was afterward destroyed by fire. He has been identified with the development of the coal interests of this part of the state and in 1886 he became a stockholder in the Menard Coal Company, of Greenview, Illinois, of which he is now the secretary and manager. In 1893 he sold his interest in the hardware store to his partner and became an insurance and real estate agent.

For a time Mr. Hatch put aside his more active business duties in order to perform public service, for which he had been chosen by the votes of his fellow townsmen. In 1894 he was elected sheriff of Menard county upon the Republican ticket, although this is a strong Democratic county, receiving a majority of one hundred and forty-nine. Later he was nominated for the office of county clerk, was defeated by one hundred and twenty-six votes. In 1900 he was a candidate before the Republican convention for the nomination for representative. After retiring from the office of county sheriff he took charge of the business of the coal company and he entered the firm of Hatch, Elkie & Reed, on the 8th of March, 1892. After a year, however, this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Hatch became the senior member of the present mercantile firm of Hatch, Jones & Bergen. He is a man of keen business discernment and unfaltering enterprise and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. Moreover, his business methods have been such as never seek

nor require disguise and he has made for himself an honorable name in trade circles.

On the 12th of October, 1882, Mr. Hatch was married to Miss Eleanor Frances Reed, a daughter of W. W. P. Reed, and they have three children: Claude Wallace, who was born November 9, 1883, is now married and is in charge of his father's interests in the store; Forest Leslie, born January 19, 1889, and Mildred, born January 15, 1891, are at home with their parents. The wife and children are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and Mr. Hatch holds membership in the Christian church. He has pleasant fraternal relations, being a valued representative of Clinton lodge, No. 189, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg; Loyalty lodge, No. 183, K. P., and the Modern Woodman camp. His name is a synonym for activity, industry and integrity in business life and he stands to-day as one of the successful and respected men of Menard county.

#### WILLIAM T. KINCAID.

William T. Kincaid, a representative of the farming interests in Menard county, who has the respect of the business community because of his faithful adherence to the rules which govern honorable trade relations, was born August 30, 1849, on the farm in Sweetwater precinct, where he now makes his home. He is a son of W. C. and Louisa (Hale) Kincaid, both of whom are natives of Bath county, Kentucky. The father, who was born November 3, 1815, came to Illinois in early manhood, settling in Menard county upon the old homestead farm in 1834. His father, Andrew Kincaid, was a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and became a resident of Bath county, Kentucky, in 1795. In the latter state he was united in marriage to Miss Ann P. Caldwell, who was born in Bath county and was a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Kennedy) Caldwell. She was present at the stirring scenes of the great camp meeting at Cane Ridge in Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1802—an event which has become historic in the annals of that state and of that locality. On the 13th of

August, 1807, she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Kincaid and they were a most devoted and earnest Christian couple. Though always living upright lives and singularly conscientious, probably from lack of suitable opportunity, Mrs. Kincaid did not profess her religious faith until 1824, when with her husband she united with the New Concord Presbyterian church of Nicholas county, Kentucky, under the ministry of Dewey Whitney. Soon afterward they changed their membership from that church to the church in Springfield, Bath county, Kentucky, where they resided until 1834. In that year they came to Menard county, Illinois, settling at Indian Point, and on the 13th of June, 1835, they were received into the membership of the North Sangamon Presbyterian church by the session then constituting Elder John N. Moore and Rev. Alex Ewing as moderators. From that time forward they took a most active and helpful, as well as beneficial, interest in the moral development of this part of the state. They closely followed all the commandments and ordinances of the church, living blameless lives, so that their memory is yet enshrined in the hearts of those who knew them, and their example remains as a source of inspiration and encouragement to those with whom they were associated. Andrew Kincaid, full of years and honors, because of his fidelity to upright principles, passed away August 6, 1872, at the age of eighty-seven years, seven months and twenty-five days, and on the 20th of March, 1879, his widow died at the age of ninety-one years, seven months and twelve days. They were the parents of eleven children, three of whom died prior to the mother's demise, and the remaining eight were present at her funeral. She had sixty grandchildren, of whom thirty-eight were living at the time of her death, fifty great-grandchildren, of whom forty-four were living, and sixteen of her grandchildren were married. Her immediate descendants at the time of her demise were one hundred and thirty-nine in number, of whom thirty-one had passed away, one hundred and eight are still living. Mrs. Kincaid was blessed with vigorous physical and mental powers and possessed many sterling traits of

character. She was a most earnest Christian woman, and the poor, needy and distressed found in her a helpful and sympathetic friend. She was most generous and hospitable and her tender consideration for others was one of her most salient characteristics. An immense concourse of people came to pay their last tribute of respect to her memory and her good deeds still live after her, so that she is yet spoken of with tender reverence and deep love by those who knew her.

W. C. Kincaid, the father of our subject, was one of the early settlers of Menard county, residing here continuously from 1834 up to the time of his death. He settled upon the farm which is now occupied by his son W. T. Kincaid, entering the land from the government, and our subject now has in his possession the deeds of this land signed by John Q. Adams and Andrew Jackson, regarding them as cherished mementos of pioneer times. With characteristic energy Mr. Kincaid carried on agricultural pursuits and in addition to the tilling of the soil he raised stock, making a specialty of cattle for show. He usually raised the short-horn breed and he received first prize at the second state fair that was ever held in Sangamon county. In early manhood he wedded Miss Louisa Hale, who was born November 27, 1821, and was also one of the early settlers of Menard county, coming at the time of the arrival of William Johnson. She made her way from Kentucky on horseback. W. C. Kincaid passed away at Indian Point, February 7, 1882, at the age of sixty-six years, three months and four days, and his wife died at eleven o'clock in the evening of November 27, 1894, at the age of seventy-three years. He had four brothers and three sisters, all of whom attended his funeral. There had not been a death in the family for forty years up to about that time, but his father and mother died a few years before him. Mr. Kincaid had been connected with the Presbyterian church for more than forty years and was an earnest Christian man, generous to his friends, liberal to those in need, and in his home a kind-hearted and devoted husband and father. No man in the county has been more deeply missed by neighbors and friends and he had so endeared him-

self to those who knew him that uniform regret was felt throughout this part of the county when he was called to his final rest. For about a year, however, he was in poor health and for two months prior to his death was confined to his home. The funeral services were held at the North Sangamon church, Rev. D. J. Strain and Rev. J. M. Horney officiating, after which his remains were interred in Indian point cemetery. The interment of Mrs. Kincaid was also in the Indian Point cemetery. They were the parents of five children: Robert Hale, who was born February, 19, 1844, and died December 30, 1872; Eliza Ann, who was born November 19, 1842, and died in Springfield, Illinois, September 26, 1904; Andrew Todd, who was born March 9, 1844, and is now living near Farmer City, DeWitt county; William T., the fourth of the family; Elizabeth D., who was born October 19, 1857, and is living in Chicago.

W. T. Kincaid, whose name introduces this record, was educated in the district schools at Indian Point. This is conducted largely on the order of a high school and is a very excellent educational institution. After putting aside his text-books, his time and energies were devoted to farm work on the old homestead. He married Miss Alice Belle Pursell, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, in what is now called Farmingdale, her natal day being May 4, 1856. Her parents were William and Elizabeth (Van Patton) Pursell, the former born in Ireland, January 3, 1820, and the latter in New Jersey, March 26, 1825. They became residents of Sangamon county about 1833. Mr. Pursell had been brought to America by his parents when he was but two years old, the family home being established in Canada, and he resided there nine years, when the family removed to Sangamon county, Illinois. He was one of the first settlers of that portion of the state, locating there before Springfield had sprung into existence. He and his wife were married in 1836 and for a long period they resided on the old homestead farm in Sangamon county. They were the parents of thirteen children: Robert Henry, who died about 1844; Mary Ann, who died in the same year; Albert Hale, who died in 1873; Carrie Lyman

who is living at Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county; Laura Etta, a resident of Ashland, Cass county, Illinois; Mrs. Kincaid; Jennie Adeline, who died in 1844; Charles William, who is living in Moravia, Iowa; John Cushman, who died in 1873; Harriet Louisa, who resides at Junction, Arizona; Robert Ramsey, who is living at Farmingdale, Illinois; Frances Elizabeth, also at Farmingdale; and Jessie Tryphena, at home.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid has been blessed with two children: Alice May, born May 31, 1883; and Todd Pursell, born May 4, 1887. The parents and their children are members of the Indian Point Presbyterian church, and politically Mr. Kincaid is a Republican, having supported that party since he cast his first presidential ballot. He is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family and therefore is entitled to mention in this volume. Moreover, his personal characteristics have commended him to the good will and trust of those with whom he has been associated. He is unassuming in manner, yet alert and enterprising in his business affairs and keeping in touch with modern progress and along all lines that indicate the world's advancement. Having spent his entire life in Menard county, he is well known to many of its citizens and the circle of his friends is extensive.

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#### JAMES D. WHITLEY, M. D., F. R. M. S.

Dr. James D. Whitley, general medical practitioner and author, whose writings are of acknowledged value to the profession and whose labors as physician and surgeon have been so successful as to rank him with the ablest representatives of the profession in Petersburg and central Illinois, was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, on the 28th of February, 1844. His father, Eli Whitley, also a native of Halifax, came to America in 1846 and established his home in New York city. He was a pattern-maker by trade and for many years was connected, in that capacity, with the Novelty Iron Works of New York. His wife died during the

great cholera epidemic in this country, in 1849. In the family were three children.

Dr. Whitley started out in life on his own account when only twelve years of age, without money or influential friends, and that his career has been characterized by steady progression and success is due to the exercise of his native ability, his unremitting diligence and laudable ambition, which has prompted him to find in each transition stage of his career opportunity for further advancement. In his youth he was employed at farm labor in Logan county, Illinois, but desiring to enter professional life, he commenced the study of medicine in 1861 under Dr. Samuel Sargeant, a practicing physician of Lincoln, Illinois. The following year, however, his studies were interrupted by his enlistment in the Union army. He joined the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Regiment, Colonel R. B. Latham commanding, on the 12th of August, 1862. He was mustered in at Lincoln, Illinois, as a drummer boy, being then but eighteen years of age, and went first to Kentucky. He served in Missouri and Tennessee and was also at Little Rock, Arkansas. A considerable portion of the time was given to guarding railroads. He was present at the fall of Vicksburg and saw varied service during the three years of his military experience. When the regiment steward, a few months after his enlistment, was taken ill, Dr. Whitley was appointed to that position and later was placed on detached service in the general hospital at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, in the capacity of chief clerk. Subsequently he was given charge of the dispensary and was finally made acting assistant surgeon, in charge of the guard house and detached forces, so serving until August, 1865, when the war having ended he was honorably discharged.

Dr. Whitley's hospital service, while with the army, proved an excellent training school for his professional career, bringing to him much valuable, practical experience. Upon his return home he resumed the study of medicine and in the winter of 1865-6 he pursued a course of lectures in Rush Medical College. Later he came to Petersburg, Menard county, where he opened an office, but soon removed to Robinson's Mills, where he was appointed postmaster.



DR. J. D. WHITLEY.





Subsequently he established his home at Oakford, building the first residence there in 1872. He named the town in honor of William Oakford, of the Oakford-Fahnestock Company, wholesale grocers of Peoria, Illinois. He met with fair success in his practice in the little village which he established and in 1873 he returned to Rush Medical College, where he was graduated in February, 1874. Returning then to Oakford, he continued in practice there until July, 1879, when he again came to Petersburg, where he has since remained, and in the broader field which the county seat affords, he has so directed his labors that they have proved of great value to his fellow men, while the profession acknowledges his ability, which is based upon thorough and conscientious preparation and unflinching devotion to the responsible duties which devolve upon the physician.

Dr. Whitley has continually added to his knowledge by study and investigation and also through the interchange of thought and experience among the members of the profession who are allied with various medical societies. Since 1878 he has been a member of the American Medical Association and he also belongs to the Illinois State Medical Society. He is a charter member of the Brainard District Medical Society, of which he was the president in 1881; belongs to the American Microscopical Society and is a fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society of London. He is likewise a member of the Illinois Army and Navy Medical Association, was pension examiner and has been health officer of Petersburg since 1885. His Medical writings include: *Observations During an Epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis in 1874*; *Report of Trichinosis with Post Mortem and Microscopical Appearance of Tissues Effected with the Parasites, and Asiatic Cholera*.

Dr. Whitley has been married four times, first in 1866, second in 1873, third in 1890, and fourth in 1904. It was on the 8th of September, 1904, that he was united in marriage to Miss Libbie Rourke, a native of Menard county and a daughter of Colonel Cornelius Rourke, who was one of the pioneers of this county. The Doctor has two sons: James,

born January 24, 1891; and Langdon, born June 18, 1896.

Fraternally Dr. Whitley is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to St. Aldemar commandery at Petersburg, and he is also identified with the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges, in both of which he has filled all the chairs, and he is now surgeon of the Fourth Regiment of the uniform rank of the Knights of Pythias. He is also local surgeon for the Chicago & Alton Railroad, examining surgeon for the Travelers Accident Company since 1885 and examiner for several old line life insurance companies. For several years he was postmaster at Oakford, the postoffice at Robinson's Mills being discontinued after the town of Oakford was started. He was a member of the board of education at Petersburg for fifteen consecutive years. He is one of Menard county's leading and prominent citizens, popular with his brethren of the fraternities to which he belongs and exerting a moving and beneficial influence in behalf of public progress and improvement, as well as along professional lines. It is with extreme pleasure that we present this sketch of his career to the readers of this volume for we realize, and justly too, that it is unto such men that the present prosperity of Menard county is due.

#### Z. A. THOMPSON.

Z. A. Thompson, who through the recognition and utilization of commercial possibilities afforded in Petersburg, has advanced from humble surroundings to a position among the prosperous business men of the city, is now a member of the firm of Thompson, Rosendahl & Company, proprietors of a large department store. Petersburg is his native city, his birth having here occurred December 27, 1858. His father, Aaron Thompson, is represented on another page in this volume.

Having obtained his early education in the public schools, Mr. Thompson of this review continued his studies in the Illinois College of Jacksonville, where he acquired his more specifically literary education. Soon after leaving that institution he entered the field of mercantile endeavor and in 1886 he became a mem-

ber of the firm of Thompson, Rosendahl & Company, proprietors of a large department store in Petersburg. The building, seventy by one hundred feet, is two stories in height and is situated at the northwest corner of the square. It is well stocked with an extensive and carefully selected stock of general goods, carefully chosen with regard to the varied taste of the patrons, and the firm, by reason of their honorable dealing, their unfailing courtesy and their earnest desire to please their customers, have secured a large and growing patronage.

On the 24th of November, 1886, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Nettie Watkins, a daughter of Samuel Watkins, a representative of one of the early pioneer families of Menard county. The children of this marriage are three daughters and a son: Lillian, Samuel, Marie and Louise. Mr. Thompson, having been made a Mason at Chandlerville, Illinois, in 1881, has advanced to the Knight Templar degree, holding membership in St. Aldemar commandery. He is also connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Modern Woodmen camp, and has hearty sympathy with their principles of brotherhood, benevolence and mutual helpfulness. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Christian church, contributing generously to its support and taking an active part in its work, and in the social circles of the city they are prominent and widely known.

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#### MRS. REBECCA FINLEY.

Mrs. Rebecca Finley, now residing upon a farm in Petersburg precinct, Menard county, was born in Scotland, December 23, 1812, a daughter of James and Rebecca (Purdon) Park, also natives of the land of the heather. She spent her early girlhood days in Scotland, where she resided until 1863, when at the age of twenty years she became a resident of Petersburg, Menard county. She was married in Scotland to William Finley on Tuesday, June 2, 1863, and the following Saturday they sailed for the United States, being nine weeks upon the water and a week longer in reaching Springfield, Illinois.

Mr. Finley, who was born in 1831, was a life-long farmer, carrying on agricultural pursuits both in Scotland and in this country. He purchased a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres near Petersburg, upon which his widow now resides and which has become recognized as the old Finley homestead. Throughout his remaining days he carried on agricultural pursuits, placing his land under a high state of cultivation and making its fields to return to him good harvests as a reward for his care and labor. He continued to reside in Menard county until his death, which occurred April 14, 1899, when he was sixty-two years of age. His loss was deeply felt by many friends as well as his immediate family, for in his life he had displayed many sterling traits of character. Business men enjoyed entering into trade transactions with him because he was straightforward and reliable. He could be counted upon for active assistance in citizenship when the matter for consideration was one which tended to promote general welfare of the community. In his family he was a devoted husband and father and he displayed in his life many of the sterling characteristics of the Scotch people.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Finley were born six children, namely: Rebecca, born July 4, 1864, died November 30, 1865. John, born September 12, 1865, died the same day. Elizabeth M., born December 21, 1867, was married January 24, 1889, to John Park, a farmer of Menard county, and of the seven children born to them four are still living. Annie B., born February 22, 1869, was married January 20, 1891, to R. G. Williamson, a son of James Williamson, who was born in Scotland and yet resides in that country. R. G. Williamson now carries on the home farm for Mrs. Finley. To him and his wife were born four children: James, who died in infancy; Rebecca Agnes, who was born February 6, 1894, and is now the only one living; Charles, who died at the age of eight months; and Lillian, who died in infancy. James P., the second son of Mrs. Finley, was born October 25, 1871, and now resides near Tice, Illinois. He was married March 20, 1895, to Flora Bell and they have two children, William and Cecil. Agnes J., born

March 23, 1874, was married March 7, 1891, to Henry Faith and died October 22, 1896. During her long residence in Menard county, to which she came as a bride, Mrs. Finley has gained the good will and esteem of many friends and well deserves representation in this volume as one of the pioneer settlers.

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#### MARSHALL J. KING.

For over half a century this gentleman was identified with the interests of Menard county and was accounted one of its valued citizens. He was born in Virginia, November 28, 1815, and was of Scotch, Irish, Dutch and English descent, his parents being Daniel and Lucy (Smith) King. In 1817, when only two years old, he was taken by them to Kentucky, the family home being established in the vicinity of Maysville. There he was reared upon a farm and became a teamster and also worked on the river to some extent. In 1842 he came to Illinois with his parents, who died in this state and were buried in Shipley graveyard, Menard county, the father passing away at a very advanced age.

Marshall J. King engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county. After residing for twenty years in Sandridge, he located near Oakford. He purchased, cleared and improved three different farms, all being covered with a dense growth of timber at the time they came into his possession. In 1862 he bought the old homestead, on which his son Frank A. now resides. He prospered in his farming operations and at the time of his death owned a valuable farm of two hundred acres a short distance south of the village of Oakford. His life was characterized by untiring energy and perseverance and his labors proved of value in reclaiming this part of the state for the purposes of civilization. In 1889 he relinquished the active duties of farm life and removed to Petersburg, purchasing a comfortable home on North First street, where his declining days were spent. On the 29th of December, 1836, Mr. King married Rachel Brown, who died a few years later, leaving one child, Mrs. Minerva E. Shipley, who died October 9, 1899. He was

again married October 27, 1844, his second union being with Eliza E. Caldwell, who was a representative of a Pennsylvania Dutch family. Her father, Alexander Caldwell, came to Menard county, Illinois, and located near Concord church, where he and his wife made their home until death. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he was a Democrat in politics. Their daughter Mrs. King died April 20, 1880, and was laid to rest in Oakford cemetery. She was the mother of ten children, of whom four are now living, namely: Henry D., of Meredosia, Morgan county, Illinois; Melissa, wife of J. D. Lounsberry, Taylor M. and Frank A., all three residents of Menard county. For his third wife Mr. King wedded Mary A. Bell, the marriage being celebrated December 6, 1883. She survives him.

Mr. King died on the 18th of October, 1899, and his remains were interred in Oakford cemetery. He was a progressive and successful farmer and upright citizen, being held in high esteem in the community where he had so long made his home.

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#### ALEXANDER H. STONE.

Alexander H. Stone is the owner of a fine farm in township 19. His home is surrounded by beautiful maple trees and fruit trees are also seen there. Flowers likewise adorn the lawn and there are many evidences of comfort and prosperity. Mr. Stone was born July 28, 1838, in Menard county, his parents being Ambrose L. and Catherine (Walker) Stone, in whose family were six children: Boone David died July 4, 1854, at the age of twenty-three years; William W. is now living in Greenville; Jane E. died in November, 1888; James A. died July 6, 1868; Mary A. is living in Missouri; and Alexander H. is the other member of the family.

Alexander H. Stone remained with his parents in the days of his boyhood and youth and pursued his education in the subscription and public schools of Menard county. He was taught to realize the value of industry and honesty in the active affairs of life and these qualities have been numbered among his ster-

ling characteristics throughout the period of his manhood. He now successfully carries on general agricultural pursuits and is the owner of an excellent tract of land of two hundred and fifteen acres. When he took possession thereof it was all open prairie, but he has plowed and planted the land, developing rich fields, and has also set out fruit and shade trees until at the present time his home is surrounded by tall and stately maples and fine fruit trees. There are also flower beds in his yard and the attractive surroundings of the place indicate the refined and cultured taste of Mr. and Mrs. Stone.

Mr. Stone remained with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated on the 22d of September, 1864, Miss Minerva Kincaid becoming his wife. Her father, William C. Kincaid, was born February 16, 1813, and died December 24, 1895. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Berilla N. Hill, was born February 2, 1821, and died July 5, 1899. They removed from Kentucky to Illinois in 1854, and purchased eighty acres of improved land at twelve dollars per acre. Mr. Kincaid also bought twenty-five acres of timber land, from which he afterward cleared the trees. His business was general farming and stock-raising and he carried on agricultural pursuits upon his old homestead farm until the 1st of November, 1889, when he and his wife left their old home and went to live with their daughter, Mrs. Stone, with whom they remained until called to their final rest. Both were members of the Presbyterian church and were widely known as devoted Christian people. Mr. Kincaid served as township treasurer for a number of years and gave his political allegiance to the Republican party. Unto him and his wife were born three children, of whom Mrs. Stone is the eldest. By her marriage she has become the mother of two children, a son and daughter: Lee C. and Hattie B. The latter is at home with her parents. The former, born March, 23, 1868, was married February 12, 1895, to Alpha Johnson and they have two children, Carroll L., born November 19, 1895; and Alpha M., born October 24, 1901.

After his marriage Mr. Stone settled upon his present farm, in 1861, and has since re-

sided there. He served as school director for fifteen years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He votes with the Republican party and, like every true American citizen should do, gives his earnest support to the political issues which he advocates. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and their many excellent traits of character have won them the warm regard of all with whom they have been associated in both business and social life.

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#### GEORGE A. WARING.

George Addison Waring, formerly identified with commercial pursuits in Petersburg, but for a number of years a representative of the agricultural interests of Menard county, lives upon what was originally the Thompson farm, two and a half miles northwest of the county seat. He is a native son of Menard county, born on the 12th of October, 1856, his parents being George G. and Elizabeth (Clark) Waring, who are represented elsewhere in this volume.

George A. Waring attended the country schools until 1874, when he entered the State University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and in 1875 he attended the Springfield Business College, from which he was graduated the following spring. Returning to his native county, he engaged in merchandising on his own account at Chandlerville, Illinois, in 1876, there remaining until 1881, when he removed to Petersburg, where he was connected with merchandising until he took up his abode upon the Thompson farm. Being situated about two and a half miles from Petersburg, the comforts and conveniences of city life are easily obtainable, while those of the farm are being daily enjoyed. Mr. Waring has placed the land under a high state of cultivation and is progressive as well as practical in his methods of farming, so that his labors are attended with excellent results. The farm consists of two hundred acres.

On the 23d of October, 1878, Mr. Waring married Miss Elizabeth A. Thompson, a daughter of Aaron and Amanda Thompson,





MRS. G. A. WARING.



G. A. WARING.





a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume. Her early education was acquired in the district schools and later she attended the Women's College at Jacksonville, after which she taught the Barclay school for six years. She also received a good musical education. Possessing considerable literary ability, she has written many able articles for the local papers, which have received favorable comment here and elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Waring have an adopted daughter, Bernice Marie, who was born in Cumberland, Guernsey county, Ohio, November 15, 1901.

Politically Mr. Waring has always been a Democrat, but never an aspirant for office. In December, 1876, he was made a Mason in Chandlerville lodge, No. 724, at Chandlerville, Illinois, and now holds membership in Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg, Illinois. He has also attained the Knight Templar degree of the York rite, belonging to St. Aldemar commandery, No. 47, of Petersburg, Illinois, and the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite, belonging to the Peoria consistory and to the Mystic Shrine. At present he is serving as junior warden in the commandery and has held other offices in the blue lodge.

#### GEORGE W. GRAHAM.

After many years' active connection with agricultural interests, George W. Graham is now living retired and his rest is well merited, for he worked persistently and indefatigably in former years, thereby gaining the competence that now enables him to put aside further business cares. He is a native son of Ireland, his birth having occurred in County Westmeath on the 28th of November, 1832. His parents, Mathew and Ann (White) Graham, were also natives of that country, of Scotch descent, and on emigrating to America in 1851 settled in New Jersey, where the father carried on farming until his death, which occurred in 1855, when he was sixty-five years of age. His wife survived him for about five years, passing away in 1860.

Mr. Graham, of this review, pursued his studies in the schools of his native country and

in New Jersey, and after putting aside his text-books he began farm work in that state. Believing, however, that he might have better business opportunities in the middle west, he came to Illinois in 1856, locating in Fancy Prairie, Menard county, where he rented a tract of land and continued its cultivation for about three years. On the expiration of that period with the money that he had gained through his industry and economy he purchased eighty acres of land and began improving it, erecting thereon a good house and other buildings. He afterward bought eighty acres additional and subsequently secured forty-three acres more and now owns one hundred and twenty acres of very fine and productive land, his farm yielding to him a good financial return. Year by year he performed the work of plowing, planting and harvesting as one of the energetic and successful agriculturists of his community, but in 1889, having acquired a comfortable competence, he retired from the work of the fields and removed to Athens, where he purchased his present residence—a fine large home. It is fitting that he should spend the evening of his life here, surrounded by many of the comforts and luxuries that go to make life worth the living.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Graham proved his loyalty to his adopted country by enlisting in 1862 as a member of Captain Burnap's company—Company F, of the First Illinois Cavalry. He was in Missouri and Arkansas during the greater part of the time, participated in one engagement in the latter state, but in July, 1862, he was honorably discharged at St. Louis, and then returned to his home.

In April, 1865, Mr. Graham was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Susan Young, a daughter of William P. Young, one of the early and honored pioneer settlers of this county. Her death occurred February 15, 1903, and was greatly deplored by many friends, who esteemed her for her excellent qualities of heart and mind. She held membership in the North Sangamon Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Graham is also a member. He belongs to Pollock Post, No. 1, G. A. R., and has been a member of the school board and also

school trustee. His co-operation has always been counted upon to promote measures for the substantial upbuilding and improvements of the community, with which he has now been identified for almost a half century and where he has so directed his labors as to win success and also gain the good will and trust of his fellow men.

### CORNELIUS T. BEEKMAN.

Cornelius T. Beekman, who is filling the position of postmaster of Petersburg for the second term, was born in Menard county, April 13, 1854, and is a representative of one of its old and honored pioneer families. His ancestors in the paternal line resided in New York, his great-grandfather, Samuel Beekman, and his grandfather, Cornelius T. Beekman, having both been natives of the Empire state. William T. Beekman, the father, was born in Somerville, New Jersey, February 23, 1815, and in 1837, when about twenty-two years of age, he came to Menard county, settling in Clary's Grove district. That was the period of early development, when the county was just emerging from frontier conditions and taking on the improvements of an advanced civilization. Much yet remained to be done in that direction and Mr. Beekman bore his full share in the work of public improvement. He settled upon land which he secured from the government and which is still in possession of the family. It was then wild and uncultivated, but he at once began to transform it into tillable fields and in due course of time garnered rich harvests there. He remained upon the old homestead until 1861, when he became interested in the construction of the old Petersburg & Tonica Railroad, now a part of the Chicago & Alton system. After its completion he was made its superintendent, which position he filled for fourteen years and was thus actively associated with the era of early railroad building and operation in Illinois. He also became one of the owners of the Home Woolen Mills, of Jacksonville, which were destroyed by fire in 1871, and he then returned to the old homestead and devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits un-

til 1896. In that year he established his home in Petersburg, where he lived in honorable retirement from further labor until his death, which occurred August 14, 1899. He had long figured prominently in public affairs in Menard county, both by reason of his activity in business and also because of his influence and labor in political circles. He twice represented his district in the state legislature and by giving careful consideration to each question which came up for settlement and by stalwart support of the bills in which he believed, he left the impress of his individuality for good upon the legislation enacted during those sessions. He was indeed a public-spirited man and in his death Menard county lost one of its valued and worthy citizens. In early manhood he married Miss Mary C. Spears, who was born in Clary's Grove, Menard county, and the records go to show that she was the first white female child born in the county. In the family were ten children, five sons and five daughters.

Cornelius T. Beekman, the sixth in order of birth, was educated in the district schools and in Knox College, of Galesburg, Illinois, and Shurtleff College, at Alton, Illinois. He spent two years in the former institution. Of the latter his father was a trustee for many years and held a life membership. On completing his education Mr. Beekman returned to the old homestead farm and devoted a number of years to farm work. He also engaged in dealing in stock from 1879 until 1886, after which he turned his attention to school teaching, following that profession for seven years, gaining a creditable reputation as a successful educator, whose schools were noticeable for good discipline and satisfactory mental progress. In 1893 he was appointed a member of the reception committee in the Illinois building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where he spent the summer. He afterward engaged in bookkeeping in the agricultural implement store of William E. Wilms, and in 1897 he was appointed postmaster, while in 1902 he was re-appointed to that office by President Roosevelt. He is therefore serving for his second term and the citizens of Petersburg find him an obliging, courteous official, prompt and faithful in the discharge of his

duties and the administration of the affairs of the office.

On the 22d of April, 1880, Mr. Beckman was married to Miss Lula Kuechler, of Springfield, Illinois, a daughter of Dr. C. F. Kuechler, a native of Germany. They were the first couple married in the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Petersburg, Rev. R. D. Miller, the writer of this history, officiating. Miss Beckman's parents were also the first couple married in the old Baptist church, which stood on the southwest corner of Adams and Seventh streets, Dr. Bailey officiating. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Beckman are: Carl O., at home; Harry E., who is assistant in the postoffice; Ferdinand K., Meta Louise and William T., also under the parental roof.

Mr. Beckman is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. His interest in his native county is manifest by his active co-operation in many movements for the general good, yet he is content to do his duty as a private citizen. Many who have long known him prize his friendship, which indicates his life to have ever been honorable and upright.

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#### HENRY GLEASON.

Henry Gleason is one of Illinois' native sons, progressive and enterprising and manifesting in his business career the elements that lead to success. He is accounted one of the substantial farmers of township 19, where he has now lived for thirty-nine years. He was born near Alton, Illinois, August 25, 1854, and is a son of Patrick and Mary (Smith) Gleason. The father, who was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1818, died January 1, 1903, at the age of eighty-four years. He had come to America about fifty-five years ago and carried on farming in New York and later removed to the west, settling first upon a farm near Alton. Forty years ago he came to Menard county and for almost three decades remained upon what became known as the old Gleason homestead. He then removed to Lincoln, Illinois, where he continued to reside until his demise. His widow still occupies the home there. They were married February 17, 1848, in Lansing-

burg, New York, Mr. Gleason being then twenty-six years of age, while his wife was twenty-eight years of age. Their living children are: Thomas, who resides in Pekin, Illinois; Henry, of this review; and Mrs. James Coady, of Milledtown, Illinois. One son, Michael, was killed about twelve years ago in an accident in the old Froer shaft at Lincoln and his funeral was held May 3, 1892, at St. Joseph's church, Father Mulgrew officiating, and the interment was in Holy Cross cemetery. Mrs. Bridget Ryan, another member of the family, died August 30, 1903, while Miss Mary Gleason died April 13, 1903.

Henry Gleason was brought by his parents to Menard county and reared upon the old home farm here. He is indebted to the public-school system of the state for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and which fitted him for life's practical duties. He lived with his parents until twenty-two years of age and gained intimate knowledge of farm work during that time. He then began farming on his own account, renting a tract of land adjoining the old home place. Here he has since lived and he now owns ninety-seven acres of land which is well improved. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and he has a fine home which he erected. In the rear of this stand large and commodious outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. The home is surrounded by fine shade trees and there are also many other trees which he has planted. Everything about the place is neat and attractive in appearance and indicates the careful supervision of an enterprising owner.

On the 21st of December, 1876, Mr. Gleason was married to Eliza J. Wark. Her father, Stephen Wark, was born in Ireland, July 12, 1825, and was fifteen years of age when he came to the United States, establishing his home in Indiana. He was married July 30, 1840, to Patsey J. Knowles and at an early day they came to Menard county, where Mr. Wark entered land from the government, securing two hundred and forty acres, which he improved and made his farm up to the time of his death. When the Civil war was in progress, however, he put aside all business and personal considerations in order to aid his country and

enlisted for three years' service in the Union army. At the end of that time he was honorably discharged, but he returned home with impaired health and never recovered his former strength. He was active in support of all measures for the general good and for three years he served on the school board as a director. His political allegiance was given to the Democracy. His death occurred February 9, 1872, and his wife passed away on the 23d of March, 1883. They were the parents of the following children, who are now living: Lucilla E., who resides upon the old home farm; Joseph, of Menard county; Jesse K., also on the home farm; Marion, who is now living in Barton county, Missouri; Mrs. Gleason; and Mrs. Emily O. Perry, of Oklahoma.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gleason has been blessed with two children: Ida E., who was born September 19, 1877, and is now the wife of Michael Dorgan; and Rosa M., who was born June 16, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Gleason have a wide acquaintance in Menard county, where they have so long resided, and their many sterling traits of character have made them popular with a large circle of friends.

#### CYRUS J. McDOEL.

Not many years after the landing of the Pilgrims our subject's ancestors were obliged to flee from England on account of political trouble and in company with twenty or more families sought an asylum with the people of the Massachusetts colony, settling in the wilderness where the Indians were far more numerous than the white men. In the party were four brothers by the name of Varnum, two by the name of Coblurn, two by the name of Eastman and two others by the name of McDoel. These men settled in Massachusetts, reared large families, and from them descended the large line of the people of those names who are scattered all over the continent from Maine to California. Three or four generations of them had been reared before the Revolutionary war. Our subject's ancestors took an active part in subduing the red men of the forest. Two Varnums were killed by the Indians while exploring the Connecticut river, and Alexander

and George McDoel were killed at the battle of Plattsburg during the war of 1812. There were both Varnums and McDoels in the battle of Bunker Hill, and bore a prominent part in the engagement which led to Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga. The Varnums owned land across the river from Lowell, Massachusetts, and also owned the fishery at the falls of the Merrimack. Back in the eighteenth century Robert McDoel was married to Mercy Varnum, thus uniting the descendants of the families of two of the men who had fled to America together four generations previously. Robert McDoel was born in Massachusetts and his wife in New Hampshire. Unto this couple was born a son, in November, 1798, to whom they gave the name of Varnum McDoel. He was a first cousin of General Stark, of Revolutionary fame. In 1824 Varnum McDoel married Elizabeth Jay, at Dryden, Tompkins county, New York. She was born near Goshen, Orange county, that state, in 1800, and was a daughter of Captain Joshua Jay, a second cousin of the diplomat John Jay, who signed the treaty of peace between America and England. Mrs. McDoel was a descendant of the Hollanders who settled New York.

Cyrus Jay McDoel, of this review, was born in Chenung county, New York, April 10, 1829, and is a son of Varnum and Elizabeth (Jay) McDoel. In 1856 he removed to northwestern Missouri and settled in Nodaway county, but remained there only two years, when he came to Illinois and located at Atterberry, Menard county. On the 18th of March, 1859, he was joined in marriage to Caroline Robertson, who was born in New York, April 23, 1823.

Mr. McDoel is a man of keen judgment, shrewd business foresight and industry and he has acquired a comfortable fortune, owning a large farm in the neighborhood of Atterberry and other lands. Several years ago he purchased a fine residence in Petersburg and retired from the farm, living in town in ease and comfort. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, and in religious belief is a Methodist. He and his wife are in good health for people of their age and enjoy the fruits of their former toil.



MR. AND MRS. C. J. McDOEL.





No couple stand higher in the community than they.

### GEORGE H. WINTERBAUER.

George H. Winterbauer, classed with the practical and progressive farmers of Fancy Prairie township, was born in Menard county, November 13, 1864, and as the family name indicates is of German lineage. His father, Adam Winterbauer, was born in Germany, December 11, 1832, and came to America about fifty-four years ago, landing at New Orleans, where he was quarantined for a time, because of a cholera epidemic. Proceeding northward to St. Louis, he soon afterward secured employment in Belleville, Illinois, at the blacksmith's trade, which he had learned in the fatherland. Subsequently he removed to Springfield and thence went to Petersburg, Menard county. He also worked at his trade in Athens and Greenview and he had a blacksmith shop at the Four Corners, east of Athens. Later he purchased twenty acres of land near Fancy Prairie, afterward added twenty-two acres and built thereon a shop and house. As he found opportunity he made other purchases, securing at times different tracts of twenty-eight, thirty, forty, eighty and then another forty acres, making in all two hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, a part of which was wild prairie when it came into his possession, but his labors transformed it into productive fields, which bore rich harvests. He gained his start by working at the forge, but as his financial resources increased he was enabled to purchase more land and he gave his attention more and more to agricultural pursuits and became a prosperous farmer.

It was after his arrival in Illinois that Mr. Winterbauer was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Cundiff, who was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, August 24, 1839. Twelve children were born unto them, of whom eight died in youth, while two sons and two daughters are yet living. Susie M., the eldest, is the wife of George W. Duncan, a resident of Freeport, Kansas. George H. is the second. Mary C. is the wife of Edgar Mott, formerly

of Freeport, Kansas, who owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in that state, while in Athens he has a house and lot, and he makes his home in Fancy Prairie, where he owns residence property. Philip C. married Miss Catherine McMahon and is living in Menard county.

To the public-school system of his native county George H. Winterbauer is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed in his youth. He attended school in the winter months and in the summer season assisted in the work of the home farm. When twenty-three years of age he was married and began farming on his own account. On the 3d of April, 1888, he wedded Bridget Coady, a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Turner) Coady. Her father was born in Ireland and at the age of eighteen years came to this country, landing at New York city. He worked in New Jersey for a time and then came to Illinois. After being employed by others for a brief period, he began farming for himself on land which he purchased in Menard county and he bought at different times until he had three hundred and twenty acres, all in one body. He broke and improved the greater part of this himself. There are two houses upon that farm and they are occupied by two of his sons, while Mr. Coady and his wife are residing in Athens, he living a retired life. They also own six other houses in Athens, which they rent, and Mr. Coady has three hundred and twenty acres of land in Kansas, on which one of his sons is living. Unto him and his wife were born fifteen children, and four sons and four daughters are yet living: James, who married Anna Gleason and resides in Logan county; Mary Ann, the wife of Alex. Gigoux, of Kansas; Mrs. Winterbauer; John, who married Emma Bellmay and resides in Kansas; Michael, who married Mary Murray and lives on the old homestead; Anna, twin sister of Michael and the wife of Benjamin Wallsmith, of Menard county; Peter, who married Margaret Gleason and is living on the old homestead; and Katie, who is the wife of James Coughlin, of Sangamon county.

Mr. Winterbauer, at the time of his marriage, began farming on one hundred and sixty acres of land and for many years there carried on

general farming and stock-raising with good success. He now has forty acres of land in his home place, and, his old home having been destroyed by fire, March 2, 1892, he has built a nice modern residence, which he now occupies. He also has one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas, which brings to him a good rental. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Winterbauer has been blessed with seven children: John P., born July 18, 1889; Andrew A., born December 11, 1891; Maggie, who was born March 5, 1894, and died on the 11th of the same month; George H., born April 17, 1895; Adam, born September 16, 1897; Katie F., born February 11, 1900; and William L., born August 5, 1902.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Winterbauer is a Modern Woodman, belonging to Main camp, No. 5924, of which he is a charter member. He votes with the Democracy and gives unfaltering support to its principles. At this writing, in the fall of 1904, he is serving as clerk of the school board. He is a worthy citizen of his native county. In his business he is reliable and in other relations of life manifests many commendable traits, so that his friendship is valued, and in the regard of his fellow men he holds an enviable position.

#### GEORGE R. BLAIN.

George R. Blain, interested in general farming and successfully conducting his business affairs, was born on the old family homestead in Menard county, February 8, 1861. He is a son of William and Ann (McCrudden) Blain, both of whom are natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to Canada, and about a half century ago they took up their abode in Menard county, where they spent their remaining days. In their family were four children, two sons and two daughters, William J., a resident of this county; Annie, who died at the age of twenty years; George R.; and Matilda J., the wife of Frank Denton, a resident of Conway, Iowa. Throughout his business career the father carried on his agricultural pursuits and was classed with the respected and substantial farmers of Menard county, enjoying the warm friendship and high regard of many. He died

October 19, 1902, and his wife, surviving him, almost a year, passed away on the 13th of October, 1903.

Under the parental roof George R. Blain was reared and his boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farmer lads of that period. He attended the public schools during the sessions and in the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the farm, thus gaining a practical knowledge of the business which he has made his life work. He continued to assist his father until after he had attained his majority and later they were associated in business together until the father's death. He still resides upon the old homestead and is now farming two hundred and twenty acres of land. His fields are well tilled, yielding to him rich harvests, and he is also engaged in the raising of cattle, hogs and horses for the market. This branch of his business is likewise profitable and he now secures a good financial return each year for his untiring and well managed labors.

On the 20th of August, 1902, Mr. Blain was united in marriage to Miss Susie Graham, a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Goodpasture) Graham, both of whom are still living in Menard county. The father was born in Ireland in 1827 and in early life came to the United States. In Illinois he was married to Miss Goodpasture, whose birth occurred in this state in 1840. For a long period he engaged in agricultural pursuits, but during the past four years he has lived retired in the enjoyment of his former toil. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Graham have been born six children, but three of the number died in early childhood, and the others are Lizzie, now the wife of James Burrus, who is living near Greenvew, Menard county; Mollie, a resident of Athens, this county; and Mrs. Blain, who by her marriage has become the mother of one daughter, Erma, born on the 27th of July, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Blain are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and are interested in its work and in the moral development of the community. In fact, their influence is ever on the side of right, justice, reform and progress. In his political views Mr. Blain is a Republican, having always supported the party since casting his first presidential bal-

lot, but he never seeks or desires office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, being capably conducted, are now bringing to him desirable prosperity.

#### JOHN T. BEEKMAN.

John T. Beekman, now deceased, was for many years a respected and worthy citizen of Menard county and was also an honored veteran of the Civil war. He possessed many sterling traits of character that gained him the good will and confidence of those with whom he was associated and his memory is yet held dear by those who knew him.

Mr. Beekman was born at Clary's Grove, Menard county, on the 28th of March, 1813, a son of William T. and Mary (Spears) Beekman. The father was a native of New Jersey and was of German descent, while the Spears family was of English lineage and formerly lived in Virginia. The maternal grandmother of Mr. Beekman was in her maidenhood Elizabeth Todd. William T. Beekman removed from New Jersey to Illinois in 1836, settling at Clary's Grove, where he purchased land and began the development of a farm. Later he removed to Petersburg, subsequently again engaged in farming, and still later he took up his abode in Petersburg, where he continued to reside for forty years.

In his parents' home John T. Beekman spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and his preliminary education, acquired in the public schools, was supplemented by study in Jacksonville College. He was but nineteen years of age when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union, enlisting in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry as a sergeant. He went through the war without a wound, although he participated in a number of important engagements and was often in the thickest of the fight. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Wyatt's, Peachontas, Tupelo, Oldtown Creek, Waterford, Blue Creek, Nashville and the siege of Mobile. He never faltered in the performance of any duty, and

when hostilities were over and the stars and stripes were floating triumphantly over what had been the capital of the Southern Confederacy, he received an honorable discharge on the 3d of August, 1865. To the defenders of the Union the country owes a debt of gratitude which can never be paid, and the name of Mr. Beekman is upon the roll of honored dead who made creditable records as soldiers of the Civil war.

The war over, Mr. Beekman returned to his home. He was married on the 1th of February, 1867, to Miss Sarah C. Colby, a daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Ingalls) Colby. She was the third in order of birth in their family of six children: William Davis, who lives in Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois; Mary E., who resides in Petersburg township; Mrs. Beekman; Henry Herriek, who resides upon a farm bordering Rock creek; Lydia Maria, who married H. P. Rucker and resides in Boston, Massachusetts; and George Grovenor, who is residing upon the old home farm. Mrs. Beekman was educated in the country schools, in Petersburg and at Indian Point, having good educational privileges. By her marriage she became the mother of four children: Lucy Maria is the wife of Thomas M. Robertson, and they reside with her mother. They have three children—Harris M., eleven years of age; Arthur B., aged eight years; and John T., who died in infancy. Flora Bell, Mrs. Beekman's second daughter, died in infancy. Francis Ingalls also died in infancy. J. Colby Beekman married Kate E. Golden and resides upon a farm north of his mother's home.

Mr. Beekman was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, being one of the founders of the post at Tallula. His political views were in accord with the principles of the Republican party, to which he gave an unflinching support and he belonged to the Baptist church, of which his widow is also a member. After his return from the war he continuously followed farming until his death, which occurred July 10, 1888, his remains being interred at Roschill cemetery. He had ever been found trustworthy

in his business transactions and his farming interests were carried on systematically and carefully, so that he became the possessor of a good and well improved property. His friends found him faithful, his county knew him as a loyal citizen, but his best traits were reserved for his home and family, and his wife and children found in him a devoted husband and father.

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#### W. A. MUDD, M. D.

Dr. W. A. Mudd, whose careful and conscientious preparation for the practice of medicine has enabled him to perform most valuable service in behalf of his fellow men in the line of his profession, is now practicing in Athens. He was born near Greensburg, Green county, Kentucky, January 19, 1847, and is a son of Dr. Henry L. and Arabella Simpson (Cass) Mudd, who were also natives of Kentucky, the former born in Lebanon, February 11, 1809, and the latter in Winchester, Clark county, Kentucky, on the 7th of April, 1816. The father was a graduate of Transylvania University of Lexington, Kentucky, with the class of 1832, and was a class-mate of Professor L. P. Yandell, Sr. Following the completion of his course of study he practiced medicine in Kentucky for many years, but at length retired from active connection with his profession in Louisville in 1870. His death occurred in the state of his nativity, July 30, 1889, and his wife passed away at the home of her son, Dr. Mudd, in Athens, Illinois, March 4, 1889. Dr. Henry Mudd was a school-mate and cousin of Abraham Lincoln and the strong friendship which sprang up between them in their boyhood days continued throughout their after life. During the period of the Civil war President Lincoln offered to Dr. Mudd anything that he desired, but the latter's reply was that all he wished was to be left at home and his property protected, and this was done.

Dr. W. A. Mudd acquired his early education in private schools in Lebanon, Kentucky, afterward attended the Fales Seminary of that city in 1862, and in 1862 and 1863 was in Geth-

semane, Kentucky, where he was located at the time Bragg's army marched through. In 1865-6 he was at St. Mary's and he afterward attended the high school at Louisville, Kentucky, and the Hollingsworth & Johnston Commercial College, pursuing his studies there in the night sessions. During the daytime he attended lectures in the university at Louisville and was graduated in medicine on the 1st of March, 1870. He afterward received practical training in the City Hospital, having been elected interne in 1869. He was married on the 21st of September, 1870, to Miss Mary Virginia Merrell, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, and she passed with him through all the vicissitudes which usually attend a young physician. They located at New Haven, Kentucky, where he was engaged in practice until August, 1872, when they came to Illinois, establishing their home at Buffalo Hart, Sangamon county.

On the 30th of March, 1875, Dr. Mudd removed from that place to Woodstock, McHenry county, where he resided until 1877, when he went to Greenvew, Menard county, locating there on the 7th of November. He continued a member of the medical profession of that city until the 2d of April, 1883, when he came to Athens, where he has now been located for twenty-one years and throughout this period has maintained an enviable position in the foremost ranks of the representatives of the medical fraternity in Menard county. He is a member of the County Medical Society, the Brainard District Medical Society, the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and has been the president of the second named. Through the interchange of thought and experience in the conventions of these organizations he has added largely to his knowledge and reading and investigation have also promoted his efficiency so that he has kept in touch with modern thought concerning medical practice.

In 1884 Dr. Mudd was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, who died on the 13th of August that year, at the age of thirty-two, leaving one son, William W., who was born in Buffalo Hart, Illinois, April 9, 1874. On the 7th of May, 1891, Dr. Mudd was again



*W. A. Mudd*



married, his second union being with Mary A. Daily, of Kentucky, born November 28, 1866. Their children are Lawrence A., who died July 21, 1895, at the age of eleven months; Carrie V., who was born November 7, 1895, and died February 19, 1896; Zephia Eloise, born April 19, 1897; Opha Josephine, born June 29, 1900; and Henry Leo, born June 6, 1903. The parents are members of the church of the Holy Family at Athens. For many years the Doctor labored hard to secure a Catholic church at this place and contributed liberally to the erection of the house of worship. He has served as treasurer and trustee of the church since May, 1903. In politics he is a Democrat, but has always refused public office, though he consented to serve as alderman for several years. While interested in public affairs and co-operating in so far as possible in support of movements for the general good, Dr. Mudd finds that the greater part of his time and attention is claimed by his practice, which is of an extensive and important character and his work in behalf of his fellowmen has made his services in the world of great value.

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#### JOHN E. MUNDY.

In taking up the personal history of John E. Mundy we present to our readers the life record of a prosperous, intelligent and enterprising farmer of township 19. He was born in New Jersey, July 13, 1851, but for more than a half century has resided in Illinois and is thoroughly interested in the middle west, its progress and improvement. His parents were Isaac and Catherine Mundy, who came to this state about fifty-three years ago, locating in Tazewell county, where the father carried on general farming and stock-raising throughout his remaining days. He died in 1866, respected by all who knew him. In his family were eight children: E. R., who was born July 12, 1836, and is living in Lincoln, Illinois; Asenath T., who was born November 8, 1838, and died in 1901; Sarah J., who was born June 28, 1840, and is the wife of R. Hill, of Oregon; James W., who was born November

4, 1842, and is a resident of Lincoln, Illinois; Martha J., who was born December 16, 1843, and became the wife of Daniel Compton, but died in 1899; Jemima, who was born November 18, 1846, and is the wife of Dr. Maston, of Elkhart, Illinois; Mary E., who was born April 1, 1848, and is the wife of Joseph Worth, of St. Louis, Missouri; and John E., who completes the family.

During his infancy John E. Mundy was brought to Illinois by his parents and at the age of eight years he went to live with his eldest sister, with whom he remained for about five or six years. He afterward made his home with Mr. Lyman, an arrangement being entered upon whereby he was to receive three months' schooling and his board and clothing in compensation for his services upon the farm. He continued with Mr. Lyman for about five years and then began working by the month as a farm hand, being thus employed until he rented a tract of land. He continued to operate a farm, which he leased until about five years ago.

In 1884 Mr. Mundy was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca F. Walker, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Mundy) Walker. Her father was born in Adair county, Kentucky, November 7, 1818, and in 1830 became a resident of Irish Grove, Menard county, where he resided continuously until his death. A man of sterling honesty and upright character, he commanded the respect of all with whom he came in contact. In his boyhood days he joined the Presbyterian church in Kentucky and remained a consistent member throughout the entire period of his earthly career, exemplifying in his life the nobler virtues which are inculcated by Christianity. In his home there reigned a spirit of quiet contentment and hospitality. He was faithful in the performance of all his duties, whether of citizenship, of business life or in the home circle. In early manhood he wedded Miss Sarah A. Mundy, who was born August 13, 1823. The wedding ceremony was performed at Middletown by Squire Colby Knapp, on the 30th of April, 1846, and they traveled life's journey happily together for about fourteen years, when on the 24th of April, 1860, Mrs. Walker was called to her



final home. Like her husband, she had shared in the high regard of many friends who esteemed her highly for her many excellent traits of heart and mind. Mr. Walker, long surviving his wife, passed away at his home in Irish Grove, August 6, 1899, at the age of eighty years and nine months, and the funeral services held in the Presbyterian church at Irish Grove were conducted by Rev. C. E. Kalb. In spite of inclement weather, the church was filled by a large number of relatives and friends, who thus testified their respect to the deceased and their sympathy for the bereaved family. Thus passed away one of the honored pioneer residents of the county and one whose memory will long be enshrined in the hearts of those who knew him. In the Walker family were five daughters and one son. Marietta, born August 25, 1841, is now the wife of Dr. S. T. Hurst, of Greenview, Illinois. Alice, born April 26, 1849, is now the wife of George T. Gibbs, and resides on the old Walker homestead. Rebecca E., born October 27, 1851, is the wife of our subject. Henry W., born November 3, 1851, died April 19, 1855. Adda B., born March 6, 1856, is the youngest living member of the family. One child died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Mundy have a fine farm of eighty acres, on which is a new residence which was erected only two years ago. It is surrounded with fine shade and fruit trees and the home is attractive in appearance and gives evidence of the careful supervision of Mr. Mundy. He is a member of the Baptist church at Lincoln, and his wife is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he is independent, voting for principle rather than party. He has led a diligent life, characterized by honorable dealing, and he well merits the prosperity that he is now enjoying.

#### WALLACE WASHINGTON POSEY REED.

Many events familiar to W. W. P. Reed because of his long residence in Menard county are to other citizens of this state merely matters of history. He has witnessed the greater part of the development and upbuilding of this locality, for he cast in his lot here in early

pioneer days. He was born in DuBois county, Indiana, December 20, 1823, and is the second in a family of twelve children, born unto Isaac and Winnie Morgan (Spears) Reed. His parents were natives of Kentucky, but at an early period in the development of Indiana became residents of that state.

W. W. P. Reed was reared and educated in Indiana, spending his boyhood days there amid the environments of pioneer life, but at the age of twenty-three years he came to Menard county, thus entering upon an independent business career. He received no pecuniary assistance, but he possessed strong courage and resolute purpose and upon this as a foundation he has built the superstructure of his success. He first began working for E. D. Powers and afterward he returned to Indiana, where he was employed as superintendent of a gang of men working on the Evansville & Terre Haute Railroad. There he continued for three years and as the result of his industry and economy he accumulated the capital that enabled him to purchase forty acres of land. He then returned to Menard county and invested his money in a tract which proved the nucleus of extensive farming interests.

On the 24th of January, 1856, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Lanterman, who was born May 17, 1836, and unto them were born four children: Winnie, whose birth occurred December 18, 1856; Charles H., born June 3, 1858; A. J., born March 30, 1860; and Charlotte T., born August 25, 1862. The wife and mother died at the birth of her youngest child and on the 10th of September, 1863, Mr. Reed was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Wilcox, who was born August 15, 1835, and is a daughter of George and Mary Curry. There are three children by this marriage: Eleanor Frances, born July 15, 1864; George C., April 9, 1866; and Wallace M., August 25, 1875.

At the time of his first marriage Mr. Reed was engaged in general farming and is now the owner of a good tract of land well improved, which he has acquired through his own labors. He worked hard and persistently, however, to gain this and he certainly deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. In



MR. AND MRS. W. W. P. REED.



Indiana his father lived on what is known as the Polk patch, once the home of Abraham Lincoln. At an early day Mr. Reed drove Mr. Lincoln three different times from Springfield to Petersburg to hold court. He hauled lumber to build the first railroad in Springfield and in many other ways has been identified with the early beginning of central Illinois, its development and progress. He was elected and served as judge of the Indian Creek precinct for sixteen years and his father was one of the first election judges of Menard county. Externally Mr. Reed is a member of Greenview lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M. He has passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and looking back over the past he recalls vividly the conditions which existed in Menard county at the time of his arrival here. His mind bears the picture of a largely unsettled district, the homes being widely scattered, for much of the land was still unimproved. He bore a helpful part in the agricultural development of the county and in his business dealings was found reliable and trustworthy, while in all life's relations he gained the respect of his fellow men by his genuine worth.

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#### CHARLES F. CANTERBURY.

Charles F. Canterbury, a well known and worthy representative of agricultural interests in Menard county, was born within the borders of this county, August 6, 1858, and is a son of Carlisle H. and Emily (Morgan) Canterbury. His paternal grandfather, Asa Canterbury, was born in England, March 1, 1788, and lost his father in early boyhood. His mother afterward removed to Bath county, Kentucky, where he was reared and there he was married to Miss Peggy Hornback, who was born February 6, 1791, and resided in Fleming county, Kentucky, on the opposite side of Licking river from Bath county. As there was parental opposition to their marriage, the young couple made their way to Aberdeen, Ohio, and there their wedding was celebrated. As no license was required in Ohio at that time, a marriage could be solemnized on short notice and many runaway couples there secured the consumma-

tion of their hopes. Returning to Bath county, there were four children born to them during their residence there and subsequently they established their home on the Fleming county side of the Licking river, where three children were born unto them. In the fall of 1826 they removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, becoming pioneer residents of the state.

Carlisle H. Canterbury, the father of Charles F. Canterbury, was born December 5, 1811, in Bath county, Kentucky, and at the age of twelve years was brought by his parents to this state. After reaching adult age he was married on the 11th of August, 1836, to Miss Emily Morgan, who was born in Sangamon county. They had thirteen children, four of whom died when less than six years of age. Of the other nine, Asa married Margaret England, who lives in Ford county, Illinois; Sarah married William Fuquay and also resides in Ford county; William M., who enlisted in August, 1861, for three years' service in the Union Army as a member of Company F, Twenty-eighth Infantry, was taken ill soon after he left Camp Butler and died at Camp Holt, Kentucky, November 7, 1861; Ruth A. is the wife of William H. H. Holland; Oliver P. resides in Sangamon county; Charles F. is the next younger; Newton C. resides near Petersburg; Lincoln G. resides in Buffalo, Wyoming; and Laura E. is the wife of John Evans, a resident of Victor, Colorado.

Charles F. Canterbury is indebted to the district-school system of Menard county for the early educational privileges which he enjoyed. Subsequently he attended the Springfield Business College, and after his return to the home farm he assisted his father in its cultivation until twenty-one years of age, when he assumed the entire management. He then continued the work of general farming upon the old home place until 1899, when he went to Los Angeles, California. He afterward spent one year in Buffalo, Wyoming, where he was engaged in the sheep business. He purchased a flock of three thousand head of sheep and on selling out after two years he had over four thousand head. In the first year he had also sold fourteen hundred head and in the second year five hundred and fourteen, clearing from

these sales in the two years a sum of six thousand, four hundred and seventy-nine dollars and fifty-six cents. After disposing of his sheep Mr. Canterbury returned to Athens and is now conducting his farm, which is pleasantly located two and a half miles southeast of the town. It comprises two hundred and twenty acres of very rich and productive land, constituting one of the best improved farms in the county. Everything about the place is neat and thrifty in appearance and indicates the careful supervision of a practical and progressive owner. He also owns a valuable residence property in Buffalo, Wyoming.

On the 18th of December, 1884, Mr. Canterbury was married to Miss Anna Primm, a daughter of Carlin and Maria (Hurt) Primm. Mr. and Mrs. Canterbury have become the parents of six children: Maud, who died in 1887 at the age of two years; Carl, who was born in December, 1887, and died in 1888 at the age of eight months; Lura May, born December 9, 1892, and is at home; Ruth Mildred, who was born August 21, 1897; Margaret, who was born June 19, 1901; and Charles P., born May 8, 1904.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Canterbury give their allegiance to every movement which tends to promote the moral development of their community. He is a member of the Christian church, while his wife holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Republican, has served as a member of the school board and is identified with Social lodge, No. 424, K. P. In his business career he has manifested strong purpose and laudable ambition and careful management, and by reason of these qualities he has gradually worked his way upward to a position of affluence.

#### LOUIS PIERSON.

Louis Pierson, who is engaged in the sale of wines and liquors in Greenview, was born in Sweden, December 13, 1854, his parents being Peter and Sophia Pierson. The father is still living in Sweden and on the 10th of March, 1904, passed the eighty-fourth milestone on

life's journey. Throughout his business career he has been engaged in the construction of thatch roofs in the summer seasons and in the winter months he has made baskets for holding grain at the time the seed is being sown. He lost his wife when she was forty-eight years of age. They were the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom are living with the exception of the elder daughter, who died at the age of five years.

Louis Pierson was reared in his native country and attended its public schools, but his educational privileges were limited, as it was necessary that he provide for his own support from an early age, and whatever success he has achieved through his business career has come as the direct result of his labor and diligence. He was thirty-two years of age when he came to Menard county, arriving on the 17th of March, 1887. He began working for Andrew Gaddie, by whom he was employed for four months and thirteen days, after which he entered the employ of the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company. He began work at the coal shaft December 15, 1887, and continued in that line of business until May 5, 1896, when he made arrangement to go into business on his own account and on the 15th of June opened a saloon in Athens. There he remained until the 28th of June, 1898, when he came to Greenview, where he has since conducted a saloon with constantly growing success.

On the 12th of September, 1899, Mr. Pierson was united in marriage to Miss Mary W. Pierson, a daughter of David and Julia (Lundelius) Pierson, both of whom were natives of Sweden, the former born December 31, 1843, and the latter November 10, 1842. They were married in Sweden and are now living in Menard county, where the father is engaged in farming and stock-raising. They hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran church. In their family are five children, a son and four daughters, of whom only two are now living: Mrs. Louis Pierson, born March 25, 1875; and Robert G., born January 31, 1879, and now a resident of Menard county. Our subject and his wife have three children: Earl L., born July 13, 1900; Harold T., born February 18, 1902; and Conrad J., born February 15, 1904.

All have been baptized in the Swedish Lutheran church.

Mr. Pierson became a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Athens on the 6th of April, 1893. In politics he is independent, voting for the man whom he thinks best qualified for office. Since coming to this county he has steadily progressed in his business career and he has manifested the diligence and perseverance so characteristic of people of his nationality.

#### ELIJAH J. ARMSTRONG.

Elijah J. Armstrong, whose valuable property of six hundred and eighty-five acres is the visible evidence of his life of thrift, labor and enterprise, was born July 18, 1841, in Jasper county, Missouri, near the city of Carthage, his parents being Ryal and Allie (Jones) Armstrong. The father was of Scotch-Irish and the mother of Welsh lineage. He was a farmer of Tennessee, from which state he removed to Kentucky, and in 1828 came to Menard county, Illinois, when it was a pioneer district, prior to the winter of the deep snow, memorable in the history of this state. He lived first near Little Grove and afterward near Concord church. In April, 1840, he removed to Jasper county, Missouri, where he purchased a farm, becoming the owner of a large tract of land. Later he sold that property with the intention of returning to Illinois, but became ill and died before carrying out this plan. His widow returned to Menard county about 1847, bringing with her eight children. She then purchased a small farm, now owned by Henry Shirding and upon this place she reared her family. John, the eldest, was a farmer, but in his later life lived retired in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where his death occurred. He left a widow and seven children. Eliza is the widow of Isaac M. Watkins and lives with her daughter Mrs. Joseph Bailey. Emeline is the third of the family. Bowling G. died in childhood. Nancy Ann became the wife of Henry Ott and they removed to the west. Robert L. married a Miss Jenkins, who died in Texas, while his death occurred near Guthrie, Oklahoma. They

had seven children, four boys and three girls. Elijah J. was the seventh of the family. Mary J. became the wife of Nelson R. Watkins, of San Marcial, New Mexico, a miner and prospector. They have three sons and three daughters.

Elijah J. Armstrong pursued a common-school education in Menard county and began his business life by working on a farm by the month, receiving from fifteen to eighteen dollars a month for his service. It was his ambition to become a landowner and he first purchased forty acres of swamp land, borrowing the money from William Watkins, better known as "Fiddler Bill Watkins." Mr. Armstrong then began farming in the spring of 1860. On the 20th of September of the same year he was married, thus gaining a companion and helpmate for life's journey. He wedded Susannah Watkins, a daughter of Samuel Watkins, a representative of one of the oldest, best known and most prominent families of this part of the state. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm and here they continued to live, laboring earnestly together, and as the years passed they prospered. Their first home was a log cabin, with a stick chimney daubed with clay, and clay was placed in the chinks between the logs. There was just one door and four windows and the house was covered with clapboards. Later Mr. Armstrong erected another house, which is still standing north of his present residence. The second dwelling was a frame structure, sixteen by eighteen feet, but it in turn was replaced by a more commodious and modern residence. He has also made other substantial improvements and has added to his original farm from time to time until his landed possessions now aggregate six hundred and eighty-five acres. This is indicative of a life of earnest toil, strong purpose and laudable ambition. In former years he worked early and late and in due course of time his labors were rewarded. He has raised grain and fed cattle and the products of his farm have brought to him a good income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were born nine children: Matilda, who died at the age of eighteen months; Samuel, who died when about twenty-one years of age; Mary, who died

in infancy; Ryal, who married Martha Skaggs, by whom he has five children, and is a farmer, grain buyer and dealer in implements, living in Oakford; Kitty, who died at the age of fifteen years; John, who died at the age of twenty-two years; George, who is a farmer residing on the old home place and who married Elsie Davis, by whom he has a little daughter; Joseph, who resides upon his father's farm, a half mile east of the old home, and who married Maude Maltby, by whom he has three children; and William C., who married Fannie Bocker and lives upon his father's farm, a half mile east of the homestead.

Mr. Armstrong has always been a Democrat, supporting the men and measures of the party, yet never seeking or desiring office. He belongs to the Cumberland Presbyterian church and his wife was also a member of that church. Her death occurred December 13, 1898, and her remains were interred in Concord cemetery. Many friends as well as her immediate family mourn her loss. Mr. Armstrong has a wide acquaintance in Menard county, where almost his entire life has been passed and his close adherence to the rules which govern industry and strict unswerving integrity have made him not only a successful, but also highly respected business man.

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#### GEORGE C. SPEARS.

George C. Spears, who, in his business and official life has ever been found a man of honor, worthy the trust and confidence of those with whom he has been associated and who is now living a retired life in Tallula, was born in Green county, Kentucky, April 18, 1822, his parents being Jacob and Letitia (Ewing) Spears. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Spears, Sr., was born in Virginia, February 7, 1757. His son, Jacob Spears, was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, January 17, 1785, and was married in that county on the 26th of December, 1816, to Miss Letitia Ewing, who was born in Frankfort county, Kentucky, June 13, 1799, a daughter of Baker Ewing, who conducted the first land office at Frankfort. In the year 1844, Jacob Spears removed with

his family to Missouri, purchasing land in Lafayette county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He then retired to private life and spent a part of his time in the home of his son George C. and the remainder of the time with his other children in Missouri. Thus he lived for fifteen years, but died at the home of his son George, January 4, 1865. His wife, surviving him about ten years, died in Missouri, April 26, 1875. He was a Whig in his political views, but never held nor desired public office. His wife held membership in the Christian church. In their family were five children, all of whom reached mature years, but only two are now living, the sister being now the widow of Augustus Keller. She resides with her daughters in Kansas City, Missouri, and in Higginsville, Missouri.

George C. Spears began his education in a log schoolhouse, which stood in the midst of the forest in Green county. The teacher believed in the old adage, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," and there were no rules against corporal punishment in those days, Mr. Spears receiving his full share of such. His educational privileges were somewhat limited for in his youth he largely assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, remaining upon the old homestead up to the time of his marriage, with the exception of the period which he spent in the army. He enlisted in Lafayette county, Missouri, June 6, 1846, as a member of the First Missouri Mounted Volunteers under Colonel A. W. Doniphan, one of the grandest men that ever crossed the plains. He was mustered in at Fort Leavenworth and with his command traveled across the plains to Santa Fe, New Mexico, whence the troops were ordered to Chihuahua, Mexico. A battle occurred at Sacramento and Mr. Spears afterward went with his regiment to join General Taylor's forces at Walnut Springs. He was later at Satila and participated in the battle of Buena Vista, after which the regiment was ordered home, proceeding to the banks of the Rio Grande river and thence by boat to New Orleans, where Mr. Spears was honorably discharged, June 26, 1848, arriving home on the 1st of July, after which he resumed work on







GEORGE C. SPEARS.



MRS. GEORGE C. SPEARS.



his father's farm. He is now one of the five surviving members of his company which went to the front one hundred and fourteen strong and returned with ninety-two members. Four are now living in Missouri.

Mr. Spears continued to assist in the cultivation of the home farm up to the time of his marriage, which occurred December 20, 1849, in Clary's Grove, Menard county, Illinois, Miss Elizabeth F. Spears becoming his wife. She was born in Menard county two miles northeast of Tallula, January 31, 1834. Her father, George Spears, was born in Green county, Kentucky, March 19, 1805, within two miles of the home of our subject. He married Maria Blenkinsip, who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, December 15, 1802, their marriage being celebrated in Green county, Kentucky, August 19, 1824. They emigrated to Illinois before the lands were on market and settled upon the farm where occurred the birth of Mrs. Spears, wife of our subject. Her father was a very extensive landowner, having more than twenty-one hundred acres and he divided fifteen hundred acres among his children. Upon the homestead place he remained until his death and was then buried there, passing away August 22, 1892, while his wife's death occurred on the 23d of June, 1878. Mary Neeley, whose sketch is given on another page of this volume, was the grandmother of Mrs. George C. Spears, while Mrs. Spears' mother was a cousin of ex-Vice President Stephenson. Her father was a Whig in his political views and was a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. George C. Spears belonged to a family of five children, all of whom reached adult age, while three are yet living, her brother being John Q. Spears, who is represented elsewhere in this work, while her sister is Mrs. William T. Beekman, also mentioned in this volume.

Following his marriage George C. Spears began farming upon the land given him by his father-in-law—a tract of three hundred and twenty acres in Tallula township. He continued to reside there for some years and he followed farming until 1891, placing his farm under a very high state of cultivation and making many excellent improvements

thereon. He was always progressive and practical in his methods and in his farming operations met with very gratifying success. At length when seventy-two years of age he determined to put aside further business cares and, retiring to private life, he established his home in Tallula, where he now resides. He sold his first property after improving it. He had made a part of the rails used in fencing and he added many modern equipments. After disposing of the property he bought one hundred acres elsewhere in Tallula township and he also has one hundred and eighty-four acres in an adjoining township, while his home in Tallula is a good residence property.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Spears have been born eight children, of whom six are living: William B., born September 17, 1850, married Emma N. Purkapile, and they reside upon a farm in Franklin county, Kansas. They have two sons, J. Glen, born January 24, 1882, and Richard D., born October 1, 1886. Maria L., born March 11, 1853, is the wife of C. W. Green, of Homewood, Kansas, and they have three living children, John Q., Katie Y., and Beulah W. Mary A., born June 15, 1857, died May 27, 1859. R. Yates, born October 30, 1859, married Mary V. Washburn, of Marshall, Missouri, and lives upon a farm in Tallula township. Henrietta C., born February 15, 1863, is the wife of Charles A. Reding who is now in the revenue office at Pekin, Illinois, and they have one son, Ralph S. John R., born February 17, 1865, died July 28, 1866. George W., born May 1, 1869, is now a practicing dentist of Petersburg and married Florence Wood. Pauline B., born October 30, 1870, is the wife of Evens J. Watkins, a farmer residing in Little Grove, Menard county, and they have one son Robert B.

In his political views Mr. Spears was originally a Whig, casting his first presidential vote for Henry Clay and since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch champions. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity in Petersburg about 1865 and belongs to Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., and also to the Royal Arch chapter. For many years he has been a devoted and faithful member of the Baptist

church and is now serving as one of the church trustees. He is a hale, hearty old gentleman, notwithstanding his eighty-two years, possesses a genial, jovial nature and has a remarkably fine voice. In years past his voice was most wonderfully distinct and clear and he could make himself heard for a distance of a quarter of a mile. Mrs. Spears, too, has many attractive qualities, is a pleasing and entertaining lady of sunny disposition. She united with the Clary's Grove Baptist church when she was fifteen years old and has remained a faithful and earnest worker both in church and Sabbath-school, being a teacher for the past forty years. Their home is noted for its generous hospitality, and they are held in highest esteem by a host of warm friends throughout Menard county.

#### THOMAS WILLIAMS.

Thomas Williams, now operating a good farm of two hundred acres in Tallula township, which belongs to Mrs. Sophia Golder, and on which he has now lived for twenty-two years, was born October 30, 1846, in Laurel county, near Lexington, Kentucky, his parents being Campbell and Mary (Box) Williams. The father's people were from Tennessee, while the mother was a representative of an old North Carolina family that was established in Laurel county, Kentucky, at an early date. Campbell Williams also removed to that county in early life and became a farmer there. He was of English lineage, while his wife was of German descent, and for a long period they remained residents of Laurel county, being representative farming people of their community. Their family numbered five children, of whom Thomas is the eldest. The others are: Sarah, who married a Mr. Watts and resides in Laurel county, Kentucky; Eliza, the deceased wife of Wallace Sasser; Elijah, who married Cassie Jones and died in Laurel county, Kentucky, where his widow is still living; and Annie, who died at the age of three years.

Thomas Williams pursued his education in the district schools in the county of his nativity and remained a resident of Kentucky

until twenty-three years of age, when in 1869 he came to Illinois, settling at Pleasant Plains, in Sangamon county. There he secured employment as a farm hand, working for Scott Carson for six years. He was then married and began farming on his own account on a tract of rented land, it being the George B. Welsh farm, near Tallula, in Menard county. This was in about 1877 and he continued to rent for a number of years and then with the capital he had acquired through his industry and perseverance he purchased one hundred and seven acres of land, which he afterward sold. For twenty-two years he has occupied the farm where he now resides. With characteristic energy he began cultivating the fields and now harvests good crops as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the land. He also raises stock and has been quite successful in both departments of his farm work.

In 1877 Mr. Williams was married to Miss Jennie Smith, a representative of an old Ohio family, her people coming to Illinois about 1870. Her father purchased land in Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, and there she remained up to the time of her marriage. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Williams has been blessed with four children: Stella, who was educated at the State Normal school and is now engaged in teaching at the Bone school, making her home with her parents; Gracie, who was educated in the Union school and at Pleasant Plains and is now a successful teacher, having charge of Mongrel school; Thomas H., who died June 26, 1904, at the age of nineteen years; and Oma, who is now a student in school.

Mr. Williams endorses the Republican principles, but was subsequently a Democrat. His study of the questions and issues of the day, however, led him to transfer his allegiance and he has ever been fearless in his convictions and independent in his political views. He was reared in the faith of the Baptist church and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in his life is true to its teachings, exemplifying in his relation with his fellow men the beneficent spirit of the craft. He is a self-made man and deserves great credit for what he has achieved, for he started out in

life for himself empty-handed and has worked earnestly, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path by his unfaltering determination and today he is the possessor of a very desirable farm property.

#### GEORGE T. GIBBS.

George T. Gibbs, who for twenty-four years has been a member of the school board in his district and who is a staunch champion of the cause of education, is classed with the representative citizens of Menard county, where he is now engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He has made his home in Illinois from his early boyhood days, but was born near Baltimore, Maryland, on the 13th of April, 1849. His parents, William J. and Sarah (Cramer) Gibbs, were natives of Maryland, the former born in 1808 and the latter in 1811. The father was a weaver by trade and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. Both he and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, uniting therewith under the ministry of Bishop John H. Vincent. Mr. Gibbs died December 3, 1882, and his wife's death occurred February 19, 1884. They were the parents of seven children, two sons and five daughters: William H., born August 12, 1855, and now living in Jackson, Mississippi; Mrs. Isabella Haines, a resident of Kansas; Mrs. Susan Myers, who resides in Oregon, Illinois; Mrs. Rachel Eldridge, who died in May, 1900; Josephine, who died in October, 1903; George T.; and Mrs. Ella Myers, who is now living in Washington, D. C.

George T. Gibbs spent the first seven years of his life in the state of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, the journey being made by wagon, after the primitive manner of travel of that time. They were seven weeks in making the trip, but at length reached their destination—Mount Morris, Illinois—on the 1st of November, 1856. Mr. Gibbs entered the public schools there and continued his studies in that way until seventeen years of age, after which he spent two years in the Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris. He afterward worked as a farm hand

until 1873 and during the two succeeding years he devoted his attention to teaching school.

On the 3d of August, 1876, Mr. Gibbs was married to Miss Alice G. Walker, a daughter of Joseph M. and Sarah (Mundy) Walker. Her father was born in Adair county, Kentucky, November 7, 1818, and in 1830 became a resident of Irish Grove, Menard county, where he resided until his death. He was an honest, honorable man and in his boyhood days, in Kentucky, he joined the Presbyterian church, of which he remained a faithful member. Throughout his entire life he lived at peace with his fellow men, trying to do right by all, and his sterling worth commanded the respect of those with whom he was associated, either through business or social relations. He married Sarah A. Mundy, who was born August 13, 1823, the wedding being celebrated at Middletown, April 30, 1846. Her death occurred April 24, 1860, and Mr. Walker died at his home in Irish Grove on the 6th of August, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty years and nine months. His was one of the largest funerals ever held in that community, the Presbyterian church, in which the services were conducted, being taxed to its utmost capacity, notwithstanding the weather was unpropitious. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walker enjoyed the love and esteem of all who knew them and their memory remained as a blessed benediction to their many friends. They were the parents of five daughters and one son: Marietta, who was born August 25, 1847, and is the wife of Dr. S. T. Hurst, of Greenview; Alice, born April 26, 1849, wife of our subject; Rebecca F., born October 27, 1851, the wife of John E. Mundy, a resident farmer of Menard county; Henry W., who was born November 3, 1851, and died April 19, 1855; Addie B., born March 6, 1856; and one child that died in infancy.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs has been blessed with nine daughters and one son: Addie M., wife of Robert Burns, of this county; Grant L., at home; Ella F., who is the wife of James Snyder, a resident of Middletown, Illinois; Sadie A., Linnie, Marietta R., Josie, Carrie C. and Minnie E., all at home; and one that died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Gibbs engaged in



teaching school for two years and then began farming. He and his family are living in the same house in which his wife was born. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising and carefully conducts his business interests, so that both branches of his business are proving profitable. He is interested in public affairs and has advocated many progressive measures. He now belongs to the Court of Honor and the Modern Woodmen camp and both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and are deeply interested in its growth and the extension of its influence. Mr. Gibbs has served as school director for twenty-four years, filling that position at the present time, and with the exception of the youngest two, his children are all graduates of the public schools. The family is one highly respected in the county.

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#### WILLIAM D. KNOWLES.

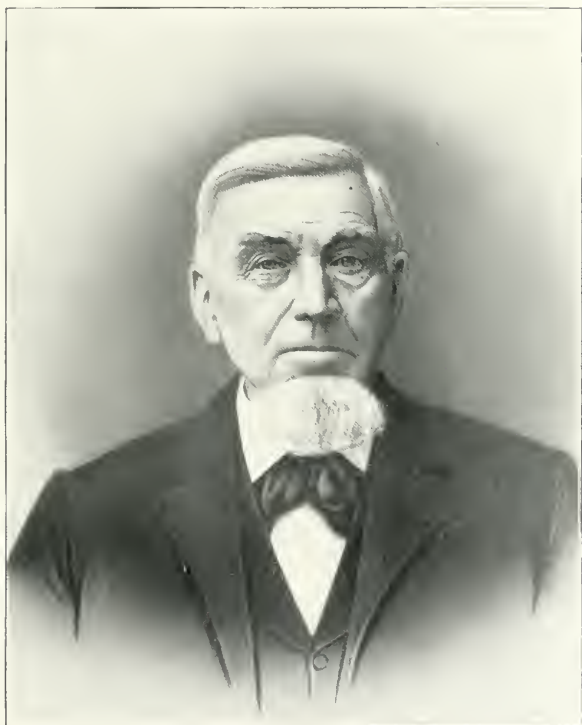
William D. Knowles, numbered among the honored pioneers of Menard county, was for many years actively engaged in farming pursuits, but is now living retired. He has passed the eighty-third mile-stone on life's journey and his has been a useful and honorable career. He has never sought to become prominent in public life, but as a business man and citizen has always been worthy of the respect of those with whom he has been associated and his life record may therefore be well taken as an example.

Mr. Knowles was born in Gibson county, Indiana, October 23, 1821, his parents being Elijah and Margaret (Woods) Knowles. The father, who was born in Georgia, was of English lineage, while the mother, whose birth occurred in Tennessee, was of German descent. They were married in Gibson county, Indiana, where the father followed the occupation of farming until the spring of 1837, when he sought a home in Illinois, settling at Blue Grass Point, in what was then Sangamon county. In the winter of 1841 he removed to New Market, Menard county, where he continued to reside until 1853, when he took up his abode in Texas. After fifteen years he established

his home in Butler county, Missouri, where he died on the 13th of September, 1867, when seventy-seven years of age, his birth having occurred April 22, 1790. His wife, who was born March 1, 1797, died on the 11th of September, 1839, when but forty-two years of age.

William D. Knowles had but limited opportunities to secure an education, but experience, observation and reading in later life have added greatly to his knowledge. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois and was here reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life. He early became familiar with the arduous task of developing a new farm and he continued to assist his father in his agricultural pursuits until twenty-three years of age, when he began farming on his own account on land belonging to his father. He built a log cabin and in that primitive dwelling started out in life for himself. After three years he purchased land on the prairie and again built a log house and a log barn. This was in 1847 and for twenty-eight years he resided upon that place, transforming the wild land into richly productive fields, which returned to him good harvests. On the expiration of that period, however, he bought a farm near New Market, where he resided until 1899, when he took up his abode at his present place of residence. That he has prospered in his undertakings is indicated by the fact that he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land and also some valuable town realty. He has made careful investments of his capital, which was acquired through earnest purpose, diligence and unfaltering labor and now he has a handsome competence that enables him to live retired in the enjoyment of a rest that he has truly earned.

On the 5th of October, 1843, Mr. Knowles was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Chapman, of Scott county, Indiana. They traveled life's journey together for little more than five years, when on the 13th of March, 1849, at the age of thirty years, Mrs. Knowles was called to her final rest. They had two children: James H., of Springfield; and Margaret M., wife of William B. Butler, of Oakland, Iowa. Mr. Knowles has been married again and has reared four children. In addition to



W. D. KNOWLES.



those mentioned. Sarah Elizabeth, born December 18, 1857, died July 3, 1902, while Alice is the wife of William B. Rogers, of Montana.

Mr. Knowles has been a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church since the spring of 1843, joining the first church of that denomination organized in the county. There were thirty charter members, but he is the only one now living. He was made a ruling elder of the church and has taken a very active and helpful part in its work, doing everything in his power to extend its influence and promote its growth. He has close and intimate knowledge of the history of Menard county and its development and can relate many interesting experiences of pioneer life in this part of the state. In 1843 he drove with three yoke of oxen to Chicago, taking a load of wheat to the market there. He forded the Illinois river at Ottawa when the water did not reach to the wagon bed. He brought back groceries and salt. The latter commodity sold for five dollars per barrel and he had purchased it in Chicago at one dollar and fifty cents per barrel, so that he made good profit on his investment. Twenty-one days were required in making the trip, which can now be covered in a few hours. Mr. Knowles has taken a deep interest in what has been accomplished as civilization has replaced the conditions of pioneer life and at all times has favored progress and improvement, bearing his full share in the work of citizenship.

#### WILLIAM E. JOHNSON.

William E. Johnson is living on one of the finest farms of Menard county, owned by his father, the property comprising three hundred and forty acres of very rich and arable land on range 5, township 18, and its splendid appearance indicates the careful supervision of a progressive and practical farmer.

Mr. Johnson was born in this county, May 11, 1850, a son of John and Harriet (Jenison) Johnson. He was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads and acquired a common-school

education. When not engaged with the duties of the schoolroom he gave his attention to work upon the home farm and assisted his father until twenty years of age, after which he spent about a year in DeWitt county, Illinois, where he worked by the month upon a farm. On the expiration of that period he returned home, remaining in this county until the spring of 1880, when he went to Kansas, where he was engaged in stock-raising, handling both cattle and sheep. He remained in Kansas until 1892, when he again returned to the old homestead, on which he has since engaged in general farming and stock-raising. For the past five years he has made a specialty of seed corn, Reid's yellow dent variety. He has won numerous prizes at the Illinois State Fair with his product, in competition with the leading corn growers of the Mississippi valley and received a gold medal as sweepstakes prize from the Illinois commission at the St. Louis exposition in 1904 for the best one hundred ears of yellow corn grown in Illinois.

On the 14th of September, 1882, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Mary Ann Graham, a daughter of Henry C. Graham, whose history is given at length on another page of this volume. She was born June 23, 1858, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children, all yet under the parental roof, namely: Mildred, born August 10, 1883; Addie, born June 7, 1885; and Minnie, born August 26, 1887.

Mr. Johnson is a member of Kincaid Lodge, No. 338, A. F. & A. M., of Kincaid, Kansas; Petersburg Chapter, No. 419, R. A. M.; and St. Aldemar Commandery, No. 47, K. T., of Petersburg. He is also affiliated with the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Peoria, and he belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp, at Athens, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, at Kincaid, Kansas. His wife and daughters are members of the North Sangamon Presbyterian church and the family is one of prominence in the community, having many warm friends in Menard county. Mr. Johnson served as county commissioner for three years and while in Kansas was a member of the school board for eight years, while at the present time he is serving on the school board

of his district. He has been a stalwart Republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and is most enthusiastic in support of the principles of the party. His attention, however, is mainly given to his farming interests.

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#### ANSON THOMPSON.

Anson Thompson, a member of the firm of Thompson, Rosendahl & Company, proprietors of a large department store of Petersburg, is now manager of the grocery and provision section of their business and has contributed in no small degree to the success of the enterprise and to the establishment of its well merited reputation for honesty and fair dealing. A native of Illinois, he was born in Ashland, Cass county, on the 6th of November, 1843, and is a son of James H. and Sarah (Brown) Thompson, both of whom were natives of New Jersey, in which state the grandfather, Anson Thompson, was also born. The father made his way westward to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1836, but soon afterward took up his abode in the Pleasant Plains district of Cass county, there making his home for a long period. He had served an apprenticeship to the trade of carpentering in Philadelphia and he was engaged in building operations in Cass county until 1849, when he removed to Menard county and engaged in agricultural pursuits. Here he spent his remaining days, his death occurring in March, 1878. In business he was reliable and trustworthy, and the success he achieved was attributable entirely to his own efforts and careful management. In public affairs he was also prominent and influential and he was a warm personal friend and staunch supporter of Mr. Miller.

Anson Thompson, the second in order of birth in a family of nine children, was only about six years of age when brought by his parents to Menard county, and in the public schools here he acquired his education. He remained at home until 1866 and then engaged in clerking in the store of John A. Braham. In later years he entered a shoe store, established by Mr. Braham, who appointed Mr. Thompson its

manager, and he continued to conduct the business until November, 1873, when he was elected county clerk. In 1877 he was re-elected and at the end of his second term he retired from the office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of the public. He was ever prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties, regarding a public office as a public trust—and Mr. Thompson has never been known to betray a trust in the slightest degree.

In December, 1882, he started northward, traveling through the Dakotas and spending about a year in that section of the country, engaged in real-estate dealing, in which he met with fair success. In 1884 he returned to Petersburg, where he entered the grocery business in connection with J. D. Wright, under the firm name of Wright & Thompson. After a year he joined Z. A. Thompson and Reak Rosendahl under the firm style of Thompson, Rosendahl & Company, which business relation continues to the present time. For ten years our subject had charge of the dry-goods department and then assumed the management of the grocery and provision department. His capable management, progressive business methods and earnest efforts to please his patrons have been among the most salient features in the success of the firm, and in Petersburg Mr. Thompson is acknowledged an enterprising, reliable merchant, of good ability and executive force.

On the 2d of December, 1890, was celebrated the marriage of Anson Thompson and Mrs. Laura Drake, of Menard county, a daughter of William Langford. They now have one daughter, Helen Thompson. In his fraternal relations Mr. Thompson is a Mason, exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. He has been prominent and influential in public affairs, and his counsel is sought in local political circles. He is a staunch advocate of Democratic principles and has twice been elected to the office of mayor, serving in 1889-90 and again in 1902-3. He was president of the school board in 1901, and is the champion of many measures which have resulted beneficially to his city. His re-election to the mayoralty was indicative of the confidence which he won during his first term and he gave

to the city a practical businesslike administration, characterized by needed reforms and improvements.

#### WALTER W. YOUNG.

Walter W. Young, who resides near Athens in Athens precinct, carries on general farming and is one of the representative business men in his community. He was born in Kane county, Illinois, November 10, 1846. His father, Francis Young, was a native of Paris, France, but was reared in Canada, and later married Rachel Lindsay, of the state of New York. He followed farming in early manhood and in the '30s emigrated westward to Illinois, establishing his home in Kane county, where he also carried on agricultural pursuits. Later he settled in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he remained until about 1878, when he took up his abode in Dawson county, Nebraska. There he spent his remaining days, passing away in August, 1903, at the very advanced age of one hundred and two years and four months. His widow still survives him and is now living in Dawson county at the age of ninety-three years, making her home with a son there. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are yet living: Mary, who is a widow and resides in DeKalb, Illinois; R. F., who follows farming in Dawson county, Nebraska; Mrs. Kate Kearney, who resides at Junction, Nebraska, and is a widow; Elizabeth, who is a widow and lives at Gothenburg, Dawson county, Nebraska; Annie, who makes her home in the same county; Walter W.; L. A., who is living on a ranch in Nebraska; and Jennie, a resident of Dawson county. All have been married with the exception of L. A. Young.

Walter W. Young was educated in the public schools of Illinois and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He assisted in the farm work until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when he joined the army, remaining at the front until after the cessation of hostilities. He was but a young boy when he joined the Union troops as a private, but he was always faithful to his duty and after a time was made a bugler of his regiment. He participated in

all the engagements with the Army of the Potomac and on one occasion was slightly injured.

When his military service was over Mr. Young became a railroad contractor and was thus engaged in business until 1875, when he located on his present farm in Menard county. It was on the 27th of May of that year that he was joined in wedlock to Miss Rose A. Primm, a daughter of Abraham Primm, of this county. Mrs. Young was born on the farm where she still makes her home, her natal day being March 15, 1853. Her father, A. S. Primm, was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, and his wife was a native of Wyandot county, Ohio. He came to Menard county in 1849, settling at Athens, where he engaged in farming for many years. His father had entered from the government the land upon which Mr. and Mrs. Young are now living and they have in their possession the old land warrants signed by John Quincy Adams, then president of the United States.

A. S. Primm continued to carry on agricultural pursuits upon this farm until his life's labors were ended in death on the 22d of October, 1892. His wife also died on the old homestead, departing this life in 1889. Their children were as follows: Mary A., the eldest, born in 1846, is now the wife of Henry Cline and they reside two and a half miles from Athens, owning a fine farm which is located over the Sangamon county border. They have one daughter and two sons, namely: William A., who married Jennie Flagg, of a very prominent family of Sangamon county; Allen Cline, who is living at home; and Jennie, the wife of Young Caldwell, a cousin of Ben Caldwell, ex-congressman from Sangamon county. Their home is near Williamsville, Illinois. Melissa Primm, the second sister of Mrs. Young, is the wife of M. T. Hargrave, who for more than a quarter of a century has been a druggist at Athens and is one of the most prominent business men of his part of the county. He is also active in public life and served as sheriff of Menard county for six years. Unto him and his wife have been born two children, but Lillie Mae died at the age of eleven years. The living daughter is Minnie, wife of Fred W. Ayers, who resides in Athens, and they have three

children: West, who is now five years of age; Mary, four years old; and Hargrave, two years old. Minnie Ephraim, another sister of Mrs. Young, was born January 2, 1851, and died January 8, 1890. She was married to A. P. West, of Logan county, who became a merchant and banker, conducting business in Los Angeles, California, and in Pana, Illinois, for fifteen years. He died January 6, 1904. Lillian Primm, the youngest sister of Mrs. Young, was born April 19, 1855, and became the wife of W. M. Estell, who was admitted to the bar. He did not practice, however, but became a merchant and subsequently he established the first electric light plant at Athens. He owned a very beautiful home near Springfield, where his death occurred October 26, 1903. Unto him and his wife were born two sons: Primm and Harry, both now living.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Young has been blessed with three children, but Grace, who was born August 26, 1855, died in infancy; Ione, born January 30, 1884, was married in 1903, to Arthur Jensen, and they now reside with her parents; Hene, born April 1, 1893, is at home.

Mr. Young is very prominent and influential in public affairs and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He served as justice of the peace at Athens for four years, was a member of the city council for six years and has been road commissioner for three years. The duties of these positions he discharged in a most capable and able manner, showing that the trust reposed in him was well placed. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to blue lodge, chapter and commandery of Petersburg, and he attends the Presbyterian church. He is now practically living retired after a long and active connection with agricultural interests, having in the meantime acquired a competence that now enables him to put aside business cares and rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He is widely and favorably known throughout this county, his abilities well fitting him for leadership in political, business and social life. The terms progress and patriotism might be considered the keynote of his character, for

throughout his career he has labored for the improvement of every line of business or public interest, with which he has been associated and at all times has been actuated by a fidelity to his county and her welfare.

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#### JOHN R. LUKINS.

After many years' connection with agricultural interests John R. Lukins is now enjoying a well earned rest, living retired in Greenview. So active and honorable was he in his business career and so reliable in all life's relations that he is justly accounted one of the representative men of this section of the state and is therefore deserving of mention in this volume.

He was born in Menard county, April 29, 1837, and is a son of Gregory and Elizabeth (Ritter) Lukins. His father, who was born in Kentucky, May 24, 1811, died on the 11th of January, 1892. He arrived in Illinois about 1830, and was married here in October, 1834, to Miss Elizabeth Ritter, who was born in Kentucky, November 24, 1903, and died August 11, 1854. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm of eighty acres, which Mr. Lukins had entered from the government. Later he purchased forty acres additional and subsequently sold the one hundred and twenty acre tract for eight hundred dollars. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land where the Chicago & Alton Railroad depot now stands and lived upon that farm for eight or ten years. He disposed of the property in the spring of 1848 for two thousand dollars, at which time he moved to Sugar Grove and bought two hundred and sixty-three acres of land at seven dollars per acre, continuing the further development and cultivation of that place until 1869, when he bought ten acres of T. D. Hughes, formerly the old Christian church property. He afterward bought twenty acres on the west of a Mr. Brown, next purchased twenty-one and a half acres on the southeast and later twenty acres on the northeast of his ten acre tract. He afterward bought ten acres additional and later four and a half acres, so that the different purchases aggregated sixty-six acres of land. Upon







MR. AND MRS. JOHN R. LUKINS.



GREGORY LUKINS.



STEPHENSON HOLLAND.



MRS. STEPHENSON HOLLAND.



this farm he carried on general agricultural pursuits and as opportunity afforded he added more from time to time to his place until it comprised two hundred and twenty-six acres at the time of his death. He also owned four lots in Topeka, Mason county. His life was crowned with a fair measure of success gained through his persistent purpose, indefatigable energy and honorable dealing. His religious views were in harmony with the teachings of the Methodist church and he contributed generously to its support. Unto him and his wife were born two sons, but the elder, Thomas J., born May 26, 1835, died March 29, 1892.

John R. Lukins, the only surviving member of the family, spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farm lads, remaining on the old family homestead until twenty-four years of age, when his patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and he offered his services in its defense. On the 1st of August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, of the Twenty-eighth Illinois Regiment for three years service and was honorably discharged August 26, 1864, being mustered out at Natchez, Mississippi. The first battle in which he participated was at Pittsburg Landing, or the battle of Shiloh, on the 6th of April, 1862. There a brigade was sent out in order to determine the position of the enemy. General Hurlbut's division was put in line and moved toward the enemy's forces. The night was very dark and the roads very muddy. After some heavy firing, which, however, lasted but a short time, the rebels fell back and the Twenty-eighth Illinois Regiment was called out by the long roll and marched a mile to the front, being assigned to a position on the left of the line in a peach orchard. The enemy immediately attacked, but was repulsed at heavy loss, the regiment holding its position under great odds from eight o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. At nine o'clock in the morning General Grant and his staff rode up and the Twenty-eighth was ordered to hold its position at all hazards, which it did until ordered back by General A. S. Hurlbut, who was in command of the old fighting Fourth Division. In this conflict the regiment of which Mr. Lukins was a member lost very

heavily in killed and wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Kilpatrick was among the killed and Major B. C. Gillan was badly wounded in the left shoulder and his horse was shot from under him. Adjutant J. B. Meade was mortally wounded and his horse was also killed. On the morning of the 5th of April the Twenty-eighth Illinois Regiment held a position on the right of the line and was hotly engaged until the battle closed with victory for the Union troops. Mr. Lukins was wounded in this battle but remained with his regiment until after the battle of Vicksburg, when he was sent home on account of illness. As soon as he had sufficiently recovered he joined his regiment at Natchez and continued with his command until his three years' term of service had expired, doing his full duty as a valiant soldier.

When the war was ended Mr. Lukins turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, beginning farming for himself on eighty acres of land that belonged to his father. Later he became owner of that tract and he continued to successfully conduct his farming interests until having acquired a handsome competence he retired to private life and established his home in Greenville. In his business career he was energetic and progressive and whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion.

On the 6th of February, 1896, Mr. Lukins was united in marriage to Miss Julia A. Holland, who was born in Menard county, March 23, 1853, and was a daughter of Stephenson and Frances (Pace) Holland, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, the former born December 24, 1813, and the latter February 6, 1818. They married January 21, 1849, in Menard county, where for many years Mr. Holland carried on agricultural pursuits. At the time of his death he left one hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land and twenty-five acres of timber land, a part of which he had entered from the government at a dollar and a quarter per acre. He was one of the honored pioneer settlers of this county, taking up his residence here when the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun and as the years advanced he bore his full share in the upbuilding of the county, especially

along agricultural lines. Both he and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and, rearing their children in that faith, had the satisfaction to see all of them become members of that denomination. Mr. Holland passed away March 4, 1875, and his wife died July 31, 1899. They were the parents of seven children: Martha L., born November 4, 1849, was the wife of George Snyder, and died May 13, 1886; May E., born April 12, 1851, is the wife of William Mitchell, a resident of Sangamon county, Illinois; Mrs. Lukins is the third of the family; Eliza J., born October 17, 1854, died October 11, 1874; Ellen F., born August 11, 1856, is the wife of L. K. Goff, who is represented on another page of this work; Louisa A., born June 27, 1858, is the wife of R. Belt, who is living in Missouri; Edward A., born October 25, 1860, is proprietor of a hospital at Houston, Texas, and in his practice there is making a specialty of the treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lukins hold membership in the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Greenview and he belongs to M. Hurst Post, No. 647, G. A. R., in that city. Politically he is a staunch Republican, having supported the party since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He also voted for Richard Yates for governor and has never faltered in his allegiance to the party and its principles. In all matters of citizenship he is as true and loyal to-day to his country and her best interests as he was when he followed the old flag upon the battle-fields of the south.

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#### JAMES O. McKEE.

Kentucky has furnished a large number of citizens to Menard county, whose value in community affairs is widely acknowledged, and to this class belongs James O. McKee, whose birth occurred in Fleming county, Kentucky, on the 17th of March, 1859, his parents being Hiram and Sarah (Ledford) McKee, who were also natives of Fleming county, Kentucky. There the father was reared and upon one farm remained for many years. Both he and his wife died in

the county of their nativity, his death occurring in August, 1882, while she passed away February 28, 1861. His political support was given to the Democracy.

James O. McKee was reared under the parental roof, remaining at home until eighteen years of age, during which time he acquired his education in the public schools there. He then left Kentucky and on the 28th of October, 1877, he arrived in Menard county, Illinois, where he began farming. His attention has since been given to agricultural pursuits and with the exception of two years, passed in Labette county, Kansas, he has remained continuously in this part of the state. His business career has been attended with a gratifying measure of prosperity, all due to his own capable business discernment and unfaltering enterprise.

On the 31st of July, 1881, Mr. McKee was married to Miss Belle McGary, a daughter of Jacob and Martha Jane (Pierce) McGary, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Fleming county, Kentucky. The father was married twice, his first union being with Sarah Adams, by whom he had seven children. His second wife was Martha J. Pierce, and there were five children by that marriage—Mrs. McKee; James Edward; Anna E., who is called Lide; and two that died in infancy. Mrs. McKee was educated in the district schools of Menard county, pursuing her studies in a little schoolhouse about a mile from her home. After putting aside her textbooks she remained with her parents until the time of her marriage, when she went to her husband's home, over which she has since presided with gracious hospitality. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McKee have been born three children: Leslie, born May 27, 1882; Laura Edith, born July 24, 1886; and Pearl, born November 1, 1889. The second daughter, who was born while her parents were residents of Labette county, Kansas, is now secretary of the Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Sunday-school. The other children were born on the home farm, where the family still reside.

Politically a Democrat, Mr. McKee has firm faith in the principles of the party. He and his family are members of the Lebanon Cum-

berland Presbyterian church and he belongs to Greenview Lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M., and Greenview Camp, No. 178, M. W. A. His life has been one of continuous activity, in which he has been accorded due recognition of labor, and today he is numbered among the substantial citizens of his county. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of the northwest, and at all times he is ready to lend his aid and co-operation to any movement calculated to benefit this section of the country or advance its wonderful development.

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### JAMES M. EDWARDS.

James M. Edwards is classed with the leading men of Menard county, and his history is one deserving of high commendation. Well may it prove as a source of inspiration to others for from early boyhood he has been dependent upon his own labors for a livelihood. Moreover he sustains an unassailable reputation in business circles and in Menard county his name has come to be a synonym for honorable dealing. In public affairs he is also prominent and as a county official he has rendered to his fellow men valuable service.

Mr. Edwards was born in Pennsylvania, December 23, 1853, and was a son of John W. and Loretta (McCabe) Edwards, the former a native of Philadelphia and the latter of Maryland. The father was a cabinet-maker and carpenter, and devoted his attention to those trades during his active business life. In the family were six children, but James M. Edwards is the only one now living. When only three or four years of age he was bound out to Edmund Otto, of Pennsylvania, with whom he lived until eight or nine years of age, when he left Mr. Otto and began earning his own living, working in Pennsylvania and in Maryland. After a time he learned the sawyer's trade and operated a sawmill for five or six years. Later he came to the middle west, arriving in Menard county on the 17th of April, 1875. Up to the time of his marriage he worked as a farm hand and then rented land and began farming for himself. As soon as possible he became a landowner, gain-

ing through his earnest labor and economy the capital that enabled him to purchase a small farm. From time to time he has added to this property until he now has extensive possessions. He has continuously followed farming and has also fed many cattle and hogs. He has stall-fed seven hundred cattle in three years for the Chicago market. His business interests are conducted in a most practical way, and his sound judgment, keen foresight and unfaltering energy have been the strong features in his prosperity.

On the 7th of March, 1879, Mr. Edwards was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Trent, a daughter of Henry and Harriet (Clemens) Trent, both natives of Kentucky, the former born January 1, 1799, and the latter February 15, 1812. By his first marriage Mr. Trent had five children, but only one is now living. By his second marriage there were twelve children, of whom five are living, three sons and two daughters. Mr. Trent died June 4, 1883, at the age of eighty-four years, five months and three days, while his wife passed away April 4, 1893, at the age of eighty-one years, one month and seventeen days. Both died in Mercer county, Missouri, where Mr. Trent had followed the occupation of farming and stock-raising. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards has been blessed with five children: Mary E., born December 1, 1879; William, February 21, 1885; Harry M., November 28, 1891; Cecelia M., February 5, 1897; and Beatrice M., January 17, 1901.

Because of his capability and deep interest in his country and her substantial progress Mr. Edwards has been selected for public office. He is now serving his eleventh year as road commissioner and has been three times elected to that office on the Republican ticket. Twice, when he had an opponent in the field, he polled nearly every vote and at the other election the opposition party named no candidate. When he entered the office there were only two steel bridges in the county and now there are ten. He favors substantial progress and permanent improvement and heartily endorses every measure which he believes will prove of practical benefit to the county. For seven years he has served as a member of



the school board and his present term will cover two more years. His public record is above reproach, his service being actuated by the utmost devotion to the county and its welfare. In private life he is equally reliable and his fairness in all business transactions is indicated by the fact that although he has rented land for many years he has never had a dispute over the matter. Thoroughly reliable, he commands the confidence and respect of all by his unfaltering allegiance to whatever duty devolves upon him, and his example is indeed well worthy of emulation, for it proves that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously.

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### EDWARD SHIPP.

One of the best known men of Petersburg is Edward Shipp, who has been connected with the circus for many years and has traveled the world over. He was born in Petersburg, August 26, 1864, and is a son of Role and Parthena Jane (McHenry) Shipp, the former born in Kentucky, in 1828, and the latter in this county in 1831. The father made farming his life occupation, was a Democrat in politics and a prominent Mason. He died in August, 1871. The mother was twice married her first husband being a Mr. Lamkin. By the second union there were nine children, of whom only three are now living—our subject and two daughters: Alice Ann, wife of J. C. Buckley, a retired farmer of Petersburg; and Laura, wife of Thomas P. Reep, who is now serving as states attorney and resides in Petersburg.

During his boyhood Edward Shipp attended the public schools of this county and for one summer worked in the foundry at Petersburg. In 1882 he joined his half-brother, Harry Lamkin, who was then with the Cooper & Jackson circus showing in Petersburg. Two years previous to this time Mr. Lamkin put the first vaudeville show upon the road and our subject went with him as doorkeeper, but they were only out a few weeks as that venture proved unsuccessful as that line of attraction was then too new for the public. On the 19th of September, 1882, Mr. Lamkin secured a position

for our subject as bass drummer in the band with Cooper & Jackson circus, which was a wagon road show and traveled south through Arkansas and Texas. That winter they crossed the Rio Grande and traveled by train through Mexico and were the first to take an elephant into that country. This animal caused so much excitement among the natives that the troops had to be called out to keep them away from the animals. Returning to Laredo, Texas, the company traveled by wagon through that state and came north as far as Indian Territory but were not allowed to exhibit there. While in Kansas in the spring of 1883, the circus attracted many Indians in war paint, cow-boys and a tough element generally.

In December, 1883, Mr. Lamkin built the present ring barn in Petersburg and that winter taught our subject to ride. The same old mechanical arrangement which he used is still to be found in the barn and has been used in teaching a great many prominent bare-back riders, including the Lowande Brothers, Cecil and Alex, and also Oscar, who have become famous the world over. Here other noted riders, acrobats and aerialists have also learned the business. It would be impossible to give the names of all the prominent performers who have either learned or improved their acts under the guidance of Mr. Shipp.

In the spring of 1884 he went upon the road with the oldest showman in the world—P. A. Older, who was formerly a partner of P. T. Barnum and who afterward sold his circus to that gentleman. George J. Crane, who is now a prominent insurance man of Omaha, was then a partner of Mr. Older and furnished the money to carry on the business. On the 6th of January, 1885, Mr. Shipp sailed with the Gardner, Lamkin & Donovan's Great American circus from New Orleans to South America and landed first at Colon, Isthmus of Panama, work on the canal being then in progress. They remained there eight weeks and then proceeded to Kingston, Jamaica, where they spent two weeks, after which they went to Cienfuegos, Cuba, for two weeks. They next visited Santiago and Mr. Shipp well remembers how Moro Castle looked. There the company was





EDWARD SHIPP.



MRS. EDWARD SHIPP.



disbanded and he sailed for New York, arriving there in the middle of March, 1885. That season he was with the Frank A. Robbins' circus, and in the fall of 1885 again started for South America with the circus that he was with the previous winter. They visited Georgetown, British Guiana, where they spent two weeks, from there went to Port of Spain, Trinidad, and up Lake Maracaibo to the City of Maracaibo in northern Venezuela, where they gave a performance on Christmas day, which Mr. Shipp said was the hottest day he ever experienced. They next went to Carthagena, which is one of the oldest cities in South America and is surrounded by walls, and from there they proceeded to the Island Cuaron and on to Colon on the Isthmus, where they gave a special performance at the home of Ferdinand De Lesseps, the French engineer who was then the prime mover in the construction of the canal. There Mr. Lamkin was taken ill with yellow fever and after four days' sickness died in February, 1886, being buried in the noted cemetery at Monkey Hill. Becoming scared and disheartened the company then sailed for New York.

Mr. Shipp was next with Gardner and Nick Roberts, of old Humpty Dumpty fame, and in the capacity of bare-back rider went with their circus to Nova Scotia on a sailing vessel from Yarmouth, stopping at the coast towns along the way, many of which places had never had a circus before. They went as far north as Sidney, Cape Breton, then to Charlottetown, Prince Edwards Island and back to New Brunswick and down through Maine, touring the New England states and spending three weeks at Park Square, Boston. The following fall they again went to South America and Mr. Shipp rode the horses owned by Mr. Lamkin's widow. They gave performances all through the West India Islands and at the city of Panama he contracted the yellow fever but having witnessed many cases before he was able to treat it successfully, though he was ill at the Grand Central Hotel for five weeks, at the end of which time he rejoined the circus. While at Colon they were notified that a rebellion was about to break out and they just escaped before the town was burned, returning to New York in March, 1887. That year Mr. Shipp was with two dif-

ferent shows, one being the Huffman circus. Returning to Petersburg in the fall of 1887, he opened his winter circus, which he has conducted ever since with the exception of two winters spent in Mexico. In the spring of 1888 he joined Ringling Brothers at Baraboo, Wisconsin, and toured the western states by wagon. He rode with Al Ringling. In the fall he returned home.

On the 21st of February, 1889, at Philadelphia, Mr. Shipp married Miss Julia Lowande, who was born in that city, December 26, 1871, and is a daughter of Alexander and Virginia (Guering) Lowande, the former a native of Boston and the latter of the Island of Jamaica, where they were married. Her father was an old circus man and became quite wealthy, owning a large circus in Brazil. He was a personal friend of Dom Pedro the former emperor of that country. He died at Port-au-Prince, Cuba, in 1882, and was buried there, while his wife's death occurred in Petersburg, Illinois, August 23, 1903, and she was laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery. She always accompanied her daughter on her travels up to the time of the latter's marriage. Mrs. Shipp has two brothers who are now bare-back riders with our subject's circus. When only seven years old she was also taught to ride by her father and with her parents she appeared before the public until her father's death, when her mother retired, but the daughter has continued to ride up to the present time. In 1884 she came to Petersburg to visit her half-sister Mrs. Lamkin, who was the widow of our subject's half-brother and it was thus that the young people became acquainted. For two seasons they were together with Mr. Lamkin's circus, but in 1886 Mrs. Shipp toured the eastern states with John O'Brien's circus. The following three seasons she was with Adam Forepaugh and after her marriage joined Ringling Brothers, remaining with them during the season of 1890 and was next with Van Amburgh, touring the northwest as a wagon show. In November, 1891, they went by rail to the city of Mexico, joining Orrin Brothers circus.

On the 4th of December, 1891, at Vera Cruz, Mr. Shipp broke his leg while riding in a jockey act, and a few days later, the leg

being put in a plaster cast by a Mexican physician, he started for the city of Mexico, but as he was forced to ride in the baggage car the rough jolting broke the cast and also the leg in several places. He could feel the bones cutting through the flesh and the pain was terrible during the entire trip. The winter had passed before he recovered, during which time he remained in the city of Mexico. The following season he again signed with Orrin Brothers and toured the entire republic, showing in all the large cities. They took the first train going over the road between the city of Mexico and Oaxaca. In March, 1893, Mr. Shipp returned to the United States and joined the F. J. Taylor circus but the first day out, at Malvern, Iowa, he fell and broke his leg again in the same place, thus ending his career as a bare-back rider forever. He also lost both of his ring horses by death about the same time. His wife continued with the circus throughout the season and rode one of the company's horses. The following winter was spent in Petersburg and in the spring of 1894 they joined the Wood Brothers circus. During the great railroad strike in Chicago that season, the strikers would raise the side walls of the tent and enter without paying. Mr. and Mrs. Shipp were with the Royal English circus and Water Carnival in Chicago and in the fall went to Milwaukee with a similar show. After the winter spent in Petersburg they joined Ringling Brothers in the spring of 1895 at Tattersall's in Chicago, returning home in the fall. Their daughter, Virginia Jane, was born April 19, 1896, and that season Mrs. Shipp remained at home for the first time in her life, but Mr. Shipp joined Wood Brothers. The following fall he returned home and again opened his winter circus. In 1897 they joined Ringling Brothers, Mr. Shipp going as assistant equestrian director under Al Ringling, and he has remained with them ever since in the same capacity. In 1898 he was with the Robinson circus, which was virtually Ringling Brothers property, being leased by them during the season of 1898. In 1902 he was with Ringling Brothers and the following two seasons was with Forepaugh & Sells Brothers, with which show he will remain during the season of 1905

as equestrian director. This is the seventh annual tour of his own circus, known as Shipp's Indoor circus, which gives performances in the theaters of the large cities and is composed of first class performers.

In his political views Mr. Shipp is a Democrat and in his fraternal relations he is a Mason, having joined the order about five years ago and holding membership in Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg. He is also a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Port Huron, Michigan, and the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Shipp is a lady of culture and refinement and one would hardly recognize her in the tinsel and glare of the arena as she appears in her thrilling bare-back riding as the same modest, retiring wife and mother in the home. Notwithstanding her extensive travels and the excitement of appearing before the applauding public she loves the quiet life of her little home in Petersburg and she and her husband have many friends here, being held in the highest regard not only by the citizens of Petersburg but by the people of Menard county in general. This has been the winter home of a great many people of recognized prominence in the circus profession and this is largely due to the popularity of Mr. Shipp. Possibly no one in the business has a wider acquaintance or warmer friends than he. He is a man of shrewd, keen judgment and is cool and collected while handling performances, but he always has a friendly smile and a kind word for all. It is a noticeable fact that his presence in the arena is an encouragement to performers and should they happen to make a mistake in their daring feats or an unsuccessful attempt in the act, his kindly smile and word of cheer seems to imbue them with a desire to excel and hence his wonderful success.

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#### J. C. SHORT.

One of the valuable farming properties for which Menard county is noted is in possession of J. C. Short, the most enterprising agriculturist and one whose success is well deserved, for in him are embraced the characteristics of



an unabating energy, inflexible integrity and strong purpose. He is, moreover, one of the oldest native sons of this part of the state, his birth having occurred May 17, 1824, upon the farm where he now resides. He is a son of William B. and Tabitha (Manner) Short, both of whom are natives of Kentucky. The father spent his early life in that state, was reared to the occupation of farming and always followed that pursuit as a life work. He left Kentucky in order to become a resident of Illinois, settling in St. Clair county, where he remained for a year and a half and then removed in 1819 to a farm now occupied by his son J. C. Short. Upon this place he lived until his death and when he was called away it bore little resemblance to the tract of land which came into his possession. His farm was at first a wild and unimproved region, hardly a furrow having been turned when it came into his possession, but soon the track of the shining plow was seen across the fields and in due course of time the planting of the seed was followed by the gathering of rich harvests. Mr. Short was a man of more than average education for his day and because of his intellectual force and his high character worth he exerted strong influence in his community, which was always given in behalf of justice, truth and improvement. He was numbered among the more highly respected of the old settlers of Menard county and his death, which occurred in 1865, was the occasion of widespread and deep regret in this part of the state. He married Miss Tabitha Manner and they became the parents of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are deceased with the exception of J. C. Short and his brother William P., who is now living at the age of eighty-five years in the enjoyment of good health, making his home upon a farm in Mason county, Illinois.

In the early district schools of Menard county J. C. Short obtained his education and when he had put aside his textbooks he continued upon the farm with his father until he had reached the age of twenty-six years. He then made preparation for having a home of his own and was married on the 27th of December, 1849, to Miss Eliza Wilcox, who was born

October 17, 1817. The young couple removed to Mason county, where Mr. Short carried on general farming for fourteen or fifteen years. They then returned to Menard county and purchased the old Short homestead, upon which he yet resides. He is one of the honored pioneer residents of the county and is a great friend of Jeff Johnson, another venerable citizen of this part of the state. They were school-mates and playmates in youth and as they grew up became partners in many business enterprises, buying stock in the north which they drove to this county. In business as well as in social life their relations have continued mutually pleasant and agreeable and few men are better informed concerning pioneer history in this part of the state than Mr. Short and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Short became the parents of three children, but none are now living. John C., who was born in 1851, died in 1853, and one son died in infancy. The daughter, Mary Clarinda, born August 22, 1852, married Joseph Kincaid and removed to California, where she died January 10, 1900. She had three children, two sons, Harry E. and D. Roy, and a daughter, Ruth Eliza. The sons are now identified with the mining industry of the west and the daughter is visiting Mr. Short, having come from California at his request, he desiring that she should make her home with him in his declining years, for in 1900 he lost his wife who, on the 18th of October of that year was called to her final rest. They had long traveled life's journey together with marked devotion to each other and a most congenial companionship existed between them.

Mr. Short has frequently been solicited to accept public office by his fellow townsmen who have recognized his worth and ability, but he has always declined to serve, preferring to do his duty as a private citizen. Although he has reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey he is still a hale and hearty old man. Old age need not suggest as a matter of course helplessness or want of occupation. Mr. Short is still deeply interested in affairs concerning his county and its welfare and throughout the long years of his manhood has endorsed every measure which he has believed would contrib-

ute to general progress and improvement. His business affairs have been capably managed and he now owns a fine farm, although at a recent date he suffered the loss of his large barn and cribs through fire. He still, however, has a valuable property and it is the visible evidence of his life of thrift and energy.

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#### THOMAS P. REEP.

Thomas P. Reep is actively connected with a profession which has important bearing upon the progress and stable prosperity of any section or community and one which has long been considered as conserving the public welfare by furthering the ends of justice and maintaining individual rights. In the practice of law in Petersburg he has demonstrated his ability to cope with intricate problems of jurisprudence and now has a large clientele.

He was born in Little Grove precinct, Menard county, on the 3d of October, 1810, and is a son of Eli and Annie Beck (Dowell) Reep, the former a native of New Albany, Indiana, and the latter of Little Grove precinct. His paternal grandfather, Philip Reep, was a native of North Carolina. The family is of Holland lineage and was founded in America by William Reep, the great-grandfather of Thomas P. Reep, who crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel and established his home in North Carolina in colonial days. He settled in what is now Lincoln county and the town of Reepsville was named in honor of the family. Representatives of the name fought for the independence of the nation in the Revolutionary war, and loyalty in citizenship has ever been one of the salient characteristics of the family. Leaving the south, Philip Reep removed to Indiana during the pioneer epoch in the history of that state and followed the occupation of farming there until his life's labors were ended in death.

Eli Reep, father of our subject, came to Menard county when seventeen years of age and followed farming in Little Grove precinct. He devoted his energies to the tilling of the soil until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when he put aside the plow and should-

ered the musket. The blood of Revolutionary sires flowed in his veins, and he resolved to strike a blow in defense of the Union which his ancestors had aided in establishing. It was in 1862 that he joined Company K, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged and returned home with a creditable military record. He had done his full duty as a soldier upon a number of southern battle-fields and was unfaltering in his allegiance to the old flag. After his return to Petersburg he was married to Miss Annie Beck Dowell and is still living in Little Grove precinct, where for many years he has successfully carried on agricultural pursuits. He has been active and influential in public affairs, and his fellow citizens have chosen him for the office of county assessor and treasurer, the duties of which were discharged by him with promptness and fidelity.

Upon the home farm Thomas P. Reep spent the days of his boyhood and youth, working in the fields through the months of summer and thus gaining practical knowledge of the various departments of agricultural life. He attended the public schools, and when he had mastered the branches therein taught he entered the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he pursued the teachers' course. Subsequently he returned to Menard county, where he engaged in teaching for one term and for two terms in Mason county. He then returned to Valparaiso, where he completed the scientific course, being graduated with the class of 1890. Again coming to Menard county, he resumed teaching, and his leisure hours were devoted to the study of law. He completed his law studies in the office of Hon. Edward Lanning, and in 1895 was admitted to the bar. He continued teaching, however, for three years, and was a capable educator, imparting readily and concisely to others the knowledge that he had acquired. On the expiration of that period he opened a law office in Petersburg, in June, 1898, and has since practiced, with constantly growing success. He has now a large and gratifying clientele, which connects him with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of his



THOMAS P. REEP.



district, and in his practice he is noted for thorough and systematic preparation while his presentation of his cause is lucid, his reason clear and cogent. He was city attorney for one term and was elected state's attorney of this county by the largest majority ever given to any candidate on the Republican ticket. He has also been president of the board of education and withholds his support from no movement which tends to advance the material, intellectual and moral progress of the county.

In May, 1895, Mr. Reep was united in marriage to Miss Laura Shipp, of Menard county, a daughter of Rolla Shipp, one of the early and prominent residents of the county. There has been born to them three children: Alice May, Aara Ruth and Philip T., but they lost their second daughter. Mr. Reep belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. In a profession where advancement depends upon individual merit he has worked his way upward, developing his native powers, and through his close application and earnest purpose gaining a desirable position as a strong and forceful factor in legal circles.

#### TRUMAN C. POND.

Truman C. Pond, who has a wide and favorable acquaintance in Menard county, was one of the honored veterans of the Civil war and in matters of citizenship is equally loyal at the present day. His birth occurred in this county, October 6, 1842, his parents being Samuel S. and Emily (Dufer) Pond. The father was born in Oneida county, New York, August 9, 1816, and the mother was a native of the same locality. They were married in the Empire state in 1837 and soon afterward started for Illinois in company with his parents, it being the desire of Samuel S. Pond to make a home for himself in the new west. He located in Menard county and his father entered land from the government and gave to him eighty acres on which he and his bride began their domestic life. He applied himself with great diligence to the development of his property and subsequently, when his labors had brought to him a good financial return, he purchased

more land and at the time of his death was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres. When it came into his possession it was wild prairie, but his efforts transformed it into a very rich and valuable tract. His first house was built from logs, which he hewed in the forest, and it was in that pioneer cabin that Truman C. Pond was born. In ante-bellum days Samuel S. Pond was a staunch abolitionist and his home was a station on the famous underground railroad, whereby many negroes were assisted on their way northward to freedom. He voted with the Whig party until the organization of the new Republican party, when he joined its ranks and became a most earnest supporter of Lincoln and Hamlin. From the time of his removal to the west until within six years prior to his death, he continued to lead a strenuous life upon the farm, working earnestly and persistently in the acquirement of a comfortable competence. He held membership in the Presbyterian church and took an active part in its work, served as one of its elders and did everything in his power to promote the growth and extend the influence of his church. He died at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 9, 1904. His first wife passed away November 2, 1853. Their children were: Adeline, who was born June 12, 1838, and is now deceased; Charles H., who was born September 6, 1840, and died August 13, 1843; Truman C.; Henry K., who was born January 2, 1845, and died November 1, 1878; Jasper N., who was born March 28, 1847, and died February 26, 1848; Frances and Franklin, twins, who were born June 1, 1852, and died in infancy; and another child that died in infancy. After losing his first wife Mr. Pond was again married, his second union being with Hester Darrell, and they became the parents of seven children, but only two are now living: Mrs. Hettie Christianson, who resides at Duncan, Mississippi; and Samuel S., who is now living at Salt Lake City, Utah.

In taking up the personal history of Truman C. Pond we present to our readers the life-record of one who is widely and favorably known in Menard county, where he has long made his home. He was not yet nineteen years of age when on the 1st of August, 1861, he enlisted at Petersburg in defense of the Union

as a member of Company A, Twenty-eighth Illinois Infantry. He was discharged September 4, 1862, on account of disability, having been wounded in the battle of Shiloh. On Friday, April 4, 1862, the enemy sent out a brigade to test the position of the Union troops. General Hurlbut's division was then put in line and moved forward to meet the advancing rebel column. The night was dark and the roads were muddy, but there occurred some heavy firing for a short time, after which the rebels fell back. The Twenty-eighth Illinois Regiment moved out to the division for a mile and a half and then returned to camp. Early on Sunday morning on the 6th of April, the regiment was called out by the long roll and marched a mile to the front, where it was assigned to a position on the left of the line in a peach orchard. The enemy immediately fired upon this regiment, but was repulsed with heavy loss. The Twenty-eighth held its position under great odds from eight o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. When the battle had been on for an hour General Grant and his staff rode up and instructed the Twenty-eighth to hold its position at all hazards. This it did until ordered back by General Hurlbut, who commanded the old fighting Fourth Division. The regiment lost heavily in killed and wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Kilpatrick being among the killed, while Major B. C. Gillam was badly wounded in the left shoulder and his horse was killed. Adjutant J. B. Meade was mortally wounded in that conflict and his horse was shot from under him. Mr. Pond was struck by a minnie ball and buck shot pierced his left hand and wrist. He was also wounded in the left shoulder, where the ball still remains. He lay on cornsacks on a transport in Tennessee river for about three weeks and was then taken up the Mississippi river to Quincy, Illinois, where he remained in the hospital until September, and because of his injuries he was honorably discharged and returned home. For three years thereafter he was a great sufferer as his wounds did not heal. At length, however, he recovered his health and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits.

On the 8th of February, 1866, Mr. Pond was

united in marriage to Miss Catherine J., a daughter of James and Sarah (Hornback) Killion. Her parents were both natives of Kentucky and came to Illinois with their respective parents. Her father, who was born in 1820, died in 1888, and his wife, whose birth occurred in 1822, died October 31, 1901. In his boyhood days he accompanied his parents to Illinois and afterward entered government land, breaking the wild prairie and felling the timber with which he built a log house. It was in that pioneer cabin that Mrs. Pond was born. It continued the family residence for some time, but was afterward replaced by a substantial frame residence, in which Mr. Killion spent his remaining days. He suffered many of the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life, but as the years passed prosperity crowned his efforts and at the time of his death he was the owner of three hundred and forty acres of valuable land, from which he derived a good income. Both he and his wife were active and consistent members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, in which he served as deacon for many years. In their family were ten children, of whom five are now living: Robert H., who was born August 24, 1844, and is married and resides in Oklahoma; Mrs. Pond, born December 2, 1846; Maria, who was born October 26, 1851, and is the wife of E. P. Denton, of Iowa; Thomas W., who was born February 27, 1853, and is now married and resides in Menard county; and Amery K., who was born April 21, 1862, and is married and lives in Oklahoma.

After his marriage Mr. Pond turned his attention to general farming and trading in stock. He made many trips to Missouri to buy cattle, which he drove overland to Menard county and here fattened for the market. He continued in active farming operations until 1881, when he turned his attention to the butchering business and the shipping of stock, in which he now continues, making Greenview his headquarters. His business interests have reached extensive and profitable proportions, making him one of the leading representatives of the stock industry in Menard county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pond have been born seven children: Francis N., who was born

November 6, 1866; Theron Ellis, who was born August 21, 1872, and died January 1, 1873; Tucey E., who was born January 24, 1874, and is now married and resides in Menard county; Bertha E., who was born March 28, 1875, and is married and lives in Utah; Henry E., who was born November 4, 1877, and is now attending law school at Champaign, Illinois; Jennie E., who was born February 18, 1885, and died on the 7th of August, following; and Phyllis M., who was born December 27, 1894, and died February 6, 1895.

Mr. Pond has been quite active and influential in public affairs and his influence has ever been exerted in behalf of public progress and improvement. He has served as president of the town board for about thirteen years, and was filling that position when the waterworks system was installed, he giving personal supervision to that work in large measure. He has served as secretary of the board of education for two or three terms and endorses every movement which he believes will contribute to the general good, while already his efforts along many lines have proved beneficial to his town and county. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows Society, has passed through all the chairs of the local lodge and has been a delegate to the grand lodge. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, has filled all the offices of the post and has been a delegate to the state encampment. His activity along many lines touching general progress and improvement have made him a representative and valued citizen of Menard county and he has contributed in no unimportant measure to the substantial improvement and to the commercial, intellectual and material development of this part of the state.

#### JAMES S. MILES.

James S. Miles, a son of James and Anna Miles, who are residents of Petersburg and are mentioned elsewhere in this volume, was the fourth in a family of five children and was born January 16, 1859, upon the farm where his father now resides. There he was reared. No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his youth.

He pursued his education in the Barclay school and Petersburg high school, and when he had completed the course he engaged in teaching, first in country schools and afterward in Petersburg, being identified with its educational interests for a year.

At the end of that time Mr. Miles was married, March 1, 1882, to Miss Nellie Purkapile, a daughter of James Purkapile. Mrs. Miles came into possession of the farm on which they now reside and they still have the original deed to this land, signed by John Adams. Her grandfather, John Purkapile, obtained the land from the government and at his death his estate was divided among his children and a part of it was inherited by the father of Mrs. Miles and in turn came into her possession. The land just across the road was formerly the property of Judge Harrison, who was born upon the place. The name Purkapile is of German lineage and the family were Pennsylvania German people connected with the Keystone state in a very early period in its development. John Purkapile married Mary Ellen Boyer and died October 4, 1846, at the age of sixty-five years, four months and sixteen days. The grandmother of Mrs. Miles reached the very advanced aged of ninety-three years. James Purkapile, the father of Mrs. Miles, was born in Green county, Kentucky, September 7, 1812, and was first married March 18, 1833, to Polly Goldsby, a native of Illinois, who died October 28, 1835. The children of that union are deceased. Elizabeth, born September 19, 1834, died May 21, 1836. On the 5th of September, 1836, Mr. Purkapile married Jenette Nance, who was also a native of Illinois, and died November 2, 1858. There were ten children by this marriage: Elizabeth, born September 19, 1834, died on the 21st of May, 1836, in her third year. William R. was born July 23, 1837. Nelson was born September 18, 1839. Sarah Jane was born January 17, 1842. John, born May 5, 1844, was a soldier of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry and was wounded but recovered and is now living at Waggoner, Montgomery county, Illinois, where he is filling the position of postmaster. Eton, born August 23, 1847, died while in the service of his country during the Civil war. Mari-

ette, born June 2, 1849, died January, 23, 1850. Charles, born July 22, 1853, is now living in Nevada, Missouri. Emma, born July 25, 1856, is the wife of W. B. Spears and resides in Homewood, Kansas. Annette, born November 1, 1858, married Thomas Rutledge and died November 24, 1887. For his third wife Mr. Purkapis married Mrs. Catherine (Houghton) Nance, who was also born in Green county, Kentucky, October 14, 1817, and died March 22, 1892. The only child by this union was Nellie, who was born December 25, 1869, and is now the wife of Mr. Miles. Mr. Purkapis lived upon the farm now occupied by our subject and his wife and there died on the 19th of January, 1878. On coming to Illinois Mrs. Miles' maternal grandparents located on Rock creek.

Mrs. Miles acquired her education in the common schools at Walnut Ridge. By her marriage she became the mother of three children but the eldest died in infancy. James S., born June 5, 1888, is now attending school at Petersburg, being in the second year in the high school. Anna Catherine, the youngest, was born June 5, 1902.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Miles hold membership in the Christian church and he votes with the Republican party. He carries on general farming, now owning over three hundred and thirty-two acres, and is also engaged in feeding and shipping cattle. He has been quite prosperous in his business affairs and most of his success has been attained through hard labor. His property is now valuable, giving evidence of his careful supervision in the many modern improvements he has placed upon it.

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#### J. N. HALL.

J. N. Hall, deceased, was a worthy representative of one of the old and prominent families of Menard county. He was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, June 10, 1816, and was the fourth in order of birth in a family of fourteen children, whose parents were Elisha and Nancy (Overstreet) Hall. In 1827 they brought their family to Illinois and located in Menard county when this part of the state was still comprised within the boundaries of

Sangamon county. Here the father died on the 22d of September, 1838, at the age of fifty-four years, while his wife, surviving him a number of years, passed away May 1, 1862. She was born in Bedford county, Virginia, in 1793. Both were members of the Methodist church and she exerted great influence as a preacher and was looked upon almost as a saint. Throughout their residence in this state they lived upon the farm now occupied by their granddaughters Delia and Ella Hall and which comprises five hundred acres of the rich land of this part of Illinois.

J. N. Hall spent the first eleven years of his life in Ohio and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, so that he was reared in Menard county, spending his youth here amid the wild scenes of frontier life and sharing with the family in all the hardships and trials that fall to the lot of those who establish homes in a frontier district. His education was mainly acquired in a log schoolhouse of a very primitive character, but he was a rapid scholar and became a fine penman.

When he had reached adult age Mr. Hall was married to Miss Sarah Parker, of Menard county, the wedding being celebrated April 17, 1842. She was born in Rush county, Indiana, November 4, 1824, and was a daughter of Solomon Parker, who was one of the pioneers of Menard county, locating on Rock creek at an early day. Mrs. Hall was related to the McCarty's, a wealthy and influential family of Mason county, Illinois.

Politically Mr. Hall was a Democrat and was regarded as one of the ardent supporters of the party in his locality, having filled all of the local offices. He kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day and was thus enabled to give intelligent reason for his political faith. His business career was commendable, for he placed his dependence upon the substantial qualities of energy and unfaltering diligence, and upon that foundation he built his success. As the years passed his capital steadily increased and he became one of the prosperous farmers of his community. He was greatly attached to his home and family. In 1890 he was called upon to mourn the







J. N. HALL.



MRS. J. N. HALL.



loss of his wife, who passed away on the 10th of March of that year, while he survived her until October 25, 1902. His genuine worth, business reliability, loyalty in citizenship and fidelity in friendship so endeared him to friends and neighbors that his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret in his community.

In the family of J. N. Hall and wife were fourteen children, all of whom are living with the exception of one. Thomas J., born April 17, 1843, resides on a farm near Earlham, Iowa. He was married February 19, 1863, to Olivia Brown, of Menard county, and they have two children living, Ella and Sarah, both of whom are married. Anna E., born August 10, 1844, was married on the same day as her brother to James Brown, now a retired farmer of Earlham, Iowa, and they have six children, Milen, Charles, Jennie, Clara, Etta and Leona, all married. Abraham, born April 1, 1846, is a farmer and cattle dealer of Miles City, Montana, where he also served as government land agent under President Cleveland. He married Mamie Lisk, of that place, and they have four children. William E., born May 18, 1848, was first married November 9, 1876, to Addie Johnson, of Menard county, who died only two months after their marriage. Later he married Annie Schlembach and they have two children, Ella May and Ruby. He formerly lived in Ford county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming, but later, after graduating from a medical college of Chicago, he engaged in the practice of medicine in Waco, Texas, for seven years. Finally becoming tired of that profession he returned to agricultural pursuits and is today the owner of over fourteen hundred acres of land near Waco. Charles A., born November 4, 1849, is now a prosperous farmer of Worth county, Missouri. He was married July 28, 1874, to Lizzie Goodal, and they have two children, Edie and Nellie, both of whom married. The former is now the widow of William Sims and is successfully engaged in buying and shipping poultry near Grant City, Missouri. Emily E., born August 26, 1853, was married January 13, 1876, to Peter Wantz, by whom she had two children, Roy and Verna. For one year she lived in

Indiana and then located in Gibson City, Illinois, but subsequently removed to Champaign, this state, where she owns property. Nancy Jane, born April 9, 1855, was married February 19, 1880, to Miles Rankin, who is engaged in farming and stock-raising six miles south of Gibson City, Illinois, and they have four children, Edna, Arthur, Claud and Cora. John L., born February 20, 1857, was married March 24, 1887, to Lulu C. Henne and they have five children, Walter, Leo, Pembroke, William and Justin. For a few years after their marriage they resided on the Walnut Hill farm in Sangamon county and then removed to Grant county, Nebraska, where John L. served as county superintendent of schools for a time. At the end of thirteen years the drouth drove him back to Illinois and after spending five years in Menard county he removed to Brown county, this state, purchasing land near Mt. Sterling, where he now resides. Samuel B., born January 9, 1859, was married to Ella Gray in November, 1881, in Sumner county, Kansas, where he was engaged in teaching music for a number of years. Later he purchased a large tract of land in Ness county, that state, where he died November 25, 1887, leaving a daughter, Sadie, who is now Mrs. Southern. Ada A., born February 3, 1861, was married January 31, 1881, in Petersburg to Thomas Primm and located on a farm six miles east of Athens, where Mr. Primm died after a long illness November 4, 1882. She was again married September 21, 1884, to Arthur Taylor and settled on a farm near Mt. Sterling, Illinois. She is now living at Catlett, Virginia. Delia A., born May 9, 1863, was educated in the schools of Athens and is living on the old homestead, where she has spent her entire life with the exception of one year passed in Kansas and Nebraska. She acted as postmistress of Athens during President Cleveland's second administration. James N., born February 20, 1865, spent two years in Kansas and then lived for five years upon a farm in this county given him by his father. At the end of that time he sold out and went to southern Texas, where he purchased rice land and is to-day doing a prosperous business. He was married in Kansas, March 21,

1886, to Lilly Kreider, and they have two living children, Lena and Willie, while another son, Herman, died November 11, 1904, at the age of twelve years. Robert L., born February 22, 1867, was married December 30, 1897, to Gertrude McDougall, of Menard county, and for some years they lived on the old home place, but in the summer of 1904 removed to Missouri, where they purchased a farm. They have one child, Carroll, aged six years. Ella M., born May 16, 1869, lives on the old homestead with her sister Delia. She, too, was a student in the schools of Athens and in 1893 she attended the normal school in Abingdon, Illinois. Subsequently she entered the Wesleyan Conservatory in 1895, in which institution she studied both vocal and instrumental music. After leaving the conservatory she returned home and remained with her father up to the time of his death, assisting him in business and in the supervision of the farming interests. The sisters now control the property. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are popular with many friends. The Hall family has always figured prominently in business and social circles since the grandfather came to the county many years ago and the homestead property is a very desirable one, comprising five hundred acres of rich and arable land and in its control the sisters display marked business enterprise and capability.

#### ALBERT G. NANCE.

Albert G. Nance, who started upon his business career with his farm of one hundred acres and since that time through capable management and carefully directed investment has become the owner of nine hundred and sixty-six acres of valuable land, was born March 17, 1842, on a farm eight miles west of Petersburg just within the county line. His parents were Thomas J. and Catherine D. (Houghton) Nance, the latter a daughter of Charles Houghton. Thomas J. Nance was in early life a resident of Kentucky and came of French ancestry. The family resided in the north of France for many generations and representatives of the name went with William the Con-

queror when he made his invasion into England and claimed it as a Norman possession. It was several centuries later before the family was established in America, arriving in Virginia about 1630. Thomas J. Nance, with his parents, removed from Virginia to Kentucky and later came to Illinois, where he died July 22, 1842, at the comparatively early age of thirty years. He had purchased land and he began the development of a farm in this locality and the farm upon which our subject now resides was once the property of his grandfather Nance. The father was the owner of five hundred acres of land at the time of his death and in order to settle the estate two hundred acres of this was sold. He was quite prominent in political circles and was the Democratic nominee for state senator at the time of his death, which occurred in the summer, while the election was held in the succeeding fall. He had twice been a candidate for the office, but had been defeated by John Bennett on account of a temperance speech which he made about that time at Salem and which won him the opposition of all those who were opposed to temperance. However, popular opinion had set again in his favor and he was elected to the state legislature. Later he became a candidate for the senate and he would undoubtedly have been elected had he lived. After his death his cousin Louis Wynne was nominated in his place and was elected. He served as state senator for one term and died in the District of Columbia.

In the family of Thomas J. and Catherine D. Nance were four children, of whom Albert G. is the youngest. Elizabeth married Clinton Wynne and resided on the old home farm west of Petersburg, where she died March 14, 1866. She had two children, one of whom is now living—Mrs. O. B. Carter, of Los Angeles, California. Harriet B. became the wife of Philemon Struble and at her death, which occurred in January, 1873, she left two children. Benjamin Nance, who was the second member of the family, died in infancy July 7, 1839.

Albert G. Nance, the youngest of his father's family, began his early education in the common schools near his home and later continued his studies in the Indian Point school, which

was the best institution of learning in the county at that time. He was a student there in 1859-60, and when sixteen years of age he left home, starting out in life for himself. Since that time he has been dependent almost entirely upon his own resources and his career crowned with success has been most creditable because it has ever been in conformity with the strict ethics of business honor.

In October, 1866, occurred the marriage of Mr. Nance and Miss Laura Isabel Osburn, a daughter of Enos and Sarah (Casselman) Osburn. Her father was a native of Virginia and was of Scotch-Irish lineage, while the Casselmans are of German descent. He came to Illinois about 1831 and was therefore one of the pioneer residents of the state, taking an active and helpful part in its early development. At the time of his marriage Mr. Nance took his bride to his farm and has since labored persistently and wisely in the development of his business interests. As his financial resources increased he has added to his property from time to time, making judicious investments until he now owns nine hundred and sixty-six acres of rich land. He inherited one hundred acres, so that he has personally acquired over eight hundred acres. He bought one forty-acre tract at ten dollars per acre, for another he gave ten dollars per acre and the remainder of his land was bought at prices ranging from ten to sixty-five dollars per acre. It is all now worth one hundred dollars per acre, so that it is a very valuable property. Mr. Nance has engaged extensively in stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding of shorthorn cattle and of horses. He does not rent his land, but gives his personal supervision to its cultivation and improvement and keeps the entire farm in excellent condition, the fields being richly cultivated, while good grades of stock are seen in his pastures.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Nance have been born six children: Carrie B. is now the wife of Charles Goodwin, a resident of Clinton, Oklahoma, where he is engaged in the grain trade. They have one son and one daughter, Albert Nance and Georgie. Thomas J. Nance, the second member of the family, married Alice Curry and resides in Clinton, Oklahoma, where

he is now president of the First National Bank. He is prominent in financial circles there and is also the owner of town and country property. He has one son, to whom the name of Albert Nance has been given. Catherine is the wife of George Warnsing and they reside upon a farm near Greenview. They have two children, Laura Marie and Hermina. Harriett B., deceased, was the wife of Harry Shirding, who is connected with the Bank of Petersburg, and they had one daughter, Hattie Shirding, who is now eleven years of age. Horace Greeley married Sndia Purkpile and resides upon the old family homestead with his parents. Louise, the youngest, of the family, is a student in Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois.

Although Mr. Nance was reared in the faith of the Democratic party he is a staunch advocate of Republican principles and is a recognized leader in the ranks of his party. He served in the state legislature in 1874-75 and he has always been found as the champion of every political movement which has for its object the greatest good to the greatest number. He and his wife are members of the Christian church and are people of the highest respectability. He has been and is distinctively a man of affairs who has wielded a wide influence and his championship of many measures has been the influencing force that has secured the support that has led to the success of many public movements in his locality.

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#### MCKINLEY JONES.

McKinley Jones, who for many years was identified with farming interests in Menard county, is now living retired, a period of rest being vouchsafed to him in reward for his earnest and honorable labors in former years. He was born in Ohio county, West Virginia, on the 19th of August, 1827, his parents being Isaac and Sarah (Brown) Jones. The father was born in Virginia and was carried in his mother's arms on horseback to Vincennes, Indiana, where the family was located during the war of 1812. While yet a lad and orphan, Isaac Jones went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he

learned the hatter's trade and was there located when the first steamboat went down the Ohio river. He afterward removed to Virginia, where he resided upon a farm and subsequently he took up his abode in the state of New York, where he resided until called to his final rest. He died March 3, 1859, at the age of eighty-one years, his birth having occurred February 15, 1798, and his wife died in Virginia, April 17, 1866, her birth having occurred September 9, 1805.

McKinley Jones, the second in order of birth in a family of ten children, pursued his early education in a log building in West Virginia, the school being conducted on the subscription plan. He afterward attended an academy at West Alexander, Pennsylvania, and when twenty years of age he began teaching school, which profession he followed in both Pennsylvania and Virginia ere his removal to the west. In 1849 he came to Illinois, establishing his home in Peoria, and for a year he engaged in teaching near that city. He afterward accepted a clerical position in connection with a lumber business, serving in that capacity for two years. In 1852 he came to Menard county, where he taught school for four months and then returned to Peoria county, where he was engaged in farming until 1869. In the latter year he again came to Menard county and followed farming here upon a tract of land eight miles north of Athens. In 1876 he removed to a farm near Sweetwater, where he resided continuously until 1894, when he took up his abode in Athens, where he has since lived retired. As a farmer he was diligent, enterprising and progressive, carrying on his work along modern lines and as the years passed by he was enabled to add annually to his income.

On the 5th of December, 1851, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Arminda Priscilla Riffin, a daughter of Harry and Marian B. (Rogers) Riffin, both representatives of early families of the county. The father went from Tennessee to St. Louis in an early day and was there engaged in teaching school. Subsequently he removed to Troy, Madison county, Illinois, and came to Menard county about 1819. Mrs. Riffin was a resident of New York prior to the time when she located

in Illinois. Both parents are now deceased. Mr. Riffin, who was born September 2, 1793, passed away March 23, 1875; and his wife, who was born August 7, 1794, died April 25, 1883. They lived in Menard county during the period of its early pioneer development and Mr. Riffin conducted a store in Athens, one of first commercial enterprises of this part of the state. In payment for goods sold he accepted a note which was to be paid in deer skins at the commercial price and this note is now in possession of Mr. Jones. Mrs. Jones was born July 23, 1825, on the farm which her father had entered from the government, and by her marriage became the mother of five children: Harry Riffin, who was born November 8, 1855, and now resides two miles north of Athens; Isaac, who was born March 31, 1858, and resides in Iowa; Augustus Kerr, who was born January 24, 1859, and is now residing upon the home farm; Sarah Miriam, who was born February 19, 1862, and is the wife of Dr. Edward M. Northcott, of Portland, Maine, medical director of the Mutual Life Insurance Company; and Josiah, who was born February 27, 1861, and is now a practicing physician in the state of Washington. All of the children were born in Peoria county.

The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and are among the most highly esteemed citizens of Menard county, where they have so long resided. Mr. Jones has led a most honorable and useful life and his activity in business has been crowned with success that now enables him to live retired. His strong native intelligence has prompted him to keep well informed on all the questions and issues of the day and he yet manifests an active and public-spirited interest in the affairs of his community, state and nation.

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#### ELI REEP.

Eli Reep, who carries on general farming on section 8, township 18, was born in Harrison county, Indiana, near Corydon, January 21, 1840. At one time that place was the capital of Indiana. His parents were Philip and De-





MR. AND MRS. ELI REEP.



lilah (Evilsizer) Reep. The father was of German lineage and his ancestors were colonial settlers of the new world, establishing their home in North Carolina when this country was still one of the possessions of Great Britain. Representatives of the name, however, fought for the independence of the nation in the Revolutionary war and carried the scars of their wounds down to the grave.

Philip Reep was born in Lincoln county, North Carolina, in 1813. He was married to Miss Delilah Evilsizer, who was descended from an old Virginia family. Her father became one of the first settlers of Indiana, living in that state when it formed a part of the Northwest territory, when the whipping post was an institution of punishment and when slaves were still held by the settlers. He married a Miss Wise, who also belonged to one of the prominent Virginia families and the family furnished a governor to that state. William Evilsizer, a brother of Mrs. Reep, became a resident of Bushnell, McDonough county, Illinois, where he lived for a number of years and afterward removed to Iowa, being a resident of West Point, Warren county, that state, when last heard from. One of her sisters, Mrs. Jane Fife, is still a resident of Harrison county, Indiana. Another brother, David Evilsizer, removed to Missouri. George W. Evilsizer was a soldier in an Indiana regiment during the Civil war and served for three years, taking part in the engagements with the Army of the Cumberland.

Philip Reep removed from North Carolina to what is now Harrison county, Indiana, at an early epoch in its development. He journeyed westward on foot in company with several companions, who traveled in the same way. He was then but twenty-one years of age, and he was led to leave North Carolina because he had to patrol the slaves at night. Establishing his home in what was then the far west, he turned his attention to farming and continued to carry on agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining days. He was twice married and had three children by the first wife and one son by the second wife, namely: Mary became the wife of John Summers, who came to Illinois in 1857, afterward removed to Nebraska during

the period of the Civil war and subsequently went to Atchison county, Missouri, where he carried on agricultural pursuits. Mrs. Summers died leaving four children. Eli is the second of the family. Martha died at the age of sixteen years. Philip, the son of the second marriage, is married and follows farming in Jasper county, Illinois, near Newton.

Eli Reep was educated in the country schools of Indiana and also pursued his studies near New Salisbury in Little Grove, Menard county, Illinois. His training at farm labor was not meager for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and when nineteen years of age he began farming for himself in Little Grove, Menard county. In 1860 he began raising and feeding cattle and followed that pursuit until the time of his enlistment for service in the Civil war. His patriotic spirit being aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, he enlisted in August, 1862, as a member of Company K, of the One Hundred and Sixth Volunteer Infantry under Colonel Latham, of Logan county, and Lieutenant Colonel Campbell. The regiment was attached to the Sixteenth Army Corps commanded by General Hurlburt and the first battle in which the regiment participated was on the Tennessee river. Later the troops did duty at Vicksburg and along the Yazoo river, and aided in holding back Johnston's forces. Subsequently they went to Helena, Arkansas, and took part in a fight at Clarendon on the White river in that state. After defeating the rebels at that point the Union troops moved on to Little Rock and succeeded in driving Price from that rebel stronghold after engaging in a cavalry fight there. Mr. Reep was mustered out at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, in August, 1865, for hostilities had ceased and the war had been brought to a successful close. He now receives a pension in recognition of his services. He was always a faithful and loyal soldier, unfaltering in the performance of his duty, whether it called him into the thickest of the fight or stationed him on the lonely picket line.

On the 1st of January, 1867, Mr. Reep was united in marriage to Miss Anna B. Dowell, a daughter of Thomas F. Dowell, Sr., who was

one of the early settlers of Illinois, and his children, the brothers and sister of Mrs. Reep, are as follows: Samuel H., who is married and owns much town property, his home being near Miami in Indian Territory; William L., who is a miner and fruit farmer residing at Grant's Pass, Oregon; and Mrs. Martha A. Montgomery, who is living in Petersburg. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reep have been born eleven children: Frank died in infancy, Nannie B. married Walter Gunn, a dealer in fine horses in Chicago, and they have one son, Percy Eli. Thomas P., who practices law in Petersburg, married Laura Shipp and has two children. Martha Ann is the wife of Charles E. Clarke and has two children. Her husband is a railroad man, now managing a road at Pine Bluffs, Arkansas, and has a large farm at Warrensburg, Missouri. Mary Luella is the widow of Lour Golden, by whom she had two children, A. Louis and Sophia Marie, and is now at home with her parents. Eli married Regina Capinos and is a lumberman residing in Canute, Oklahoma. Edward L. married Mrs. Dr. Phillips and is a barber of Gerry, Oklahoma. Alice Mand is the wife of Charles E. Batterton, a graduate pharmacist who is conducting a drug store in Chicago, and they have one child. Homer S. was accidentally shot December 13, 1902, and died when nineteen years of age. Ethel Canble is at home with her parents. One child died in infancy.

Mr. Reep gives an earnest support to the Republican party and his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him is indicated by the fact that he was elected in a Democratic county to the office of county treasurer, in which position he rendered capable and efficient service during his two years' term. He has also been a school director and road supervisor and the public interest may well be intrusted to his care, for he is as loyal in citizenship in days of peace as when he followed the old flag on southern battle-fields. For thirty-two years he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity and is true to its teachings and tenets, being in full sympathy with the principles of the craft. His wife is a member of the Christian church and he was formerly identified with the Baptist church. Their home is

upon a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, well kept, neatness and thrift characterizing it in every department. In business he is energetic, alert and enterprising, and he deserves much credit for what he has accomplished.

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#### JAMES T. FOSTER.

James T. Foster is one of the best known citizens of Menard county, acquainted with early events which form its pioneer history, as well as with the business, intellectual and moral development, which comprise its annals in later days. He was born in Marion county, Indiana, near the city of Indianapolis, July 25, 1836. His parents, Augustin E. and Permelia (Wright) Foster, were natives of Kentucky, in which state they remained for a few years after their marriage and then removed to Indiana. It is believed that the Foster family is of Scotch lineage, and it is definitely known that they were early colonists of Virginia and Maryland. Augustin E. Foster was a farmer by occupation and in the fall of 1813 he removed with his family from Indiana to Sangamon county, Illinois, settling near Curran, and about ten miles from the city of Springfield, where his son James was reared. The country was new and unimproved and wild game of all kinds was abundant, including deer, turkeys, prairie chickens, quails, brants and ducks. There were also many coons and opossums, wolves and foxes. Mr. Foster of this review often saw the mule trains upon the track of what is now the Wabash Railroad and he heard the first steam cars come in on that road. He was in Springfield the day the first train of cars came in over the road of the Chicago & Alton in 1853, and there was great excitement in the city. In April, 1867, he came to Greenville, to which place on Saturday, about the middle of June, that year, the railroad was completed. The citizens of Greenville had promised the workmen if they would complete the line to the village on that day they should have all the beer they could drink. The last rails were laid about six o'clock in the afternoon and that evening a

"jollification" was held and there was great excitement in Greenville.

The old Foster homestead was the place for religious meetings in those early days for there was no church near and the family entertained the pioneer ministers, including such men as Peter Cartwright, Peter Akers, John S. Barger, A. Bradshaw, Wingate Newman, Benjamin Newman, I. S. Kimber—all of sacred memory, now gone to their reward. In those early days James T. Foster and his brothers would often sit up late and shell corn, and each would load a sack full upon a horse the next morning and thus proceed to mill. The mills were then operated by horse or water power, and they would wait all day for their grist to be ground. Occasionally they would hitch the yoke of oxen to the wagon and make the trip in that way, and after their return their mother would bake a fine pone of corn in a skillet on the hearth in front of the fire and a fine joint of meat or a chicken was cooked on the crane over the big fire in the old fashioned fireplace, and all were happy and contented. James T. Foster attended the common schools, wherein were taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar and United States history. He finished his course when about seventeen years of age and then gave his entire attention to his farm work. He made a hand plowing corn when but eight years of age. It was about that time that he rode three miles to join a temperance society and took a pledge that he has kept inviolate to this day, never using tobacco or liquor in any form nor let profanity pass his lips. He followed the occupation of farming for a number of years after attaining his majority. After his marriage he engaged in agricultural pursuits in Sangamon county until April, 1863, when he removed to Menard county and lived upon the farm now owned by Nancy Brothers. After two years he removed to Middletown, Logan county, there remaining from the spring of 1865 until the spring of 1867. The first year he rode the Middletown circuit as an assistant Methodist preacher, then taught school for nine months and worked at the mason's trade for three months, also plastering and laying brick. In the spring of

1867 he removed to Greenville, where he continued to work at the mason's trade for two years, after which he engaged in clerking in a hardware store for ten years. He next began buying grain, in which business he continued for six years, and then resumed work at the mason's trade. When he arrived in Greenville, in the spring of 1867, there were only fifteen dwellings here, one hotel, one dry-goods store, one grocery store, a drug store, a harness shop and one church—the Cumberland Presbyterian, of which the Rev. R. D. Miller was pastor. All who were heads of families have died or moved away and only three of those who were children at that time remain, namely: Mrs. Rose Estill, Mrs. P. J. Palmquist and Charles Wilkinson.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Foster was drafted in 1864 and paid a substitute to go in his place. He was elected justice of the peace for Greenville precinct in the fall of 1880, to fill out the unexpired term of D. T. Hughes, and after a year was re-elected in the fall of 1881, for a term of four years. In that time many noted lawsuits were tried before him and prominent lawyers of this and other counties appeared before him to plead their suits. In politics he has always been a Republican where state and national issues are involved but at municipal and county elections he has always voted independently of party ties. He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and voted for the great war governor, Richard Yates. He has voted at every election since the town was incorporated, save one in the spring of 1902, when on account of his crippled condition he could not go to the polls, having fallen on the sidewalk on the 10th of February, 1902, and sustained injuries which have caused him to go upon crutches continually since. He has voted for every president since Lincoln with the exception of Cleveland.

In the spring of 1865 Mr. Foster became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, filled all the chairs of the local lodge and remained a member for many years. He was reared in the faith of the Methodist church, which he joined in the fall of 1850, remaining one of its members until 1886, when the church of Greenville was disbanded and he took his

church letter to the First Presbyterian church of Greenview, of which he and his wife are now members. He is serving as superintendent of the Sunday-school and is an ardent church worker, but not a strict sectarian, believing in the union of churches and reciprocal relations between all churches and that if the heart and the purposes of life are not right there is nothing in the name.

On the 10th of April, 1856, Mr. Foster was married, in Mason county, to Miss Martha E. Smith, a daughter of James H. and Martha C. (Davis) Smith, natives of Indiana. The family had previously lived in Kentucky, and the grandfather of Mrs. Foster came from Ireland to the United States. His father was an English lord. Mr. and Mrs. Foster lost two children in infancy and reared six, of whom three have since died, namely: Mrs. Martha Bell Leppert, Mrs. Etta P. Olds and Adda May Foster. Those living are Thomas Leroy, Maggie E., and Mrs. Sarah E. Gunston, of Middletown, Illinois. The son was married September 2, 1903, to Miss Minnie Reeves, of Petersburg, and took his bride to his parents' home, where they still live.

Mr. Foster can recall many interesting events concerning local and state history. He went to Chatham, Illinois, to see the Mexican soldiers when they were camped there in 1845, on their way to St. Louis, where they were to take boats for Mexico. He was present at the great political rally in Springfield, Illinois, August 8, 1860, when Lincoln attempted to speak but his auditors crowded around him so closely that they broke down the wooden platform on which he was standing. He was also present at the funeral of the lamented Lincoln, seeing him twice while he was lying in state. He was in the long procession and was but a few feet away from Bishop Simpson when he preached the funeral. He often saw Lincoln in his early life and had a long talk with him after his election and before he started for Washington. Mr. Foster was also well acquainted with Lincoln's law partner, W. H. Herndon. He first saw Springfield in the fall of 1843, when the city was but a small village. He could start from home and drive to Springfield, passing the corner of only two farms and

driving in almost a straight line across the prairies, where in places the grass was as high as a man's head. He can remember when prairie fires would break out and all the people would fight them, even the women, arraying themselves in woolen garments, assisting. They would first plow around the ignited tract and then back fire, and at times the flames were so widespread that it seemed as if the whole world was on fire.

Mr. Foster is now in his sixty-ninth year, his wife in her sixty-eighth year. He has long been a resident of central Illinois and no history of this county would be complete without the record of his life, so widely and favorably is he known and so active has he been in advancing local progress in his community.

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#### JOHN F. WILLSON.

John F. Willson, who is now practically living a retired life in Tallula save for the supervision which he gives his property interests, was formerly an active factor in banking circles and his business career is such as any man might be proud to possess, for he has mounted step by step from a humble financial position to one of affluence, never making an engagement that he has not filled nor incurring an obligation that he has not met. He has the respect and confidence of the business community and the good will of all with whom he has been associated in commercial transactions.

Mr. Willson was born January 4, 1830, in that part of Sangamon county, which afterward became Menard county. He is a son of George W. and Milley (Row) Willson. The father was of Scotch-Irish and German lineage and was born in Deckertown, New Jersey, September 26, 1794. His father was one of a family of twelve sons, eleven of whom settled in the territory of Ohio at a very early epoch in its development. George W. Willson, the father of our subject, was reared in North Carolina and after arriving at years of maturity migrated to Kentucky, where he wedded Miss Milley Row, whose birth occurred near Petersburg, Virginia, August 5, 1802, and who





J. F. WILLSON.





MRS. J. F. WILLSON.



accompanied her parents on their removal to Garrard county, Kentucky, where she was married. Mr. Willson was a journeyman shoemaker and arrived in Kentucky about 1816. Following his marriage he removed to Washington, Indiana, and in 1826 settled in what is now Menard county, Illinois. He purchased a claim of Solomon Pruitt, who was one of the soldiers of the Black Hawk war, and made his home upon that place throughout the remainder of his life. There were three children in the family at the time of the removal to this state, the mother carrying the youngest child on horseback. After arriving in Illinois the father devoted his energies to farming and improved a good tract of land. Here he reared his family of ten children, five sons and five daughters. Two of the sisters are yet living, Mrs. Mary Wilhite, a resident of Jacksonville, Illinois, and Mrs. Elizabeth Curt, who resides in Neodesha, Kansas. The members of the family in order of birth are: Rachel, Mrs. Margaret Combs; William K.; James R., who married and removed to Kansas, where his death occurred; John F.; Mrs. Wilhite; Mrs. Sarah Smedley; Henry C., who married and died in Springfield, Illinois, after serving his country in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being captured at Guntown, Mississippi, after which he was sent to Andersonville prison, where he lost his health; George Milton, who was likewise a member of the same regiment and died in camp at Memphis, Tennessee; and Mrs. Elizabeth Curt. The father was a Whig in politics and one of the first commissioners of Menard county.

John F. Willson acquired his early education at Winchester as a student in an academy in Scott county, Illinois. His collegiate course was pursued in Jacksonville, this state, and then wishing to enter upon the practice of medicine he began reading under a physician of Springfield, Illinois, while later he attended lectures in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was thus qualified for the calling. He entered upon the practice of medicine in 1858 in the vicinity of Tallula and there devoted his energies to ministering to the sick until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and he responded to the call of the government,

enlisting in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry as assistant regimental surgeon. He was stationed at La Grange, Tennessee, and there received orders from General Grant to join the regiment at Vicksburg. In August, 1863, he left the army and returned to Menard county. He then abandoned the practice of medicine and established a grocery and hardware store. He likewise acted as postmaster of Tallula for a number of years. In his commercial career he was ever watchful of the indications pointing to success, made the most of his opportunities and as the years advanced gained very creditable and gratifying prosperity. Eventually he developed his business into a banking establishment in 1877, following the death of his partner, William Green, and later he disposed of the bank to the firm of Scott, Green & Sons. In the meantime he had made extensive and judicious investments in property and he still superintends his farming interests, having seven hundred acres of valuable land in Menard and Cass counties. He was the second man to use tiling in the community and he has been most progressive in his farming methods, putting forth every effort to improve his land and make it highly productive. He is a man of resourceful business ability, enterprising and with keen discrimination, and in the control of his varied interests he has manifested strong purpose and marked sagacity, as well as unfaltering diligence.

On the 12th of January, 1860, occurred the marriage of Mr. Willson and Miss Sarah M. Crum, a daughter of James and Christina (Ream) Crum. She was born in Cass county, Illinois, near Virginia, September 9, 1838. Her father was one of the early settlers of Cass county and prior to that time resided in Indiana, while her mother was from Ohio, in which state had lived the paternal and maternal grandparents of Mrs. Willson. The Crum family was established in Cass county prior to the deep snow, which is one of the memorable events in the early history of Illinois. Her father was a farmer and continued to follow that occupation throughout his active business career, which continued up to the time of his death, although he passed away in 1899 at the very advanced age of ninety-three years.

His wife died in 1878 at the age of sixty-three years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Willson have been born seven children: James O., who is vice-president of the People's Bank at Bloomington, Illinois, and married Ollie Whitmer; Frank G., who died in Winfield, Kansas; Mrs. Clara B. Shasted, whose husband is a practicing physician of Pittsfield, Illinois, and a graduate of the Philadelphia Medical College; Howard T., who married Myra Henderson, of Virden, Illinois, and is a linguist and has also studied vocal music, his wife acting as his accompanist, and is now singing in grand opera in Germany; Charles C., who is assistant cashier in the Bankers' National Bank of Chicago, and who has been admitted to the bar; a daughter who died in infancy; and Royal A., who is now pursuing a classical course in the Northwestern University at Evanston. All of the members of the family have been provided with excellent educational privileges and are well qualified to occupy responsible positions in business life. It has taken an aggregate of thirty years for Mr. Willson to give his six children collegiate educations.

The parents hold membership in the Christian church and in his political views Mr. Willson was originally a Whig, but upon the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks and has since been one of its stalwart advocates. His has been an active, useful and honorable career and throughout his entire life he has resided in Menard county, while as the years have advanced he has improved his business opportunities until the goal of success has been reached and he is now enabled to rest in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

#### LEWIS WATKINS.

Lewis Watkins, now deceased, was among the early settlers of Menard county and though many years have come and gone since he passed away, he is yet remembered by pioneer residents of the county as one who was active in business, reliable and trustworthy at all times. His widow is now the oldest resident of Me-

nard county and this history would be incomplete were there failure to make mention of this worthy couple. Mr. Watkins was born on the 7th of February, 1810, in New Albany, Indiana. The great middle west was then largely an unclaimed and unimproved district and he opened his eyes to the light of day in a pioneer home. His parents were James and Stenia (Swearens) Watkins, Kentucky people, who had gone to Indiana at a very early epoch in its development. James Watkins came to Illinois in 1827, prior to the time of the deep snow, which has become an historic event in the annals of this state. This occurred in the winter of 1830-31 and for months the snow lay to a great depth over all the country side so that it made it impossible for the settlers to leave their homes. James Watkins settled in Menard county, where he took up land from the government and he made his home at Bobtown, where he owned a mill. He had descended in the maternal line from the McClure family of Kentucky. Throughout his business career he carried on farming, being among the early tillers of the soil in this portion of the state. He died at a very early age.

Mr. Watkins was the eldest in a family of five sons and three daughters. He came to Illinois in early life and here remained until his death, following the occupation of farming. He aided in turning the first furrow upon many a field and after plowing his land he planted his seed and in due course of time reaped good harvests. In his work he was quite successful and at the time of his death he owned three hundred and forty acres of rich land.

In 1827 he was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Kirby, a daughter of Cyrus and Kattie R. (Greene) Kirby, the latter a daughter of George Greene. The Kirbys came from Bowling Green, Kentucky, to Illinois when Mrs. Watkins was only six months old, arriving in 1809. They made their way to Edwardsville, Madison county, Illinois, and later located on Shoal creek, leaving their first location because of a fear of the Indians, who were very numerous in that locality and did not always manifest a friendly spirit. Afterward they

came to Menard county, arriving here in 1821, at a time when there were only two families in this locality. One of these was the family of William Clary. Mr. Kirby entered a tract of land from the government and at once began the difficult work of transforming the wild prairie into productive fields. The family lived in true pioneer style, experiencing many hardships and privations, but at the same time enjoying some pleasures which are not known at the present day. The Greene family was originally from Tennessee, but the representatives of the name, who first came to Illinois, made their way to this state from Kentucky settling in Madison county near Edwardsville. Greene county was named in honor of John Greene, who died in Springfield, while serving his district as a member of the state legislature. Mrs. Watkins' grandfather Greene was a Revolutionary soldier, who served throughout the war for independence and also took part in some of the Indian wars. Mrs. Watkins was the eldest of a family of nine children and she and the youngest are the only ones now living. Betsey lived to an advanced age, but has now passed away. George, who was married and had a family, died in March, 1904. Sophia was the wife of Samuel Watkins. Polly was the wife of John Close. Nancy was the wife of Chris Atterberry and they had five children. Rhoda married John Brown. Jesse died unmarried at the age of thirty-six years. Tillie, the youngest, is the wife of Samuel Watkins, and has five children.

Mrs. Lucinda Watkins has forty-five grandchildren, over one hundred great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren. The youngest grandchild is at least twenty-two years of age, and the oldest is fifty-five years of age, having been born in 1819. A photograph has just been taken of five generations of the family and the youngest in the group is nineteen years of age. Mrs. Watkins has lived upon her present farm for seventy-seven years, occupying the present house for sixty-two years. She had few privileges and advantages in youth, attending school perhaps only six weeks, but she has been a witness of remarkable changes in Menard county and Illinois and, in fact, throughout the country, and the years have

brought her knowledge of the world's advancement. She can relate many interesting incidents concerning the methods of living in the early days and events which occurred in pioneer times. She made all of the clothing used by the family from wool raised on the farm. They also raised cotton to mix with the wool. At that period in her life there was no town in Menard county and the settlers had to go long distances to market. It was necessary that one should go to Vandalia to secure a marriage license. There was at that time a Mrs. Rachel Clary, the widow of Spencer Clary, who had two suitors, one Banister Bond and the other Albert Hunter. On a certain occasion Bond went to Vandalia on horseback to get a license to wed Mrs. Clary. On the return trip he met Mr. Hunter going on foot for the same purpose. Bond told Hunter that he had the license, whereupon Hunter remarked, "That beats the eternal," but he quietly gave way before the more successful suitor. Mrs. Watkins is now the oldest person living in this county. She has been a widow since 1858 and she has continuously resided upon the old home where she and her husband lived in their early married life. She has one hundred acres of land here, and her son, Jesse K. Watkins, together with his family, live with her. He has five children, all living, namely: John B., who married Miss Ella Smith and lives near Oakford; Thompson M., at home; George, who is living in Petersburg; Lulu Ortman, who resides in Atterberry; and Woodson G., who is located at Chandlerville.

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#### RUSSELL WATKINS.

The subject of this sketch is the son of McClane and Hannah E. Watkins. His father was born December 28, 1826, three miles southwest of Petersburg, Illinois, his parents being Thomas and Mary (Greene) Watkins, who came to this state from Green county, Kentucky. When McClane Watkins was seven years of age he was attacked with fever and the attending physician gave him mercury in the form of calomel, which produced salivation that so effected him that his entire system was

wrecked and he was a helpless cripple for life. He was never able to walk but his vital organs and brain were not affected. In many respects he was a man of wonderful gifts. He seemed, by intuition, to know all about horses and cattle. His business ability was of the very best and in spite of his crippled condition he amassed quite a fortune. He was never out of the state of Illinois; was never on a steamboat or the cars. In fact he never rode in any conveyance but a farm wagon or the little wagon that was made especially for him, and was never more than one hundred miles from the place where he was born. In 1859 he was united in marriage to Hannah Ellen Jones, who was born March 23, 1838, and died October 13, 1866. He died June 6, 1902, at the age of seventy-five years, five months and eight days.

Russell Watkins was born near Petersburg, July 29, 1860, and has one sister, Mary, who was born May 7, 1866, and is now the wife of Edward Miller, residing in Petersburg. Russell Watkins has never married. He owns a large farm three miles southwest of Petersburg and is engaged in farming and stock-raising, in both of which he is very successful. He is a plain, unassuming man, attends strictly to his own affairs, and is a shrewd and successful man in all that he undertakes. He stands very high among his neighbors as a man of honesty and integrity.

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#### N. W. BRANSON.

N. W. Branson, secretary of the state board of law examiners of Illinois and prominent in legal and political circles, is a native of Jacksonville. His father, William Branson, was born in North Carolina and his mother, whose maiden name was Jane Cooledge, was a native of Kentucky. They were married in the latter state and almost immediately removed to Jacksonville, Illinois, where Mr. Branson continued to reside until his death, being a factor in the business life of that city as a furniture dealer. In his political views he was a Republican, interested in the work of the party and doing everything in his power to promote its growth

and insure its success. He exercised considerable influence in political affairs, his opinions carrying weight in the councils of the party and at one time he efficiently served as mayor of Jacksonville. Both he and his wife have passed away. In his fraternal relations he was an Odd Fellow and he belonged to the Presbyterian church.

N. W. Branson, the eldest of a family of five children and the only one now living, began his education in a subscription school and afterward attended the high school of which Newton Bateman was teacher. Later he continued his studies in the Illinois College and was graduated on the completion of the classical course. Desiring to enter upon the practice of law, he studied with David A. Smith, a well known attorney of that day, and, having mastered many of the principles of jurisprudence, successfully passed the examination required for admission to the bar.

Mr. Branson chose Petersburg as the scene of his professional labors and coming to this city entered upon the practice of his chosen profession. He has since resided here, enjoying a large clientage, which has been accorded him in recognition of his comprehensive understanding of the law, his close application, his fidelity to the interests of his clients and his strict regard for the high ethics of the profession. He has been connected with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of his district. He belongs to the Illinois State Bar Association and he owns a very valuable law library with the contents of which he is largely familiar.

In his political views Mr. Branson has always been a Republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and his labors in behalf of the board have won public recognition as to their value and importance. He has twice been a member of the state Republican central committee, was once a delegate to the national Republican convention and was twice an alternate to the national conventions of his party. He also served as presidential elector and was register in bankruptcy under the bankruptcy law of 1867, being appointed to the position by Chief Justice Chase. He held the office during the time that the law



N. W. BRANSON.





was in force, having jurisdiction over all of southern Illinois, including sixty counties, with offices for several years in Springfield. He was twice elected a member of the state legislature and served for three sessions. While serving in the twenty-eighth general assembly he was chairman of the committee on state institutions and a member of the committees on judiciary and state penitentiaries. During the twenty-ninth general assembly Haines was speaker of the house and the legislature was Democratic. During that term Mr. Branson served also on the judiciary and penitentiary committees and some others. There were two sessions called for the twenty-eighth general assembly, a special one being convened for the purpose of revising the laws. Other political honors have been conferred upon Mr. Branson. He was master commissioner of the United States courts in Springfield and Chicago for a number of years and during that period he had control of the legal departments of several railroad receiverships. Several roads were sold under decrees of United States courts during that period and his operations in this connection involved millions of dollars and many legal technicalities. His course, however, was ever sustained by the United States appellate and supreme courts. He was the representative of the court during the time of these railroad receiverships and was thus connected with thousands of legal points, on which he gave expert legal opinions, his decisions always being sustained by those higher in authority. The federal courts would foreclose the receivership of the railroads and Mr. Branson would then have in charge the sale of the roads in order to satisfy the creditors. During his term of office there was an unusual amount of this business to be transacted and his course awakened uniform commendation because of its justice.

Aside from his more specifically political duties Mr. Branson has done much in behalf of the public service, occupying positions of trust and responsibility wherein he has ever been found faithful to his duty. He was a trustee of the Illinois institution for the blind for eighteen years and he was appointed by the supreme court a member of the state board of

law examiners upon its creation in 1897. He is yet connected with the board and is now serving as its secretary and treasurer. He is vice-president and director of the Old Salem Chautauqua Association and is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been made a Mason in Jacksonville, Illinois. He now belongs to Clinton lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg.

Mr. Branson was married to Miss Fannie Regnier, of Menard county, and they have two children: Edward R., who is telegraph editor of the Springfield Journal; and Ella R., who resides with her parents. Notwithstanding his extremely active life he is a man of remarkable vitality, actively connected with important and extensive legal and political interests. He has a statesman's grasp of affairs and in matters of deep political concern he has always kept well informed, exerting strong influence in support of the measures and movements which he has deemed would prove of value in promoting the welfare of state and nation.

#### FREEMAN O. R. BAKER.

Freeman O. R. Baker, a member of the Menard county bar, practicing in Petersburg, was born in Salisbury, Illinois, January 26, 1875, his parents being O. R. and Polly Ann (Duncan) Baker. His paternal grandfather was John Baker, of Ohio, and the maternal grandfather was William Duncan, a native of Kentucky. Both were farmers and were prominent in their day and locality. O. R. Baker was also a farmer by occupation, and was a man of influence in his community. He took an active and helpful interest in public affairs, aided in shaping the public policy along progressive lines, and twice served as county treasurer of Sangamon county, Illinois.

Freeman O. R. Baker pursued his education in the public schools of his native town and in 1893 began teaching school at Sugar Point, in Menard county. He followed that profession for about seven years and during the last three years was principal of the first ward school in Petersburg. He gained an excellent reputation as an educator, his service giving

general satisfaction, but desiring to become a member of the bar he devoted his leisure time to the study of law and was admitted to practice in 1900, after successfully passing an examination before the supreme court. The following year he was elected city attorney of Petersburg, and in October, 1901, he was appointed master in chancery of Menard county by the circuit court. His mind is analytical and in the preparation of his cases he is careful and painstaking, so that he presents his cause before the court in a clear, concise, logical manner.

Politically a Democrat, Mr. Baker takes an active interest in the work of the party and has contributed to its local success by his efforts for its growth. He regards the duties of citizenship as abundantly worthy of his best efforts and has been the champion of many measures which have proven of value to city and county. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge of Petersburg, in which he has filled all the chairs and he was one of the charter members of the Modern Woodmen camp, of which he served as the first venerable counsel.

In Springfield, Illinois, on the 1st of June, 1898, Mr. Baker was married to Miss Lura M. Primm, of Athens, Illinois, and unto them have been born two children, Corlin Primm and Margery Baker. The parents are widely and favorably known socially, and their circle of friends, like his practice, is constantly growing.

#### FRANK A. TERHUNE.

Frank A. Terhune is numbered among Menard county's native sons, his birth having occurred June 16, 1869, on the old family homestead, where he now resides and where he owns and operates three hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land. He is a son of James and Ann Elizabeth (Harrison) Terhune, who were natives of Kentucky. The father was a farmer by occupation and in 1853 left his native state for Menard county, Illinois. He located first at Petersburg, but soon afterward removed to Indian Point and subsequently pur-

chased land near Curtis, where he began farming and stock-raising. He made his home in that locality until his death, which occurred June 15, 1887, when he was fifty-six years of age, while his wife died April 6, 1885, at the age of fifty-five years.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Frank A. Terhune in his youth. He was educated in the Curtis school and has always lived upon the old family homestead. His father died when the son was but eighteen years of age and he at once took charge of the farm in partnership with his brother C. L. Terhune. He has since conducted the home place with good result and in connection with the raising of the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he is also successfully engaged in the breeding of Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. He now owns three hundred and forty acres of land, all of which he cultivates. He has improved one hundred and eighty acres of this and has placed his farm in excellent condition, keeping the buildings and fences in good repair and utilizing the latest improved machinery in the cultivation of his crops.

On the 16th of December, 1891, occurred the marriage of Frank A. Terhune and Miss Flora E. Spear, a daughter of G. G. Spear. She was born August 2, 1871, and is a graduate of the Greenview high school. Her father carried on general farming and stock-raising on section 20, township 19. He was born in Vermont, October 6, 1836, and was the third in a family of seven children born unto Elisha and Lucretia (Walker) Spear, who came to this state in the fall of 1838, and were therefore early settlers of the county. George Spear was then but two years of age and upon the old family homestead he was reared and has resided thereon throughout his entire life.

In his youth he aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm and in later years he has carried on agricultural pursuits along the most progressive lines, using the latest improved machinery and equipping his place with modern accessories.

On the 6th of October, 1870, George Spear was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Dawson, who was born in Indiana, in October,

1841. They became the parents of three children: Flora, who was born August 2, 1811; Elva, born January 26, 1873; and Elisha G., born January 28, 1876. After his marriage the father continued farming on the old home place and is now the owner of a valuable tract of land of five hundred and forty acres. He has been very successful in his chosen life work and because of his unremitting diligence is now the possessor of a very fine property.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Terhune have been born two children: Francis Lee, born July 13, 1901; and Marshall Henry, whose birth occurred April 11, 1904. The parents are devoted members and active workers of the Presbyterian church of Greenview, in which Mr. Terhune is serving as one of the elders. His business interests are extensive and claim much of his time and attention, yet he has found opportunity to assist in the church work and to promote many enterprises for the general good. He realizes that the development of character is all that really counts in the world and while he has won success he has also made for himself an honorable name by reason of his straightforward methods and his justice to all in business transactions.

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#### MISS ELVA G. SPEAR

Miss Elva G. Spear, one of the property holders of township 18, was born January 26, 1873, and is a daughter of G. G. Spear and a sister of Mrs. Frank A. Terhune. She has made her home with Mrs. Terhune since March, 1898, and she owns one hundred and eighty acres of land which is managed by Mr. Terhune. She is a graduate of the Greenview high school and spends her winters in the south or in Colorado.

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#### JONATHAN COLBY.

Jonathan Colby, deceased, during the period between the pioneer epoch in the history of Menard county and the latter part of the nineteenth century, so utilized his opportunities and the business conditions of this part of

the state that he gained a place among its extensive landowners and substantial citizens, and, moreover, he always maintained an honorable reputation and an unspotted record for business integrity. He was born in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, seven miles from Concord, March 10, 1808, and was a son of Timothy and Lydia (Herrick) Colby, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Massachusetts, both representing old families of New England. Timothy Colby was a farmer and lumberman of the east and in addition to the tilling of the soil operated a lumber mill, becoming, through the careful conduct of his business interests, a well-to-do man of his locality. In addition to his other interests he furnished shipmasts for the shipwrights of Portsmouth. His last days were spent at the old homestead in the Granite state and both he and his wife died when about ninety years of age.

Jonathan Colby began his education in a district school and also attended a select school of Hopkinton, and when he attained his majority he went to Boston, where he engaged as a clerk in a mercantile store. He afterward removed to western New York, when he was about twenty-five years of age, but did not tarry long in the Empire state. Starting westward, he made his way to Chicago by canal and the Great Lakes, and thence proceeded to Salem, Illinois, where he purchased land in what is now Petersburg township, the purchase price being a dollar and a quarter per acre. Abraham Lincoln was at that time postmaster of Salem. A friend from the east brought five letters for Mr. Colby to Illinois, but stopping in Chicago he sent the letters on by mail. Mr. Lincoln, putting the letters in his big hat, went out to collect from Mr. Colby the price of postage—twenty-five cents apiece, or a dollar and a quarter for all—which at that time was the price of an acre of land. Today the land sells for one hundred and forty dollars per acre, while the postage on that amount of mail would be ten cents. Arriving in this county in 1834, Mr. Colby turned his attention to farming and as the years passed by he prospered. He invested his earnings, above what was needed for the expenses of the home

and farm, in more land and eventually became the owner of twelve or fourteen hundred acres, which gradually increased in value, owing to the cultivation he bestowed upon it and a rise consequent upon the increased population. He was one of the well-to-do men of Menard county, and his success was attributable to his own efforts.

Mr. Colby was married in 1837 to Miss Lydia Ingals, a native of Connecticut and a daughter of Ephriam and Lucy Ingals, of Pomfret, Connecticut, who died in that state, their children afterward coming west to Cass county, Illinois. It was in this neighborhood that Mrs. Colby met her future husband. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Colby were born six children: William D., a resident of Henry county, Illinois; Mrs. Mary F. Dixon, of Menard county; Sarah S., the widow of John Beckman, of Menard county; Henry H., who is living at Rock Creek, Menard county; Mrs. Maria L. Rucker, of Boston, Massachusetts; Grosvenor G., a resident of Petersburg township. The father died in the fall of 1885 and the mother's death occurred in the fall of 1858. They were both members of the Congregational church and Mr. Colby was a Whig in his political views, until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. He was never an office seeker, but was interested in public progress and improvement and was the champion of many progressive measures. He enjoyed in large measure the respect, confidence and admiration of his fellow men, because of his success and the straightforward manner in which it was gained, and from pioneer times to his death he was classed with the valued citizens of his community.

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#### JOHN H. CLARY.

Menard county figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous divisions of the state of Illinois, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development and marked advancement in the material upbuilding of the section. The county

has been and is signally favored in the class of men who have controlled its affairs in official capacity, and in this connection the subject of this review demands representation as one who has served the county faithfully and well in positions of distinct trust and responsibility. He is now serving as county treasurer and as an official as well as private citizen he enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellow men.

Mr. Clary was born in township 19, range 7, Menard county, three miles northwest of Petersburg, September 15, 1855. His father, Hugh Clary, whose birth occurred about two and three-quarter miles northwest of Petersburg in the year 1831, is a representative of one of the old and prominent pioneer families of this part of the state. The grandfather, John Clary, settled in the grove which was named in his honor, Clary's Grove, in 1819, and took an active and helpful part in laying the foundation for the present upbuilding and progress of Menard county. He aided in reclaiming the district for the uses of civilization and for many years was actively identified with agricultural interests here. Hugh Clary was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of pioneer life and after arriving at years of maturity he established his home in township 19, range 7. There he resided for a number of years, actively engaged in the tilling of the soil and in his business career he was ever found reliable and trustworthy. He was a man whom to know was to respect and honor, because of his fidelity to manly and upright principles. He married Miss Louisa Traylor, also a native of Menard county, and he died at the home of his son, J. H. Clary in the year 1896, while his wife is still living with her children. There were nine children in their family.

J. H. Clary, the second of the family, was educated in the district schools and no event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood and youth. He worked in the fields when not engaged with the duties of the schoolroom and in 1881 he began farming on his own account, locating four and a half miles northwest of Petersburg, where he remained for a few years. He then sold that property and bought





J. H. CLARY.



MRS. J. H. CLARY.





another farm, of which he retained possession for some time, but at length he disposed of that and spent one year in Iowa. In 1888 he returned to Menard county and purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty-two and a half acres, which is situated about three and a half miles northwest of Petersburg on section 34, township 19, range 7. There he has since conducted agricultural interests with good success and his land is valuable and productive, annually yielding to him good harvests in return for the careful supervision which he gives to the farm work.

On the 2d of March, 1884, Mr. Clary was married to Miss Catherine S. Rutledge, a native of Menard county and a daughter of J. M. Rutledge. Mr. and Mrs. Clary have become the parents of two children: Alberta A., now deceased; and Edith E. The parents hold membership in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and Mr. Clary gives his political allegiance to the Democratic party. He has served for two terms as district clerk and in 1902 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, which position he is now capably filling. His business career has been marked by steady progression and characterized by the success which always follows persistent labor and yet he has found time to devote to the general good, being recognized as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### JOHN H. PESTEL.

John H. Pestel is now living retired in Oakford and well does he merit the rest which has come to him, for in former years he lived a most active business life, devoting his attention at different times to agricultural pursuits and merchandising. He was born August 4, 1845, in Menard county, on the family homestead, between Athens and Springfield. His father, John Pestel, was born in Germany, attended school in that country and in accordance with the laws of his native land also served his time in the German army. When about twenty-six years of age he bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for America, landing in New York, whence he made his way to Pennsylvania. There he formed the

acquaintance of Miss Hannah Hailer and they were married. The lady was born in the Keystone state. After his marriage Mr. Pestel followed carpentering in the east for a time and later he removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for about a year. He then rented a small farm and engaged in the tilling of the soil in connection with his carpenter work. Subsequently, however, he removed to Athens, where he was employed in a tan yard for about a year. Later he bought thirty-six acres of land adjoining Athens. He was actively identified with early progress and improvement in this portion of the state, contributing through his building operations to the substantial development of Menard county. He was an early settler and reliable business man and all who knew him respected him. About 1852 there was a cholera epidemic at Athens and he and his wife assisted materially in the care of the sick. There were many deaths from that disease and many people were afraid to nurse the sick for fear of contracting the cholera, but Mr. and Mrs. Pestel, with marked unselfishness and heroic sacrifice, did what they could for their neighbors and friends. They lost one of their sons from cholera. After living upon their farm near Athens for four years Mr. Pestel lost his wife and becoming despondent on account of his great bereavement, he left home and was never heard from again. It was in February, 1856, that Mrs. Pestel was called to her final rest. They were the parents of five children, two sons and three daughters: Louis C., who died in infancy; John H.; Emeline, who married James Hall and is now living near Athens; Mary, who died in infancy; and Annie, the wife of Charles Buchanan, who resides near Springfield.

John H. Pestel, when eleven years of age, went to live with D. J. Hutchinson in the vicinity of Petersburg and remained with him for nine years. He then began working by the month for George Kirby in the year 1865, and he continued in that employ until 1873. Soon after his marriage he removed to a farm of one hundred acres and began the development of his land, transforming it into highly cultivated fields. He continued to carry on gen-

eral agricultural pursuits until 1892, when he rented his farm and purchased the Samuel Watkins drug store in Oakford. He was thus identified with mercantile interests until 1895, when he sold the drug business to M. O. Atterberry. He was then retired for a time, but later again took up business life. Since his second marriage, however, he has lived retired in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence, which he has won through persistent and honorable effort.

On the 5th of December, 1872, Mr. Pestel was married to Miss Nancy J. Atterberry, a daughter of Christopher and Nancy (Kirby) Atterberry. There were no children by this marriage. On the 9th of December, 1896, Mr. Pestel was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Tillie Kendall, a daughter of Morris and Sophia (Atterberry) Lownsberry. Her father was born in Menard county where the town of Oakford now stands and her mother's birth occurred near the town of Atterberry. They were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, namely: Mrs. Pestel; J. C., who is married and lives near Oakford; C. W., who is married and resides in the same locality; Addie and Curtis, twins, who died in childhood; one who died in infancy; Collie, who is married and resides on the old homestead; and Freddie, who died in childhood. The father of Mrs. Pestel was reared as a farmer lad, attending school until the time of his marriage, when he purchased a farm and began its further cultivation and development. He also engaged in stock-raising and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his property until he had about four hundred acres of fine farming land. He has been a prosperous buyer and feeder of cattle and hogs, selling many earloads of stock in his day. At the present time he is living retired from further labor, having turned his farm over to his three sons, who are now operating it. He has been influential and active in public affairs, has served as a member of the school board for ten or fifteen years and has given earnest support to many public measures that have benefited his locality. He votes with the Democracy and he has been a faithful church member for eighteen years, taking a

very active and helpful part in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church at Oakford until failing health caused him to leave these duties to others.

Mr. Pestel has been solicited to accept public office, but has always refused, save when he served as mayor of Oakford and as a member of the town board several times. Prompt and faithful as a public official, he rendered to his town capable service by the manner in which he discharged his duties. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and is a member of the Baptist church, while his wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. They are both highly esteemed people of Menard county, enjoying the friendship and favorable regard of many with whom they have been associated and in its history they well deserve mention. The life record of Mr. Pestel proves the value of activity and honesty in a business career and his example is in many respects worthy of emulation.

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#### EDWARD EVERT CLAYPOOL.

Edward Evert Claypool, who, as the most extensive shipper of horses and mules in Menard county, is an important factor in its business circles, was born July 19, 1865, upon the farm on section 18, township 19, range 5, upon which his father, William Claypool, now resides. The latter was born near Athens, March 14, 1831, which indicates that the family was connected with the county in its pioneer epoch. The grandparents of our subject were Levi and Melinda (Rollins) Claypool, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. They were married in Kentucky, whence they removed to Ohio, and in 1827 they came to Menard county, Illinois, settling on a farm two miles south of Athens, which Levi Claypool entered from the government. There he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred February 2, 1867, while his birth occurred February 19, 1793. His wife, who was born May 8, 1801, died February 16, 1892, at the very advanced age of ninety-one years.

William Claypool was educated in the subscription schools, for the public-school system

had not then been established. Upon the home farm, amid the environment of the frontier, he was reared and after attaining his majority he chose as a life work the occupation with which he had become familiar in his youth. He has for many years successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising and during the period of the Civil war he bought and sold horses for the government, making purchases throughout this section of the country. After the war he returned to the farm upon which he now resides and he has placed all of the improvements upon it, for when he took possession it was a tract of raw prairie. He now has five hundred and sixty acres of as highly cultivated land as can be found in the county, and that his farm is one of the most productive, and therefore one of the most valuable, is due entirely to his own labors, guided by sound business judgment and experience. He has always raised very high grades of horses and cattle and now has a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle of about fifty head.

On the 30th of September, 1863, William Claypool was married to Miss Elizabeth Engle, a daughter of William Engle, a native of Virginia. Mrs. Claypool was born in Ohio and with her parents came to Menard county in 1823, the family home being established in Sugar Grove, where the father engaged in farming and stock-raising. He also conducted the first store in that part of the county, its location being on the present site of Sweetwater, Illinois. He was born April 1, 1800, and died November 8, 1870, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Alkire, and was born April 27, 1808, died March 30th, 1900. She was a member of the Christian church.

Edward Evert Claypool, son of William and Elizabeth Claypool, pursued his more specifically literary education in Greenview and afterward attended Brown's Business College of Jacksonville. He then returned to the farm and has since conducted a general stock business, buying and selling horses, mules and cattle, but making a specialty of the first. He ships a carload of horses and mules each week and employs three men in buying horses. His business has reached extensive proportions and is profitable, his sales annually returning to

him a good income. He ships to St. Louis and Chicago, but finds the former city the best market for mules, a larger number of mules being sold there annually than in any other market of the world. He has a barn that will contain one hundred and twenty head of horses and mules, and his other equipments on his farm are in keeping with that fine structure. He also has from one to two carloads of Aberdeen Angus cattle upon his farm all the time. In 1890 he erected a nice residence on the farm, which he now occupies.

On the 23d of July, 1899, Mr. Claypool married Miss Emma Simmons, a daughter of A. P. and Nancy (Stackhouse) Simmons, who removed from England to Canada in early life, living there when the country was so wild that they had to continually watch their wheat crops to keep them from being destroyed by the deer and had to build pitfalls for the bears, so numerous and troublesome were they. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons removed to Bloomington, Illinois, at the time the Chicago & Alton Railroad was being built and he acted as superintendent of construction. He afterward removed to Dwight, where he conducted a large blacksmith shop and wagon factory. He was run over and killed by a train on January 7, 1902, when seventy-three years of age, and his widow is still living in Dwight. Mrs. Claypool is a graduate of the high school of Dwight and taught school in and near that place for twelve years.

In his political affiliation Mr. Claypool is a Democrat and for two terms he served on the school board, but has never sought office as his business affairs have fully occupied his time and in the development of his business he has found ample incentive for the exercise of his powers and the employment of his best efforts. He affiliates with the Christian church of Greenview.

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#### CHARLES CANTRALL.

The name of Cantrall is inseparably associated with the history of central Illinois and the town of Cantrall in Sangamon county was named in honor of Levi Cantrall, grandfather

of Charles Cantrall. From an early period in the nineteenth century representatives of the name have taken an active and helpful part in the upbuilding and improvement of this part of the state and the work of progress is still being carried forward by Charles Cantrall in Menard county. He makes his home in township 18 and is accounted one of the substantial agriculturists of his community.

His grandfather, Levi Cantrall, was born in Virginia, October 1, 1787, and was married November 30, 1809, to Miss Fanny England, who was born October 2, 1792. They became the parents of thirteen children. On leaving the Old Dominion, Levi Cantrall took up his abode in Ohio and subsequently came to Illinois, arriving on the present site of Springfield December 4, 1819. Later he entered land north of the town of Cantrall and began the development of a farm in that locality, being the original owner of his tract, after the Indians had left for hunting grounds farther west. He took a helpful interest in the work of early development, was one of the valued pioneer residents of Sangamon county, and the town of Cantrall is justly considered a monument to his enterprising labors in behalf of that district. He died in the year 1862, while his wife passed away in 1835.

Their son, McDonald Cantrall, father of our subject, was born in Sangamon county, April 6, 1833, and died September 15, 1872. He was reared amid pioneer environments and he remained at home, assisting in the improvement of his father's farm up to the time of his marriage, which occurred in Sangamon county, Miss Narcissa Hedrick becoming his wife. She was born in Sangamon county, April 15, 1831, and is a daughter of Jonathan and Julia (Holland) Hedrick, the former born March 29, 1799, and the latter February 8, 1803. They were married November 1, 1827, and became the parents of three sons and three daughters. Mr. Hedrick died September 10, 1883, and his wife November 29, 1896. Their daughter, Mrs. Narcissa Cantrall, is now living with her son Charles Cantrall, her only child.

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McDonald Cantrall began their domestic life upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of

land and later he purchased forty acres, and subsequently one hundred and twenty-eight acres, so that within the boundaries of his farm was comprised a tract of three hundred and twenty-eight acres. He raised and fed stock and found a good market for them, thus adding materially to his income. A part of his land was wild prairie when it came into his possession, but he placed it under the plow and made substantial modern improvements, erecting good buildings, planting shade and fruit trees and continuing the work there along progressive lines until at the time of his death his property was very valuable, forming one of the attractive features of the landscape. He left a fine home surrounded by all modern improvements and his property was the visible proof of his career of enterprise and usefulness. In connection with general farming he had raised as fine cattle and hogs as were to be found in the county.

Charles Cantrall was reared under the parental roof and obtained his education in the public schools of Menard county. His father instructed him in farm labor and they worked together until the father's death, at which time Charles Cantrall, then eighteen years of age, took charge of the farm and has since conducted the business, giving his attention to the further development and cultivation of his land. In 1875 he and his mother bought a hundred acres of land additional and subsequently he sold one hundred and twenty acres and also bought two hundred and forty acres. At the present time he is farming eight hundred and twenty acres of land. Up to three years ago he fed, shipped and sold cattle and hogs, but since then he has merely superintended the cultivation of the land, without engaging in stock-raising or dealing. He is one of the directors of the Fancy Prairie Grain & Coal Company and, having served four years, has been re-elected.

On the 16th of May, 1888, Charles Cantrall was married to Miss Anna E. Council, a daughter of John H. and Edna (Lake) Council, both natives of Sangamon county. The father, born May 19, 1823, died February 26, 1904. His wife, born June 7, 1831, is now living with her son, John William Council, on the old home-

stead. They were the parents of four sons and a daughter, who are yet living: James H., who was born January 24, 1859, married Miss Julia Cantrall and is living in Logan county; Charles F., born August 5, 1861, married Miss Gussie Jones and resides in Springfield; George R., born September 3, 1863, married Miss Mary C. Carpenter, and makes his home in Logan county; John W., twin brother of George, married Annie Kendall and is a resident of Sangamon county. The other member of the family is Mrs. Cantrall, who by her marriage has become the mother of three children: John Harry, born May 4, 1889; McDonald, February 2, 1897; and Edna N., November 25, 1902.

Mr. Cantrall has served as a school director for about ten years. He is prominent in Masonry, belonging to Van Meter lodge, No. 762, A. F. & A. M., of Cantrall, Illinois; DeWitt chapter, No. 119, R. A. M.; and St. Aldemar commandery, No. 17, K. T., both of Petersburg. Both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star lodge and his wife and mother are members of the Christian church, to the support of which he contributes. Theirs is a commodious and attractive country residence, where cordial and warm-hearted hospitality abounds, and in social circles they are prominent and influential. Mr. Cantrall stands as a high type of the progressive business man of modern times, keeping in touch with the rapid advance that has been made along agricultural lines in recent years.

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#### ELIHU HALL.

Elihu Hall, now deceased, whose memory is cherished by his many friends of Menard county who knew and honored him, was a son of Fleming Hall and a grandson of Thomas R. and Catherine (Thomas) Hall. Fleming Hall was born in Patrick county, Virginia, in 1791, and in 1828, about eleven years after his marriage, he emigrated westward to Missouri, where he was engaged in teaching school for a year. On the expiration of that period they came to Illinois and pre-empted the land upon which the town of Athens has since been built. He remained for two years on the quarter section

there and entered the tract from the government. He hewed the logs used in the construction of the first house of Athens, after the town was laid out in 1832. At the time when Mr. Hall and Benjamin and John Wiseman were laying off the school sections into small lots for sale, Abraham Lincoln acted as their surveyor and Mr. Hall would often relate how the tall, athletic form of the future president would be seen passing silently through the deep ponds which the others were glad to avoid. Fleming Hall was united in marriage to Miss Susannah Tice, a native of Pennsylvania, and for many years remained a respected and worthy pioneer settler of Menard county, his name being inseparably interwoven with the early development of this part of the state. He died January 1, 1891, in his ninety-seventh year. Up to his last brief illness he retained his remarkable health and had full possession of his faculties until the day of his death.

Elihu Hall, who came with his parents to Menard county in 1829 and assisted in the early agricultural development of this part of the state, was also well known as an active and influential factor here. He married Miss Elizabeth Brown and resided upon the old homestead until his death, which occurred September 24, 1882. He was one of the most successful farmers of the county and in addition was one of the most learned botanists of the state. His collection of well arranged and classified plants, including over ten thousand species, was probably not excelled by any other in the west at that time. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hall were born three children: Una M., the eldest, is the wife of Dr. Howard Boone, of Chandlerville, Illinois; Julian H., born May 22, 1855, is a graduate of Eureka College, of Eureka, Illinois, with the class of 1896. He afterward entered the Columbia Law School of New York city and was graduated from that institution with the class of 1900, after which he returned to Menard county and took charge of the home farm. He was married October 2, 1902, to Miss Lillis Watson, a daughter of L. F. and Drucilla (Purviance) Watson. Hubert R. Hall, the youngest of the family, born September 24, 1877, is a graduate of Eureka College of the class of 1897 and of the Columbia Law

School of New York with the class of 1904, and at the present time is practicing his chosen profession in Springfield.

### CHARLES D. GUM.

Charles D. Gum, who is now serving as county commissioner and township trustee, is an active factor in community interests, recognized as a prominent and influential citizen of Menard county, where his entire life has been passed and where he is still engaged in general farming, owning and operating three hundred and sixty acres of land in Tallula precinct. He was born on this farm October 5, 1855, and in the paternal line comes of German ancestry. The family was established in America at an early epoch in the history of the new world and the grandfather of our subject was a resident of Kentucky.

The father, Thomas D. Gum, was born in Kentucky and when a small boy was brought by his parents to Menard county, Illinois, where he was reared amid frontier conditions and environments. His birth occurred December 14, 1813. He married Jemima Carter, a daughter of Robert Carter, who came to Illinois in the fall of 1830, settling at Clary's Grove. His daughter, Mrs. Gum, was born September 26, 1816. Thomas Gum was a farmer and followed that occupation throughout his entire life, thus providing for his family. He was a Democrat in politics. He died November 18, 1859, when his son Charles was but four years of age, and Mrs. Gum departed this life April 14, 1900, having for more than forty years survived her husband. She was a consistent member of the Baptist church and both were laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery. In their family were the following children: M. D., who died August 11, 1811; Jesse, who died in infancy, in 1811; Leander, who was born March 13, 1811, and died June 7, 1842; Robert G., who was born June 9, 1813, and died November 27, 1811; Margaret, who was born March 26, 1816, and died December 17, 1841; John C., who was born March 22, 1817, and died June 9, 1898; George, who married Belle Miller and lives in Kilbourne, Mason county,

Illinois; William, of Tallula, who married Marinda Elmore, afterward wedded Adeline Bawn and for his third wife chose Emma Thomas; and Charles D.

In taking up the personal history of Charles D. Gum we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Menard county. He was educated in the district schools and has always resided upon the farm on which he was born, and here he has so directed his energies as to meet with gratifying success. He has never been off the place for more than a month at a time, although he has visited New Mexico and other parts of the country. He owns the old homestead place, comprising three hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land, and is one of the more progressive farmers of his locality. He uses the latest improved machinery in the cultivation of the fields and the gathering of the crops, and neatness characterizes all departments of the farm.

On the 22d of April, 1883, Mr. Gum was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Deppe, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Deppe, who resided in Sand Ridge, but are now deceased. For fifteen years Mr. and Mrs. Gum traveled life's journey happily together, and then the wife was called to her final rest, her death occurring on the 20th of March, 1898, while her remains were interred in Rose Hill cemetery. Five children had been born unto them, all of whom are living, namely: Mary D., who was born April 18, 1885; Lottie B., born July 9, 1887; Estella A., born March 18, 1889; Edna M., born March 26, 1891; and Goldie P., born March 13, 1893. Mrs. Gum was a member of the German Methodist church and was a most estimable lady, who won the friendship of many with whom she was brought in contact.

In his political views Mr. Gum has always been a Democrat and is a recognized leader in the ranks of his party in Menard county. He has served as road commissioner for ten years and is now township trustee, having been elected for a term of three years, and his service in this office altogether covers seventeen years. In 1902 he was elected county commissioner to serve for three years, so he is the present incumbent in that office. His official duties have







C. D. GUM AND CHILDREN.





MRS. C. D. GUM.



MRS. LENAH CARTER.



MRS. JEMIMA GUM.



FRED DEPPE.



ever been discharged with marked promptness and fidelity, his devotion to the best interests of the community being one of his most strongly marked characteristics. He has always lived upon the old Gum homestead, and the fact that many of his warmest friends are those who have known him from boyhood is an indication that his has been a straightforward life and useful career.

#### JOSEPH B. PILLSBURY.

The strong, forceful and commendable elements in the life record of Joseph B. Pillsbury are close application in business, earnest and honorable purpose and indefatigable energy. He was born December 24, 1866, in Petersburg, his parents being Joseph H. and Susan M. (Gardner) Pillsbury, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Sangamon county, Illinois. Joseph H. Pillsbury was born August 3, 1830, a son of Alpha and Margaret (Caverno) Pillsbury. He lost his father in New Hampshire, his death occurring in June or July, 1831, when he was but thirty-one years of age. Joseph H. Pillsbury had a brother, George Pillsbury, who was born December 6, 1826, and died January 22, 1851, in Menard county, Illinois, his remains being interred at Farmers Point. When Joseph H. Pillsbury was less than two years of age his mother's house was destroyed by fire and she went to Dover, New Hampshire, to work in the tailor shop of Peter Cushman. In the summer of 1836 she went by stage from that place to Providence, Rhode Island, thence by water to New York, on to Philadelphia by rail, by canal to Pittsburg and thence down the Ohio and up the Mississippi rivers to St. Louis, Missouri, and up the Illinois river to Beardstown, coming from that point across the country to New Salem, Menard county, by wagon. Her brother had come to this state in 1835 with Jonathan Colby and here he worked and afterward bought land. Mrs. Pillsbury joined her brother the following year and a few years later married James Goldsby, the first sheriff of Menard county.

Joseph H. Pillsbury was reared in Menard county and here followed the occupation of

farming. He married Susan M. Gardner and they became the parents of five children, but Alice died when two and a half years of age; John died in infancy; and Mary Harper died at the age of six years. Those living are Joseph B. and Susan H., the latter living with her mother. In early life the father taught school and read law in the office of Gus Riggins, the circuit clerk, in 1854. The following year he taught the first free school in Petersburg and was elected school commissioner that year. He took an active and prominent part in public affairs and was elected county judge in 1861, having been admitted to the bar in 1856. In 1857 he was appointed master in chancery and served in that office until elected county judge. He was re-elected to the latter position in 1873. In 1877 he bought a farm four miles northwest of Petersburg, but never lived upon that place, continuing to make his home in Petersburg until his death, on the 29th of November, 1899.

Joseph B. Pillsbury was educated in the schools of Petersburg and in Illinois College, which he entered in the fall of 1884, attending that institution through two winters. He was also a student in the business college at Jacksonville, and in June, 1886, he returned home. In the following year he began farming on his present farm of one hundred acres, which he afterward purchased, and has since bought an additional tract of eighty acres, so that he now has a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres. He has been engaged in general agricultural pursuits, raising both grain and stock, and has met with a fair measure of success in his undertakings, having now a well improved tract of land, which yields to him golden harvests in return for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields.

On the 15th of October, 1890, Mr. Pillsbury was united in marriage to Miss Emma Cooper, a daughter of Howard A. and Ann (Bennett) Cooper. Her father was born and reared in the city of St. Louis and her mother was a native of Petersburg, Illinois. The Coopers were of Irish descent, while the Bennetts were of Scotch-Irish lineage. Howard H. Cooper became a practicing physician and was an army surgeon at the time of the Civil war.

After the cessation of hostilities he settled in Booneville, Missouri, where he practiced for a number of years and then removed to Versailles, Missouri, where he remained for a year and a half. He afterward took up his abode upon a farm south of Versailles and at a later date settled at Colecamp, where he remained for a short period. His next place of residence was Ashland, Illinois, where he spent a year and a half. His wife died March 3, 1856, in Petersburg, Illinois, where she had been taken for medical treatment, and Dr. Cooper afterward sold out and removed to Versailles, Missouri, going from that place to Rockville, Bates county, Missouri, in 1883. He spent his remaining days in Rockville, passing away in 1901, and his remains were interred in the cemetery of Versailles. He was the owner of property at that point. There were four children in that family, namely: Mrs. Pillsbury; Thomas, a miner of Joplin, Missouri, who is married and has three children; Howard, a sheep raiser, who makes his home at Freeland, Wyoming, but spends much time near Caspar, Wyoming; and Annie, who died at the age of three months. Mrs. Pillsbury was born in Versailles, Missouri, February 1, 1850, and pursued her education in the schools of Rockville and Versailles, completing a high school course in the former city. She afterward engaged in teaching school for one term and then came to Petersburg, Menard county, to make her home with Mrs. Thomas Bennett and Mrs. B. Wright. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Lyman Adair, born August 3, 1891; Ross Caverno, born March 26, 1896; and George Bennett, who was born July 2, 1897, and died December 1, 1903, his remains being interred in Roschill cemetery east of Petersburg.

The parents are Presbyterians in religious belief and Mr. Pillsbury usually gives his political support to the Democracy, but at times votes for Republican candidates, as he does not consider himself bound by party ties. He has never been an aspirant for office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and now, in connection with general farming, he is feeding some cattle. His entire life has been passed in Menard county

and his career has been honorable and straightforward, as is indicated by the fact that many of his warmest friends are those who have known him from his youth to the present.

### HENRY J. EICHENAUER.

Henry J. Eichenauer, who for many years has been connected with farming interests in Menard county, is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land in townships 18 and 19. His farm is well improved with modern equipments, the pleasant residence being surrounded by fine trees and a well kept lawn. In the rear stand good barns and other necessary outbuildings, and these in turn are surrounded by well kept fields and pastures, the latter containing a high grade of stock and, taken altogether, his is one of the best farms of the county. Mr. Eichenauer is now building a fine modern residence in Petersburg at a cost of five thousand dollars and will occupy the same by the 5th of March, 1905.

As his name indicates, Mr. Eichenauer is of German lineage. He was born in the fatherland, August 22, 1854, his parents being John and Mary (Bernhard) Eichenauer, both of whom were natives of the same country, whence they came to America in 1860, sailing from the German port to New Orleans. The father was a wagon-maker by trade and while in New Orleans he was forced into the rebel army, ten soldiers riding up to his home on horseback and taking him to the Confederate camp. He was kept there until the surrender of the city. He afterward worked at his trade for the government and in 1865, on the first boat that went up the river to St. Louis, he made his way to that city. Subsequently he went to Beardstown, Illinois, where he engaged in farming, there purchasing a tract of land which he continued to cultivate until 1892, when he sold that property and removed to Bath, Mason county, where he is still engaged in farming, although he has reached the age of eighty years, his birth having occurred in 1824. His wife, who was born May 15, 1827, died January 24, 1903.

Henry J. Eichenauer pursued his education in the German Lutheran schools of New Or-

leans and of Beardstown, Illinois, and in his youth was trained to habits of industry and economy upon the home farm, gaining practical knowledge of all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He continued to assist his father until about twenty-five years of age, when he rented a farm in Cass county, Illinois, whereon he lived for three years. In 1883 he removed to Menard county, where he again rented land for two years and then with the capital that he had saved with his earnings he made investment in property, becoming the owner of three hundred and eight acres a quarter of a mile from Oakford, Illinois. There he followed farming with success until 1889, when he sold that property and bought two hundred and forty acres where he now lives. To this he has since added an eighty-acre tract and has developed the entire place into a splendid farm property. In connection with the raising of grain he has always engaged in the raising of mules and horses, making a specialty of saddle and trotting horses. He also raises shorthorn cattle and his business has been so carefully conducted that it has become quite profitable and he is now one of the substantial citizens of his community. On the 5th of July, 1901, the train on which he was riding was blown from the track by a cyclone and Mr. Eichenauer barely escaped with his life.

The marriage of Mr. Eichenauer occurred on the 22d of February, 1880, the lady of his choice being Miss Michal Hickey, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Armstrong) Hickey, the latter a daughter of Jack and Hannah Armstrong, at whose home Abraham Lincoln was frequently entertained. Joseph Hickey was born in Tennessee and became one of the pioneer residents of Cass county, Illinois, which was the birthplace of his wife. Both are now deceased, but for many years they were numbered among the respected and worthy citizens of their locality and assisted materially in its early development. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eichenauer have been born four children: Charles H., born August 8, 1881, in Cass county; Anna Marie, born in Menard county, June 24, 1884; Helena Edith, born in Menard county, March 22, 1886; and George Herbert, born on the old

homestead, December 30, 1891. Mr. Eichenauer is a member of the German Lutheran church at Petersburg, while his wife belongs to the Cumberland Presbyterian church there. For several terms he has served as a member of the school board and his interest in public measures has been manifest by tangible support of all movements, which he believes will benefit the county. He has been found reliable in his business life and trustworthy in friendship and because of his excellent traits of character receives the warm regard of many with whom he has been associated.

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#### JAMES CYRUS COUCHMAN.

James Cyrus Couchman is the owner of good farming interests in Menard county, his home being on section 3, Tallula township. He was born February 1, 1851, in Morgan county, Illinois, his parents being E. R. and Sophia (Henderson) Couchman, the latter a daughter of D. G. Henderson, who removed from Ohio to Illinois, settling in Morgan county, where Mrs. Couchman was born. E. R. Couchman was a native of Bourbon county, Kentucky, born December 24, 1819, and was a son of B. F. Couchman. The grandfather of our subject was a farmer and slave owner and spent much of his life in the south. E. R. Couchman came to Illinois in 1825 and in 1827 his father came to this state and entered land from the government, comprising the farm upon which the insane asylum at Jacksonville, Illinois, was built. He afterward returned to Kentucky, but again came to Illinois, this time accompanied by his family. He purchased land where the town of Arcadia has been built and upon that place he lived and died, being one of the representative early farmers of his locality. In his family were five sons and three daughters: B. F., William, George, Caleb, James, Mrs. Ellen Knox, Mrs. Elizabeth Leaf, who resides in Normal, and Mahala.

E. R. Couchman was a young man when he first came to Illinois. He was reared in this state and in early life became familiar with the difficult task of reclaiming wild land for purposes of cultivation. He assisted his father,

however, in developing his fields and gained practical knowledge of the best methods of carrying on farming. In the year 1851 he came to Menard county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land from Jonathan Masterson. He afterward purchased all of the land on which the town of Rushaway was built, but later sold that property and bought two hundred and ninety-six acres on a part of which his son James now resides. He has since carried on agricultural pursuits in this part of the state and he now owns eighty acres where he lives and forty acres lying to the northwest in Menard county. He also owns and farms land in Cass county and is recognized as one of the prosperous agriculturists of his community who has capably controlled his business affairs so that they now return to him a good income. In his family were four children: Margaret married Silas Ratliff and they had two daughters, one of whom, Lizzie, is now Mrs. Van Winkle and resides south of Tallula. David Couchman married Sarah Senter and was the owner of a farm in Menard county, but both are now deceased: William married Lizzie Senter, and he is deceased, but his widow resides in Spokane, Washington.

James Cyrus Couchman, whose name forms the caption of this review, was brought to Menard county when less than a year old and was reared on the old family homestead, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of farm life for him in his youth. He was educated in the country schools and spent one term in the Illinois College at Jacksonville, but put aside his text books at the age of nineteen years and began farming for himself upon his present place. Later he went to Missouri, settling in Harrison county, but his business ventures there did not prove profitable and he returned to Menard county. Here he rented a farm for a year and since that time has resided upon his present place.

On the 2d of January, 1895, Mr. Couchman was married to Miss Lizzie Ray, a daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Ray, of Ashland, Cass county, Illinois. She was born in Morgan county, east of Jacksonville, on the 5th of January, 1871, and attended the schools of

Ashland, of which she is a graduate. Mr. Couchman belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He gives his political support to the Republican party and in matters of citizenship is deeply interested, manifesting public-spirited and loyal devotion to every movement which he believes will promote the general good.

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#### FRED WILLIAM AYRES.

Fred William Ayres who makes his home in Athens, is interested in farming pursuits and is an extensive stock-raiser and shipper, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle. He was born in Athens, November 13, 1876, his parents being William and Mary (Depew) Ayres, the former a native of Menard county and the latter of Mason county. The father began life as a farmer and stock-raiser upon the old home farm in Menard county, just a mile west of Athens. There he carried on farm work for many years and now is living retired upon the old homestead, enjoying the rest which he has earned and richly deserved, for he worked persistently and diligently in former years and brought to bear in his chosen vocation sound judgment and executive ability. In all of his business transactions he has ever been found worthy of the public trust and he therefore enjoys the esteem of the business community. For a quarter of a century he served as a school director and otherwise took an active and helpful part in community affairs. He married Mary Depew and they became the parents of four children: Joseph, who died in infancy; Etta, who died about fifteen years ago; Lou, who is the wife of Dr. Cheaney, resident of Petersburg; and Fred W. After the mother's death the father married again, his second union being with Emma Malby, with whom he is now living on the old home farm.

Fred W. Ayres is indebted to the public school system of Athens for the early educational privileges he enjoyed and he advanced there step by step until he had mastered the branches taught in the high school. He was also a student in the Gem City Business Col-



F. W. AYRES.





lege at Quincy, Illinois, from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1897. On leaving college he returned to Athens and entered the bank as a bookkeeper, occupying that position for three years, after which he engaged in farming in Menard county and he is today one of the leading young agriculturists of the state. In addition to the raising of cereals he is also engaged in the raising of pure blooded stock, making a specialty of breeding Scotch shorthorn cattle, and he is now an extensive shipper of fine thoroughbred cattle to all parts of the United States.

While connected with the banking interests of Athens Mr. Ayres was married to Miss Minnie Rosalyn Hargrave, a daughter of M. T. and Melissa Hargrave, both of whom were early residents of Athens, where the father figured prominently in commercial circles for a quarter of a century, conducting a drug store there. In the maternal line Mrs. Ayres is descended from the Primm family, being a granddaughter of Abram S. Primm, who was a scion of a wealthy family that settled in Menard county before Athens was founded. He was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, December 25, 1812, and accompanied his parents on their removal to this county in October, 1820. Here he resided until his death and he was married on the 19th of June, 1839, to Lucinda C. Hall, by whom he had four children who are yet living, namely: Mrs. Mary A. Cline, Mrs. Lizzie M. Hargrave, Mrs. Rose Young and Mrs. Lillie S. Estil. Another daughter, Mrs. A. P. West, died a few months before the death of her father and her husband is now living in California. Three years before the death of Abram Primm he and his wife celebrated their fiftieth marriage anniversary. Just six weeks later Mrs. Primm died, and after that "Uncle Abe," as he was known to every one in the community, gradually grew weaker and for several months prior to his demise was unable to leave his home. His sorrow over the loss of his loved companion undoubtedly led to his death. He came of an illustrious family and the Missouri Republican, bearing date August 23, 1885, publishes the following account of his ancestors: "The Primm family is entitled to a coat-of-arms on both sides of the house. They are de-

scended from Alexander De La Pryme, a gentleman of the town of Ypres, who was granted a patent of gentility by the Roman pontiff for meritorious services under Philip of Alsace in the second crusade. The family having embraced the Reformed religion they were forced to leave the continent by Cardinal Richelieu after the revocation of the edict of Nantes and they settled in England. Alexander De La Pryme removed to the Isle of Man in 1725 and his second son, John, emigrated to America, settling in Virginia in 1750. In deference to the prejudice existing against French names the De La was dropped and the latter part of the surname was changed to the present form of Primm. The eldest son of the emigrator, John Primm, was a colonel in the Revolutionary war and in 1802 he removed westward with his family. His eldest child was Peter Primm, the father of the late Judge Wilson Primm. He married Marie Angelique La Roux D'Esneval. Her father was one of four brothers of the name of La Roux D'Esneval, three of whom fled from France during the reign of terror in 1793. A portrait of one of these is in possession of the family. He was a colonel in the bodyguard of Louis XIV and was guillotined. Another went to San Domingo during one of the insurrections of the slaves. Two brothers came to Canada, where one remained, while the other one went to St. Louis and was there married to Helene, daughter of Jean Sallivit (called Lajoie) and Maria Rosa De Vialpardo, a lady of Spanish birth. The Primm coat of arms is a poinard and cross quarterly crest—a cross. The motto is "Animose certavit" (He has fought courageously).

Thomas Primm, the father of Abram Primm, was a son of John Primm mentioned above. He was a native of Virginia and was married in 1807 to Elizabeth Stallings in St. Clair county, Illinois, whence they removed to Menard county in 1820. He was one of seventeen children and died in the year 1856.

Mrs. Fred W. Ayres, granddaughter of Abram Primm, was born in Athens and has spent her entire life here with the exception of six years passed in Petersburg while her father was serving as sheriff there. She completed her education in the high school of Athens and after

putting aside her text books she remained at home with her parents until the 4th of January, 1897, when she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Ayres. Their union has been blessed with three children: William West, born August 24, 1899; Mary, born August 12, 1901; and Thomas Hargrave, born November 15, 1903.

In his political views Mr. Ayres is a staunch Democrat, thus following in the political footsteps of his father and his grandfather. He is, however, fearless in his advocacy of any measure which he deems to be for the general good. He is overseer of the poor but has little political ambition. Prominent in Masonry, he belongs to Clinton lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Cantrall, Illinois, and Dewitt chapter, R. A. M., of Petersburg. His wife is of the Presbyterian faith. They have a beautiful modern residence in Athens, celebrated for its hospitality and their circle of friends is almost co-extensive with their circle of acquaintances.

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#### ROBERT A. YOUNG.

Robert A. Young, now residing on section 19, township 18, range 5, was for many years actively engaged in general farming and stock-raising, but is now practically living retired, and well does he deserve his rest, as his has been a busy and useful career. He is also numbered among the honored veterans of the Civil war who valiantly fought for the Union cause upon many southern battlefields. He still retains an active interest in affairs of county, state and nation, and in Menard county has been the champion of many measures which have resulted beneficially for the community.

Mr. Young was born in Bath county, Kentucky, November 23, 1829, his parents being William P. and Margaret (Young) Young, the former born in Kentucky and the latter in Virginia. They came to Menard county from Kentucky, November 8, 1836. In their family were five children, two sons and three daughters, but only two are now living—Robert A. and Mrs. A. M. Hamil, who reside in Lincoln, Illinois.

When only six years of age Robert A. Young accompanied his parents to Illinois. Menard

county was then all wild prairie or timber land and the work of reclaiming it for the purposes of civilization had scarcely been begun. Great changes have since occurred as the pioneers have claimed the land and transformed it into productive fields, building in their midst attractive and substantial homes and founding cities and villages, in which all modern improvements and facilities may be found. Mr. Young attended the public schools and assisted in the work of the home farm, pursuing his studies through the winter months and aiding in the labor of the fields through the summer season.

Having arrived at man's estate he was married to Cassandra Claypool, a daughter of Levi and Barbara Claypool, but Mrs. Young died a year after her marriage, and on the 30th of November, 1841, Mr. Young was again married, his second union being with Ann E. Kincaid, a daughter of J. K. and Vienna (Williams) Kincaid. Her father, a farmer by occupation, was born in Bath county, Kentucky, June 30, 1808, and became one of the pioneer settlers of Menard county. In early life he served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, after which he worked for twelve dollars per month in order to obtain money that would enable him to attend school. In this manner he acquired a good education. He came to Illinois in 1832 and followed carpentering for two years, after which he purchased land and turned his attention to farming. He was married April 24, 1836, to Vienna Williams, who was born in Bath county, Kentucky, March 4, 1817, and then gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He improved more than six hundred and seventy acres of land in Menard county and he owned seven hundred acres of land in Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. He was very successful and his prosperity was well deserved, as it was gained through honorable methods and close application. Both he and his wife were consistent members and active workers in the Presbyterian church for many years and they gained the unqualified confidence and esteem of all with whom they were associated. In their family were fourteen children.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Young has been

blessed with two sons and two daughters: Mary M., who is the wife of Dr. Barber, of Boulder, Colorado; Will H., at home; James K., who married Kate Hopkins, and is living on the old homestead; and Margaret E., who is acting as her father's housekeeper. Mrs. Young, the mother of these children, died December 8, 1903. An obituary published at that time said: "Seldom is a home, church or community called upon to sustain so great a loss as was occasioned by the death of Mrs. Young. In the home she was a true wife and devoted mother, and it was her delight to dispense genuine, loving hospitality. In her quiet, unobtrusive way she went about doing good wherever sickness, sorrow or need called her. In this ministry of mercy she contracted the disease—pneumonia—which in a few days resulted fatally. For nearly half a century she was a member of the North Sangamon Presbyterian church, was a most earnest, active member of the Ladies' Missionary Society and was interested in everything that tended to promote Christ's cause. Many characterized her as the best woman they ever knew and this estimate was not the language of compliment, but of sober judgment. Her memory and influence are a precious heritage."

Mr. Young, in early manhood, manifested his loyalty to the government by enlisting at Athens, Illinois, August 14, 1862, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry, and after almost three years of active service was mustered out at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, July 12, 1865. He arrived at Camp Butler, Springfield, July 24, 1865, and was there paid off. His company was composed of Menard county men and the regiment went into camp at Lincoln, Illinois, August 15, 1862, being mustered into the United States service on the 18th of September. On the 7th of that month they moved to Columbus, Kentucky, and on the 10th to Jackson, Tennessee. On the 6th of December occurred the first death in the regiment—that of E. Rankin, of Company C. At the Obion river fight Sergeant Henry Fox, of Company H, climbed up the timbers of the bridge and crossed that structure under the fire of the whole rebel force, on his way to Jackson for re-enforcements, and although this

was a most perilous undertaking he accomplished it in safety. Later the regiment was sent further north to guard railroad stations. The prisoners paroled by General Forrest were sent to Benton Barracks and exchanged in the summer of 1863. The balance of the regiment was ordered to Bolivar, Tennessee, in March, 1864, and about the 31st of May moved on to Vicksburg. While en route the boat which was transporting the troops was fired upon at close range off Island 63 by several companies of rebel infantry and two cannon, and Captain Beizely's son was killed at the first fire, while a few others were also killed and about twenty-five wounded. After serving in the trenches at Vicksburg a few weeks, the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois was sent forty miles up the Yazoo river to repel a rebel force and, returning by forced marches, was harassed by the enemy, while under the scorching summer sun many soldiers were prostrated by the heat. The regiment lost more men on that trip than from any other cause during its term of service. The One Hundred and Sixth served in the line of battle at Vicksburg until after its surrender and was then ordered to Helena, Arkansas, and took part in the advance on Little Rock, participating in its capture. It was in the battles of Clarendon, Duvall's Bluff, Pine Bluff, Benton, Hot Springs, Lewisburg, St. Charles, Dardanelles, and Brownsville and performed its full share in crushing out the rebellion. Its members suffered many privations and hardships, marching through swamps and bayous, fighting and foraging, and its history shows a long list of casualties. Mr. Young was always most faithful to his duties and returned home with a most creditable military record.

Since the war Mr. Young has been identified with farming and was also engaged in breeding and raising Shropshire sheep and fine cattle and hogs. For many years he was active in the operation of his farm, but has now turned it over to his sons, while he is living a retired life, enjoying a well earned rest. He has been prominent and helpful in church work for many years and is an elder in the North Sangamon Presbyterian church. He is president of the Indian Point Cemetery Asso-

ciation and for sixteen years he has been a member of the school board. His political allegiance has been given the Republican party since he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856, and since that time he has never wavered in his allegiance to the party. In 1852 he voted for John P. Hale for president. He belongs to Pollock Post, No. 200, G. A. R., at Athens, and in all matters of citizenship he has been loyal, laboring for the best interests of the community. His has been a useful, active and honorable career, and his record is indeed worthy of emulation.

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#### ISAAC N. REDING.

Isaac N. Reding, now deceased, was born January 23, 1808, in Woodford county, Kentucky, and was the eldest son in a family of four children, whose parents were E. W. and Catherine (Conover) Reding. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and in early life emigrated west to Kentucky, where he was married to Catherine Conover, a daughter of Major Conover, who won his title by active service in the Revolutionary war. Mr. Reding spent the first fourteen years of his life in the state of his nativity and in 1822 came to Illinois with his parents, the family home being established at Jersey Prairie. He obtained a good common-school education and his training at farm labor was not meager for at an early age he began to assist in the development and improvement of the home farm. His youth in Illinois was passed amid pioneer environments and he helped his father in the arduous task of developing a new farm. His entire life was devoted to agricultural pursuits and as the years passed he found good opportunity to invest in property and became the owner of extensive landed interests. He gave to each of his children a farm prior to his demise and still retained possession of two hundred acres of land adjoining the town. His widow yet owns a home where he settled in 1852. In all of his farm work he was practical and energetic and he carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook, brooking no obsta-

cles that could be overcome by determination, persistent and honorable effort.

Mr. Reding was married twice. On the 28th of February, 1828, he wedded Miss Mary Ann Hoagland, and they became the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters, of whom three are still living, namely: Mrs. Martha Whitenack, who resides in Edinburg, Illinois; Eli W., who is married and makes his home in Tallula; and Mrs. Catherine Kenner, who resides about four miles east of Tallula. After losing his first wife Mr. Reding was again married, August 20, 1851, his second union being with Charry J. Houghton, a daughter of Elijah and Catherine (Merrel) Houghton, who were Kentucky people and came to Illinois at an early day. They settled at Rock Creek and there Mrs. Reding was born on the 26th of November, 1824—the autumn following the arrival of her parents in this state. Six children were born of the second marriage: Emma M. became the wife of Ephraim Green, who is now deceased. She resides in Tallula and has one daughter, Martha Jane, who is at home. Andrew F. married Ida Ragan and resides near Virginia in Cass county. They have one daughter, Hazel. Mary J. is at home. Annette O. is the wife of J. W. McNaught, who resides near Thawville in Iroquois county, Illinois, and they have six children: Pansy R., Pearl, Roy, Ruby, Sadie and Edna. Charley A., who is employed in the government office at Pekin, Illinois, in a clerical capacity, married Henrietta Spears, and they have one son, Ralph. Sarah H. is the wife of Samuel N. Dewees, a resident of Tallula, and they have three children: Charley E., Helen A. and Edith M.

When Isaac N. Reding attained his majority he became a staunch supporter of Whig principles and upon the dissolution of that party he joined the Republican ranks and continued to follow Republican banners until called to his final rest. He was almost uniformly called Uncle Ike throughout the community, a term which indicated a deep feeling of friendly regard for him. He belonged to the Christian church, of which he became a member in 1830, and his entire life was actuated by an honorable purpose and kindly spirit. He exercised





ISAAC N. REDING.



MRS. ISAAC N. REDING.





charity in his opinions of his fellow men, was generous in his assistance to those in need and at all times was straightforward and honorable in his dealings. He died on the anniversary of his birth, January 23, 1882, and his remains were interred in Greenwood cemetery west of Tallula. During the long years he had been a resident of Menard county he witnessed its development from a frontier region and was classed with the honored pioneers of the locality.

#### LEONARD K. GOFF.

Leonard K. Goff, who is engaged in farming and threshing in township 19, range 5, is a representative of a pioneer family of Menard county, and throughout his entire business career he has been identified with agricultural interests in this portion of the state. His birth occurred in Menard county, June 8, 1856, his parents being William and Mary (Westfall) Goff. The father, who was eighty-two years of age on the 19th of August, 1904, came to Illinois from Kentucky when four years of age and has been a resident of Menard county for seventy-eight years. His father died when he was a small boy and he lived at home with his mother until he attained his majority. He then began farming on his own account with very limited capital, having one yoke of oxen, a horse and a cow, the entire outfit being not worth more than seventy-five or eighty dollars, but he possessed courage and resolute spirit and he determined to gain a comfortable living and a good farm property if they could be acquired through persistent and honorable effort. On the 24th of October, 1844, he secured a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage to Miss Mary Westfall, who was born in New York and was eighty years of age on the 10th of October, 1904. She came to Illinois when twelve years of age, making the trip down the Ohio river on a raft to a point in Indiana and thence traveling across the country to Illinois. The young couple began their domestic life in true pioneer style. When they started housekeeping they had a dry-goods box for a table and their other furniture was equally

primitive. The bedstead was practically a swinging bunk, which could be turned up and attached to the wall in the day time. The house was built of logs, had nothing save the ground floor and there was one door and window, while the chimney was made of sticks and clay. Thus amid pioneer surroundings Mr. and Mrs. Goff started out for themselves, laboring earnestly and untiringly to gain a good start in life. As soon as possible, Mr. Goff purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land and as the years passed he prospered in his undertakings. Subsequently he was enabled to replace the primitive dwelling by a comfortable frame residence. He has led a very busy, useful and active life and his career has commanded the respect and good will of all with whom he has been associated. Although now well advanced in years, he still superintends his farming interests and he has added from time to time to his original farm until he now owns two hundred and eighty-five acres of very rich and arable land, which annually returns to him a good income. He has also been prominent in community affairs and has filled the position of road commissioner, while for many years he was school director. His political allegiance is given the Democracy and both he and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Baptist church. In their family were eight children, five sons and three daughters: Theodore L., who was born November 20, 1848, and is now living in Nodaway county, Missouri; Commodore P., who was born August 20, 1850 and is now living in Colby, Kansas; Louisa, who was born July 14, 1853, and is the wife of Robert Cantrell, of Menard county; Leonard K., of this review; Frederick W., who was born December 30, 1858, and resides upon the old homestead farm; Murry M., who was born February 24, 1860, and resides near Loveland, Colorado; Mrs. Emma Frye, who was born August 25, 1864, and resides at Springfield, Illinois; Mrs. Ella McNeal, a twin sister of Emma, now residing at Campbell's Hill, Illinois.

On the old home farm Leonard K. Goff was born and reared, working for his father until about twenty years of age. He gained practical experience of the labors of field and meadow

and when not engaged with the farm work he devoted his time and attention to mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools. After leaving home he worked by the month for a short time in Menard county and subsequently he went to Missouri, where he engaged in farming on his own account for a year. He then returned to Menard county, where he also operated a rented farm for a year. On the expiration of that period he was married and accompanied by his bride he traveled by wagon to Nodaway county, Missouri, where he lived for four years, engaged in farming and sheep-raising. Not being able to buy land there he had to go to Kansas in order to get land for grazing purposes, for he had one hundred and eighty-five head of sheep. As the ranch there was owned by others and he was denied the privilege of pasturing his sheep thereon, he bought cattle and later he traded his cattle for eighty acres of land. Afterward, however, he traded this land for sheep, which he finally sold to Jefferson Johnson and returned to Menard county. On again reaching this county he rented a farm, upon which he lived for seven years, or until the time of the death of his mother-in-law. He is now farming one hundred and fifteen acres of his father's farm and for the past seven years he has also engaged in threshing. His business interests are well conducted and he is widely known as a man of enterprise and of careful management.

On the 1st of August, 1878, Leonard K. Goff was united in marriage to Ellen F. Holland, a daughter of Stephenson and Frances T. (Pace) Holland, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, the former born December 24, 1813, and the latter February 6, 1818. They came to Menard county about 1846, Mrs. Holland making the journey on horseback from Kentucky. The first work which Mr. Holland did in this county was farm labor, for which he received six dollars per month. He afterward married and began housekeeping with limited means. He soon arranged, however, for the purchase of one hundred and twenty acres of land from the government and later he sold this property and bought another tract of one hundred and twenty acres, upon which he spent

his remaining days, successfully carrying on general farming and stock-raising until his life's labors were ended in death on the 4th of March, 1875. Mrs. Holland long survived him and died July 31, 1899. Both were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Irish Grove and were people of the highest respectability. During her long residence in Menard county, Mrs. Holland endeared herself to many friends by whom she was lovingly and familiarly called Aunt Frankie. When she passed away one who knew her well wrote of her: "Thus has ended another life which has mostly been spent in assisting in developing the great state of her adoption—Illinois. She has witnessed many changes, both in the development of the resources of Illinois and in the building up of society around her. She will be missed, not only by her children, but also by a large circle of old and true friends. Her life acts will stand as an everlasting monument to her memory and her example is worthy of imitation, not only by her children, but also by all those who came under its influence. May her mantle fall upon her daughters and the far-away son be comforted by the thought that his dear old mother is at rest." Mr. and Mrs. Holland were the parents of seven children: Martha L., who was born November 4, 1849, and died May 19, 1886; Mrs. Mary E. Mitchell, who was born April 12, 1851, and now resides in Morgan county, Illinois; Mrs. Julia Lukins, who was born March 23, 1853, and resides in Greenvew; Eliza J., who was born November 17, 1854, and died November 11, 1874; Ellen F., who was born August 18, 1856; Mrs. Louisa A. Belt, who was born June 27, 1858, and makes her home in Bates county, Missouri; and Dr. Edward A. Holland, who was born October 25, 1860, and is now living in Houston, Texas, where he is engaged in practice as a specialist in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear and throat. He is a self-made man and is the owner of a hospital in Houston. In his professional labors he is greatly assisted by his wife, who was formerly a trained nurse of New York city.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Goff has been blessed with three children: Mrs. Lotta F.

Paine, who was born December 26, 1880, and is living on a farm in Menard county; Edwin C., who was born September 25, 1881, and assists his father in the home farm; and Gilbert E., who was born October 13, 1891, and is also at home. The parents are earnest Christian people, Mr. Goff holding membership with the Baptist church and his wife with the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and socially he is identified with the Court of Honor and the Modern Woodmen of America, while politically he is a staunch Democrat. He has a wide acquaintance in Menard county, where the greater part of his life has been passed and he enjoys the confidence of the entire business community.

#### CLEMENT W. SHIPLEY.

Clement W. Shipley figures prominently in business circles in Menard county, being an extensive stock dealer and also the promotor of many enterprises which have had direct bearing upon the material upbuilding and commercial progress of this part of the state. He was born May 6, 1861, in this county, his parents being Henry B. and Minerva E. (King) Shipley, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The father, however, was only six months old when brought by his parents to Illinois and the mother was a little maiden of nine summers when she came with her father to Illinois, her mother having previously died. Henry B. Shipley lived with his parents until he had attained man's estate and during that period he was trained to the work of field and meadow, becoming familiar with every duty that falls to the lot of the agriculturist. On leaving home he went to California with William B. Williams and others, making the trip overland with ox teams. It was a long and arduous journey across the plains, taking six months, but he at length reached his destination in safety and spent five years on the Pacific coast. He then returned to Menard county, but in the meantime both of his parents had died. He was called home to settle up the estate and when this was accomplished he began farming and stock-raising on his own

account. He farmed about eight hundred acres of land and also conducted an extensive business as a stock-dealer. He traded largely in both land and live stock and was one of the representative business men of his locality, possessing keen foresight, executive ability and indefatigable energy. Later he removed to Petersburg, where he conducted a flour mill and also gave his attention to the supervision of his property, which he rented. His time was thus occupied until his death, which occurred on the 30th of May, 1892. Rev. W. T. Ferguson conducting the funeral services. His wife died at the home of Rev. J. M. Johnston, October 9, 1899, and again Rev. Ferguson had charge of the funeral services. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shipley had a wide acquaintance in Menard county, where they had lived from early childhood and their excellent traits of heart and mind had endeared them to many friends. They became the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter; William, who died in infancy; Zennetta E., who is the wife of Rev. James N. Johnston and is now living in Petersburg; Clement W. of this review; and Dillard H., who died at the age of thirteen years.

In the usual manner of farmer lads Clement W. Shipley spent the days of his boyhood performing the duties of the schoolroom, enjoying the pleasures of the playground and when not occupied by his lessons assisting in the work of the fields. After attending the public schools he continued his studies in the old Presbyterian College at Lincoln, Illinois, and afterward entered the business college at Jacksonville. The occupation to which he was reared he has always made his life work and since the age of twenty-two years he has carried on farming for himself. In addition to the cultivation of the fields he has engaged extensively in buying, feeding and shipping stock, purchasing live stock in Missouri and Iowa and after fattening them making shipments to the city markets. About 1892 he rented his farm for four years, thereafter residing in Petersburg, where he was engaged in the manufacture of flour as proprietor of the City mills. He then sold his milling business in 1896, after which he returned to the farm, where he has resided con-

tinuously since. His landed possessions are extensive, comprising seven hundred and sixty-nine and a half acres of fine farming land. He has at the present time one hundred and twenty-three head of fat cattle and about one hundred and seventy-five head of other cattle. On his place are one thousand head of hogs and seventy head of horses and mules. His farm is splendidly equipped with modern improvements and in both the raising of grain and of stock he is meeting with gratifying success. In addition to the home property he is half owner in four hundred acres of land in Cass county, Illinois, and he owns a brick residence in Petersburg.

Mr. Shipley is a man of resourceful business ability, alert and enterprising and has extended his efforts to many other fields of business activity. He is financially interested as a stockholder in the First National Bank of Petersburg, is a stockholder in the Virginia Canning Company at Petersburg and also in the Petersburg Marble Works and is a stockholder and treasurer of the Sand Ridge Telephone Pole & Line Company, having nearly one hundred subscribers. It will thus be seen that his activity has been called forth along many lines contributing to industrial and commercial prosperity and his name is regarded as a reliable one in trade circles and of much value on commercial paper.

On the 23d of June, 1885, Mr. Shipley was united in marriage to Miss Evelyn Nance, who is a daughter of Franklin C. and Eliza (Houghton) Nance. Her father, who was born in Kentucky in 1828, died in May, 1898, while her mother passed away in April, 1868. Later in that year Mr. Nance was again married, his second union being with Miss Jane Stitch. By his first marriage he had four children: Sevginia, Hardin W., Laura A. and Mrs. Shipley. By the second marriage there were eleven children: Caroline H., J. Frank W., Fannie E., Edna J., Mary, Edlie L., Harry W., Florence S., Glenn C., Geneva and Louise J.

Mr. and Mrs. Shipley had nine children: Alta L., who is a member of a sorority and is a junior in music in the University of Illinois; Henry E., Pearl E., Ernest R., Clement O., who died at the age of eleven months

and twenty-seven days; Caleb Glenn, Hah Donald, Evelyn Ivot, who died at the age of two years and five months; and Claremont Wayne, who died at the age of eighteen months.

In his political views Mr. Shipley is a staunch and earnest Democrat, but though he has been solicited to accept public office he has always refused to become a holder of any position of public preferment save in connection with the schools of his locality. He is now a member of the school board of his district and has been its president for many years. He is prominent in Masonry, belonging to Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., of Petersburg and De Witt chapter, No. 119, R. A. M., and St. Aldemar Commandery, No. 41, K. T. Keen and clear-headed, always busy, careful and conservative in financial matters, moving slowly but surely in every transaction, he has few superiors in the steady progress which invariably reaches the objective point. The story of his achievement should inspire all young men who read it with a truer estimate of the value and surer rewards of character.

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#### WILLIAM R. GRIMSLEY.

William R. Grimsley, who is engaged in general farming and the breeding of horses, being one of the successful men in this line of business in Menard county, was born in Bath county, Kentucky, August 1, 1845, his parents being Nimrod G. and Frances (Moreland) Grimsley, the latter also a native of Kentucky. The father was born in Virginia, August 30, 1813, and came to Menard county March 17, 1865. He purchased land and began farming and stock-raising, and for a number of years was numbered among the well-to-do and respected agriculturists of this part of the state. In his family were six children, five sons and a daughter: Elmore G., John G., William R., Samuel, Nelson and Elizabeth D. All are married with the exception of Samuel and all are living in the county with the exception of Nelson, who makes his home in Seattle, Washington. Elizabeth married Ephraim Propst, of this county.

Reared and educated in his native state,



MR. AND MRS. W. R. GRIMSLEY.



William R. Grimsley came to Illinois in early manhood and throughout his entire business career has carried on general farming and stock-raising. He was at first employed as a farm hand by the month and in 1869, at the time of his marriage, he rented a farm upon which he lived for four years. He afterward rented another farm for eight years and then purchased the tract of land upon which he is now living, consisting of three hundred and fifteen acres. He carries on general farming and he is a member of the Greenview Horse Club Company, of which he has been a director for ten years. He is also a member of the Sweetwater Horse Company and he owns an imported pedigreed Percheron stallion, St. Pachon, which is registered. He also has Satinwood, a standard-bred and registered pedigreed animal, a half-brother to Nutwood. He has always bred the highest grade horses and has been the owner of some very fine specimens of the noble steed. He also owns a number of head of fine cattle, making a specialty of short-horns of the best grade. He has three hundred and fourteen acres of very valuable and productive land in his farm and he deserves great credit for what he has accomplished as his possessions have been acquired entirely through his laborious and well directed efforts.

On the 14th of January, 1869, Mr. Grimsley was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Kummell, and they became the parents of three children. Edward, born July 31, 1870, is now living in Iowa. Clara, born April 25, 1876, was married December 22, 1897, to W. T. Deatherage, and they have four children. May E., Amos, Hallen P. and Ruth. Alma born October 13, 1878, is at home with her father. The wife and mother died November 1, 1887, at the age of forty-one years.

Politically Mr. Grimsley is a Republican, and keeping well informed on the questions and issues of the day, is able to support his position by intelligent argument. He has been a member of the school board for nineteen years, and believes in the employment of good teachers and the utilization of every practical method that will benefit the schools. He is what the world calls a self-made man, for de-

pending upon his own resources, he has, by honorable methods, risen from a humble financial position to one of affluence.

#### DANIEL DIEHL.

Daniel Diehl, an honored veteran of the Civil war who is equally loyal to his country in times of peace, and who is classed with the representative farmers of Menard county, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1831. He is a son of Henry C. and Hannah (Lease) Diehl, who were likewise natives of Berks county, Pennsylvania. The father's birth occurred in February, 1809. He was a son of John Adolph Diehl, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a grandson of Nicholas Diehl, a native of Germany. The last named came to America in colonial days and settled in Philadelphia. In his native country he had learned the baker's trade and after living in Philadelphia for a time he opened the first bakery ever conducted in Reading, Pennsylvania, where he remained until his life's labors were ended in death. When the country became involved in war with England he espoused the cause of the colonists and fought for the independence of the nation. His son John Adolph Diehl was a hotel keeper and became proprietor of the Black Horse tavern near Philadelphia. At a later date he removed to Oley Valley in the same county, where he carried on general farming until his death, which occurred when he was sixty-five years of age.

Henry C. Diehl, the father of our subject, spent the first eight years of his life in Philadelphia and afterward resided upon his father's farm until he had attained his majority. He became a farmer in Berks county, Pennsylvania, but on the 1st of April, 1815, he left the Keystone state for Ohio. This was about the time of the historic fire in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He stopped for a time at Johnstown and finally arrived in Pickaway county, Ohio, with fifty cents in his pocket. It was difficult for him to obtain employment and he gladly accepted any work that would yield him an honest living. Subsequently he engaged in farming there until April, 1851, when he again



sought a home in a frontier district, this time working his way to Illinois. On the 18th of April of that year he located in Cartwright township, Sangamon county, where he carried on farming for several years. In 1858 he bought a farm of forty acres and later he purchased eighty-nine acres of land on the Sangamon river in Menard county. Upon the latter farm he resided until 1864, when he sold his property in this county and purchased twenty acres of land in Gardner township, Sangamon county. There he continued to reside until eighty-three years of age, when he returned to Menard county and died at the home of his son-in-law Tilmon Hornbuckle in July, 1893. In his political affiliation in early life he was a Whig and afterward became a Republican, giving loyal support to Lincoln. He held membership in the United Brethern church and his life was ever honorable and upright, his wife, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Lease, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and her father was likewise a native of that state, but her grandfather, was of German birth and became the founder of the family in the new world. He, too, was one of the heroes of the Revolution. Mrs. Hannah Diehl died in December, 1883, at the age of seventy-eight years, at the home of her daughter Mrs. Tilmon Hornbuckle in Menard county.

They were the parents of seven children: John, who is living at Reading, Pennsylvania; Catherine, the wife of David Bartgis, of Cowley county, Kansas; Daniel; Harrison, who died May 3, 1854; Charles, who is living in Lewisburg, Kansas; Cinley, a resident of Springfield, and Mary E., who is the wife of Tilmon Hornbuckle, of Menard county.

Daniel Diehl spent his early life in Berks county, Pennsylvania, remaining there until ten years of age, and between the years 1845 and 1851 he resided upon his father's farm in Pickaway county, Ohio. In the latter year he journeyed with the family by boat to Beardstown, Illinois, and he resided between Ashland and Pleasant Plains in this state until 1854, when he went to Springfield. Prior to this time he had engaged in agricultural pursuits, but on removing to Springfield he followed the blacksmith's trade. At the time of the Civil war

Mr. Diehl manifested his loyalty to the Union cause by active service in the army. He enlisted in October, 1861, as a member of the First Battalion of Yates Sharpshooters, afterward Company C, of the Sixty-fourth Illinois Infantry. He was mustered into service at Camp Butler as a corporal and proceeded with his company to Quincy, Illinois, and afterward to New Madrid, where he took part in a battle. He next engaged in the battle of Island No. 10, and later his and another company brought three thousand prisoners to Camp Butler. Mr. Diehl's regiment was subsequently sent to Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, and he took part in the siege of Corinth and in a number of skirmishes. He was also at Iuka with Rosecrans and fought under that general in the battle of Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862. His regiment remained there in camp until 1863, doing guard duty and was stationed to protect the rear of Sherman's army from the rebels at Pulaski, Tennessee. In January, 1864, Mr. Diehl veteranized and after a furlough of thirty days he rejoined his regiment, which was reorganized at Ottawa, Illinois. He and his comrades were dispatched to Decatur, Alabama, to join Sherman and they did some gallant service in the battles of Resaca, Ringgold, Dallas, Buzzard's Roost, Peachtree Creek, Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta. In September, 1863, Mr. Diehl was detached as regimental blacksmith and served in that capacity until after the fall of Atlanta, when he was transferred to the supply train of the First Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps and went with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He was next transferred to the First Brigade of the First Division of the Seventeenth Army Corps and with this command proceeded to Beaufort, South Carolina. He fought in the first engagement at Orangeburg, South Carolina, and for four days and four nights was in water from three to four feet deep. He fought at Goldsboro and after the surrender of Lee and Johnston he went to Washington, where he took part in the grand review, the most celebrated military pageant ever seen on the western hemisphere. He was mustered out at Louisville, July 11, 1865, and with a most creditable military record returned



to his home, having been honorably discharged in Chicago.

Following his return home Daniel Diehl resumed blacksmithing and for many years was well known as the village blacksmith of Salisbury. There he carried on business with success for a long period, but now he is living a retired life in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence, which was gained through earnest labor. He was a skilled workman and because of the able service which he gave his patrons he secured a large trade that made his business profitable.

Mr. Diehl was married on the 22d of June, 1869, to Miss Eliza J. Stone, a native of Gardner township and a daughter of B. D. Stone, a native of Kentucky. They are the parents of five children: Oraette is the wife of F. Cutler, by whom she has three living children, Robert, Floy and Lorne, and they live in Brad-fordton, Sangamon county. John H. married Nellie Mae Wood and lives in Athens. Allie D. is the wife of Charles Brown, also a resident of Athens. Katie L. married William C. Buerkett and has one daughter, Valera. They make their home in Salisbury. Viola M. completes the family.

Mrs. Diehl is a consistent member of the Christian church at Salisbury and Mr. Diehl is independent in both his religious and political views. While living in Sangamon county he served for twelve years as constable as an accommodation to the people of his locality, for the office paid small compensation. His has been an active and useful career and as a soldier and citizen he has made an honorable record.

#### JOHN S. HURIE.

The subject of this sketch was born May 11, 1851, and is a son of Josiah and Nancy Barker (Hawthorn) Hurie. The father was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on the 15th day of December, 1812, and came to Illinois in April, 1813, settling in the eastern part of Cass county, near the Menard county line. He was joined in marriage to Miss Nancy Barker Hawthorn on the 6th of August, 1816, near Newmanville, Illinois. She was born in Green

county, Kentucky, nine miles from Greensburg, June 17, 1824, and came with her parents to Illinois in September, 1835. Unto Josiah Hurie and wife were born the following children: George Curtis, born June 3, 1847, died September 3, 1848; Frances Catherine, born March 1, 1849, was married February 14, 1869, and married a second time July 22, 1887; Alice Emily, born August 22, 1851, was married September 1, 1868, and died March 14, 1873; John Solomon, born May 11, 1854, was married October 22, 1878; Mary Melissa, born October 4, 1856, was married September 12, 1876, and a second time November 24, 1897; Emmet Josiah, born December 9, 1860, died March 8, 1888; Ida Belle, born November 17, 1863, was married October 2, 1887, and died November 3, 1896. The father of this family died February 7, 1901, but the mother is still living, in December, 1904.

John Solomon Hurie was married October 22, 1878, to Miss Ann Maria Houghton, on Rock creek. She is the only daughter and the only living child of Andrew M. Houghton, who was born on Rock creek on the 12th of October, 1826, and was married to Miss Barbara Ann Renshaw on the 9th of April, 1856. She was born in Richland, Sangamon county, Illinois, September 18, 1829, and became the mother of two children, namely: Ann Maria, now Mrs. Hurie; and Wiley P., who was born June 6th, 1861, and died October 1, 1861. Andrew M. Houghton died January 2, 1891, in a house located within one hundred feet of the cabin in which he was born. No better man ever lived in Menard county. He was a man of most excellent judgment on almost every subject and no man in this section of the country was counseled more than he. When any of his neighbors were in trouble or were perplexed over any matter of any kind they were almost sure to go to "Uncle Hickory," as he was almost universally called. No man could be more missed from a neighborhood than was "Hickory" Houghton, and although he has been dead fourteen years his name is still a household word in this section of the country. His is truly a blessed memory.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurie have four children: Andrew Emmett, born November 16, 1879;

Earl J., born April 10, 1882; Wiley Linn, born March 17, 1885; and John Frank, born September 3, 1891. Andrew E. Hurie was married to Miss Elizabeth Ellen Stout on the 16th of October, 1900.

John S. Hurie is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising and makes a decided success of it. He owns a farm of fourteen hundred and thirty-six acres of as good land as there is in central Illinois. Upon the property is a rock quarry in operation and he has recently sunk a coal shaft, which will, when fully developed, be a source of ceaseless income. Taken upon the whole, Mr. Hurie is one of the best and most enterprising citizens of the country. In politics he is a Democrat of the old mossback type, always found with his party and in the forefront of the fight, but in this direction he could not influence his eldest son, who has followed in the steps of his grandfather, who was a staunch Republican, and young "Hickory" is as strong in the faith as his grandfather ever was.

#### AARON THOMPSON.

Aaron Thompson, deceased, was born in Cape May county, New Jersey, on the 28th day of January, 1810. He was among the most active, upright and highly respected citizens of Menard county, who achieved success by their indomitable energies rather than by any outside aid. His record is that of many others of the self-made, self-reliant men, prominent in the history of this county, and his career has been marked with the experiences common to that class referred to. His parents, Anson Thompson and Elizabeth (Eldredge) Thompson, died when he was a small child. He was denied the privilege of attending school as much as he desired, but his was an energy that was not easily thwarted by obstacles and by dint of his own perseverance he succeeded in gaining a good education, an education that was equal to, or even surpassed that of many a college student of to-day, besides his store of general information and book learning. He was a good penman and expert mathematician and was versed with a most

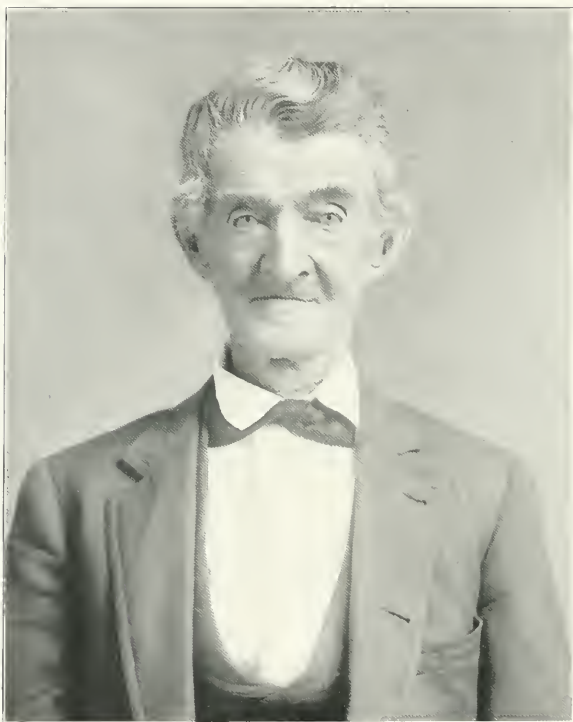
wonderful geographical knowledge. At an early age he learned to earn his own livelihood and in 1837 he bade his native state adieu and came to Illinois. He first located in Sangamon county, where he taught school and clerked in a store. In 1848 he removed to Menard county and settled on a farm about two and one-half miles northwest of Petersburg, where he was actively engaged in farming for over forty years. Then he removed to Petersburg to spend his declining days, but not in idleness. He busied himself looking after his farm interests, and other business affairs with which he was connected.

Mr. Thompson was married September 21, 1848, to Miss Sarah J. Carson, who died in 1854. Two children of this union are living. On April 18, 1865, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage with Mrs. Amanda (Flinn) O'Bannon. She was the daughter of Zadee W. and Elizabeth (Hill) Flinn, who removed from Kentucky to Illinois in 1820, settling in Morgan county, where Mrs. Thompson was born September 3, 1827. Mr. and Mrs. Flinn were the parents of fourteen children, ten daughters and four sons. This was one of the most prominent and highly respected families of Morgan county and at Mr. Flinn's death he left a vast estate.

Aaron Thompson and his wife, Mrs. Amanda Thompson, were the parents of six children, of whom there are now living: Aaron Edwin; Zadee Anson; Elizabeth A., wife of G. A. Waring, of Petersburg; Mary Helen, the wife of Dr. E. A. Bleuler, of Carlinville, Illinois; Lulu J., the wife of G. H. Codrington, of Chicago. One daughter, S. Kathryn, wife of Harrison Robinson, of Prentice, Illinois, died on the 16th of June, 1889. Fannie H., now Mrs. J. D. Goodpasture, is the daughter of Mrs. Thompson, by her first husband, George W. O'Bannon, who died in 1854.

Mr. Thompson was a life-long Democrat. His first vote was cast for Andrew Jackson. He was a man of pronounced character. He had clear and definite ideas on all matters and expressed his opinion freely, but not offensively, and everyone knew where he stood on every subject. By his active and industrious life he accumulated a competency and died November





AARON THOMPSON.



MRS. AARON THOMPSON.



10, 1899, surrounded by those comforts that are ever the result of honesty, industry and economy. His second wife died February 16, 1897.

### ELMER P. HORNBACK.

One of the native sons of Menard county, Elmer P. Hornback, was born May 19, 1851, on the farm where he now lives and represents a prominent family of this part of the state, whose high reputation he has fully sustained by his straightforward business career. His parents were Captain Robert and Margaret Hornback. His paternal great-grandfather, Abraham Hornback, was a native of Virginia, as was his maternal great-grandfather, Robert Bracken, and both were soldiers under General George Washington, in the Revolutionary war. John Hornback, the grandfather of Elmer P. Hornback, was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, February 3, 1798, and in 1818, he married Abigail Bracken, a native of Bath county, Kentucky, and a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Mappen) Bracken. In 1825 they removed to Illinois, reaching Menard county on the 22d of October. Here Mr. Hornback purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, at the usual government price and with characteristic energy he began transforming the raw tract into cultivable property, making substantial improvements, and through his farming interests aiding materially in the early pioneer development of this part of the state. He continued to engage in general farming here until his death, which occurred December 2, 1857. He had shared in many of the frontier experiences incident to reclaiming this district for the uses of civilization, and in 1832 he had served in the Black Hawk war, in company with Abraham Lincoln with whom he was intimately acquainted. Mr. Lincoln was the captain of this company and Mr. Hornback the lieutenant.

Robert Hornback was born in Menard county, on the old family homestead, November, 14, 1828, being the eldest of a large family. He was reared amid pioneer environment and assisted in the arduous task of developing

the new farm which made the life of every frontier agriculturist a strenuous one. When only five and a half years old he plowed with one of the old time plows, then in general use. Throughout his entire life he carried on the work of tilling the soil and remained upon the homestead until his death, which occurred September 6, 1899. He was married, February 29, 1850, to Miss Catherine Rogers, a daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Rogers, of Menard county. On the 10th of February, 1867, her death occurred, and November 7, 1867, Captain Hornback was married to Margaret J. McGilora, a very worthy lady, by whom he has four children. The mother died December 17, 1886.

Captain Hornback proved his loyalty to his country during the Civil war by active service on the field, enlisting on the 4th of August, 1862, as a private of Company K, One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, under Colonel Judy. The rendezvous of the company was at Camp Butler, Springfield, and the regiment soon afterward proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, remaining in the vicinity of that city until April 1, 1863, skirmishing, guarding railroads and scouting. At the expiration of that time order was received to join the forces under General Grant at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, proceeding from that point under General Johnston. The One Hundred and Fourth with several other regiments, came upon the rebels at Raymond, on the 10th of April and in the engagement that followed the Confederates were driven from their position. The Union soldiers followed their retreat and again a conflict occurred at Jackson, Mississippi, a pitched battle resulting in the forcing of the enemy from their fortifications and the capture of the city. On the 16th the battle of Champion Hills occurred. Mr. Hornback, with his regiment, participating, and later he aided in besieging the city of Vicksburg, until its capitulation, after a defense of two months, in which the cannon were seldom silent. The next move of the One Hundred and Fourteenth was in the advance to Jackson, where the two weeks' siege was followed by the surrender of the city, Captain Hornback being among the first to enter it, on the 16th of July, 1863. It was the month of October, following, that he was pro-

noted from orderly sergeant to captain and while in Memphis he was appointed provost marshal of the city, but not wishing to leave his regiment he remained with his command. Following various encounters with the troops under General Forrest, in the spring of 1864, the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois took part in the battle of Guntown, Mississippi, June 10, 1864, and Captain Hornback lost one half of his men and was himself wounded, but a month later, when the regiment again met the same troops, the latter were badly defeated. In August this regiment was transferred to the department of the Mississippi and pursued Price into Mississippi and Arkansas, taking part in the battle near Kansas City, in October. After Price was forced to leave Missouri Captain Hornback joined General Thompson at Nashville, and participated in the battle resulting in the defeat of Hood. With his regiment he also took part in the siege and capture of Mobile, and then gladly returned home, the war having ended, with victory perched upon the Union banners. A loyal and intrepid soldier, an honorable gentleman, reliable in business and trustworthy in all life's relations, the memory of Captain Hornback is revered and cherished by all who knew him.

In the common schools Elmer P. Hornback acquired his early education, which was supplemented by study in the high school of Greenview and a course in the Springfield Business College of Springfield, Illinois. He then returned home and at the age of seventeen years began farming on his own account, since which time he has continually carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He now owns the home place of two hundred acres and a ten acre tract of fine timber three miles south. He is classed with the intelligent, enterprising and prosperous farmers of his native county and his business career is characterized by straightforward dealing.

On the 20th of December, 1899, Elmer P. Hornback was united in marriage to Miss Maude Helstern, a daughter of George and Charissa Helstern, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Illinois. They became early settlers of Menard county, and the father is now living a retired life in Petersburg—one

of the worthy pioneer residents of the county. His wife died March 18, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Hornback have two children: Robert H., born November 25, 1901, and Margaret, born November 25, 1903.

The parents are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Greenview and Mr. Hornback holds membership relations with the Masonic lodge at Greenview and the chapter and commandery at Petersburg. He is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political allegiance to the Republican party. He seems to have inherited his father's patriotic spirit, for he manifests a most commendable interest in measures for the welfare of the county, state and nation, and gives hearty co-operation to all movements instituted for the material, intellectual and moral welfare of his community.

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#### JOE D. WILLIAMS.

Joe D. Williams, who is carrying on farming and stock-raising in township 18, range 4, was born in Middletown, Logan county, Illinois, July 16, 1866, his parents being Edwin J. and Rose (King) Williams. His father, who was born in Decatur, Illinois, July 8, 1838, died on the 8th of March, 1882, while his wife, who was born in Ohio, March 20, 1842, is still living. Edwin J. Williams lived with his parents in Menard county, Illinois, until twelve years of age, when his mother died and he afterward lived with an aunt, Mrs. Cynthia Johnson, for about a year. His father then took him to California, making the overland trip with ox teams. There were three wagons in the train and they were also accompanied by Mr. Williams' five younger brothers. They started on the 1st of April, 1851, and it took nine months to make the trip. One man out of the train was killed by the Indians while they were traveling through Kansas. Mr. Williams' father was captain of the train and he took with him sixteen yoke of oxen and seven head of horses. After reaching California he fattened the oxen and sold them as beef cattle for one dollar per pound. He then began to search for gold and was in the mines for two



years, at the end of which time he was murdered by the Rogue River Indians on Rogue river in California. Edwin J. Williams with his five brothers then started homeward, going by way of Panama on a sailing vessel, across the isthmus on mules and thence on a sailing vessel to New Orleans, up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and on the Illinois river to Beardstown, whence they made their way across the country to Menard county. Edwin Williams then lived with his aunt, Mrs. Johnson, until about twenty-five years of age. During that time he attended school as opportunity offered and he also did general farm work, breaking the wild prairie and cultivating the fields. At the age of twenty-five years he started out in life for himself, purchasing a tract of land near Middletown and residing in the village while operating his farm. He was married on the 8th of August, 1865, to Miss Rose King and they became the parents of three children: Joe D., Edwin F., who was born August 26, 1868, and is now married and living in the Panhandle of Texas; and Matilda J., who was born August 21, 1873, and is the wife of Louis Held, also residing in the Panhandle.

After his marriage Edwin Williams continued to reside in Middletown until the spring of 1873, when he sold his farm there and purchased one hundred and seven acres of land south of Irish Grove. Removing to the new property he continued its cultivation until the spring of 1876, when he sold that farm and went to Maryville, Missouri, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He also engaged in the lumber business, continuing in that line of trade until the spring of 1880, when on account of ill health he disposed of his lumberyard and returned to Menard county, locating at Athens, where he spent his remaining days. When two years had passed, however, he was called to his final rest. He was a member of the old school Presbyterian church and lived an upright, consistent Christian life, being straightforward in all his business transactions and faithful to every duty. His wife still survives him and now makes her home with her children.

Joe D. Williams spent his boyhood days under the parental roof. He was for two years

a student in the Murry school and afterward attended a graded school in Maryville, Missouri, for four years. He also spent two years as a student in Athens and later continued his studies at Maple Grove, where he attended school during the winter months. He was thus equipped by good educational privileges for the practical duties of life and reading and observation in later years have also added to his knowledge, while experience has taught him many lessons. After his father's death, which occurred when the son was fifteen years of age, he assisted his mother in improving and cultivating one hundred and ninety-one acres of land near Fancy Prairie and when he had attained his majority he went to Kansas, where he spent eight months herding cattle in that state and in the Indian Territory. Later with his two horses and cooking outfit he went overland to Nebraska, and traveling through the northern part of Missouri he at length reached Illinois. During this time he slept upon the ground and did his own cooking. After his return he worked with his mother at farming and stock-raising and in July, 1891, purchased one hundred and ninety-one acres of land adjoining his mother's farm on the north. Since then they have operated the two farms as one property, Mr. Williams having the active management of the place. They have about fifty head of shorthorn cattle and about one hundred and forty-five hogs. They also have twenty-three head of a good grade of horses on the place and an imported Percheron stallion, Clovis. As a farmer and stock-raiser Mr. Williams is meeting with a very gratifying measure of success and he is one of the stockholders of the Fancy Prairie Grain & Coal Company.

On the 19th of December, 1895, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Williams and Miss Mabel J. Council, a daughter of Robert and Ellen (Cresse) Council. Her father, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1830, died in 1881, while his wife, who was born August 11, 1844, is still living. They were married in 1862 and became the parents of eight children, six of whom survive: John W., who is married and resides in Menard county; Mrs. Williams; Lillie, who is the wife of Will Cline, a resident of Sangamon county; Lula C., the

wife of Edward Lake, of Menard county; Robert C. and Frank, who are living on the old family homestead. The father spent his entire life in Menard and Sangamon counties engaged in the business of feeding and raising stock and cultivating his fields. He possessed excellent business ability and executive force and managed his affairs so ably that at the time of his death he left a valuable farm comprising four hundred and eighty acres of fine prairie land well improved. On the place is a nice residence and substantial barns and outbuildings, while shade and fruit trees add to the value as well as to the attractive appearance of the place. Mr. Council was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his name was a synonym for honorable dealing in all life's relations.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Williams was blessed with three children: Ellen, born December 30, 1891; Ed, born November 9, 1900; and Robert C., born September 28, 1903. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams have a wide circle of friends in the county and their pleasant home is noted for its generous hospitality. They favor the Cumberland Presbyterian church, although they are not members of any religious denomination. In his political views Mr. Williams is a Republican and, while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day as every true American citizen should do, he has neither time nor inclination to seek public office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, in which he is meeting with signal success.

#### JESSE F. GUM.

Jesse F. Gum, who throughout his business career followed farming, winning both success and an honorable name, was born upon a farm near Talula, Menard county, November 29, 1834, his parents being Jesse and Mary (Dills) Gum, both natives of Kentucky, whence they removed to Illinois at an early epoch in the development and improvement of the county. They settled upon a tract of wild land, the father becoming the owner of a tract of twelve hundred acres, which at his death was divided

among his children. Indians were still found in this part of the state at the time of Mr. Gum's arrival, and every evidence of pioneer existence was seen. The land was largely uncultivated and the farm implements were crude, but stout hearts and willing hands overcame the difficulties of frontier life, and the labors of the pioneer opened up a district which is now one of the best agricultural sections of this great state. Unto Jesse and Mary (Dills) Gum were born twelve children but only one is living, Lydia Bell, a resident of Iowa. After losing his first wife the father married Grace Flynn. One son, Charley Gum, was a soldier in the Mexican war and after being wounded was honorably discharged.

Jesse F. Gum was educated in the public schools and was reared upon his father's farm, early assisting in the labors of plowing, planting and harvesting, so that he soon gained practical knowledge of the business which he determined to make his life work. He began farming on his own account after attaining his majority and always followed that pursuit. He was very successful, seldom, if ever, making a mistake in matters of business judgment and his careful control of his farming interests, his energy and diligence won for him a very desirable measure of prosperity. As his financial resources increased he invested in land and at his death was the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and thirty-three acres, which has since been divided among his children.

On February 11, 1858, Mr. Gum was married to Miss Marthena Ott, who was born July 24, 1839, in Harrison county, Indiana, a daughter of Nimrod and Pearline (Gum) Ott, and who were also natives of Harrison county, Indiana, and came to Illinois in 1852, settling in Menard county. Both have now passed away. They were farming people and lived a quiet, retiring life. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gum were born the following: Evaline, who died in infancy; Mary Agnes, who died at the age of three years; John Calvin, a resident of Petersburg, who married Cora Bell and has six children; Willie R., who resides on the home farm and married Elizabeth Davis, by whom he has six children; Etta, who married John Ailshie,





JESSE F. GUM.



MRS. MARTHENA GUM.



a carpenter of Pittsburg, Kansas, and has two children: Lucinda, who married Samuel Greenwald, a farmer living near Curtis, Illinois, and has one child: Martha Anna, who was married September 29, 1903, to Oliver A. Carman, a carpenter and contractor of Petersburg; Charles and Preston, who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Gunn was a Democrat but had no aspirations for public office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business affairs, in which he met with signal success. He died October 18, 1884, his remains being interred in Grove Hill cemetery. He was a member of the Baptist church, while his wife belongs to the Christian church. His interest in all matters pertaining to the material upbuilding and the intellectual and moral advancement of the community was deep and sincere, and while he never attempted to be a leader in public movements, he gave his hearty co-operation and approval to many measures for the public good. His salient qualities were such as won him high regard and warm friendships and thus his memory is cherished not only by his immediate family but also by many who knew him throughout Menard county.

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#### JOHN JOHNSON.

John Johnson, who has now traveled far on life's journey, is one of the honored and venerable citizens of Menard county and, moreover, he is especially entitled to mention in this volume because he is numbered among the native sons. Few indeed of her residents have longer resided within its borders and he has been a witness of almost its entire development since the first permanent settlement was made by white people. He can relate many interesting incidents of the early days and, moreover, he has taken just pride in what has been accomplished as the work of improvement and civilization has been carried forward.

Mr. Johnson was born September 5, 1825, upon the old family homestead in this county, his parents being William and Cynthia (Williams) Johnson. They were both natives of

Bath county, Kentucky, and arrived in Menard county in October, 1823, the father securing a government claim of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he built him a log cabin sixteen feet square. He also entered eighty acres of timber land from the government and with characteristic energy began to clear and develop his farm, living in true pioneer style. He left about four hundred acres of land at the time of his death, having acquired a good competence through his well directed energy. Unto him and his wife were born seven children, but all are now deceased, with the exception of John of this review, and Jefferson, who was born October 3, 1828, and is now living on the old family homestead. The father died in September, 1843, and the mother, long surviving him, passed away May 7, 1881.

John Johnson was born in the little log cabin which was the pioneer home of the family. Later that building was replaced by a larger house, which, however, was also constructed of logs. He was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of frontier life and assisted in the arduous task of developing new land and transforming the fields into productive tracts. His entire life has been devoted to general farming and stock-raising and as the years advanced he kept pace with the progress that was made along agricultural lines. His scythe was replaced by the mowing machine and other modern farm implements were secured, so that his labor was greatly facilitated.

On the 1st of December, 1846, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Jeunison, who died on the 12th of October, 1855, leaving two children: Adelaide, who became the wife of William E. Hall and died soon after her marriage; and William E., who resides upon his father's farm. For his second wife John Johnson wedded Elizabeth Gaines, a daughter of Joseph and Eliza (Meter) Gaines, both of whom are natives of Kentucky. This marriage occurred March 1, 1859, and was blessed with four children: Cora, who was born January 18, 1860, is now the wife of Frank Whitney, of this county; Iona, who was born September 12, 1862, is the wife of J. E. Culver, of Menard county; Joseph, born September 19, 1865, married Nellie Clark and

is now living in Athens; Ella, born July 14, 1869, is the wife of Henry V. Council, a resident of Logan county, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are now living with their daughter, Mrs. Whitney, and both are enjoying good health. He retains his strength to a remarkable degree and each day walks about four or five miles. They have seen many changes in Menard county and Mr. Johnson has a fund of interesting reminiscences concerning the early days. He saw the first railroad built in the county, strap rails being used, while the motive power was furnished by mules. The Wabash line now runs upon the old grade into Springfield. Mr. Johnson drove hogs to the market at St. Louis when sixteen years of age and was two weeks in making the trip, owing to the condition of the roads on which the snow was found in some places, while in other places the mud was very deep. His pay for the work was fifty cents per day and his labor began ere daybreak. He would breakfast while it was yet dark and his supper was taken after night had fallen. The houses at that time were often twelve miles apart. There were fifteen hundred hogs in the drove and fifteen men and boys were employed to drive them. After this trip he took a drove of hogs to Boardtown over the prairie and through the timber. During the period of the Civil war, in connection with his brother Jefferson and Colonel Williams, he purchased mules, which he sold to the government. They continued in the business of buying and selling stock for more than fifteen years, dealing in cattle, hogs and mules. They had sixteen hundred acres of land on which they fed their stock and their sales brought to them a good financial return. Mr. Johnson still owns three hundred and forty-three acres of fine farming land and ten acres of timber land in the county. He also has three hundred and twenty acres in Linn county, Kansas, eighty miles south of Kansas City. His has been a prosperous career, owing to his close application and unflinching labor and while his life has been quietly passed he has yet displayed many sterling traits of character which have won him the confidence of the business community and the respect of all with whom he has been associated. His polit-

ical allegiance is given to the Republican party and for twenty years he has served as a school director, but otherwise has held no public office. He was made a Mason in Petersburg in 1859 and afterward became a charter member of Greenview lodge No. 653, A.F. & A.M., with which he is now affiliated. No history of Menard county would be complete without record of its venerable citizen, who for almost eighty years has resided within its borders. What to many people are matters of history are to him events of personal knowledge or experience and he has many vivid mental pictures of pioneer conditions in Menard county, as well as of its later day progress and prosperity.

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#### ROBERT CLARY PANTIER.

James Pantier, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Boone's Fort at Boonesboro, Kentucky, February 7, 1779, and he continued to live at the fort until fifteen years of age. He was married in the state of Ohio to Miss Susanna Murphy. In 1815 he came to Illinois and in 1826 settled in what is now Menard county, three miles north of Petersburg. There he entered the land on which the subject of this sketch now lives. He was a very eccentric man, though a good Christian, and a ruling elder in the Concord Cumberland Presbyterian church. He was a "Faith Doctor," as people termed it, and many remarkable stories are told of his wonderful power. Hundreds of intelligent people fully believed that by simply laying his hands on the subject he could stop the flow of blood from a wound, cure a malignant cancer, kill the poison of a snake or a mad-dog bite, in short, heal any disease. He lived and died a respected and honored citizen, passing away on the 19th of January, 1859, when nearly eighty years of age.

David M. Pantier, the father of our subject, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, October 17, 1808, and came to Illinois in 1815, settling in Menard county in 1826. In March, 1829, he was joined in marriage to Miss Eliza W. Armstrong, who was born April 25, 1812, and



died in August, 1848. To them were born seven children, of whom Robert C. is next to the youngest and with the exception of him all are now deceased. David M. Pantier was again married in 1849, his second union being with Mrs. Maria Harms, a widow whose maiden name was Hutchies. To them were born four children, of whom two died in infancy and two are still living, namely: Marion Pantier, of Petersburg, Illinois; and Minerva Colson, of Nebraska. David M. Pantier died October 13, 1889, lacking four days of being eighty-one years old.

Robert Clary Pantier was born March 7, 1841, in Menard county, and his early life was that of the average country boy, working on the farm in summer and attending school three or four months in winter. On the 13th of April, 1863, he, in company with others, started across the country to California, and having horse teams they reached there in the early fall. While in California he was employed as a general hand on a stock ranch and remained in that state until 1865, arriving home on the 1st of December, of that year.

On the 20th of December, 1866, Mr. Pantier was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Jane Traylor, who was born in Menard county, March 25, 1842, and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Robinson) Traylor. Of this union were born three sons and one daughter, namely: David Harri, born December 6, 1867; William A., born July 23, 1869; Marion Edward, born May 12, 1872; and Ollie L., born December 28, 1874. The second son, William A., is married and lives on a farm near his father. The daughter, Ollie L., was married in December, 1890, to Eben Kirby and lives on a farm in an adjoining neighborhood.

Mr. Pantier is an intelligent successful farmer and stock-raiser. He is a ruling elder in the Concord congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, as he has been for a number of years. If he is like his father he will be a blessing to any community where he may dwell. While David M. Pantier was not a member of any church no man in this section of the country bore more of the practical fruits of Christianity than he. He and his wife, "Aunt Maria," as every one called her,

were on a constant mission of mercy as long as they lived. The poor, the needy, the sick, the orphan and widow were their especial wards, and unostentatiously and quietly they did their work. In the great day of account a great host will rise up to testify to their humble and quiet deeds of love.

#### GEORGE KIRBY, SR.

George Kirby was the son of Cyrus Kirby, who was a native of Kentucky. In the year 1809 Cyrus Kirby emigrated from Kentucky to the territory of Illinois, and settled in Madison county. On the 20th of December, in the year of 1812, George Kirby was born, in Madison county, Illinois. In the year 1820, when the subject of this sketch was eight years old, Cyrus Kirby removed from Madison county to Clary's Grove in Menard county and settled there. Some years later George Kirby bought land in Sand Ridge, Menard county, and settled there and continued to live there till the time of his death. On the 23d of October, 1834, Mr. Kirby was joined in marriage to Miss Dorcas Atterberry, who was born April 22, 1816. To this union were born eight children: John Kirby, born September 8, 1835; Daniel, born December 20, 1836; Nancy, born August 31, 1838; Samuel, born March 5, 1841; William, born December 31, 1842; Matilda, born June 29, 1844; Mary Jane, born October 11, 1846; George Kirby, Jr., born September 27, 1849.

George Kirby was a splendid specimen of that grand class of men, sturdy, honest and enterprising, who by their honesty, intelligence, devotion and industry made possible the rich inheritance that their posterity enjoy today. I fear that we can not properly appreciate the work of the men and women who carved out this rich legacy for us. No nobler band of men and women ever lived in any land than those who opened up this country and started it on the way to success. George Kirby was a man of sterling integrity and unwavering honesty, ever ready to lend his aid in any good and righteous cause. He was not a member of any church, but he respected good men, rev-

erenced God, and his influence was always on the side of right living and moral rectitude. Mr. Kirby lived within two miles of his life-long friend, S. D. Masters, for over fifty-three years. There was only twenty-three days difference in the date of their birth, and only twenty-three days difference in the death. Mr. Kirby was one of the prominent factors in the development of this part of Illinois. No man was ever turned hungry from his door, and every good and benevolent enterprise found in him an ardent and liberal supporter.

He left one sister still living at the advanced age of ninety-six years, Mrs. Lucinda Watkins. Another sister, Mrs. Matilda Watkins, is still living at the age of seventy-nine years. These sisters are the eldest and youngest of their family. Mr. Kirby died at about ninety-two years of age. At the graves of these grand pioneers we stand with uncovered heads, with gratitude contemplate the monument they erected to themselves in the development of this fair land, in which we see on every hand the impress of their genius, intelligence, industry and love.

#### JOHN E. BRASFIELD.

John E. Brasfield, who throughout his entire life has followed farming and stock-raising, was born in Menard county, March 10, 1829. His father, Thomas H. Brasfield, was a native of Madison county, Kentucky, born on the 4th of December, 1829. During his boyhood days he remained at home and through the winter months attended school, while in the summer seasons he assisted in the work of the fields. After leaving school he engaged in farming with his father until twenty-five years of age. He had accompanied his parents to Illinois in 1834, the family home being established near Athens in Menard county and he continued under the parental roof until 1854. His father had purchased land patents whereby he secured three hundred and twenty acres of land and upon a part of this land Thomas H. Brasfield began farming and stock-raising for himself, devoting the greater part of his attention, however, to the latter pursuit. He generally fed a

carload of cattle each winter, also many hogs, and likewise raised horses enough to do his own farm work. He built a comfortable and commodious home after burning the tall prairie grass from a patch of land sufficient to enable him to have a clear space on which to pile his lumber. That pioneer home is still standing and is one of the landmarks in the neighborhood. It is surrounded with fine maple, ash and elm trees that were planted by Mr. Brasfield, and he also set out a catalpa grove and a black walnut grove. He made his farm one of the finest developed and improved places of his locality and successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits for many years. He acted as a school trustee for twenty years and was a school director at the time of his death. Public interests that had for their object the welfare and progress of his community received his earnest endorsement and hearty co-operation and he was known as one of the prominent and influential residents of Menard county. He married Miss Cynthia M. Camp, who was born in Fulton county, Illinois, March 3, 1848. The marriage was celebrated September 19, 1876, and after traveling life's journey together for about twenty-four years Thomas Brasfield was called to his final rest on the 31st of December, 1900. His widow is still living and makes her home in Eureka, Illinois. They were the parents of four children: John E., of this review; Henry H., who died in boyhood; Laura C., who is now living in Eureka, Illinois, with her mother; and Bryant L., also with his mother.

John E. Brasfield acquired his early education in the public schools and afterward supplemented his preliminary knowledge by study in the Springfield Business College. He worked with his father upon the old home farm until the latter's death and then took charge of the property, which he managed for three years, at the end of which time he began farming on his own account. He has also carried on stock-raising and he has now several head of registered cattle. He also raises high grade horses and by improving his stock and thereby advancing prices he has added to the prosperity of the entire community. He operates two hundred and forty acres of land, most of which is used for pasturage purposes, and in addition to



MR. AND MRS. T. H. BRASFIELD.



this he owns one hundred and fifty acres, which he rents.

On the 2d of September, 1903, Mr. Brasfield was married to Miss Aurelia Davis, a daughter of George F. and Lizzie D. (Layman) Davis. Her father was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, August 21, 1818, and the mother in Botetourt county, Virginia, October 19, 1855. They now reside near Auburn, in Sangamon county, Illinois. During his boyhood he lived at home and worked with his father, aiding in the labors of the fields all through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he acquired his education in the public schools. He has always carried on farming and stock-raising since attaining adult age and is an enterprising and progressive farmer of his community. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and both he and his wife hold membership in the Court of Honor. He was married October 13, 1881, to Miss Lizzie D. Layman, and they became the parents of three children: Mrs. Brasfield, who was born November 3, 1882, in Auburn township, Sangamon county, Illinois; Hugh, who was born March 7, 1887, and died January 23, 1904; and Gerald, born September 11, 1898. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brasfield hold membership in the Christian church and he gives his political support to the Republican party. He is a young man, possessing the enterprising spirit which has dominated the west and been an important factor in its substantial upbuilding. He has already achieved creditable prosperity, which will doubtless increase for him as the years go by.

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#### SAMUEL LOWNSBERY.

Samuel Lownsbury is a representative pioneer settler of Menard county and has taken an interested and helpful part in the upbuilding of this portion of the state. He was born in Chemung county, New York, March 1, 1825, his parents being Jonathan and Mary (Jones) Lownsbury. The father was a native of the Empire state and the mother was born in Pennsylvania, but their marriage was celebrated in New York. It was in the year 1832 that Jonathan Lownsbury brought his family

to Illinois, establishing his home in Cass county, where he lived for six months and then removed to the present site of the village of Oakford. He entered one hundred and twenty acres of land from the government and at once began breaking the wild prairie, for not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon his place. He built a log cabin and in true pioneer style the family began life there, but in later years when his labor had brought him some capital he built a modern farm residence. Some of his children, however, were born in the little frontier home. To his original purchase he first added a tract of eighty acres and subsequently he bought sixty acres of timber land on the river bottom. As the years passed he placed his farm under a very high state of cultivation and also added many modern improvements. At length he was enabled to replace his second house with a brick residence and thus he carried forward the work of progress in keeping with modern ideas of agriculture. He split rails and fenced his farm in the early days and he used primitive machinery in cultivating the soil and harvesting the crops, but as time passed the crude farm implements were replaced by those which more modern inventive genius had given to the world. There were very few people living here at the time of the arrival of the Lownsbury family, the homes being widely scattered over the prairies. Game of various kinds, including deer, was plentiful. Many turkeys and ducks were shot by the early settlers and there were also wolves in this part of the state. James Watkins, an uncle of our subject, owned a mill on Clary's Creek, in which he ground corn and later James Robinson built a more extensive mill, in which both corn and wheat were ground. Samuel Lownsbury has turned the crank for bolting flour in this mill many a time and he also assisted his father in the general work of farming and stock-raising, Jonathan Lownsbury carrying on agricultural pursuits until about twenty years prior to his death, when he turned his farm, comprising two hundred and twenty acres, over to the care of his sons and they continued in the business, while he spent his remaining days in honorable retirement from further labor. He continued to

reside, however, upon the old homestead, where he passed away in the eighty-second year of his age. His wife also died in Menard county. Both were consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were numbered among the worthy pioneer people. Mr. Lownsbury served as a member of the school board for many years and his co-operation was given to all work or concerted actions that he believed would prove of value for the substantial improvement of his adopted county. Unto him and his wife were born twelve children, but only four are now living: Margaret, who is the widow of Leander Brown, and is now living near Oakford at the age of eighty-four years; Samuel, of this review; Maurice, who married Mrs. Sophia Atterbery and is now living in Menard county, where both were born; and Lottie, who is the wife of Elias Kirby. They, too, are natives of Menard county and still reside within its borders.

Samuel Lownsbury was a youth of only seven years when brought by his parents to Menard county and upon the old family homestead he was reared, assisting his father in the farm work until twenty-four years of age. He performed the various duties incident to the cultivation and development of the farm and to the care of the family. He hauled the grist to the mill on sleds, for there were few wagons at that time. Frequently he would carry the grain to Mounts mill on Crane creek and in 1836 when eleven years of age he went to Aurora upon a sled drawn by four yoke of oxen, driving across the country for a distance of one hundred and sixty miles. He then spent the summer in driving ox teams and breaking prairies and he received in payment for his labor a cook stove, which was made at the foundry in Aurora and for which his brother-in-law, Mr. McDoel, paid him forty dollars. Mr. Lownsbury's father went to Aurora for him with a two horse wagon and on the return trip carried the stove. It was the first one brought into the neighborhood. After his marriage in 1849 Mr. Lownsbury built a log cabin, of which he took possession in 1850, making it his home for about ten years. He then moved into a frame house and in 1874 he built a fine home, which he yet occupies.

He possessed the first sewing machine which was brought into the neighborhood and also the first coal-oil lamp. He witnessed the introduction of many devices that are now considered necessities, but which the pioneer settlers were accustomed to do without. He has seen great changes in farming methods, owing to the improved machinery which has been put upon the market and at all times he kept touch with the advance that was made, for he possesses a practical and progressive spirit and was ready to adopt anything that would facilitate his farm work and render his labors more effective in his attempt to gain a comfortable competence.

Mr. Lownsbury has been married three times. He first wedded Susan Overstreet and they became the parents of six children, but four died in infancy. One daughter, Ellen, became the wife of Hamilton Lutes and died when about forty years of age. For his second wife Mr. Lownsbury chose Miss Margaret Overstreet, a sister of his first wife, and they became the parents of three children, but only one is now living: William A., who has been married twice and now resides with his father, operating the old homestead farm. For his third wife Samuel Lownsbury chose Elizabeth Holland, who died twenty-five years ago.

Mr. Lownsbury, although in his eightieth year, has enjoyed excellent health and has retained his mental and physical faculties largely unimpaired. Nature is kind to those who oppose not her laws, and Mr. Lownsbury has lead an upright, honorable life, taking care of his health and making the best use possible of his talents and opportunities. Through careful management and unflinching perseverance he has acquired a comfortable competence that now enables him to live retired. For forty-five years he has been a consistent, faithful and helpful member of the Methodist Episcopal church and he has led a strictly temperate life, never using intoxicants. In politics he has been a stalwart Republican and he has helped to elect nine presidents. Born ere the first quarter of the nineteenth century had drawn to a close, he has been connected with the era of wonderful progress and improvement in America, has seen the building of railroads

throughout the country, the establishment of telegraph and telephone lines, the introduction of many wonderful inventions, which have revolutionized trade and commerce as well as all lines of industrial activity and at all times he has felt a just and commendable pride in what has been accomplished. His labors have been concentrated upon his farm work in Menard county and upon his duties of citizenship and though he has led a quiet and unassuming life it is one which is well worthy of emulation because of his fidelity to honorable principles.

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#### WILLIAM J. BLAIN.

In taking up the personal history of William J. Blain we present to our readers the life record of one who is well known in Menard county, where the greater part of his life has been passed, his attention being given to agricultural pursuits. He has lived in this county for almost a half century and is therefore largely familiar with its history as it has emerged from pioneer conditions to take its place with the leading counties of this great commonwealth. He was born in Montreal, Canada, on the 3d of December, 1857, and is of Irish lineage. His father, William Blain, was born at Warren Point, Ireland, on the 3d of July, 1829, and after his emigration to the new world he was married in Canada to Ann McCrudden, also a native of the Emerald Isle. Removing to Illinois after the birth of their son William they established their home in Menard county, where the father successfully carried on agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining days.

In his youth William J. Blain was trained to farm work, assisting in the labors of the fields as soon as old enough to reach the plow handles. He has seen great changes in the methods of farming, the old crude implements of former days being replaced by splendidly improved machinery and upon his home place are seen many evidences of this progress. He attended the public schools and when not engaged with the duties of the schoolroom assisted in the work of the farm. He continued

farming in partnership with his father and brother George R. until the death of his father. He built a new residence for himself in 1901 and he and his family therefore have a modern and attractive home. He operates one hundred and ninety-seven acres of rich land in Menard county, which because of its productiveness and the care and labor he bestows upon it annually returns to him good harvests. He also has one hundred and sixty acres in Arkansas. Diligence and enterprise have always been numbered among his salient characteristics and have been strong factors in his success.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Blain chose Miss Anna Belle McCrudden, and their marriage was celebrated January 17, 1894. The lady is a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Renney) McCrudden, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Canada. In early manhood her father crossed the Atlantic to the new world and in Canada he followed the trade of shoemaking, which he had learned in his native country. He has made that pursuit his business throughout his entire life together with the sale of shoes, and he has had close and intimate knowledge of the shoe trade, so that he has been enabled by his well directed effort to conduct a successful business. He now makes his home with one of his sons, his wife having departed this life in 1879. In their family were six children: Samuel J., who is now living in Montreal; Matilda, who became the wife of William Bell and died June 21, 1901; Robert J., a resident of Canada; William, who died in infancy; Mrs. Blain; and Georgia M., who resides in Canada and is caring for the children of her deceased sister.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Blain has been born a daughter, Estella G., whose birth occurred May 24, 1895. They have an attractive and pleasant home, where the spirit of hospitality reigns supreme and to them is extended a hearty welcome in many of the best homes of this part of the county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Blain attend the Cumberland Presbyterian church and he gives his political allegiance to the Republican party. He is now serving as a school director and has been a member of



the board for the past nine years, acting as its clerk throughout the entire period. He is interested in all that pertains to general progress and improvement here and takes a special pride in what has been accomplished in Menard county, where almost his entire life has been passed and where he has so directed his efforts as to win success and at the same time gain the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been associated.

#### ZAREL C. SPEARS.

Zarel C. Spears, now deceased, was well known as a representative of agricultural interests in this county. His birth occurred in Green county, Kentucky, June 12, 1818, the family home being in the vicinity of Greensburg. His parents were John and Rebecca (Conover) Spears. His ancestors came from Germany to the new world. There were three orphan boys of the name who crossed the Atlantic from the fatherland to the United States, one settling in Virginia and one in South Carolina. It is from the Virginia branch of the family that Zarel C. Spears was descended. He remained a resident of his native state until about 1827 or 1828, when he came with his mother and her five children to Illinois, the father having previously died in Kentucky, June 5, 1823. The family home was established in Menard county at Clary's Grove, where Mrs. Spears purchased land and reared her family upon a farm. She was a worthy pioneer woman, devoted to the welfare of her children and her memory is yet revered by those who knew her. She died June 10, 1868, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years and her remains were interred in Greenwood cemetery. She was very positive in her convictions, a woman of strong force of character and yet one whose sterling traits endeared her to all.

Zarel C. Spears was reared to the occupation of farming and was educated in the country schools. He became the owner of a tract of land of about five hundred acres and for many years carried on general agricultural pursuits on his own account, placing his fields under a high state of cultivation, so that they

returned to him good harvests and he thus annually gained a substantial income. In his later years, however, he removed to the town of Tallula and spent his last days in honorable retirement from labor. His land was divided among his children, while his widow still has two hundred and twenty-two acres.

On the 15th of January, 1837, Mr. Spears was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Berry and they lived together happily as man and wife for fifty-seven years. Her father, Rev. John M. Berry, was one of the early Cumberland Presbyterian ministers of central Illinois and organized nearly all of the churches of that denomination in his part of the state. He arrived in Illinois in 1822 from Indiana and previous to his residence in the Hoosier state he had lived in Kentucky. He continued in the active work of the ministry up to the time of his demise, which occurred when he was sixty-nine years of age. His wife reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years. Their influence was ever a power for good in the community and they left the impress of their individuality upon the moral upbuilding of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Spears became the parents of eight children; Theodore died at the age of thirteen years. Amanda married Christopher Smedley and lives in Pittsburg, Kansas. William Ewing married Susan Hostetter and resides in Franklin county, Kansas, with their family of five children. He was a soldier of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers and for a time was incarcerated in Andersonville prison. George H. became a member of Company F, Twenty-eighth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers and was never heard of after the battle of Jackson, so it is supposed that he was killed in the engagement. Henry Clay died in infancy. Anna E. died in her fourteenth year. Henry H. married Kitty Harry and they became residents of California, where his death occurred in April, 1903, leaving his widow and one child. Charles T. married Cordelia Sharon and died in April, 1899. His widow resides in Lincoln, Illinois, and has three children.

The death of Mr. Spears occurred January 17, 1894, when he had reached the age of seventy-five years and seven months. His remains







ZAREL C. SPEARS.



MRS. MARY H. SPEARS.



were interred in Greenwood cemetery and his death was deeply deplored by many friends. In his political views he was a Whig until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. Throughout almost his entire life he had followed farming in Menard county and was a respected man, loyal in citizenship and true to all the relations and duties of life. His widow is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, to which she has belonged for sixty-seven years. For twenty-nine years she resided upon the farm and she now has a good income from the rental of the land, while she lives in a large, commodious residence in Tallula. She, too, has long been a resident of Menard county, esteemed by those with whom she has been associated, and her example of Christian fidelity is well worthy of emulation.

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#### HENRY C. GRAHAM.

The productiveness of Menard county as a place of residence is indicated by the fact that many of the native sons have remained within its borders, enjoying the advantages and privileges here afforded. To this class belongs Henry C. Graham, who was born in this county May 8, 1833, a son of Peter and Mary Ann (Akers) Graham. The father was born in New York city, October 22, 1801, and there resided until twenty-three years of age, when he went to New Orleans. He spent about three years in the Crescent City, working at the carpenter's trade and also upon steamboats plying on the Mississippi river between New Orleans and St. Louis. In 1829 he came to Illinois, locating first at Jacksonville, where he remained for eighteen months and in 1831 he established his home in Athens, Menard county, where he remained continuously until his death, covering sixty-two years—a period exceeding the average life of the majority of mankind. With the pioneer development and progress of the county he was actively associated and he aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for its present progress. In 1832 he was united in marriage at Jacksonville to Miss Mary Ann Akers, and they became the

parents of eleven children, seven of whom are yet living, as follows: Mrs. Ursula Hurt, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Harriet Cantrall, of Illiopolis, Illinois; Henry C.; Mrs. Ellen Cantrall; Mrs. Emma Cantrall; Mrs. Eliza Swingle; and E. N. Graham, of Athens. The father lived to see his youngest child reach the period of middle life and all had married and had families growing up around them. At an early age he united with the Methodist Episcopal church and always lived an honorable, upright, Christian life, faithful in his devotions, true in his convictions, manifesting a Godly spirit by his conversation and his daily conduct. His home in the early days was the reception place of the venerable Peter Cartwright and other pioneer ministers of Illinois and there the neighbors gathered to hear the preaching of the word in its simplicity. Here also the prayer meetings were held and the family altar was erected and maintained. Mr. Graham's was a truly remarkable life. He was born in the year that Thomas Jefferson was elected president of the United States and a year prior to the admission of Illinois into the Union. He was eight years of age at the time that the first steamboat, called Fulton's folly, made its way up the Hudson river. He was old enough to vote the year prior to the operation of the first railroad train in America and he had passed the period of middle life when telegraphy was brought into use. He had come down to old age when the Atlantic cable was laid and he arrived in Illinois before the city of Chicago was incorporated. Illinois presented the appearance of one great prairie, on which only here and there was seen a timber tract or the settlement of the white man. He lived to see the stage coach supplanted by the vestibuled train and to witness the remarkable progress that has been brought about in this age of wonderful invention. He retained his physical and mental faculties to a remarkable degree, even in his last years. In July, 1891, his aged companion, with whom he had so long traveled life's journey, was called from his side and on the 30th of September of the following year he passed away at the very advanced age of ninety years, eleven months and eight days.

Reared under the parental roof amid the refining influences of a good home, Henry C. Graham spent his boyhood and youth with his parents and worked at the carpenter's trade with his father until twenty-four years of age. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits on his own account and has since been engaged in farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of the raising of hogs and cattle. In his business operations he is associated at the present writing with his son Joseph S. and they have five hundred and sixty acres of as fine land as can be found in Menard county and there is no richer tract in all America than is to be seen in central Illinois. The farm is splendidly improved, there being seventeen miles of tiling upon it, together with substantial buildings, modern machinery and all the equipments found upon the model farm of the twentieth century. From the time that he started out in life on his own account Mr. Graham has met with prosperity and yet there is no secret about his success, as it has been won through persistent labor, carefully directed by sound business judgment.

On the 6th of January, 1856, occurred the marriage of Mr. Graham and Miss Fanny L. Cantrall, a daughter of Levi and Ann (Patterson) Cantrall. Her father was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, October 1, 1787, and in 1789 was taken by his parents to Kentucky, the family home being established in that part of Mercer county which afterward became Bath county. He was there married November 30, 1809, to Miss Fanny England, and they had one child born in Kentucky. In 1811 they removed to Madison county, Ohio, where five children were added to the household and subsequently they took up their abode in Madison county, Illinois. It was in October, 1819, that Mr. Cantrall reached this state and on the 4th of December of the same year he settled upon a tract of land now included within the corporation limits of the city of Cantrall and reaching to the north side of the river in what is now Fancy Creek township. He began building his cabin on the 8th of December, and soon had his family installed in their new home. Seven of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cantrall are natives of Sangamon coun-

ty and in that county the wife and mother died September 10, 1835. Mr. Cantrall entered the land from the government upon which the village of Cantrall now stands and for many years was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He also assisted materially in the development of Sangamon and Menard counties and in the conduct of his business affairs won a high degree of success. Prior to his death he became an extensive landowner and ere his demise he divided his property among his children. He passed away February 22, 1860, while his second wife, who bore the maiden name of Ann Patterson, was born in Kentucky, September 30, 1803, and died September 26, 1889. She was one of the charter members of the North Sangamon Presbyterian church. There were two children by this marriage, Mrs. Graham and Joseph S., who is married and resides in Springfield.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Graham have been born five children, three daughters and two sons. Mary Annie, born June 23, 1858, was married September 14, 1882, to William E. Johnson, whose birth occurred January 6, 1857. Their children are Mildred, born August 10, 1883, Addie, born June 7, 1885, and Minnie, born August 26, 1887. Mr. Johnson and his family resided upon a farm near Athens. William H. Graham, the second member of the family, was born August 11, 1862, and was married January 10, 1884, to Anna L. Clark, who died January 14, 1889, leaving one child, Edith L., who was born November 2, 1884, and was married September 23, 1904, to A. D. Van Meter, a resident of Fancy Creek township, Sangamon county. Owen C., another child of this union, was born June 12, 1888, and died in October of that year. For his second wife William H. Graham chose Phoebe Hardman, their marriage being celebrated May 9, 1895, and their children are W. Harold, born May 23, 1896; Paul H., born May 9, 1898; and Helen. Mr. Graham, who is a farmer and stock-raiser, resides in Chatham, Illinois. Araminta Graham, born October 13, 1868, was married May 3, 1893, to Harry Fulton, who was born December 2, 1867, and is a resident farmer of Menard county. They have two children: Fannie L., born August 13, 1895, and

a son born in 1901. Joseph S. Graham, born March 26, 1871, married Lillian N. Primm, January 6, 1895, and resides upon a farm near Athens. Their children are Henry P., born November 25, 1896; Arnold, born in April, 1898; and Wayne, born in April, 1901. Carrie Graham, born August 5, 1878, was married July 13, 1898, to Webster H. Van Meter, a farmer and stock-raiser residing near Athens, and they have two children: Joseph, born in August, 1899; and Marguerite, born in August, 1902.

Mr. Graham gives a stalwart support to the Republican party and has firm faith in its principles. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church of Athens and are people of the highest respectability, enjoying the warm regard of many friends. Although now more than seventy-one years of age, he still remains an active factor in business affairs and retains a keen interest in everything concerning his county and her welfare. Such a career of activity should put to shame many a man of less resolute spirit and determination who, grown tired of the struggles of business life, would relegate to others the burdens that he should bear. Mr. Graham has ever been energetic and diligent in his work and the success which he now enjoys is certainly well merited.

#### JASPER NEWTON RUTLEDGE.

Jasper Newton Rutledge is now living retired in Petersburg, but in former years was actively identified with agricultural pursuits and his enterprise and untiring labor brought to him the capital that now enables him to enjoy a well earned rest. He was born in Menard county about four miles north of Petersburg on the 26th of March, 1837, his parents being William and Susanna (Cameron) Rutledge. He was an own cousin of Ann Rutledge, who was Abraham Lincoln's first love. His parents were natives of North Carolina and were married in Kentucky, whence they came to Menard county, Illinois, about 1820. Here the father secured a tract of land and engaged in farming for many years, but in February, 1856,

sold his property and afterward lived retired until his death. He was one of the honored pioneer settlers of this section of the state, having journeyed by wagon from Kentucky and taken up his abode in central Illinois when this was a wild and unsettled district. He bore his full share in the work of reclaiming the county for the uses of civilization and in laying the foundation for its present progress and prosperity. He died in 1861 when about seventy-four years of age, his birth having occurred in 1790, and his wife, who was born in 1792, passed away in 1885 at the advanced age of ninety-three years.

Jasper N. Rutledge, reared upon the old home farm in Menard county, acquired his education in the subscription schools, but his advantages in that direction were somewhat meager, owing to the condition of the school system at that time and also because his services were needed upon the home farm. He was the thirteenth child and the youngest in his father's family and he assisted in the work of the home farm until 1856. During the two succeeding years he was engaged in teaming between Springfield and Petersburg, after which he returned to the farm and has since made it his home. For many years his time and energies were devoted untiringly to the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. He raised good crops, kept in touch with the advanced methods of agriculture and carried on his work along progressive lines that resulted in bringing to him a handsome competence. He was also engaged in the livery business for three years, but in recent years he has put aside the active duties of a business career and is now enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

On the 19th of June, 1856, Mr. Rutledge was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Clary, a daughter of Robert and Arrena (Elmore) Clary, both of whom were natives of Illinois. Her father was prominent and influential in public affairs and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to serve in the position of sheriff and county commissioner. He was married September 27, 1838, to Arrena Elmore, who died October 15, 1811, and on the 22d of June, 1813, he wedded Mary Jane Cox, who died

November 5, 1816. His death occurred October 13, 1878.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge was blessed with five children: William Robert, who was born February 12, 1859, and died September 13, 1862; Edward Newton, who was born August 14, 1861, and died February 24, 1863; Mary S., who was born August 2, 1863, and is the wife of Charles L. Terhune; Charles Thomas, who was born September 2, 1868, and died November 2, 1869; and Anna J., who was born November 22, 1871, and is the wife of Pearl Thompson.

The parents are consistent members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and Mr. Rutledge exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy. Upon the party ticket he has been called to public office, having been elected county treasurer in December, 1886, while on the 19th of November, 1898, he was chosen for the position of county sheriff. He discharged his public duties with the same promptness and fidelity that characterized his business affairs and his private interests. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Petersburg and in the county where his entire life has been passed he has a wide and favorable acquaintance, winning the warm regard of many by reason of his reliability in all life's relations.

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#### MRS. SARAH F. HITCHCOCK.

Mrs. Sarah F. Hitchcock is one of the esteemed residents of Athens, where she has many friends. She was born in this place April 29, 1839, her parents being John W. and Mary (Loomis) Little. Her father was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, and was educated for the Presbyterian ministry in a theological seminary of that state. Her mother's birth occurred in Whately, Massachusetts, and she was educated at a female seminary at Amherst, Massachusetts. Mr. Little became one of the pioneer preachers of his denomination in the middle west. He made his way to Illinois by team and steamboat in 1837, reaching Menard county after a journey that covered six

weeks. He then engaged in preaching here, having a fifty mile circuit and though his labor entailed many hardships he never faltered in his work of carrying the gospel message into the pioneer homes. More than once in the middle of winter after a long cold ride on horseback he found his congregation consisted of but one person. He died June 2, 1842, and his memory is yet enshrined by those who knew him, while his example has borne fruit in many upright lives. In early manhood he had married Mary Loomis, a daughter of J. C. Loomis, of Massachusetts, who was on his way to the United States when he met the lady who afterward became his wife. His business was that of a carpenter and contractor. The old home of Mrs. Hitchcock's great-grandparents is now occupied by her uncle, Calvin Loomis. Mrs. Little, who was born January 9, 1814, died December 25, 1895, in Nebraska, but her remains were brought back to Menard county, for interment. J. W. Little, a brother of Mrs. Hitchcock, is now a resident farmer of Madison, Nebraska. Her uncle, Thomas Little, was at one time a neighbor of Abraham Lincoln, residing on South Fifth street in Springfield, Illinois.

Mrs. Hitchcock was reared in Athens and pursued her education in the schools of this place and also at the North Sangamon Academy, and one year at a seminary in Whately, Massachusetts. After leaving that institution she engaged in teaching school in Athens, following that profession at a time when the primitive schoolhouse contained only slab seats and a slab desk resting on pegs driven into the wall. She taught for two years in Menard county. For many years she kept boarders and in this way she earned the money that enabled her to become the possessor of considerable valuable real estate. She is now the owner of two acres of land in Athens, on which are three houses which she rents but when the land came into her possession it was entirely unimproved.

Mrs. Hitchcock has been twice married. On the 21st of July, 1857, she gave her hand in marriage to Thomas C. Orr, and they became the parents of seven children: Mary E., who was born July 16, 1858, and died in December,





MRS. SARAH F. HITCHCOCK



MISS MARY LOOMIS.



MRS. MARY (LOOMIS) LITTLE.



1901; John T., a resident farmer of Oklahoma; Cordelia, who was born August 5, 1862, and was successfully engaged in teaching in Menard county at the time of her death, September 7, 1881; Albert A., who was born October 16, 1861, and is now a minister of the Presbyterian church at Salida, Colorado; Nellie F., who engaged in teaching in the public schools of Nebraska for eighteen years and is now the wife of Benjamin Clark, a farmer of David City, that state; and Charles C. and Harry E., both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Orr was again married July 16, 1888, her second union being with Isaac B. Hitchcock.

Mrs. Hitchcock is a member of the Presbyterian church and has led a consistent Christian life, doing good to all and exemplifying daily her religious belief. In 1888 she went to Salina, Indiana Territory, where she taught for two years in the orphans' home and school, a Methodist institution, then under the superintendency of Rev. Thompson. She was forced to give up that work on account of failing health and then returned to Menard county. She has shown excellent business ability and through her capable management she has become the possessor of valuable and desirable property. She has in her possession as valued heirlooms a copy of the constitution of the state of Massachusetts and also of the United States which was published in 1805.

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#### JAMES E. CULVER.

James E. Culver, interested in general farming, is now operating three hundred and forty acres of valuable land in township 18. He was born in Menard county, July 15, 1860, his parents being John S. and Elizabeth (Brasfield) Culver. Reared under the parental roof, at the usual age he entered the public schools and at a later date he attended a business college in Jacksonville, Illinois, so that he was well equipped by mental training for the responsible and active duties that come in a business career. In the periods of vacation he assisted in the work of the home farm and throughout his entire life he has followed the occupation to which he was reared. He has

placed his fields under a high state of cultivation and in addition to the production of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he has been engaged in the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs. He now has forty head of cattle and about one hundred head of hogs upon his place together with thirty head of good horses. He is now farming three hundred and forty acres of as fine land as can be found in Menard county and his home is a commodious and beautiful residence surrounded by splendid shade trees, which he has planted. He has tiled the land and, in fact, has made all of the modern improvements upon it and now has an excellent property in keeping with the ideas of a model farm of the twentieth century.

On the 14th of February, 1883, Mr. Culver was united in marriage to Miss Iona Johnson, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Gaines) Johnson, who are mentioned at length on another page of this work, her father being one of the representative agriculturists of Menard county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Culver have been born six children, two sons and four daughters, and the family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death, the children being yet under the parental roof. Their names and dates of birth are as follows: Harry W., May 3, 1884; Mattie A., May 10, 1887; Edna E., May 21, 1889; Clara E., September 24, 1893; Margaret N., October 3, 1896; and Florence L., December 5, 1899.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Culver are members of the Presbyterian church at Indian Point. They take an active and helpful interest in its work, are generous contributors to its support and as a church officer Mr. Culver is well known. He was one of the deacons for twelve years and at the present time is serving as one of the church elders. He has been a member of the Odd Fellows society and in all life's relations he has faithfully performed each duty and won the respect and good will of his fellow men. In politics he is a staunch Republican, but while unfaltering in his allegiance to the party and its principles he has never sought office and though asked to become a candidate for county commissioner he declined. He prefers to concentrate his efforts and energies on his busi-

ness affairs and his fine farm is to-day a monument to his well directed and honorable labor.

### WILLIAM BLAIN.

William Blain, now deceased, was for many years a worthy citizen of Menard county. He took up his abode here almost a half century ago and while he never sought public prominence in office he was always known for his reliability in citizenship, his trustworthiness in business life and his fidelity in friendship. He was born at Warren Point, Ireland, on the 3d of July, 1829, and in early life went to Canada, where he remained until after his marriage. It was on the 10th of September, 1856, that he was joined in wedlock to Miss Ann McCrudden, who was also a native of Ireland, her birth having there occurred in 1820. They began their domestic life in Montreal, Canada, where they continued to reside until about forty-five or fifty years ago, when believing that he might have better business opportunities in the United States with its livelier competition and therefore quicker returns for capable labor, Mr. Blain resolved to come to Illinois. He made his way to Menard county and never had occasion to regret his determination to establish his home here for he prospered in his undertaking in this part of the country. Securing a tract of eighty acres of land he at once began its cultivation and improvement and in course of time his harvests brought to him a sufficient capital to enable him to make other purchases. Thus from time to time he added to his property until he became the owner of about four hundred and sixty acres of land. For a number of years he was in partnership with his two sons, William and George, and this business relation was continued with mutual pleasure, harmony and profit until the death of the father. He became known as one of the leading and enterprising agriculturists of his community and that he led a life of diligence was indicated by the fine appearance of his farm, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. He also engaged in stock-raising and had upon his place high grades of cattle, horses and hogs.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Blain were born four children, two sons and two daughters: William J., who is a resident farmer of Menard county and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Annie, who died at the age of twenty years; George R., whose sketch is also given in this work; and Matilda J., who is the wife of Frank Denton, of Conway, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Blain attended the Cumberland Presbyterian church and his political views were in accord with the principles of the Republican party. He gave earnest co-operation to all movements which he believed would contribute to the general welfare, but preferred to do his duty to his county as a private citizen rather than a public official. He displayed in his life many excellent traits of heart and mind and his good qualities endeared him to those with whom he was associated. All who knew him respected him and the circle of his friends was extensive. He was called to his final rest October 19, 1902, and after the funeral services, which were conducted at his home by the Rev. J. F. Rogers, the remains were taken to Rose Hill cemetery at Petersburg for interment. His wife died October 13, 1903, and was then laid to rest by his side. They have long traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. Like her husband she had the warm regard of many with whom she was associated and in their death the county lost two of its representative pioneer citizens.

### JAMES F. SPEER.

James F. Speer, who has traveled for many miles along life's journey, but is still actively engaged in farming on section 36, Tallula township, Menard county, was born in Green county, Kentucky, near Campbellsville, June 21, 1827. His parents were James and Elizabeth (Grant) Speer, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The Speer family is of Irish origin and the paternal grandfather of our subject emigrated from the Emerald Isle to the new world, establishing his home in Kentucky, where he conducted a plantation, but never

owned slaves. The maternal grandfather was of Irish and Scotch lineage. Members of the Grant family were slave owners of Kentucky and Eli Grant, an uncle of Mr. Speer, once traded a horse for a little negro boy.

During his early youth James F. Speer was called upon to mourn the loss of both of his parents and he was afterward bound out to a farmer, whom he was to serve between the ages of six and twenty-one years and on attaining his majority was to receive a horse. He had very little opportunity for attending school, but he spent one month as a student at Campbellsville. With this exception his education was acquired entirely in one of the old time log schoolhouses common at that day in his locality. He came to Illinois on horseback in 1848, traveling alone all of the distance save when he had company on one day's journey. It required nine days for him to reach his destination, which was Menard county. Here he settled on land that his father had owned at the time of his death. He had one brother, Samuel, who also owned an interest in this farm, but sold it to James F. Speer. Our subject now owns a little over three hundred acres of land, upon which he resides and his sons also live on this place and perform the active work of the farm. He formerly had over four hundred acres.

On the 14th of September, 1857, occurred the marriage of Mr. Speer and Miss Malissa Williamson, a daughter of William and America (Brooks) Williamson, who were Kentucky people who settled on land prior to the arrival of Mr. Speer. Eleven children were born unto our subject and his wife, of whom five are living, while six have passed away. America E., who was born November 27, 1858, died January 4, 1860. Lewis C., who was born May 5, 1860, died May 17, 1865. Mary M., who was born November 11, 1861, married Romeo Bracken, making his home in Cass county, Illinois, near Newmansville. They had one child, Pearl, who died at the age of one year, and Mrs. Bracken now resides with her father. Julia L., born September 28, 1863, died January 12, 1864. George W., born October 18, 1864, married Nancy Willite, by whom he had five children, all living and they

reside upon his father's farm. Malissa H., born June 3, 1867, died December 1, 1871. Margaret J., born May 15, 1869, died November 25, 1871. Serepta U., born June 22, 1872, is the wife of Price Shafer and they reside upon one of her father's farms in Menard county. They had four children, three of whom are living. James E., born February 4, 1874, married Nellie Stinch, and they reside upon his father's land. Ellie J., born August 6, 1875, died on the 24th of August, of the same year. Dora M., born June 8, 1877, is at home. The wife and mother died December 3, 1884.

Mr. Speer is a Democrat, supporting the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Franklin Pierce. Both he and his wife were members of the Christian church. It was his desire in early life to enter military service in the Mexican war, but he had been bound out and had no opportunity of going to the front. His grandfathers and one of his great-grandfathers were soldiers of the Revolutionary war and thus the blood of a patriotic ancestry flowed in his veins. When he came to Illinois he purchased land and at once began the development of a farm, for not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place, when it came into his possession, save that a log cabin had been built. He has worked persistently and earnestly in reclaiming his land for the purposes of civilization and has developed an excellent farm property. His life has been in harmony with his religious professions and he has ever commanded the respect and good will of those with whom he has been associated.

#### CHARLES L. TERHUNE.

Charles Lemuel Terhune, a native son of Menard county, was born near Curtis, on the 2d of February, 1861, and throughout the period of his manhood has been identified with agricultural and stock-raising interests in this portion of the state. He is a son of James and Ann Elizabeth (Harrison) Terhune, who were natives of Kentucky. In 1853 the father became a resident of Menard county, establishing his home at Petersburg, but after a

brief residence there he took up his abode at Indian Point and subsequently purchased land near Curtis. It was upon the last mentioned farm that Charles L. Terhune was born. Throughout his entire life the father carried on agricultural pursuits and devoted his energies to the further development and improvement of his farm near Curtis until his death, which occurred June 15, 1887, when he was fifty-six years of age. His wife died April 6, 1885, at the age of fifty-five years.

In the Smoot district school Charles L. Terhune acquired a knowledge of the common branches of English learning and was therefore qualified for the discharge of life's practical duties. His farm training received under his father's direction fitted him for the work to which he has given his energies through his entire life and in which he is now meeting with well merited prosperity. At the age of twenty-two years he rented a farm for a year and then became a land owner, making purchase of one hundred acres, upon which he yet resides. He has erected here a good house and substantial barn and, in fact, all of the improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. In his work he prospered and as his financial resources increased he added to his property until he now has two hundred acres of well improved land. In connection with the tilling of the soil he is engaged in the breeding of fine trotting horses, having the Tin Plate and Kennish breed of horses. He also raises white face cattle and Berkshire hogs and he has none but high grade animals upon his place.

On the 16th of February, 1886, Mr. Terhune was united in marriage to Miss Mary S. Rutledge, a daughter of J. N. Rutledge, who is mentioned on another page of this volume. Their union has been blessed with three children: Robert E., born February 12, 1887; Mabel Anna, born September 6, 1892; and Paul Rutledge, born November 9, 1897.

Mr. and Mrs. Terhune are consistent Christian people, the former holding membership in the Presbyterian church and the latter in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and their influence is ever on the side of right, progress, reform and justice. Mr. Terhune fraternally

is connected with the Court of Honor, while his political allegiance is given to the Republican party. He has served as a member of the school board for six years. He is a practical business man and brings to the discharge of his official duties the same element of strong common sense and business-like perception that are manifest in the control of his private interests.

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#### WILLIAM P. HENDERSON.

William P. Henderson, a representative agriculturist living in Lallula township, was born September 27, 1833, in Morgan county, Illinois, near the city of Jacksonville. His parents, Aaron and Sarah (Bowles) Henderson, were natives of West Virginia, where they spent the days of their childhood and youth. The father was a farmer by occupation, and after he had attained adult age he and his brother ran a flatboat on the Ohio river to New Orleans. In the summer of 1830 Aaron Henderson arrived in Morgan county, Illinois. This section of the state was then largely wild and unimproved, much of the land being still in possession of the government, and Mr. Henderson entered a claim about nine miles northwest of Jacksonville. He afterward purchased an additional tract of forty acres, so that his farm comprised two hundred and ten acres, which he owned up to the time of his death in 1844. He was one of the valued early settlers of the community, contributing in indefatigable manner to the substantial upbuilding and improvement of his section of the state. At his death his remains were interred in Arcadia cemetery and many friends deeply deplored his loss. In the family were seven children, two sons and five daughters, William P. being the third in order of birth. Mary Ann, the eldest, became the wife of John Smith and they went to California during the most prosperous epoch in the history of that state. They became the parents of twelve children, and three of their sons are now holding county offices, one being county sheriff, a second county clerk, while the third is county commissioner of Mendocino county, California. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are yet





W. P. HENDERSON.





MRS. W. P. HENDERSON.



living. Eliza Jane, the second member of the Henderson family, married John Bridgeman and lived on Indian creek, in Morgan county, near Kernsville, but both she and her husband are now deceased. They had two children, of whom one is living and is now county commissioner of Cass county. Virginia Henderson, the fourth member of the family, is the wife of James Bridgeman, who died at Memphis, Tennessee, while serving his country as a corporal in the One Hundred and First Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war. His widow yet resides on the old homestead farm in Morgan county and she has three children, two sons and a daughter. James A. Henderson married and made his home in Arenzville in Cass county. His widow still resides in that village. Lucinda Henderson became the wife of Andrew Osmon and they reside upon a farm in Cherokee county, Kansas. They have four children, two sons and two daughters. Emma Henderson died in childhood and the mother passed away at the very advanced age of ninety-three years.

William P. Henderson is indebted to the public school system of Illinois for the educational advantages which he enjoyed. He has always followed farming and for a time he also engaged in carpentering, knowing enough concerning the builder's art to erect an ordinary building. He made the clapboards with which he covered his first house and he also built a house for his mother, which he covered with shingles that he made by hand. He first began earning his own living by working by the month as a farm hand in the home neighborhood and he afterward farmed for his mother up to the time when he was twenty years of age, when he rented a part of her land and continued to thus engage in agricultural pursuits until twenty-six years of age. At that time he was married on the 1st of September, 1859, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary Ann McFillin, a native of Morgan county, Illinois, and a daughter of James and Mary Ann (Haines) McFillin. Her father was born, reared and married in Ireland, and on coming to America in 1833 he was accompanied by his first wife and two sons, Michael and Bernard. He settled in Pennsylvania but after the death of

his wife removed to Morgan county, Illinois, where he was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Ann Haines, by whom he had two children: Mrs. Henderson; and a son who died in infancy. For his third wife he married Mrs. Mary (Patten) Henderson and to them were born four children. He was a distiller and engaged in the manufacture of whiskey in Jacksonville. He died at the age of eighty-one years.

In the fall of 1867 Mr. Henderson and his wife removed to Menard county, where he has since carried on agricultural pursuits with good success, being classed with the capable business men and energetic agriculturists of his community. He has one hundred and fifty-four acres of land and in connection with the cultivation of his fields he has always raised considerable stock, making a specialty of cattle. He now has sixty head of cattle upon his place, many of which are being fed for the market. He also has one hundred shoats. His farm is kept in good condition and his stock-raising interests add materially to his annual income.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henderson was blessed with seven children: Elizabeth Adeline, born June 13, 1860, married James Stiltz, and they reside in Cass county. They had seven children of whom one is deceased. James A., born in Morgan county, Illinois, March 28, 1860, is now living in Menard county, where he follows farming. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He married Lida Hewitt, and they have three children, two sons and a daughter. Revia Belle, born September 18, 1863, is now teaching in a government Indian school a short distance from Fort Defiance, Arizona, her school, however, being across the border in New Mexico. She was educated after attending the public schools in the Jacksonville Business College at Jacksonville, Illinois, and she began the work of teaching in October, 1903. Charles W., born December 10, 1865, was a student in the high school at Tullula through one winter and is now engaged in farming on his own account, making his home with his parents. He, too, belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. Mary E., born April 21, 1867, married Reuben Hewitt, now deceased. Mrs. Hewitt resides in

Ashland, Illinois, where she is engaged in dress-making. Laura E., born December 12, 1871, is the wife of Luther Noddingham, a resident farmer of Sangamon county, living near Pleasant Plains. They had five children, of whom two are deceased. Emma K., the youngest member of the Henderson family, was born September 13, 1873, and was educated in the home schools.

Mr. Henderson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party. He was road commissioner, has been judge of elections and has been a school director for fifteen years. The duties of all these positions he has discharged in prompt and capable manner for in all matters of citizenship he is faithful and loyal. His entire life has been spent in central Illinois and for more than a third of a century he has lived in Menard county, where he has worked earnestly and persistently in order to gain a good home for his family and as the years have passed his labors have been crowned with a fair measure of success.

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#### JAMES T. SENTER.

James T. Senter, an honored veteran of the Civil war, has always been loyal to duties of as he displayed when on southern battle-fields to his country and her welfare in days of peace as he displayed when on southern battlefields he followed the old flag. He was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, December 19, 1841, his parents being James and Mercy (Cole) Senter, both of whom were natives of North Carolina, where they spent the days of their childhood and youth and then married. The father was born December 13, 1800, and his wife's birth occurred on the 14th of April of the same year. They came to Sangamon county at a very early epoch in its history and with the material and moral development of central Illinois. Rev. James Senter was closely associated. He followed farming in order to provide for his family, but he also preached the gospel as a circuit minister, traveling from place to place in order to proclaim the "glad tidings of great

joy." As a pioneer preacher he suffered many hardships and privations incident to the long rides across the new country. The Bible which he used in his ministry is now in possession of his son James T. and is undoubtedly about one hundred and twenty-five years old. He contributed in many ways to the improvement and upbuilding of the county, as well as to its moral progress. He aided in laying out the streets in Springfield when the site of the capital city was an almost unbroken prairie, having only a few houses. His death occurred September 7, 1845, but his memory is still cherished by those who knew him and remains as a blessed benediction to his family and friends. He had eleven children: Aaron, who was born January 24, 1820, and died in January, 1837; one that died in infancy; Jane, who was born October 29, 1822, and became the wife of Mr. Owen and after his death married William Trenory, who is now living near Petersburg; William S., who was born April 16, 1825, and died January 3, 1867; Mary Ann, who was born February 14, 1828, and died December 1, 1878; Rebecca C., who was born February 14, 1829, and was married in July, 1849, to Robert Green, while her second husband is Louis Van Tassel, with whom she is now living in California; Joseph H., who was born March 1, 1831, and is now deceased; Sarah E., who was born March 19, 1834, and died April 14, 1861; Enoch J., who was born September 26, 1836, and married Lucinda Holland, their home being in California; Louisa, who was born December 19, 1838, and is the wife of John Kirby, a resident of Menard county; and James T., of this review.

Working on the home farm and attending the public schools, thus the days of boyhood and youth passed for James T. Senter until he was nineteen years of age, when an important event in his life occurred. The country had become involved in civil war over the attempt of the south to withdraw from the Union and Mr. Senter joined the northern army, becoming a member of Company E, Eighty-fifth Illinois Infantry. The blood of patriotic ancestors flowed in his veins. His great-grandfather had been one of the heroes of the Revolution.

His father had served in the war of 1812 and his brother William had been a soldier in the Mexican war. Now he espoused the cause of his country and went to the front in defense of the Union. He served until wounded, when on account of his disability he returned home. He enlisted at Petersburg, July 17, 1862, and was discharged July 19, 1864. Immediately after the formation of the regiment the troops were ordered to the front before they really knew what dress parade meant and they opened the battle of Perryville by making the bayonet charge at three o'clock in the morning. After the battle the regiment followed Bragg, who was retreating, proceeding beyond Nashville, Tennessee, and on to Mill creek, where the regiment was attached to General Sheridan's division. They were in the battle at Stone River for one day and participated in the engagement at Chickamauga, where Mr. Senter was wounded in the left foot. He was also wounded in the right thigh at the battle of Peach Tree Creek in Georgia. He lay in the field hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, for about a month and also at Jeffersonville, Indiana, for about two months. In addition to the battles mentioned he participated in the engagements at Missionary Ridge, Ringgold and Rome. After being wounded he was sent home on a furlough and was discharged through order of President Lincoln as a special favor to W. G. Green.

He was the only man in this locality that took advantage of the law that enabled ex-soldiers to attend school after reaching the age limit, but, desirous of acquiring a good education, he continued his studies and is now a well informed man, having added largely to his knowledge through reading and observation in later years. Throughout his business career he has carried on general agricultural pursuits and for thirty-five years he has been a feeder, buyer and shipper of stock. In 1875 he removed his family to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he opened a hotel, which he conducted for a year. He was also proprietor of a feed store in the south for some time, having gone to that part of the country because of ill health and hoping to be benefited by the change. On his return to Menard county, however, he re-

sumed agricultural pursuits and almost his entire life has been devoted to general farming.

On the 18th of March, 1869, Mr. Senter was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Kirby, a daughter of George and Dorcas (Atterberry) Kirby. Her father, who was born in Illinois, December 20, 1812, died March 15, 1904, while her mother, who was born April 22, 1816, died on the 23d of March, 1893. Her father had been reared to farm labor and continued at home with his parents up to the time of his marriage, when he began farming on his own account. He was always a lover of fine horses and engaged to considerable extent in breeding fine stock. He was classed with the extensive landowners and prosperous men of his county, having about thirteen hundred acres of land in his farm. Into him and his wife were born eight children: John, Daniel, Nancy, Samuel, William, Matilda, Mary Jane and George T.

Mr. and Mrs. Senter also had eight children, but the eldest died in infancy. Nora M. is the wife of Charles Frye, of Menard county; Etta D. is the wife of Charles Nance, also of Menard county; Mercy J. died in childhood; James G., John Harvey and Lorena M. are at home; and Inez P. died at the age of nine years.

Politically Mr. Senter is a Democrat, unfaltering in his loyalty to the party and its principles. He has served on the school board for seven or eight years, but otherwise has not sought or desired public office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business pursuits. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and are interested in its growth and upbuilding. In all his private and public relations Mr. Senter has given his influence for social progress and for the elevation and welfare of mankind.

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#### COLONEL C. H. McDONALD.

Charles H. McDonald, a popular and well known citizen of Greenville, who as an auctioneer is conducting a very extensive and gratifying business, was born in Menard county about a mile northeast of Greenville on the 1st of

May, 1865. His parents were William P. and Martha (Hornback) McDonald, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Illinois. The father served his country as a soldier in the Mexican war and after coming to Illinois in 1849 he turned his attention to farming, which he carried on with fair success until 1862, when again he responded to his country's call for military aid, enlisting as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry. After nine months of active service he was honorably discharged on account of illness and then returned to his farm, whereon he made his home until his death, which occurred July 17, 1879, when he was fifty-five years of age. He had lived a quiet and uneventful, yet useful and honorable, life and those who knew him respected him for his sterling worth. His wife had died when their son Charles was but two years of age.

Charles H. McDonald pursued his education in the country schools in the eastern part of Menard county. He was left an orphan when fourteen years of age by his father's death, after which he worked by the month as a farm hand until twenty-two years of age. Subsequently he rented the farm which his father once owned and continued to reside thereon until 1895, when he removed to Greenview and started in business as an auctioneer. In the spring of 1897 he also became connected with mercantile interests of the city as proprietor of a furniture store, but after three years he sold his stock. In 1901 he engaged in the livery business, but after a year disposed of his interest in that in order to give his entire attention to his auctioneer business, which in the meantime had grown to extensive proportions. He now has a very liberal patronage, crying sales in Menard, Sangamon, Mason, Logan and Tazewell counties. He is very successful at this business, having the ability to bring the owner and prospective purchaser together in a manner that is profitable to both. He is well known among the auctioneers of the state and is now the vice-president of the Illinois Auctioneers Association.

On the 3d of February, 1887, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Allison, a daughter of James Allison, of Menard coun-

ty. They became the parents of one daughter, Nellie A., who was born February 1, 1888, and is now attending school at Dixon, Illinois. Mrs. Jennie McDonald died on the 5th of July, 1893, and on the 12th of June, 1896, Mr. McDonald was again married, his second union being with Artie Bracken, a daughter of Thomas Bracken, of Indian Creek, Menard county. They have one son, Jack H., born January 25, 1897.

The family are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and in his political views Mr. McDonald is a Democrat. He served as town trustee for four years and has filled other local positions, including that of constable, and for five years he was assessor of his town. Fraternally he is connected with Greenview lodge, No. 423, I. O. O. F. In public office, in business and in private life he is at all times found worthy of the trust reposed in him and the good will extended to him and he has gained a large circle of warm friends, who esteem him highly.

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#### MRS. MARY J. STRADER.

Mrs. Mary J. Strader is one of Menard county's native daughters, her birth having occurred March 21, 1836. Her father, Benjamin Yardley, was born in South Carolina, December 15, 1796, but spent his early life in Kentucky and afterward engaged in farming there. He was married on the 1st of March, 1821, to Miss Mary Earnest, whose birth occurred in North Carolina, February 9, 1800, but who was also reared in Kentucky. They began their domestic life in that state, residing there until their removal to Illinois. On settling in Menard county they took up their abode upon the farm where their daughter Mary was born and Mr. Yardley carried on the work of tilling the soil and raising stock. He aided in the early development of the county and was known as a worthy pioneer settler. He was noted for his honesty and his desire for peace and good will toward all men and equal justice to all, and he was familiarly known as "Honest Ben." He died on the 20th of October, 1856, and his wife, surviving him ten years, passed away in December, 1866. They were the parents of



MR. AND MRS. I. P. STRADER.





eight children whose names and dates of birth were as follows: Elizabeth, October 8, 1822; Thomas, July 21, 1824; Susan, December 20, 1825; James, December 11, 1827; John, July 3, 1830; Rebecca, March 9, 1833; Mary J., March 21, 1836; and Hannah, August 2, 1838. All are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Strader; Susan, who is living in Tice; and Hannah, who also resides in that place.

Mary J. Yardley acquired her education in the public schools near her father's home and was carefully trained in the household duties by her mother, so that when she was married she was well qualified to take charge of her own home. On the 28th of December, 1851, she became the wife of Isham P. Strader, who was born in Green county, Kentucky, June 26, 1828, but was only two years old when brought to Menard county by his parents, John C. and Elizabeth (Minor) Strader. His father was born in North Carolina, August 28, 1796, and died September 9, 1852, while his mother was born February 21, 1794, and died November 12, 1873. They were married in Kentucky October 5, 1815, and were numbered among the earliest settlers of this county, having located here before the winter of the "deep snow." Here John C. Strader entered a tract of government land and developed a farm. He was a soldier of the Black Hawk war.

Isham P. Strader made farming his life occupation and carefully operated his land so that the fields were made to return to him good harvests and as his crops found a ready sale on the market he added annually to his income and became the owner of about two hundred acres of land. He was interested in citizenship to the extent of keeping well informed on all the questions and issues of the day. In early manhood he gave his political allegiance to the Whig party, which he continued to support in loyal manner until his death. He was converted at the age of thirty years and became a member of the Baker Prairie Baptist church, remaining true to his professions throughout life and manifesting a kindly and considerate spirit, an unfaltering honesty in business and loyalty to friends and family. He took an active interest in the cause of education and served as school director and road

commissioner most acceptably. He died upon the old home farm February 22, 1899, his death being deeply regretted by the many who knew him.

Into Mr. and Mrs. Strader were born eight children: Clara, born November 16, 1855, died April 7, 1857; Emma, born December 7, 1857, was married January 27, 1876, to William A. Clark, a farmer of Menard county, and they have six children, Robert, Bertha, Effie, Della, Clinton and Ray. Luella Frances, born January 19, 1860, was married October 16, 1878, to Charles Crawford, and after his death wedded Azel Terry. By the first union there were three children: Edna, who was married in October, 1898, to Benjamin Derry and they have one child living, Thelma; and Verna and Iva, both at home. Mr. and Mrs. Terry are now living in Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa. John W., born July 16, 1862, died September 11, 1866. Alice, born March 12, 1865, was married October 14, 1885, to Clark Hunter Knoles, now a resident of Taylor county, Iowa, and they have five children, Leta, Ruba, Carol, Blanch and Victor. Mary Elizabeth, born November 14, 1867, was married February 3, 1892, to Eli M. Goff, a resident of Gentry county, Missouri, and they have two children, Gladys and Cecil. Laura Ellen, born April 4, 1870, died January 31, 1876. Charles Edward, born February 8, 1873, now manages the home farm for his mother. He was married January 11, 1900, to Minnie May Overstreet, who was born near Little Rock, Arkansas, April 7, 1878, and they have one child, Maud Esther, born October 10, 1900. Mrs. Strader is a member of the Baptist church and a lady of many excellent traits of character and of heart and mind. She has always lived in Menard county and has gained many friends by her kindly spirit and consideration for others.

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#### JOHN WILLIAM KENYON.

John William Kenyon came to the middle west from New England, bringing with him the enterprise and business sagacity characteristic of the people of that section of the country and of his English ancestors, and to these qualities

he has added the progressive spirit which has ever been dominant in the upbuilding and development of the Mississippi valley. He has, therefore, prospered in his business career and is now one of the most successful farmers of Menard county.

He was born in Connecticut, March 12, 1848. His parents being Eli and Sarah (Armitage) Kenyon, both of whom were natives of England. The father spent his youth in that country and was there reared and married and two children were born unto them ere they left the mother country for the new world. Eli Kenyon was about thirty years of age at the time of the emigration and locating in Connecticut he became connected with his brother in the conduct of woolen mills in Woodstock, Windham county. There he spent his remaining days, passing away in 1874 at the age of fifty-seven years, and his wife survived him until 1900. She also died in Connecticut. They were the parents of five children: Mary, now deceased; Marshall, living in Connecticut; Nancy and Angie, living in Connecticut; and John W., of this review. Marshall Kenyon left home at the age of eighteen years and enlisted in the Union army, serving throughout the war. He was twice wounded, first at the battle of Antietam and afterward at Mission Ridge. He was with the Eleventh Connecticut Infantry and when the war was over received an honorable discharge at Washington, D. C., and returned to his home in Connecticut.

John W. Kenyon obtained his education in the schools of his native state and when his course was completed he resolved to seek a home in the west, believing that he might enjoy better business opportunities in this great and growing section of the country. Accordingly, he made his way to Williamsville, Illinois, when eighteen years of age, and in the west he began farming, remaining in that locality for five years. He was married in 1871 in St. Louis, Missouri, to Clara M. Primm, of Menard county, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Tice) Primm, both representatives of old families of Menard county. Her father was a son of Thomas and Elizabeth Primm and was born January 3, 1817, in Madison county, Illinois, while his death occurred October 24,

1864, in Menard county. He was married June 1, 1843, to Elizabeth Tice, daughter of Jacob and Jane (Hall) Tice. They became the parents of ten children: James D., who was born January 22, 1845; Duleina, who was born June 11, 1852, and married John N. Cline; Thomas R., born June 14, 1854; Clara M., wife of our subject, born August 8, 1856; Violet L., born February 8, 1860; and Ninian O., born January 21, 1861. Another daughter of the family, Susan J., died when about sixteen years of age and three children died in infancy. When young Daniel Primm had very little property, but he died a wealthy man, having worked earnestly and persistently in former years, and as his capital increased he made judicial investments in real estate, thus becoming the owner of valuable property. His father entered from the government the land upon which which Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon now reside.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon settled in Menard county upon the farm which is now the homestead property and he has developed one of the best tracts of land in the county, his labors resulting in making it very attractive. The home is a beautiful and commodious residence, situated in the midst of well kept grounds, and everything about the place indicates the careful supervision of the progressive owner. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon have been born eight children: Thomas W., who was born in November, 1872, is now superintendent of a coal mine; Gilbert L., born in 1874, is married and has one child; Clara, born in 1877, was married and at her death left one son, Kenyon Fouché; Estelle, born in 1881, and Eli, born in 1884, are at home; John, born in 1886, died in 1887; Joe, born in 1889, and Hope, born in 1897, are also with their parents.

Mr. Kenyon votes with the Republican party, having embraced its principles as soon as age gave him the right of franchise. His father was also a Republican and his wife's people were of the same political faith. Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon have a wide acquaintance in this county and enjoy the regard of all with whom they have been associated. In business affairs Mr. Kenyon is found trustworthy, betraying

no confidence reposed in him and carefully meeting every obligation that devolves upon him. As a citizen he favors progressive methods and while successfully conducting his business affairs he is every ready to aid in the promotion of any public cause for the general good.

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#### JAMES F. SPEER, JR.

James F. Speer, Jr., better known as Frank Speer, was born in Menard county, on the 4th of February, 1871, and is a son of James F. Speer, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. During his boyhood and youth he attended the Codrington school in Tallula township and assisted his father in the work of the home farm. In 1899 he began renting land of his father in Tallula township and now operates one hundred and sixty acres, which is highly cultivated. He is a progressive farmer and is meeting with good success in his chosen occupation.

On the 19th of April, 1899, Mr. Speer was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Stich, who was born in Sandridge township, this county, May 16, 1871, and is a daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Smith) Stich, also natives of Menard county and now residents of Tallula. There were only two children in the Stich family, Mrs. Speer's sister being Julia, wife of Edgar Dobbs, of Tallula. By his ballot Mr. Speer is a supporter of the Democratic party and he is a member of the Christian church.

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#### ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY.

Alexander Montgomery, who carries on farming and stock-raising in Menard county, is one of the native sons of this county, born October 16, 1833. His parents resided here at an early period in the development of this part of the state. He is a son of Charles L. and Eliza (Bracken) Montgomery, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. His father arrived in Menard county, Illinois, in 1820, when a young boy and was employed in various ways until 1830, when he was married

and began farming on his own account on land which he entered from the government. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began transforming the raw tract into cultivated fields and in due course of time gathered abundant harvests. He experienced all the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life, but he bravely met these and as the years passed overcame all difficulties and obstacles in his path. He witnessed the wonderful transformation of Menard county from a wild region to a thickly settled district, supplied with all conveniences and comforts known to modern civilization. When his labors had brought to him a comfortable competence he put aside further business cares and spent his last days in honorable retirement from labor. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to public office and he served as county commissioner for two terms or more. His early political support was given to the Whig party, but in 1860 he joined the ranks of the new Republican party and continued one of its staunch advocates until his death, which occurred on the 4th of March, 1879. His wife long survived him and departed this life in 1894. Both were consistent members of the Christian church for many years. Mrs. Montgomery's father came to Menard county in 1826 and entered land south of Greenview. There he developed a good farm, breaking the wild prairie and cutting the timber. He bore a helpful part in reclaiming the wild region for the purpose of civilization and his name should be enduringly inscribed on the list of Menard county's honored pioneers. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery were born ten children, who are now living and all are residents of Menard and Mason counties, Illinois, with the exception of one daughter, who resides in Mississippi.

Alexander Montgomery was reared amid frontier environments and retains vivid mental pictures of conditions that existed in this portion of the state during his boyhood days ere many of the modern improvements were introduced. He continued to live with his parents until twenty-three years of age, when he started out in life on his own account. He was

reared to the occupation of farming and has always made that pursuit his life work. However, at the present time he is largely living retired, having through his earnest labor and careful management in former years gained a competence sufficient to supply him with all the necessities and many of the comforts and luxuries of life.

Mr. Montgomery is a member of the Greenview lodge, No. 653, A. F. & A. M., with which he has been identified for a quarter of a century and for seventeen years he has been treasurer of the lodge. His paternal grandfather was also a Mason, having become a member of the order at Covent Garden, London, England, from which he was demitted April 21, 1774, upon his emigration to the new world. Crossing the Atlantic to Virginia, he was made grand master of the grand lodge of that state October 28, 1789. In his political views Mr. Montgomery is a staunch Republican, having firm faith in the principles of the party, and he now has in his possession a badge which was worn by his father in Springfield on the 8th of August, 1860. On it is inscribed:

For president.

Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois.

For vice-president.

Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine.

My Country, 'tis of thee.

Sweet land of liberty,

Of thee I sing.

Long may our land be bright

With freedom's holy light,

Protect us by thy might,

Great God, our King.

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#### SAMUEL WATKINS.

Samuel Watkins is one of the native sons of Menard county, his birth having occurred January 26, 1842, on the farm which he now occupies. On the paternal side he is of Scotch and Welsh descent and his grandfather was the youngest in a family of twenty-one children. He is a son of Joseph and Nancy

(Green) Watkins. At a very early day Joseph Watkins accompanied his father on his removal from Kentucky to Illinois, his mother having died when he was young, and the family located on Shoal creek in Clinton county. There Joseph Watkins married Nancy Green and in the '20s they came to Menard county, the journey being made in a two-wheel cart which he had made himself, and which was drawn by a yoke of oxen. A log cabin was built in Little Grove and corn was planted but the squirrels ate up the first crop. Mr. Watkins was badly handicapped during his early residence here from the fact that he had forgotten to bring his gun with him and was thus unable to secure the wild game which was the principal meat of the early settlers. He continued to reside in Menard county until called to his final rest, his death occurring when he was about sixty-five years of age. In politics he was a Democrat. His wife was also a member of an old Kentucky family. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom Samuel is the youngest, while with the exception of two all have passed away. William, the eldest, married Sarah Armstrong and made his home three miles north of Petersburg, where he reared his family. His widow now lives in Sand Ridge precinct. Beverly, who married Elizabeth Armstrong, is deceased, while his widow lives in Cass county, Illinois. Sally became the wife of Gaines Green and lived in Tallula but both are now deceased. Hannah married William Nance and they resided in Sand Ridge precinct, but both have now passed away. Alvin married Nancy Potter, who survives him and resides south of Petersburg. Elias married Eliza McManaway and they resided in Mason county, his widow being still a resident of Kilbourne. Ann became the wife of Daniel Atterberry and they resided west of the town of Atterberry, but both have passed away, leaving a large family. Maria is the wife of Samuel Colston, a resident of Petersburg. Thomas died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty-one years. Mary died in early girlhood. Samuel completes the family.

In the Little Grove school Samuel Watkins acquired his education and was thus prepared for life's practical duties. He was reared to





SAMUEL WATKINS.



MRS. SAMUEL WATKINS.





farm work upon the old family homestead and has always handled stock. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Miss Mary Woodridge, a daughter of David and Margaret (Hawthorne) Woodridge, who came from Reed county, Kentucky, to Illinois, in 1830, settling on a farm in Menard county three miles from the present home of our subject. Mr. Watkins now owns this place and also the old Watkins homestead. On coming to this county Mr. Woodridge was a poor man, but through energy, perseverance and industry he became well off. His political support was given the Democratic party. He died in August, 1851, and his wife passed away in October of the same year. They were the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters. Robert, who married and removed to Oklahoma, died in that territory, leaving one child. John married and resided in Illinois for a time, but twenty years ago removed to Missouri, where his death occurred. Richard married a daughter of Henry Dick, of Cass county, Illinois, and they make their home in Petersburg; Jackson Heath wedded Mary Vaughn and they now reside near Faye in Oklahoma. Mrs. Watkins is the fifth of the family. Martha is the wife of Willis Boulware and they reside in Clark county, Missouri.

Mr. Watkins, the subject of this sketch, began farming in 1863 in Mason county, Illinois, and there carried on agricultural pursuits for two years. In 1865 he removed to his father's old farm, which he began to cultivate and improve. He purchased the interest of some of the heirs in the old homestead and has been adding to his landed possessions continuously since until his property holdings now aggregate over three thousand acres. He bought some of this land about 1868 at six dollars per acre. It was then wild and uncultivated, but is now a highly improved property, being supplied with modern equipments, while the fields are under cultivation and yield a splendid financial return.

Into Mr. and Mrs. Watkins have been born eight children: Nettie is the wife of Z. A. Thompson, who resides near Petersburg and by whom she has four children; Elizabeth is the wife of Elijah Purvines, a resident of Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, and they

have three children; Evans married Pauline Spears and they, with their one son, reside in Petersburg precinct; Elias married Irene Fisher and is living near Atterberry; Walter, who resides in precinct 7 in Menard county, married Ollie Juhl; Edgar married May Onken and is living in precinct 1; Hattie married Chris C. Juhl and they reside on the old David Woodridge farm with their one child; Nona is the wife of Ira Abbott, who is connected with the electric light system of Petersburg.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Watkins hold memberships in the Christian church and Mr. Watkins is a member of the Masonic fraternity, with which his son, Elias, is also identified, the latter having attained the Knight Templar degree of the York rite. The father was made a Mason in 1886 at Petersburg and is still connected with the lodge at that place. He gives his political allegiance to the Democracy. He is today one of the most extensive landowners of Menard county. His success is creditable and yet investigation into his life record shows that his prosperity has been won entirely through indefatigable effort, capable management and unflinching perseverance. His life has been open to his fellow citizens and no suspicion of evil has ever been attached to it. It has been clean in every way and his influence has always been for what is honest, for everything that is elevating to the public, for everything that conserves the interests of the county, for everything that is sound in business, for everything that is true and everything that is right.

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#### JOHN THOMAS GADDIE.

John Thomas Gaddie, who is carrying on general farming in Sugar Grove township, is numbered among the native sons of Menard county, his birth having occurred on the old family homestead February 17, 1868. He is a son of Andrew and Sarah (Keane) Gaddie. His father was born on the Orkney Islands, of Scotland, May 31, 1837, and when but seventeen years of age went to sea with his maternal uncle David Spence as a cabin boy. He followed the sea until nineteen years of age and subsequent to his return home was a student for

two years. On attaining his majority he emigrated to America, accompanied by his sister Jane, and has since been a resident of Menard county. He had resided in the United State for three years, when, espousing the Union cause, he enlisted August 14, 1862, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of Little Rock, together with other important engagements, and because of disability was honorably discharged, October 14, 1864. Purchasing a farm in Menard county in 1867, he has carried on general farming with good success until 1891 and since that time he has lived retired in Greenview, but still owns valuable farm land in this county. He has been prominent and influential in public affairs, serving for twelve years upon the board of county commissioners, for twenty-one years as a member of the school board and for one year as president of the town board of Greenview. He was married November 28, 1866, to Sarah Keane, a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Warner) Keane, of Menard county, and they became the parents of eight children. The wife and mother died April 22, 1887, and on the 13th of August, 1889, Andrew Gaddie wedded Eliza A. Conant, of Menard county, who was born November 10, 1842, and died September 26, 1901. Further mention is made of Andrew Gaddie on another page of this work.

John T. Gaddie was reared upon his father's farm, spending the days of his boyhood and youth in the usual manner of farmer lads. When his attention was not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom he aided in the work of tilling the soil. He continued to reside upon the old homestead farm up to the time of his marriage, when he began farming and stock-raising on his own account. He spent six years on a tract of land of two hundred and sixty acres on Salt creek, near Greenview, where he engaged in the raising and feeding of cattle and hogs. In the spring of 1899, however, he returned to the old Gaddie homestead and has since conducted agricultural pursuits there, having rented two hundred acres of good land. Here he cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and he

also raises cattle and horses. He likewise gives some attention to the raising of hogs and now has about one hundred and twenty-five head upon his farm.

On the 21st of January, 1890, Mr. Gaddie was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Cox. Her father, William P. Cox, was a native of Mason county, Kentucky, born June 24, 1815, and lived at home until about seventeen years of age, during which time he learned the shoemaker's trade. He afterward worked at his trade in Kentucky until 1835, when he came to Illinois, settling in Menard county. Here he continued to engage in shoemaking to some extent and he also followed farming, purchasing a tract of land of about one hundred and sixty acres. Subsequently he was appointed superintendent of the county farm and acted in that capacity for about five years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Petersburg, where he lived retired up to the time of his death, which occurred October 11, 1897. Mr. Cox was a member of the Masonic fraternity at Petersburg, while the mother of Mrs. Gaddie belonged to the Baptist church. He was three times married. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he had one child that died in infancy and the mother soon afterward departed this life. Later he wedded Mary Brahm and their only child also died in early life. Following the death of his second wife Mr. Cox wedded Mrs. Sarena Potter, who was born in Menard county, August 26, 1833, and is now living with her children. There were two sons and three daughters of this marriage: John H., who was born March 29, 1863, and is now superintendent of the county farm of Menard county; Mary E., who was born August 9, 1865, and is the wife of Joseph Sturgis, of Menard county; Martha A., who was born September 18, 1867, and married James S. Short, and after his death became the wife of William Puckett, a resident of Petersburg; Mrs. Gaddie; and Charles C., who died in his boyhood. Mrs. Cox, the mother of Mrs. Gaddie, was twice married, her first husband being Edward Potter, by whom she had two sons, Eddie and Douglas, but the former died in 1853. Douglas, born October 8, 1855, married Mary Sams and unto them were born nine children, but

they lost their fourth child, Edward C. The others are Rosa B., Alice L., Maggie M., Annie D., Edgar, Ruth E., John H. and Rubie M.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Gaddie has been blessed with seven children: William Andrew, born November 17, 1890; Pansy M., born August 8, 1892; Sarah S., born August 1, 1894; Charles R., born February 6, 1896; Thurlow, born November 24, 1898; Earl, born September 27, 1900; and Lyle, born December 27, 1902. Five of the children are now in school.

Mr. Gaddie has been a member of the school board and he is interested in all that pertains to the substantial improvement and upbuilding of his county. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Sweetwater and also to the Greenview Horse Rangers, while his political support is given to the Democracy. His entire life has been passed in Menard county, where he has worked persistently and energetically in order to acquire a competence. In this he has succeeded and is now a representative agriculturist of his community.

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#### JEP P. GROSBOLL.

Jep P. Grosboll, who follows farming in the vicinity of Petersburg, was born September 7, 1853, in Schleswig, and is a son of Powell J. and Annie M. (Rosenbom) Grosboll, natives of Schleswig, which was then a province of Denmark, but in 1864 this district, through the fortunes of war, passed into possession of Germany and on that account the Grosboll family, not desiring to become German citizens, emigrated to America, leaving Denmark in April, 1872. They had resided upon a farm in Schleswig, and the subject of this review attended school in his native province until the emigration to the new world. He had pursued the regular course and had also studied the German language. It was his intention when he first came to America to remain for only five years and to become an American citizen, after which he would return to Schleswig and thus be exempt from army service. He went back at the end of five years and remained for only two years, but found that if he stayed for the

entire two years he would be liable for military duty, so was married and again crossed the Atlantic to the new world.

It was in May, 1878, that Mr. Grosboll wedded Miss Anna Mary Frank, a daughter of Hans and Elizabeth S. Frank, who were farming people of Schleswig. They had three children, of whom Mrs. Grosboll was the second. Catherine, the eldest, became the wife of Hans Vammel, who is a wealthy farmer residing in Schleswig. Nels Hanson Frank, the youngest, was married in 1879, to Gene Grosboll, a cousin of our subject. They reside on the Frank homestead and have seven children, who are all under the parental roof. Mrs. Grosboll was educated in Schleswig, attended school there for eleven years and remained at home up to the time of her marriage in 1878, save when she was in Copenhagen for a year, where she took a special course in housekeeping. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Grosboll have been born four children: Powell J., born September 28, 1879, was graduated from Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and had the honor of winning the gold medal for oratory. He is a Mason, belonging to the lodge at Petersburg. For two years he has been engaged in teaching and is now the principal of the Third ward school in Petersburg. John B. Grosboll, born July 22, 1881, was for one year principal at Edelstein and is now connected with the schools of Atterberry. He, too, is a graduate of the Lincoln University, in which he won the degree of Bachelor of Science. He was editor and manager of the school journal and he is also a member of the Masonic lodge at Petersburg. Harmon S., born October 9, 1883, is a graduate of the Petersburg high school, spent one term in the Northwestern University at Evanston and is now teaching in the Brush school near home. He completed a four years' course in three years while in Petersburg. Annie Elizabeth, born October 19, 1885, completed the common-school course, but did not have the opportunity of going away to school because of her mother's death, which occurred December 16, 1900, when she was forty-six years, three months and twenty-two days. Her remains were interred in Oakland cemetery. Since the mother's death

the daughter has had charge of the household affairs.

Mr. Grosboll's business career has been marked by steady progress. When he first came to Menard county he began working as a farm hand, being employed by the month. The first one of his countrymen that he saw after arriving in the United States was his brother, who joined him the following year. When J. P. Grosboll returned to America with his wife he began agricultural pursuits on the farm owned by Henry Shirding, known as the Hatfield farm. There he lived for twelve years and during that entire period he never had any lease or any papers, the contract between them being merely an oral one. During his third year a disastrous fire occurred on the 4th of August, 1883, and he lost nearly everything he had, including his household goods. When he interviewed Mr. Shirding the next morning the first question that was asked him was, "Is any one hurt?" Mr. Grosboll replied in the negative and Mr. Shirding then said: "Then it is all right. We will soon put up a new house." He continued upon the farm until the spring of 1892, when he removed to the tract of land which he had purchased in 1883, known as the old David Pantier farm. He purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres at that time and one hundred and ten acres since, making two hundred and eighty-five acres in all. He has since tilled and cleared the farm, has placed it under a high state of cultivation and in conjunction with the raising of cereals best adapted to this part of the country he has engaged in feeding cattle for the market.

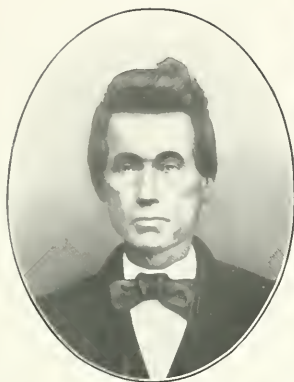
In his political views Mr. Grosboll has been a Republican and has given his ballot to the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He was reared in the Lutheran faith and is now a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. The children, too, belong to the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Fraternally Mr. Grosboll is connected with Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., at Petersburg. In 1888 he returned to his native land with his family, remaining four months abroad, during which time he visited Germany and England and renewed many of the acquaintances of his boyhood days in his native province. He has never

had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the United States, for here he has found the business opportunities that he sought and which have made him a prosperous man and in addition has enjoyed the liberty and freedom of this great and growing country.

#### JOHN P. BLANE.

John P. Blane is accounted one of the leading citizens of Greenview, actively connected with its business and public affairs. He is now president of the school board and in the line of commercial activity is president of the Greenview Coal & Mining Company. He also has farming interests in Menard county and in the control of his business displays keen discernment, sagacity and unfaltering enterprise—qualities which always insure a fair measure of success.

Mr. Blane was born July 25, 1845, upon the farm where he now resides, his parents being George and Mary (Alkire) Blane. The family is of Irish lineage and the father, who was born in County Down, Ireland, came to America in 1818, locating at what is now known as Irish Grove. He and other men of his nationality on settling in Menard county worked in the woods and thus the grove obtained its name. From the government George Blane entered the land which now constitutes the farm upon which his son John P. Blane resides. He prospered in his agricultural pursuits and the boundaries of his home place were extended until they surrounded six hundred and forty acres of rich land. At one time he owned altogether twelve hundred acres and was justly accounted one of the representative and successful agriculturists of his community. He carried forward his farm work along progressive lines and transformed the wild prairie into productive tracts which annually returned to him golden harvests. He also found opportunity to aid in the promotion of public interests and he served as justice of the peace for many years, his decisions being characterized by the utmost fairness and impartiality. He died upon the old homestead farm January 10



GEORGE BLANE.



J. P. BLANE.



MRS. GEORGE BLANE.



MRS. O. P. BRACKEN.



MRS. J. P. BLANE.



O. P. BRACKEN.



1864, at the age of sixty-five years and his loss was deeply regretted throughout the entire community, because of the important and helpful part which he had played in business and public life. His wife survived him for about ten years and died April 15, 1874, at the age of seventy-five years. In their family were ten children: Edward, who died at the age of twenty years; Arminda and Maria, both deceased; G. W., a resident farmer of Arkansas; A. P., who is now justice of the peace in Greenville; Samuel H., who was one of the leading attorneys of Menard county, but is now deceased; John P., of this review; Mary E. and Melissa H., twins, the former now in Blunt, South Dakota, and the other in Menard county; and W. F., of Iowa.

John P. Blane acquired his education in the public schools and in Eureka College and was thus well qualified for life's practical duties. On putting aside his text-books he took charge of the home farm for his father had passed away and his brother was with the Union army. In September, 1867, he built his present home and took up his abode there. He has been a feeder of cattle in connection with the raising of grain and is a member of the Farmers Elevator Company. When the Greenville Coal & Mining Company was organized he was made its president and in control of its business interests he has shown marked capability and discernment. He possesses strong purpose and gradually he has advanced in his business career until he now occupies an enviable position as a representative of agricultural and industrial interests in Menard county.

On the 14th of February, 1867, Mr. Blane was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Bracken, a daughter of O. P. and Nancy (Meadows) Bracken, early settlers of this county. Her father is now deceased, but her mother makes her home with Mrs. Blane. Unto our subject and his wife have been born six children: Emma, who died in infancy; Ella, the wife of Dr. L. J. Goodson, of Springfield, Illinois; Carrie, the wife of A. J. Propst, of Greenville; L. E., who is a practicing physician of Greenville and is represented elsewhere in this volume; Inez Mabel, who died when about eighteen years of age; and Edna, at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blane are consistent members of the Christian church of Greenville and are worthy people who receive the friendship of many, while the hospitality of a large majority of the best homes in the locality is extended to them. Mr. Blane has served on the school board for twenty years and is now its president, the cause of education finding in him a warm and helpful friend, and he has put forth effective service in behalf of the public school system of the city. He belongs to Loyalty lodge, No. 627, A. F. & A. M., and to the Anti-Horse Thief Association, called the Greenville Rangers Association, of which he is the vice president. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and he stands to-day as one of the representative citizens of Greenville, a man strong in his business capacity, in his successful accomplishment, in his honor and his good name.

#### CHARLES P. CORSON.

Charles P. Corson, carrying on general agricultural pursuits near Tallula, was born on the 16th of November, 1861, in Tallula precinct, Menard county, his parents being Reuben and Rachel M. (Nottingham) Corson. In their family were five children, all of whom are yet living: Hannah, the wife of Randolph Allen, a Methodist minister residing in Waterloo, Iowa, by whom she has three children; Edward E., who married Eva Murphy, of Knox county, Missouri, by whom he has two children, and follows farming at Roosevelt, Kiowa county, Oklahoma; Bertha, at home; and Nathan, who married Essie Correll, and is a resident farmer of Sangamon county.

Charles P. Corson is indebted to the public-school system of the county for the early educational privileges which he enjoyed and later he spent six months as a student in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois. He began farming at an early age upon his father's farm in Tallula township and continued there up to the time of his marriage in 1889. He acquired eighty acres of land in section 24, Tallula precinct, as his first real estate and he



lived one year on the Nottingham homestead in Sangamon county. The next land which he purchased was one hundred and sixty acres, formerly the property of John Kriel, in section 24, Tallula precinct. In his farming methods he has ever been progressive and the success he has achieved is due to his close application and unfaltering diligence.

On the 27th of March, 1889, Mr. Corson was married to Miss Amelia Frogley, a daughter of Israel and Susan (McArdel) Frogley. Her father was a native of England, born July 25, 1820, and came to America when but twenty years of age. He had lived in Oxfordshire, England, and on crossing the Atlantic he settled in the state of New York, where he resided for a number of years. In 1856 he came to Illinois and located in Menard county in 1862, establishing his home about two miles southwest of Tallula. His death occurred March 20, 1895, after many years of active connection with agricultural interests in this part of the state. He was in limited financial circumstances when he reached Illinois, but by honesty, industry and economy he gained prosperity and at the time of his death was the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party. Though he was not a member of any church he was a firm believer in the Christian religion and in his life exemplified the Golden Rule. His wife passed away September 1, 1904. In their family were the following named: John, a butcher, is married, lives in Colorado and has three children; Israel, a farmer and stock-dealer of Chetopa, Kansas, married Nellie Mickle, and they have two sons; George died in November, 1901; William died in infancy; Elizabeth died in April, 1894; Amelia is the next of the family; and Mary, the youngest, resides in Tallula.

Amelia Frogley was born May 1, 1861, pursued her education in the common schools and in the Athenaeum, at Jacksonville, Illinois, and remained at home until she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Corson. By this union there are three children: George E., who was born October 15, 1897, and is now attending school in Tallula; one, who died unnamed at birth; and Mary B., who was born July 13, 1902.

Mr. Corson is a Prohibitionist, supporting that party by his ballot. His influence is ever found on the side of temperance and justice and progress and his labors have been of benefit to his fellow men in this way. His entire attention in business life has been given to agricultural interests and in this way he has provided a good home for his family.

#### JAMES R. GRAHAM.

James R. Graham, the owner of five hundred and seventy acres of rich farming land in Illinois, two hundred and forty acres being comprised within his home farm on section 35, Sugar Grove precinct, township 18, and one hundred and sixty-four acres on section 3, township 18, Sugar Grove precinct, was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, October 3, 1842, his parents being William and Ann Graham. The father came to the new world in April, 1851, settling in New Jersey, but his death occurred in July of the same year. His wife died in Ireland in 1844. He left a family consisting of two sons and three daughters. Those now living are James R.; John C., a resident of Logan county; Mrs. Annie Haines, of Menard county; and Mrs. Lucy Downes, a resident of Iowa.

James R. Graham was a little lad of eight years when brought by his father to the new world and at his father's death he was bound out to Dr. Jacob Fidler for a term of eleven years, beginning in 1851. His sister Annie was bound out at the same time for a term of eight years. They found in the Doctor a good friend and Mr. Graham remained with him until March, 1867, when believing that he would have better opportunities for business advancement in the middle west he came to Menard county, arriving on the 15th of that month. He joined his brother John C. in a partnership, which was continued for twelve years. In the fall of 1867 they purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and in 1877 they bought forty acres. Later James R. Graham purchased his brother's interest in August, 1879, still living with his brother until October 16, 1879, when he settled upon his present farm. He has



made but two moves since his marriage and he now has a valuable farming property in this county, and also good land in Logan county. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising and his well tilled fields yield to him good harvests, while in his pastures are seen good grades of horses, cattle and hogs.

On the 1th of June, 1866, Mr. Graham was married to Amanda Corson, a daughter of William and Jane Corson, both natives of New Jersey. The father, who was a glassblower, was born August 16, 1820, and died October 15, 1873, while the mother, who was born October 22, 1822, is still living in New Jersey. They were the parents of four daughters, who are still living: Mrs. Graham, who was born in Glassboro, New Jersey, May 15, 1846; Mrs. Anna Johnson, of Camden, New Jersey, with whom the mother makes her home; Mrs. Hampton, of Millville, New Jersey; and Mrs. Comer, of Shofield, Pennsylvania. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Graham have been born eight children: William C., born April 24, 1868; Anna M., October 18, 1870; Mary E., October 1, 1876; Mattie J., August 19, 1879; Fred J., November 25, 1881; Ella A., February 21, 1881; Howard E., June 6, 1888; and Ruth Amy, April 14, 1890. The family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death. The parents are members of the Methodist church and in his political views Mr. Graham is a Democrat.

Many changes have occurred since he arrived in the county, especially in the manner of living and the methods of farming, as well as in the general development of the county. Mr. Graham was the first man that blanketed a horse while it was standing, he adopting this method while his horse stood during the church services that he attended at the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Irish Grove. The first funeral which he attended in this county was that of Albert Stone, in September, 1868. At that time there were no spring wagons in use in the surrounding country, only lumber wagons, and the body was taken to the grave in one of these and interred in the home burying ground near the timber. Sixteen years later Albert Stone's uncle John was buried, and in the funeral procession of over a third of a mile in length there were only seen three lumber

wagons, the people having spring wagons, carriages and buggies, while the remains were carried to the grave in a hearse. All this shows how rapidly the work of progress and improvement was carried on. At the time of his arrival in the county Mr. Graham had a capital of only three hundred dollars, but making judicious investment of his funds and carefully husbanding his resources as the years have gone by, he is now in good circumstances.

#### RICHARD BATTERTON.

Central Illinois has always been the place of residence of Richard Batterton, who is now living upon a farm in Rock Creek precinct, not far from the site of Petersburg. He was born in Sangamon county, July 19, 1836, and is a son of William and Eliza (Gaines) Batterton, natives of Virginia and of Irish descent, who, on leaving the Old Dominion, removed to Kentucky and after residing in that state for a time came to Illinois, establishing their home in Sangamon county. The father was a farmer and stock-raiser, and always followed that pursuit in order to provide for his family. He died in 1892 at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, and his wife, who was ten years his junior, died in 1902 at the age of eighty-eight years. Both continued residents of Sangamon county up to the time of their demise and were classed with its representative pioneer settlers who took a helpful part in its early development. Richard Batterton is the second in order of birth in a family of ten children, all of whom lived to be grown. The others are Madison, who makes his home near Salisbury, Illinois; Robert, who served with his brother Madison in the Civil war and died some years later from the effects of exposure while in the army; Amy, now the wife of John Wells, a resident of Atlanta, Missouri; Mildred, the wife of Daniel Pelham, of Salisbury, Illinois; Maria, the wife of T. C. Miller, who lives near Salisbury; Henry Clay, who makes his home one mile west of our subject in Menard county; Sarah, wife of Charles Parker, a resident of Cartwright township, Sangamon county, Illi-

nois; Charlotta, wife of Carl Akers, who lives near Salisbury; and William, who died in 1902.

Richard Batterton pursued his preliminary education in a log schoolhouse in his native county and later he continued his studies in the schools of Salisbury. He was trained to habits of industry and economy upon the home farm and was taught the best methods of cultivating the fields. After putting aside his text-books he continued to assist his father in the farm work, but later took a trip to the Rocky mountains. He visited Denver when it was but a small place and could have bought any lot in the city at that time for ten dollars. His trip to the west convinced him, however, that he preferred central Illinois as a place of residence and after his return to this state he resumed farming, which he has since carried on. He engaged in agricultural pursuits at Salisbury for three years prior to his marriage, being associated in this business with his brother Madison and together they kept bachelor's hall.

Richard Batterton was united in marriage to Miss Permilia Ann Miller, who was born April 18, 1830, in Menard county, the only child of William R. and Eliza (Jackman) Miller, who came to Menard county during the early girlhood of Mrs. Batterton. The mother died when her daughter was quite young. Our subject and his wife were married April 3, 1862, and unto them have been born five sons, who are still living and all of whom are now grown, the eldest being thirty-seven years of age and the youngest twenty-two. These are Adam, Murry, Elijah, Charlie and Homer. Murry, Elijah and Charlie are all married and Murry resides in Petersburg, Elijah in Athens and Charlie in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Batterton also lost three children in early youth.

Mr. Batterton yet follows general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising and is one of the extensive landowners in Menard county, having five hundred and fifty acres of rich land, which he has transformed into a splendid farm, equipped with all modern conveniences. He has a beautiful home in the midst of well kept grounds and in the rear of this dwelling are substantial barns and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. These in turn are surrounded by well tilled fields and there is

every evidence of the supervision of a careful and progressive owner. Mr. Batterton has always been a staunch Republican, save that he voted once for Horace Greeley and twice for Bryan. His wife belongs to the Baptist church, but his preference is for the Christian church. He has served as school director in his district for a number of years and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend, he putting forth every effort in his power to advance the cause of the schools and promote their efficiency. The occupation to which he was reared he has made his life work and because of his persistency of purpose in following one pursuit, added to his untiring industry and sound business judgment, he has won the success that makes him a substantial farmer. Moreover, he enjoys the respect of his fellow men because his life has been in conformity to upright business ethics and he has been ever true to his duty in the various relations in which he has been placed.

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#### GEORGE G. WARING.

George G. Waring, an honored and highly esteemed citizen of Menard county residing near Atterferry, was born in Dutchess county, New York, on the 15th of July, 1815, a son of Charles and Abigail Hones Waring. When only two years old he removed with his parents to Rochester, that state. Being left an orphan when quite young he was reared by his grandparents and in early life learned the cooper's trade, following that pursuit in Rochester and after his removal to Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, in 1834. He started in life without any means whatever and never had any financial aid or assistance. In speaking of his early career he says that he can now look back and wonder how he ever got through to his present age with no one to look after him or to be interested in his welfare since he was twelve years old.

In 1851 Mr. Waring came to Illinois, making the journey by wagon from his old home in Ohio. He settled in Menard county on the farm where he now resides. This property was only partially improved when it came into his





GEORGE G. WARING.



MRS. GEORGE G. WARING.



possession, but he at once turned his attention to its further development and cultivation and converted it into a good farm. As the years passed he kept adding to his property from time to time until he now owns about four hundred acres of valuable farming land.

In 1837 Mr. Waring married Miss Elizabeth Clark, who was born in Ohio, February 15, 1816, and died January 31, 1880. They became the parents of the following children: John H., a resident of Leavenworth, Kansas; William C., of Springfield, Illinois; Lambert D., of Chester, Nebraska; Mary A., now Mrs. George Codington, of Tallula, Illinois; Sarah E., deceased wife of George Struble, of Memphis, Missouri; Delilah, widow of John Codington, of Auburn, Nebraska; Caroline E., wife of George Harding, of Menard county; George A., who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; and Charles W., of San Francisco, California.

Although now eighty-nine years of age Mr. Waring is still hale and hearty. He has a good education, is a man of unusually good habits and disposition and possesses a good memory. He well remembers witnessing Sam Patch's last leap into the Niagara Falls in November, 1829. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, but has never cared for political honors. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county and is held in the highest regard.

#### WILLIAM COHEE.

William Cohee was born in England, March 17, 1800. He had one sister, Sarah, and three half-brothers, Richard Bishop, John Gooden and Levi Lee.

William Cohee was married in Delaware, October 15, 1821, and his wife died October 20, 1822, when their daughter, Mary Ann, was but five days old. She married Harry Madison about the year 1844. Mr. Cohee afterward married Miss Nancy Slaughter, at Dover, Delaware, October 12, 1824. She was of Welsh descent. Of this union ten children were born: Rachel, born in Delaware, August 25, 1827, died when only a few months old; Sarah was born in Delaware, September 3, 1830; Lydia, born in

Pennsylvania, May 1, 1832, became the wife of William Thomas, of Menard county, Illinois, and resides in Oakford; W. T., born in Pennsylvania, February 13, 1831, and now living in Crowell, Nebraska, married Miss Marie Hall, March 16, 1866; C. A., born in Ohio, October 5, 1838, and now in Beemer, Nebraska, married Miss Minerva Cannon, a native of Illinois; Elizabeth, born in Indiana, October 14, 1840, became the wife of Calvin McKee, who died June 20, 1878, and after his death married C. P. Elliott and now resides in Oakford; Louisa, born in Indiana, March 5, 1842, died February 19, 1866; John, born in Illinois, February 20, 1845, died October 5, 1851; H. C., born in Illinois, August 1, 1848, and now living near Oakford, was married March 14, 1878, to Miss Bettie Brown, a native of Illinois; and Ann, now living in Norfolk, Nebraska, was born in Illinois May 5, 1851, and was married October 18, 1868, to W. A. King, a native of Illinois, who died October 14, 1903.

William Cohee was a miller by trade and worked in a mill to some extent after coming to Menard county, in 1842, being employed at Robinson's mill on Clary creek. He rented land of Samuel Watkins for three years and then bought land in Sandridge precinct, Menard county, living thereon until his death, March 17, 1852. He and his second wife were both buried on the farm. After his death his widow married John Dart and only lived until February 19, 1867.

William Cohee bought land, built a log cabin in which to shelter his family and then began breaking the wild prairie that he might plant his crop. He cut his timber for the house, made rails for fencing his place and used oxen in plowing. As time passed his fields began to yield golden grain and his farm took on the appearance of a highly cultivated tract of land. Leaving Menard county he went to Missouri, where he spent a year, but on the expiration of that period he returned to this locality and resumed general agricultural pursuits, and in connection with the tilling of the soil he engaged in the raising of cattle, hogs and horses. He continued at this until his death. He was a very busy, useful, active man, and at the time of his death he owned

two hundred acres of land on which was a comfortable home, surrounded by fruit and shade trees of his own planting. He also did his own butchering and after killing his hogs would drive with a load of meat to Beardstown market, sell it at two and a half cents per pound dressed, and upon his return he would bring a load of merchandise from that place to the men at Petersburg. At his death his remains were interred upon the old farm near his home on a site, which he had selected as his last resting place, and when his wife was called from this life her remains were laid by his side. They were greatly respected by all their neighbors and many friends. Mr. Colhee gave his political allegiance to the Whig party.

Henry C. Colhee was born in Menard county, Illinois, August 1, 1848, and worked on the farm with his step-father until fourteen years of age. He attended school through the winter months when his assistance was not needed in the fields. In the early days he frequently engaged in hunting, shooting geese, ducks and turkeys, which he shipped to Springfield and Peoria. This proved quite a profitable source of remuneration, his sales at times amounting to as much as sixty dollars in a single month. He shot as many as eighty ducks in a day. After his father's death he went to live with C. J. McDole, working for his board during the winter months with the privilege of attending school. He was thus employed until sixteen years of age, after which he worked for E. Lownsbury at a salary of sixteen dollars per month. Later he was employed by Richard Gaines at thirty dollars per month. He next lived with Mr. Brown through the winter and in the following spring began working for Mr. Lownsbury at twenty-six dollars per month. The last man for whom he worked by the month was David W. Brown and later he began operating Mr. Brown's farm on shares. Subsequently he bought the interest of some of the other heirs in the old homestead place and is now operating about two hundred acres of the rich land. He raises the cereals which thrive best in this soil and he also has about five acres of land planted to small fruits, including strawberries, blackberries and raspberries.

On the 14th of March, 1878, Mr. Colhee was

married to Miss Bettie Brown, a daughter of Leander J. and Margaret (Lownsbury) Brown. Her father, who was born in Chemung county, New York, was also a farmer and stock-raiser and engaged in the breeding of fine horses. He came to the west with his parents and remained at home up to the time of his marriage in 1836 to Miss Betsey Lownsbury, who died eight months later. On the 23d of October, 1837, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Margaret Lownsbury, who was also a native of Chemung county, New York. Mr. Brown built a log house and began farming for himself. Subsequently he purchased the interest of his brothers and sisters in the old homestead farm and was known for many years as a prosperous agriculturist of the community, having two hundred and forty acres of valuable land at the time of his death. He remained a resident of this county for about thirty-four years, having arrived in 1832, while his death here occurred on the 19th of February, 1866. His widow yet survives and now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Colhee. Mr. Brown was a Democrat in politics and was a man of most honorable and upright principles, who espoused the cause of Christianity and in his life exemplified its faith. He won the love of not only his immediate family, but of his neighbors and friends and his genuine worth was recognized by all who knew him. By his second marriage he had ten children, of whom three are now living, the sisters of Mrs. Colhee being Sophia, who is the widow of William Burton and resides in Oakford, Menard county; and Julia, the wife of Charles Colson, who resides near Oakford.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Colhee has been blessed with nine children: Nancy E., born January 13, 1879; William C., born November 1, 1880; one that was born in 1883 and died in early infancy; Robert S., who was born June 23, 1885, and died November 24, 1887; Elias C., born September 5, 1887; Maggie E., born October 14, 1889; Leander J., born April 19, 1892; Anna J., born June 4, 1895, and died December 16, 1899; and Bessie, who was born January 10, 1899, and died on the 14th of February, following.

Henry C. Colhee exercised his right of fran-



chise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy and during the greater part of the time for the past thirty years he has served as a member of the school board. He has never sought or desired public office, however, as he has preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and through the careful conduct of his farming interests he has become one of the substantial agriculturists of the county in which his entire life has been passed.

#### WILLIAM H. HOUGHTON.

William H. Houghton is the owner of four hundred acres of land in Tallula precinct that is rich and productive and his undivided attention is given to farm work with the result that a gratifying measure of success has attended his efforts. He is one of Menard county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Petersburg on the 20th of September, 1849. His father, William C. Houghton, was born in Kentucky, July 15, 1814, and was of English lineage. The paternal grandfather, Charles Houghton, who was born in England, became one of the early residents of Menard county, arriving here with his family about 1821. He established his home on Rock creek and here followed farming. On reaching manhood William C. Houghton was married in this county to Miss Julia Ann Maltby, who was born in New York, February 5, 1818, and came to Menard county about 1827 with her parents, Jesse and Sylvia (Holley) Maltby, who were also natives of the Empire state, the former born March 27, 1784, and the latter March 31, 1791. The Maltby family first settled in the Sangamon river bottom, but after residing there for several years took up their abode upon the farm just across the road from where our subject now lives. There Mr. Maltby died about 1859, at the age of seventy-five years, and his wife passed away February 7, 1846, when about fifty-five years old. After his marriage William C. Houghton located on the old homestead now occupied by our subject and resided there until his death, which occurred in 1893. He was a faithful member of the Christian church and a prominent Republican, holding

most of the county offices. His widow is now living with our subject, who is the only survivor of their seven children.

Reared under the parental roof, William H. Houghton acquired his education at the Farmers Point district school in Menard county and when his attention was not occupied by his text-books his time was largely devoted to the work of tilling the soil on the old family homestead. He has always carried on farming on this place and in connection with the raising of grain he has made a specialty of the raising of stock, including draft and road horses. He is thoroughly familiar with the best methods of cultivating the soil and improving the grades of stock and in both branches of his business is meeting with gratifying and creditable success. His farm comprises four hundred acres of land, much of which is under a high state of cultivation and gives evidence of his careful supervision and progressive methods.

On the 26th of October, 1876, at the home of the bride's mother, two miles north of Petersburg, occurred the marriage of William H. Houghton and Miss Agnes Park. Her parents were James and Rebecca (Pardon) Park, who were born, reared and married in Scotland and continued to make their home in that country until after the birth of all of their children. In 1863 they brought their family to America and settled near Petersburg in Menard county, where the father at first rented land, but afterward bought a farm which he continued to operate up to the time of his death in 1873. His wife long survived him and passed away in 1893. They were Presbyterians in religious belief and he was a Republican in politics, but always refused public office. In their family were nine children, of whom five are still living, namely: Rebecca, now the widow of William Finley and a resident of Menard county; Anna, wife of Anthony Clark, of Bement, Illinois; Andrew, who lives two miles north of Petersburg; Margaret, widow of George Hollis and a resident of Menard county; and Agnes, wife of our subject.

Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Houghton: Kate Ann, born March 26, 1878, was married December 30, 1897, to Al-

vin Miller, who travels for a hardware firm and makes his home in Centralia, Illinois; James William, born November 21, 1880, was married October 11, 1902, to Hattie Juhl, a daughter of Andrew Juhl, and resides on the first farm east of his father's home, the land belonging to his father; Frank Leslie, born March 1, 1882, was married January 1, 1904, to Gail Campbell, a daughter of John Campbell, and is now living in Sangamon county near Pleasant Plains, where he follows the occupation of farming in connection with his father-in-law; Charles, born November 1, 1883, is attending school at Farmers Point; Mary Verneena, born August 23, 1881, has completed the common school course in the home district and is now a student in Millikin University at Decatur, Illinois; and Helen, born February 8, 1895, is attending the district school near her father's home.

Mr. Houghton exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served as highway commissioner and as school director. He does not belong to any church, but attends the services of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. His entire life has been passed in the vicinity of Petersburg and he has a wide acquaintance in the county seat and throughout the surrounding district where his genuine worth has won recognition in the high regard that is uniformly extended him by his many friends.

#### L. E. BLANE, D. D. S.

Dr. L. E. Blane, one of the successful dentists of Menard county, having a large and growing practice in Greenview, was born in this county, on the 11th of March, 1878, his parents being John P. and Mary A. (Bracken) Blane. Dr. Blane began his education in the public schools of Greenview and completed the high school course by graduation with the class of 1896. He afterward entered the Highland Military Academy at Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was graduated in 1897 and then, determining upon the practice of dentistry as

a life work, he entered the dental department of the Northwestern University, where he completed a full course by graduation in the class of 1900.

He located at once for practice in Greenview, where he has continuously remained and the business has constantly grown until it has reached large and profitable proportions. He has an office well supplied with the latest improved equipments known to dentistry and he likewise possesses the mechanical skill and financial ability which are so necessary to success in his profession. He has suffered some reverses, for on the 22d of June, 1900, his office was wrecked by a cyclone, and on the 30th of November, 1901, a disastrous fire occurred, burning all of his supplies, but with characteristic energy he has persevered and he is to-day recognized as one of the most capable dentists of Menard county.

On the 23d of October, 1901, was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Blane and Miss Clara A. Propst, a daughter of E. A. and Amanda (Kincaid) Propst, who were early settlers of this county. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Blane has been born one son, John P., Jr. The parents are members of the Christian church and Dr. Blane is also identified with the Masonic fraternity, belonging to both the blue lodge and chapter. He is likewise a member of Loyalty lodge, No. 181, K. P., and Greenview lodge, No. 423, I. O. O. F. His political allegiance is given to the Republican party and as every true American citizen should do he keeps well informed on the issues of the day and gives firm allegiance to the principles which he believes contain the best elements of good government, but he has never sought or desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his profession, in which he has already gained for himself an enviable name and won creditable success.

#### A. R. TERRY.

One of the more active and enterprising business men in Menard county is A. R. Terry, who is now successfully controlling an extensive lumber business, thus contributing to the



DR. L. E. BLANE.



commercial upbuilding of the community as well as to his individual prosperity. His entire life has been passed in Menard county, where he was born on the 3d of February, 1863, the family home being situated on township 18, range 6. He is a representative of an old Virginia family that was established in the Old Dominion when it formed a part of the colonial possessions of Great Britain. The grandfather, Thomas Terry, who was born in Virginia, removed to Kentucky and there spent his remaining days. He was a blacksmith by trade but during the greater part of his life he gave his attention to the raising of tobacco. He had an extensive plantation and carried on a large business in the production of that commodity.

James L. Terry, father of A. R. Terry, was also born in Virginia, but when very young was taken to Kentucky and in early manhood came to Illinois, locating first in Mason county, where he made his home until 1856, when he came to Illinois, settling near the present town of Tice. He secured a tract of land there and engaged in farming, devoting his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. He married Mary A. Scott, a native of this state, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom A. R. Terry was the sixth in order of birth. The father died in October, 1881, and his wife is still living.

In taking up the personal history of A. R. Terry we present to our readers the record of one who is widely and favorably known in Menard county by reason of the fact that his entire life has been passed here and also because his business interests have been of an important character. At the usual age he entered the district schools, and through the period of vacation he was trained to the work of the farm. He still continues on the old homestead and has always carried on general farming and stock-raising, meeting with good success. His fields are well tilled and promise rich harvests and in his pastures and feed lots are seen good grades of stock. In addition to agricultural pursuits he has extended his labors into another field of activity, being now connected with the operation of a sawmill and

the sale of lumber. He makes a specialty of hardwood lumber and is also extensively engaged in furnishing the timbers used by railroads and coal mining companies. His trade has become extensive and therefore profitable and makes heavy demands upon his time.

On the 11th of December, 1901, Mr. Terry was united in marriage to Miss Mary Rood, a native of Kansas, whose parents, James P. and Helen Rood, came to Illinois in 1888. The mother is now living in Kendall county, but the father is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Terry have one daughter, Zella Eloise. They have a pleasant home, noted for its generous and attractive hospitality, and they occupy an enviable position in social circles where intelligence and true worth are received as the passports into good society. In his fraternal relations Mr. Terry is connected with the capable and prosperous business men of the county, and his advancement is largely due to his recognition and improvement of business opportunities. There is no deplorable lack of energy or perseverance in his make-up; on the contrary those qualities are numbered among his salient characteristics and have made his business career one of signal success.

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#### W. J. CHEANEY, M. D.

Dr. W. J. Cheaney, general medical practitioner of Petersburg, now serving as county physician of Menard county, was born October 18, 1870, in the city which is still his home, his parents being James W. and Sarah C. (Houghton) Cheaney, the former born near Lexington, Kentucky, and the latter in Menard county, Illinois. The paternal grandfather removed from New England to Kentucky at an early day and there reared his family. His son James remained at home until eighteen years of age, when he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he learned the carpenter's trade, after which he removed to St. Louis, Missouri, where he followed that pursuit for some time. Subsequently he came to Petersburg, where he carried on carpentering and building for a number of years, being thus actively associated with the industrial interests

and with the improvement of the city. In 1872 he was chosen by his fellow townsmen to the office of county treasurer, in which he served for two years, and upon his retirement from that position he went upon the road as a traveling salesman. He was very successful in that work and was therefore enabled to command a large salary. He continued upon the road until 1890, when he turned his attention to the lumber business, admitting his son Ed to a partnership under the firm name of E. S. Cheaney & Company, and the lumberyard is still conducted by the son. Mr. Cheaney was a leading contractor and builder of his time and took an active part in the improvement of the city. He possessed keen foresight, business enterprise and sound judgment and in trade circles and a social life commanded the respect and good will of all with whom he came in contact. He died February 21, 1901, and his wife is yet living.

Dr. Cheaney, the youngest of their three children, began his education at the usual age in the primary schools of Petersburg and passed successively through the different grades until he had completed the high school course. Desiring to direct his energies into a field calling for intellectual activity and offering good opportunities for success, he took up the study of medicine and surgery in the office and under the direction of Dr. Whitley, of Petersburg, who is still a successful practicing physician of this city and who is represented elsewhere in this volume. Dr. Whitley remained as his preceptor for four years and he then entered the Rush Medical College, where he completed the full course, being graduated in March, 1892. Dr. Cheaney, having won the Doctor of Medicine degree, then returned to Petersburg, where he has since engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery with excellent success, his labors for the alleviation of suffering being attended, in the large majority of cases, with the desired result. He is a member of the Menard County Medical Society and the Illinois State Medical Society, and also belongs to the Alumni Association of Rush Medical College.

Dr. Cheaney was married, January 26, 1891, to Miss Luella Ayres, of Athens, Illinois, a

daughter of W. B. Ayres, who is a successful farmer of Menard county. Their children are Donald Ayres, Harold and William James. The parents have a wide and favorable acquaintance in this county, and Dr. Cheaney is prominent in Masonry, having attained the Knight Templar degree. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Petersburg. The interest of the community tending toward public advancement and improvement receive his hearty endorsement and active co-operation, and in no duty of citizenship is he remiss. His attention, however, is most largely concentrated upon his professional duties and in a calling where advancement depends entirely upon individual merit, he has gained for himself an excellent name.

#### JOHN D. LOWNSBERY.

John D. Lownsbury, who is extensively and successfully engaged in the raising of stock, was born April 17, 1851, in Oakford, Illinois, and represents one of the old families of this state, his paternal grandfather having come to Illinois in company with his four sons and two daughters. This number included Matthew Lownsbury, the father of our subject, who was born in New York. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Nancy Overstreet, who represented an old West Virginia family. This worthy couple became the parents of eight children, namely: Mary wedded James Hindspeth and they resided at Concord, Illinois, and afterward in Missouri. Both are now deceased, however, and they left five children. John D. is the second in order of birth. Christopher married Mollie Caldwell and is a farmer residing near Holyoke, Colorado. They have five children. Newton married Etta Altig, by whom he has three children and he carries on farming in Sandridge precinct. Leander died at the age of four years. Morris died at the age of two years. One died in infancy. Mattie died at the age of ten years.

John D. Lownsbury acquired his education in the common schools of Oakford and throughout his entire life he has carried on general farming and stock-raising, gaining practical

knowledge of the business in his early boyhood days through the assistance which he rendered his father. He first began farming on his own account on a tract of land east of Oakford that belonged to his father and he afterward purchased the interest of the other heirs in that property. He there had eighty-three acres which he subsequently sold and bought one hundred and fifty-five acres five miles west of Petersburg that is now the property of Samuel Watkins. Upon that farm he lived for twenty-two years, making it a well developed property, but he sold in 1903 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres known as the Elijah Armstrong farm, which is pleasantly and conveniently located a mile and a half southwest of Oakford. He has the farm nearly all cleared and his fields are highly cultivated, the golden harvests being annually garnered as the result of his labors. He also raises stock, making a specialty of cattle and hogs and through this means adds materially to his income.

On the 26th of December, 1872, Mr. Lownsbery was married to Miss Melissa M. King, a daughter of Marshall and Eliza (Caldwell) King. Her father was a native of Maysville, Kentucky, and the Caldwell's were from Ohio. He came to Illinois when he was but twenty-five years of age and was interested in farming pursuits in Menard county. His daughter Melissa was born in Oakford, November 13, 1853, and pursued her education in the schools there. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lownsbery have been born three children. Hardin A., born September 16, 1873, married Lillie Johnson, a resident of Macon county, Missouri, living near Ethel. He is a farmer and stock-raiser, owning a good tract of land and they have two children, Orville J. and Harold. Etta married John Hobbs, a farmer residing about two and a half miles northeast of Atterberry, and they had three children, Earway, five years of age; Paul H., deceased; and Louise, now but a year old. Marshall M. Lownsbery, born January 2, 1888, is attending the high school at Oakford and resides with his parents.

Mr. Lownsbery is a Republican in his political views, having given staunch support to the party since attaining his majority. He be-

longs to the Methodist church and his daughter and son are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He has met with a fair measure of success such as comes in return for earnest and well defined labor. His entire life has been passed in Oakford township and he is known as a reliable and substantial citizen.

#### JAMES MILES.

James Miles was born in White county, Illinois, on the 25th of November, 1822, and is a son of George Urah and Jane (McCoy) Miles. His father was born March 20, 1796, in St. Mary county, Maryland, and on coming to Illinois in 1815 he settled in White county, where he was married on the 18th of November, 1821, to Miss Jane McCoy. She was born in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, November 11, 1796. In November, 1825, George U. Miles removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, and settled on a farm six miles north of Springfield, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising for a number of years. He often drove stock to Chicago, that being his nearest market. On one of these trips to Chicago, he was offered eighty acres of land in the swamp there for a horse, that tract being now in the very heart of the business part of the city. His wife died December 15, 1850, and he passed away at the home of his son James near Petersburg on the 19th of March, 1882, lacking one day of being eighty-six years of age.

Having removed with his parents to Sangamon county, James Miles lived in that county until he was grown, and later removed to Menard county, where on the 5th of January, 1845, he was joined in marriage to Miss Anna Smith, who was born in the state of New York, December 3, 1823. To this union were born six children, namely: Mrs. Mary Jane Hurd; Mrs. Lizzie N. Wood; a son who died in infancy; George Urah, Jr.; James S., who married Nellie Purkapile; and Mrs. Katie A. Gray. Mrs. Hurd has one living daughter, Mrs. Iona A. Peterson, whose two year old son, Myron Dale, is Mr. Miles' only great-grand-

child. Mrs. Wood has two daughters and one son, and James S. Miles has a son and daughter, these constituting the grandchildren of our subject.

James Miles continues to reside on the old homestead one mile from Petersburg, where he has lived for forty-eight years. He and his wife, at the ages of eighty-two and eighty-one years respectively, are both hale and hearty, and in a few months they will have traveled the road of life together for sixty years. An industrious and temperate life has borne its fruit in a healthy and happy old age for both of them. Having acquired a competency in earlier life, they are spending a quiet and serene old age, enjoying the love and gratitude of their children and the respect and confidence of all who know them.

#### JOSEPH H. MYERS.

Joseph H. Myers is one of the active factors in business circles in Menard county, where he has extensive farming and stock-raising interests, and is also engaged in the grain trade as proprietor of an elevator at Croft and in merchandising as owner of a store there. He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, October 20, 1850. His father, Henry Myers, born in 1827, removed from Indiana to Menard county in the spring of 1854, and here died of cholera in August of the same year. His wife, whose maiden name was Rosa C. Murray, and who was born November 12, 1830, remained in this county until 1863 and then married again, becoming the wife of J. W. C. Gray, of Piatt county, Illinois, where she still makes her home.

The father of our subject died when the son was but ten months old, and he then became a member of the household of his maternal grandparents, James and Margaret (Dow) Murray, with whom he lived until twenty-four years of age, enjoying the advantages usually afforded farmer lads of the period. He was married February 16, 1875, to Miss Martha A. Steel, a daughter of David and Rebecca Steel. Her father, who was born September 22, 1815, died July 9, 1876. He

was a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania, as was his wife, who was born June 2, 1818, and died August 13, 1884. In 1865 they became residents of Menard county, where they spent their remaining days. In their family were the following children: Jacob D., born December 5, 1841, is now living in Newark, Ohio. Sarah E., born April 29, 1843, died March 10, 1878. Margaret J., born November 7, 1844, died January 7, 1898. John Jones, born June 12, 1846, is living in Barton county, Missouri. Isaac C., born June 26, 1848, died March 25, 1852. William A., born July 15, 1850, died in 1902 in Missonri. Martha A., born March 24, 1852, is the wife of our subject. Hester A., born November 1, 1855, died in February, 1888. Joseph C., born August 27, 1857, is living in this state. R. Emma, born February 27, 1859, married George Stevens and died February 5, 1887. James H., born June 22, 1860, died August 1, 1868. Of this family all died in Illinois with the exception of Isaac C., who died in Pennsylvania, and one who died in Nebraska.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Myers have been born seven children: Rosa M., who was born December 31, 1875, and died February 16, 1876; J. Homer, born May 10, 1881; Floyd C., who was born April 26, 1883, and died April 16, 1889; Clarence E., born December 26, 1884; Benjamin Curtis, born November 14, 1888; Mattie Fay, born July 26, 1891; and Nina Violet, born July 30, 1895. J. Homer Myers was married February 18, 1903, to Miss Effie L. Patterson, a daughter of Leland and Emma Patterson, of Mason county, Illinois, and to them was born a son, Joseph Patterson, on the 13th of January, 1904.

After his marriage Joseph H. Myers superintended his grandfather's farming and stock-raising interests for a time, and in the fall of 1883 he purchased his present farm, to which he removed the following February. He built a fine house and two barns, has made many other substantial modern improvements, and as his financial resources have increased has extended the boundaries of his farm until he now owns six hundred and ninety acres of fine land, all under a high state of cultivation. As before mentioned, he is also the owner of an







MR. AND MRS. J. H. MYERS.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY MYERS.



elevator and store at Croft, having been engaged in the operation of the elevator in connection with the grain trade for four years, while for three years he has conducted the store. For thirty years he likewise raised and fed cattle and horses on quite an extensive scale, but in the fall of 1903 he practically retired from the stock business and now devotes his attention principally to the cultivation of his land and to the grain trade. He is active and enterprising, reliable and energetic, and his business affairs have been carried forward to success. His possessions indicate the force of industry in the active affairs of life, and his life record should well serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others.

In his political allegiance Mr. Myers is a Democrat, and for twelve or fifteen years he has been a member of the school board. His wife is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and both enjoy the warm regard of many with whom they have come in contact.

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#### RYAL ARMSTRONG.

Dependent upon his own resources and business ability from early manhood Ryal Armstrong has steadily worked his way upward and is to-day the owner of a valuable farming property near Oakford. Many of the representative business men of Menard county are numbered among its native sons and to this class Ryal Armstrong belongs. His birth occurred September 13, 1867, on the farm where lived his parents, Elijah J. and Susanna (Watkins) Armstrong. The father was born in Jasper county, Missouri, July 18, 1811, while the mother's birth occurred in Menard county, Illinois, December 11, 1810. They were married in December, 1860. Elijah J. Armstrong had been reared on the old family homestead and lived with his mother until her second marriage, when he began earning his own living by working as a farm hand and was thus employed until his marriage, when he started to farm on his own account. He removed to his farm in 1861 and thereon he engaged in the cultivation of the fields and in the raising of stock. He has been feeding and shipping

stock for forty years and is now actively engaged in the breeding of coach horses. He is interested in the ownership of a fine stallion, Amandus, No. 1282. It is standard bred and is of the best Oldenburg German coach stock. Mr. Armstrong has conducted a successful business as an agriculturist and stock-raiser and is now one of the representative farmers of the community in which he has so long made his home, conducting his business affairs so as to win success and also gain an enviable reputation for reliability. His wife died in Menard county, December 28, 1898. They were the parents of nine children, six sons and three daughters: Matilda, who died in infancy; Samuel H., who died at the age of twenty years; Mary, who died in infancy; Ryal, of this review; John D., who died at the age of twenty-two years; Catherine R., who was fifteen years of age at the time of her demise; George K., who married Miss Elsie Davis, and is living on the old homestead; James S., who wedded Miss Maude Maltby and resides near the old homestead; and Will C., who married Fannie Boeker and is living on a part of the old home place. Mr. Armstrong is well known, because of his advocacy of measures for the general good and has promoted social, intellectual and moral interests as well as business activity in his neighborhood. He has served as a member of the school board for about twenty years, gives his political support to the Democracy and is a member of the Concord Presbyterian church.

At the age of nineteen years Ryal Armstrong started out in life on his own account. Before this time he had worked upon the home farm and had pursued his education in the public schools. On leaving home he engaged in teaching for two years. Later he was employed at farm labor on the old homestead and then was married and began farming for himself. He has since followed that vocation and in addition to the cultivation of the fields he has engaged in fattening and shipping stock to the Chicago markets, sending from two to five car-loads of cattle per year and as many or more hogs. He is also at the present time agent for the Turner-Hudnut Company, grain dealers in Pekin, Illinois.

Mr. Armstrong was married to Miss Martha A. Skaggs, a daughter of Cyrus and Martha (Ogden) Skaggs. Her father, who was born in Cass county, Illinois, May 5, 1847, died May 19, 1892. His wife, who was born in Mercer county, Illinois, in 1848, passed away in 1872. Mr. Skaggs had remained with his parents in his boyhood days and was a public-school student, but later he began working at the carpenter's trade and was employed as a builder up to within five years of his death. He also was a drover, buying and shipping cattle, hogs and sheep. He made extensive shipments to Chicago and also sent considerable stock to the Peoria market. His headquarters were at Havana, Illinois, but he bought stock all along the line of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad. His influence in public affairs was great and his labors were of value in his community. He served as justice of the peace at Oakford for a number of years and he was a member of the New Hope Baptist church. His political views were in accord with the principles of the Democracy.

Mr. Armstrong is a member of the town board and at this writing, in the fall of 1904, is serving as township school treasurer. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at Kilbourn, Illinois, and he votes with the Democracy. His life is in many respects exemplary and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation. In his business he has persevered in the pursuit of a persistent purpose and has gained a most satisfactory reward. He is always courteous and affable and those who know him personally have for him warm regard.

#### JAMES J. CARNEY.

James J. Carney is the owner of a valuable farm of five hundred and ten acres and the land is rich and arable, yielding good harvests. A native son of Menard county he was born in his present home neighborhood on the 22d of December, 1857, and is a son of James and Catherine (Baugh) Carney, both of whom were

natives of Ireland. The former came to the United States in 1845, attracted by the business possibilities of the new land and settled in the state of Vermont, where he followed farming. He remained there for five years and then came to Illinois, locating in Sangamon county, where he purchased a tract of land and developed a good farm. In 1847 he arrived in Menard county, settling upon the farm which is now in possession of his son James and there he continued to engage in the tilling of the soil with good success until his death which occurred in 1896. He lost his first wife in 1857 and was afterward again married. In his family were thirteen children, but only three are now living: James J., John and Mary. The brother John was a soldier for thirteen years. He enlisted first for service in the Civil war as a member of the Union army when nineteen years of age and fought for the preservation of the Union during the four long years of that sanguinary struggle. During that time he participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Bull's Run. He was never wounded although often in the thickest of the fight and came out of the army strong and well. He received an honorable discharge from the volunteer service in Washington, D. C., and then entered the regular service, enlisting three times. It is known that he served for thirteen years, but since that time no news has been received from him.

James J. Carney was reared in Menard county, in the usual manner of farm lads of his day and locality. He attended the public schools and when not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom he assisted in the farm work. He has long been numbered among the tillers of the soil and the stock-raisers of his native county and his life has been passed upon the old farm homestead which comprises two hundred and ten acres of as rich farming land as can be found in Illinois. There is no better farming district throughout the length and breadth of this country than Illinois furnishes.

Mr. Carney, seeking a companion and helpmate for life's journey, was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Cronin in 1880 and afterward brought his bride to the old homestead. She is the daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Sullivan)

Cronin, both of whom were natives of Ireland. In a family of five children she has only one brother now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Carney have been born eleven children: Catherine, Mary, John, Martha, Annie, Nellie, one that died in infancy, Jamie, Nina, Alcina and Joyce. The eldest daughter is now the wife of William Mudd, a son of Dr. Mudd of Athens, and they reside in that place.

Mr. Carney exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy, and he and his family are members of the Catholic church at Athens. They reside upon the farm near that point and Mr. Carney has in his possession a deed to this land which was signed by Martin Van Buren on the 1st of November, 1839. Since the old homestead has come into his possession he has devoted his labor toward cultivating and further developing the land and every indication of modern progress is to be seen upon this place, showing that his labors have been attended with good results.

#### REV. WILLIAM FUTTERER.

Rev. William Futterer, pastor of St. Peter's Catholic church at Petersburg, was born in Mattoon, Coles county, Illinois, his parents being Charles and Mary (Zeller) Futterer, who emigrated to America from Baden, Germany, in 1819 and settled in Coles county upon a farm, which the father cultivated for some time and then removed to Mattoon, where he engaged in the grocery business. He followed that pursuit until some time in the '70s, when he retired from active business life. He was a cooper by trade but gave his attention to other business interests in the new world, and acquired a substantial competence. In his family were two children, the elder being Lena, the widow of Henry Ritter and a resident of Mattoon. She has five children.

Rev. Futterer acquired his early education in the parochial and public schools of Mattoon, completing the high school course. He then worked at cigar manufacturing for a year, when deciding to equip himself for the work of the priesthood he entered Teutopolis St. Jos-

eph's College, completing the classical course by graduation. Immediately afterward he took up the study of philosophy in Le Grande Seminary, in Montreal, Canada, and completed a course of five and a half years by graduation with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. Having been ordained to the priesthood, he spent five years in St. Gertrude's parish, at Grantforks, and was afterward transferred to Pierson, Bond county, where he erected a house of worship, serving as pastor of the church there for about three months. He was then sent to the Catholic University of America and after a two years' course in dogmatic theology and canon law, he received his degree. He next took charge of St. Mary's parish, at Washington, D. C., serving there for a year during the absence of the regular pastor, after which he went to Europe. Following a second trip to Europe Cardinal Gibbons offered him a parish in Washington, D. C., but the bishop refused to transfer him on account of his connection with the diocese of Alton, Illinois, and he had to obtain permission from Bishop Ryan before he could be released. He was then sent to Petersburg, where he arrived on the 16th of October, 1891, and since that time he has taken an interest in everything pertaining to the upbuilding and progress of the town as well as the advancement of his church.

Prior to 1868 the spiritual needs of the Catholics of this locality were met by the church in Springfield, and by priests who occasionally visited Petersburg. On the 14th of May, 1868, the first resident pastor took charge—the Rev. William Chase, the present vicar general of the Belleville diocese. He was succeeded by Father Theodore Wegmann, in 1872, and he in turn by Rev. August J. Sauer in 1873. Then came Bernard W. Ahne in 1877, followed by Owen O'Hare, and in 1879 Father M. Hogan became pastor. He died January 12, 1884, and by request his remains were taken to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for burial. William J. Merscher, his successor, remained but a short time, after which he built a church in Ashland, Cass county, and was followed in Petersburg, in 1884, by Rev. B. Haase, who through the careful handling of the church finances and

his untiring efforts, succeeded in discharging a large church indebtedness in a short time and at the end of his pastorate left a handsome surplus in the treasury. Father John McGraw next had charge of the parish during the absence of Rev. Haase in Europe and until the present pastor arrived. Under the direction of Father Futterer the work of the church has been promoted along various lines and attended with good results, and he has won the respect and confidence of many people of other churches as well as of his own parishioners.

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### JOHN W. SHAVER.

Success comes not to the man who idly waits, but to the toilers of the world, they who are persistent, energetic and diligent. To this class belongs John W. Shaver and to-day he is the owner of extensive landed interests, having nine hundred and seventy-two acres in Menard county. He was born in Sangamon county at the old Twelve Mile House, March 18, 1836, his parents being William and Jane (Ross) Shaver. His father was born in the eastern part of Virginia, March 13, 1818, and lived in his native state until thirty-five years of age, when he went to Ohio, where he remained for several years. In 1850 he made his way westward to California and spent about eight months in mining in the Golden state, meeting with very gratifying success during that period. This gave him his first early start in life, but in later years he prospered through his farming interests. He returned to Illinois and after spending a short time in Springfield he purchased the Twelve Mile House and farmed in Sangamon county, making his home there for four years. At the end of that time he sold the property and bought a farm in township 18 north, range 1 west, Menard county. He resided thereon for a long period and was recognized as one of the leading and enterprising business men of this part of the state, acquiring the greater part of his property in Menard county through his farming and stock-raising interests. During the period of the Civil war he made a speciality of buying horses and mules, selling again at good profit. Dur-

ing the later years of his life he engaged in buying and selling cattle and hogs. He also raised many and fed others for the Chicago market. He was known as a man of honor in all business transactions, never taking advantage of the necessities of any one in a business affair. Thus his name became a synonym for integrity and his honesty as well as his prosperity won for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he was associated. While he was in California in its early mining days his health became somewhat impaired through exposure there and he never recovered his old strength, although for many years he continued an active factor in agricultural circles. He was united in marriage in early manhood when on a visit to Virginia in 1851, to Miss Jane Ross, of Augusta county, Virginia, a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Reese) Ross. They became the parents of three children: John W., Lizzie, who was born September 8, 1857, and is now deceased; and Mary, who was born October 6, 1861, and has also passed away. Mr. Shaver continued to reside in Menard county until his death, which occurred August 10, 1870, and his remains were interred in the Fancy Creek cemetery.

John W. Shaver was brought to Menard county when three years of age and was educated in the public schools. When not occupied with his text-books he worked upon the farm and when twelve years of age was enabled to do as much as any hand upon the place. He assisted materially in harvest time and, in fact, became familiar in all departments of the farm labor. After his father's death he managed the home place and, superintending the business interests for his mother he has always devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits and has made a success of his business by reason of his close application and earnest purpose, guided by sound judgment. For a long period he has engaged in feeding and shipping stock. For eight years after his father's death he continued to operate the old homestead, but later he sold his farm implements and for the past eleven years he has engaged in buying, feeding and shipping stock, handling most of the stock sent to the city markets from Fancy Prairie. He now has on





WILLIAM SHAVER.



hand one hundred and eight head of cattle and about one hundred and fifty head of hogs and the cattle are now all ready for shipment.

On the 13th of October, 1880, Mr. Shaver was united in marriage to Miss Jannette G. Jones, a daughter of David G. and Matilda A. Jones. Her mother was twice married, her maiden name being Cline, while at the time of her marriage to Mr. Jones she was Mrs. Lynch, a widow. Mr. Jones was born December 12, 1818, in Louisa county, Virginia, and when thirteen years of age removed to Ross county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood. On the 28th of March, 1841, he wedded Miss Sarah Gooding, by whom he had five children and in April, 1855, he removed to Logan county, Illinois, where he continued to make his home until his death. His first wife died May 23, 1861, and he afterward wedded Mrs. Matilda Lynch. By their marriage there were two daughters, Jannette G., born July 1, 1863; and Augusta, born February 8, 1866. Mr. Jones carried on farming and stock-raising for many years and was a representative and reliable business man of his community. Unto John W. and Jannette (Jones) Shaver was born one child, Lilly M., whose birth occurred August 9, 1881, and who is now the wife of Bayless L. Barber, who resides at Cantrall, Illinois. On the 9th of January, 1889, Mr. Shaver was again married, his second union being with Nannie E. Gillespie, a daughter of James N. and Mary E. (Tyley) Gillespie, both of whom were natives of Virginia and spent their entire lives there. They became the parents of nine children, all of whom are yet living, namely: Elizabeth E., who is married and resides in Texas; Mary J., who is married and makes her home in this state; Mrs. Shaver; Merchis D., who is married and resides in Illinois; Lutie F., who is married and lives in Iowa; Lucy A., who is married and makes her home at Fancy Prairie, Menard county; Edgar D. and William D., both of whom are married and live in Texas; and Frank, also a resident of Texas. The father of these children was a farmer and carpenter and while carrying on agricultural pursuits he also engaged in stock-raising. His religious faith was that of the Methodist church, in which he held membership. He died Janu-

ary 6, 1894, and his wife passed away February 20, 1885. By the second marriage of Mr. Shaver four children have been born: Jane, born October 21, 1889; Mary E., born October 21, 1891; Wilhe R., born June 15, 1894; and Helen Pauline, born August 30, 1903.

Mr. Shaver, who is a Democrat in politics, never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his attention to business affairs. He has, however, served as school director for about twenty-seven years and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. He belongs to Taney lodge, No. 203, A. F. & A. M., having been made a Mason about twenty years ago, and throughout this time he has exemplified in his life the beneficent and helpful spirit of the craft. He attends to some extent and supports the Presbyterian church, of which his wife is a member. His is one of the fine farms of the county, he owning nine hundred and seventy-two acres of valuable land within the borders of Menard county and one hundred and sixty acres in Logan county. He has upon his place the finest walnut grove in the state of Illinois. Modern equipments and accessories there indicate his progressive spirit and also the success that has attended his efforts and he stands to-day among the reliable business men, respected and admired for what he has accomplished and also for the honorable methods that he has followed in winning his prosperity.

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#### RICHARD GATES SPEARS.

Richard Gates Spears, engaged in the operating of two hundred and seventy-five acres of land, on which he carries on general farming and stock-raising, was born October 30, 1869, a son of G. C. and Elizabeth Frances Spears, who are represented elsewhere in this volume. He was reared on the old homestead about a mile and a half northwest of Tallula, and he pursued his education in the district schools and in Tallula. In the months of vacation he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm and after he had finished his education he began farming on his own account upon his grandfather's farm, northeast of Tallula. When his father removed to his

present farm Richard G. Spears also took up his abode upon the farm which is now his home and conducted the place until his father removed to the town.

About that time Richard G. Spears was married to Miss Mary V. Washburn, a daughter of George O. and Ann Elizabeth (Burns) Washburn, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Virginia, while both were of English and Scotch descent. Mr. Washburn was a farmer and school teacher. He removed to Saline county, Missouri, and not only became active and prominent in connection with its educational and agricultural interests, but also became a recognized leader in public thought and action and at one time served as county judge of Saline county. He was born March 19, 1827, and is still living in Marshall, Missouri, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years, while his wife was born December 3, 1827, and also yet survives. Their daughter Mrs. Spears was born in Saline county, Missouri, and is the fourth in a family of six children, the others being as follows: William, a farmer living near Blackburn, Missouri, married Flora Strader and has four sons. Elizabeth is the wife of Dr. Joseph W. Campbell, formerly of Neodosha, Kansas, and is now living with her father. Rev. G. L. Washburn is pastor of the Presbyterian church in Washington, Missouri, and married Miss Mary Barron, by whom he has two sons. He was educated at home by a governess and in a Presbyterian school, and was married November 1, 1894. Albert L., living on a farm near Blackburn, Missouri, married Miss Mattie Owens and has three daughters and one son. Laura Burns Washburn is at home in Marshall, Missouri.

Since his marriage Mr. Spears has continuously engaged in farming and stock-raising and operates two hundred and seventy-five acres of land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. He also raises and sells stock and both branches of his business are proving profitable. Mr. and Mrs. Spears have no children of their own but have adopted a pretty little girl of six years, Bertha Grady, who is now attending school. He is a Republican, but aside from exercising his right of franchise takes little interest in politics. He belongs to

the Baptist church, while his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, and in the community where they reside they have made many warm friends through the possession of sterling traits of character. He has never divided his business energies over many lines, but has concentrated his efforts in one field of activity with the result that he has prospered and is now classed with the substantial agriculturists of the community.

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#### RICHARD B. RUTH.

Richard B. Ruth, publisher and proprietor of the Petersburg Observer and also owner of two other papers, making three out of the five papers published in Menard county, has throughout his entire business career been connected with journalistic interests, working his way upward by consecutive stages from the humblest position in the office to that of editor and owner. Born in Mason City, Mason county, Illinois, August 12, 1867, he is a son of Frank B. Ruth, who was born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1831, of Pennsylvania-German parentage, and married Margaret R. Bell, a daughter of James C. and Ellen Bell. Mrs. Ruth, now living at Aurora, Illinois, was born October 4, 1843, at Bell's Mills, Ohio—a small town named in honor of the brothers, Peter, Dawson, James and Joseph Bell, who in the early days of Ohio were the leading business men of that little business center. The name of the place has since been changed to Beach City.

At the usual age Richard B. Ruth began his education in the schools of Mason City, where he continued his studies until sixteen years of age and then put aside his text-books in order to learn the printer's trade and assist in the support of his widowed mother, one brother and five sisters. He entered the office of the Mason City Independent as an apprentice, in August, 1883, and worked at his trade for three years there. In the spring of 1888 he entered upon his first independent newspaper venture, becoming the publisher of the Mason County Record, the only Republican newspaper in the eastern part of Mason county.

This he continued until August, 1890, when it was consolidated with the Mason City Independent, under the firm name of Ruth & Roach. Thus seven years after entering the newspaper field Mr. Ruth became one of the proprietors of the paper on which he had served his apprenticeship. He continued this connection for twenty months, when he sold out to his partner, S. B. Roach, and in April, 1892, he purchased the Mason City Banner, continuing its publication until November 1, 1902, when he sold the paper and plant to Warren Milley, its present owner.

Removing to Petersburg, November 15, 1902, he took possession of the Petersburg Observer, the only Republican paper in Menard county, and has since been identified with journalism in this county as its editor and proprietor. He has since extended the field of his labors by becoming the owner of the Athens Free-Press and the Tallula Record, three of the five Menard county papers, and through the columns of these journals he has contributed in substantial measure to many measures and movements of benefit to the general public, using his influence to further every good cause. His offices are well equipped and he keeps abreast with modern progress in the newspaper field.

On the 24 of October, 1886, at Peoria, Mr. Ruth was married to Miss Julia Ann Woll, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Woll, of San Jose, Illinois. They have two sons, Harrison Harreld Ruth, born June 19, 1888—the week in which Benjamin Harrison received the nomination for president from the Republican national convention, hence his first name. It was in the same week that the father brought out the first issue of his first newspaper and hence the name of Harreld was also given to the little son. The second son, Thomas M. Ruth, was born November 2, 1899. The parents are members of the First Presbyterian church of Petersburg and Mr. Ruth belongs to Wilfred lodge, No. 213, K. P., of Mason City, which he joined in November, 1892. He has always supported the Republican party and has as a private citizen exerted a strong influence in its behalf in central Illinois. In 1904 he was appointed by Governor

Richard Yates press representative of the Illinois commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Strong and commendable purpose and unfaltering diligence, as shown through the analysis of his character and life work, have been the salient features in the success he has achieved. Without advantageous circumstances or inheritance to assist him, he has steadily advanced in those walks of life demanding intellectuality, business ability and fidelity, and today commands the respect and esteem not only of his immediate community, but of all who know him throughout the state.

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#### WILLIAM WATKINS.

William Watkins, now deceased, was one of the most progressive farmers of Menard county, quick to adopt new methods and utilize new improvements in carrying on his chosen life work. He was born in Little Grove, September 15, 1821, and at the time of his death, which occurred July 9, 1882, was the eldest native son of the county. His parents were Joseph and Nancy (Greene) Watkins, who had established their home here when this region was being first opened up to the influences of civilization. He was reared under the parental roof and attended school for only a short time, his educational privileges being extremely limited. His training at farm labor, however, was not meager, for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and soon became familiar with the various duties which constitute the life work of the agriculturist. He began farming on his own account on a tract of eighty acres of land, constituting a part of the farm now occupied by his family. This had been given him by his father. He was married in 1846 to Miss Sarah Armstrong, a daughter of Hugh and Frances (Greene) Armstrong, who were early residents of the county. Her father was a half-brother of Bowling Greene, with whom Abraham Lincoln at one time boarded and who was one of the first white settlers to locate in Menard county. Mrs. Watkins was born November 26, 1829, at the Armstrong home about three miles

south of Petersburg, this property being now owned by G. W. Welch and occupied by Gaines Welch. She pursued her education in an old log schoolhouse which stood on the east side of a little stream that ran past her father's place. She was trained to the duties of the household and had good practical ideas of housekeeping when she went as a bride to her husband's home. They became the parents of fifteen children: Elizabeth, who married Will Covington, a farmer living in Oklahoma, by whom she has five children; Caroline, the wife of John Armstrong, a grain buyer and dealer in agricultural implements at Oakford, by whom she has three daughters; Elijah, who died when two years of age; Kate, the wife of Elijah Thomas, a resident farmer living in Oakford, by whom she has two sons; Laura, the wife of Thomas Stith, a farmer residing a mile east of the Watkins farm, by whom she has one daughter; Charlie, living on the old home place; Mollie, the wife of George K. Ray, who is farming east of the Watkins property; George, who married Etta Shurtz, by whom he has one daughter and is a farmer living on the Watkins homestead; Hugh, a farmer of Oakford, who married Annie Mettling and has one daughter; Etta, who married E. C. Stith, a farmer, a half mile west of the Watkins home, by whom she has four children; Willie, who died when but two years of age; and four children who died unnamed.

Throughout his entire life William Watkins carried on general farming and as his financial resources increased he made judicious investments in property and became the owner of a valuable tract of land of four hundred acres, which since his death has been divided among his children. He always raised stock and fed the first steer that was ever fed on the Sandridge. He also had the first sausage mill in this locality and as pioneer conditions gave way before the improvement and advancement of civilization he was always among the first to take up with new ideas and methods which promised to be of practical value. He always used horses in farming his land, although many of his neighbors had ox teams in the early days. His wife had the first sewing machine which was used on the Sandridge, but prior

to that time she had used a spinning wheel, spinning the yarn and weaving the cloth to make the family garments. This old wheel, an heirloom of pioneer times, was destroyed when the house was burned. They also had the first lamp used in this part of the county, it superseding the old tallow candles. Mr. Watkins ever led the advance in progress and his prosperity was well merited for he was ever honorable and straightforward in his dealings. He died July 9, 1882, and his remains were interred in the Petersburg cemetery. Thus passed away one of the most honored, respected and worthy pioneer residents of the county, but he is yet held in loving remembrance by those who knew him. His widow still resides upon the old homestead and throughout the county she has a wide circle of friends.

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#### ELISHA G. SPEAR.

Elisha G. Spear, who is engaged in the livery business in Greenvew, and is serving as alderman of the city, was born in Menard county, January 28, 1876. He is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of this part of the state. His father, George Spear, a farmer and stock-raiser who lived on section 20, township 19, was born in Vermont, October 6, 1836, and was the third in a family of seven children born unto Elisha and Lucretia (Walker) Spear, who came to this state in the fall of 1838, and were therefore early settlers of the county. George Spear was then but two years of age and upon the old family homestead he was reared and has resided thereon throughout his entire life. In his youth he aided in the arduous task of developing a new farm and in later years he has carried on agricultural pursuits along the most progressive lines, using the latest improved machinery and equipping his place with modern accessories.

On the 6th of October, 1870, George Spear was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Dawson, who was born in Indiana, in October, 1841. They became the parents of three children: Flora, who was born August 2, 1871; Elsa, born January 26, 1873; and Elisha G.

After his marriage the father continued farming on the old home place and was the owner of a valuable tract of land of five hundred and ten acres. He was very successful in his chosen life work and because of his unremitting diligence became the possessor of a very fine property. He died April 21, 1900, and the mother passed away January 28, 1887.

Elisha G. Spear began his education in the district schools of Menard county and afterward continued his education in Greenview. On putting aside his text-books he returned to the home farm, but in 1898 took up his abode in Greenview, where he turned his attention to the butchering business. A year later, however, he sold his meat market and began buying and selling horses. He is also conducting a livery stable and both branches of his business are proving remunerative. He is an enterprising young business man, reliable in his methods, and his efforts to please his patrons have secured to him a growing business.

On the 15th of March, 1898, Mr. Spear was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Gaddie, a daughter of Andrew Gaddie. They have three children: Harold E., Elisha G. and Howard F. Mrs. Spear is a member of the Presbyterian church and like her husband is widely and favorably known in Greenview. Mr. Spear is a staunch Democrat in his political views and is now serving as a member of the city council, where he is giving practical demonstration of his interest in the welfare and substantial improvement of the city by his support of every aldermanic measure which he believes will contribute to the general welfare.

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#### ALVIN WATKINS.

Alvin Watkins, now deceased, was a farmer of Menard county, whose life was upright and honorable and won him the respect and confidence of his fellow men. He was born in this county, February 17, 1829, when it was still a frontier region, the work of improvement and progress being scarcely begun. His parents were Joseph and Nancy (Greene) Watkins, the latter a daughter of George Greene. Joseph Watkins settled in Little Grove, Me-

nard county, at a very early day, coming to this state from Green county, Kentucky. He was the owner of land in Little Grove that is now in possession of Samuel Watkins.

Reared under the parental roof Alvin Watkins attended the district schools and early became familiar with farm labor in all of its departments. He engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life and began farming on his own account in Little Grove. There he resided up to the time of his marriage, which occurred March 22, 1853, Miss Nancy Potter becoming his wife. Her parents were Elijah and Elizabeth (Greene) Potter. Her father was born in White county, Illinois, February 24, 1813, and when a little lad of only two or three years was brought to Menard county, his parents settling in 1816 upon what is now the Edes farm. His wife was a sister of W. G. Greene and the home farm upon which Mrs. Watkins resides was the old homestead of William Greene. Bowling Greene, with whom Abraham Lincoln at one time boarded, was Mrs. Watkins' step-grandfather. He was among the oldest settlers of the county. The Greene family was established in this part of the state at a very early period in its development and they were among the most prominent and prosperous people of the locality. Her grandfather entered a large amount of land and her father was the owner of nearly one thousand acres at the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Potter had three children: Nancy, born in this county, December 20, 1834; Louisa, who was born June 11, 1837, and is the widow of Greene Purvines, now living in Pleasant Plains, Sangamon county, with her three children; Joseph W. Potter, who died before he had completed his first year. Mrs. Watkins pursued her education in the district and select schools and remained in her parents' home until her marriage.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Watkins were born eight children: Mary E. became the wife of Byron P. Henderson and is now a widow living in Petersburg. She has three children living. Gaines, who resides on the home farm, wedded Emma Swartz and they have eight children living and have lost one. He conducts the old homestead property covering six hundred



acres. Alice A. married Thomas Armstrong and both are now deceased. They left six children, one of whom has passed away. Minerva Jane is the wife of W. C. Roe, a resident of Nevada, Missouri, and they have two children. Joseph Elijah died at the age of nineteen years. John Brahm married Myra Hodgson, a resident of Fort Madison, Iowa, and they have four children. Beverly Scott, now deceased, married Bolletta Metzker in Alabama and his widow resides in Mobile, that state. Greenberry died at the age of thirteen years.

Mr. Watkins followed farming in order to provide for his family, but in 1871 his death occurred. He was a Democrat in his political views and he lived a quiet, uneventful but useful and honorable life, so that he left to his family an untarnished name. Mrs. Watkins was left with the care of eight children when the youngest was only eight months old. She always kept the family together and provided her children with excellent educational privileges. Alice and Mary were students at Bethany, Pennsylvania, and Minerva at Jacksonville, Illinois, while Brahm was a student in Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois. Mrs. Watkins has certainly done a mother's full part by her children, counting no sacrifice too great on her part if it would enhance the happiness or promote the welfare of her children, and she has lived to see them become useful and respected members of society. Like her all hold membership in the Christian church and the highest esteem is given them by their friends and neighbors. Mrs. Watkins is one of the older native citizens of Menard county and its history is familiar to her through the period of three score years and ten, so that she can relate many interesting incidents concerning the development of the county and events which have marked its progress.

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#### JONATHAN C. LLOYD.

Jonathan C. Lloyd has for fifty-one years been a resident of Menard county and his name should therefore be enduringly inscribed upon the records concerning the pioneer settlers of this portion of the state. He has been an in-

terested witness of what has been accomplished as the years have gone by and has borne his full share in the work of general development and progress along substantial lines. His birth occurred in the village of Waynesville, Warren county, Ohio, his parents being John and Martha (Clyne) Lloyd, both of whom were natives of Burlington county, New Jersey. They were married about eighty years ago in the state of their nativity and about ten years afterward removed to Ohio. The father had been previously married, his first wife having been a Miss Doran, of New Jersey. There were two sons by that union: Thomas, who died in the early '50s; and Franklin, who served for three years in the Union army during the Civil war and died soon after his return home from heart trouble. He left a widow and three sons, but his widow has since died. For his second wife John Lloyd chose Martha Clyne, a daughter of Job Clyne, and they became the parents of four sons and three daughters: Benjamin E., who died in December, 1850; Mrs. Sarah J. McCay, a resident of Nebraska; Martha E., who died in 1873; Anna M., the widow of Dr. N. H. Martin and a resident of the state of Washington; Jonathan C., of this review; Mrs. Mary L. Young, a resident of Mansfield, Illinois; and Alfred H., who died December 8, 1903. In early life the mother was a member of the Society of Friends or Quakers, but afterward became identified with the Methodist church.

In his boyhood days Jonathan C. Lloyd attended the public schools as opportunity afforded, but his educational and other advantages were somewhat meager, owing to the frontier conditions amid which he was reared. He came from Ohio with his parents in 1853 and lived upon his father's farm until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted on the 9th of August, 1862, as a defender of the Union, becoming a member of the Seventy-third Illinois Infantry, which was known as the Methodist ministers' regiment, there being twenty-six ministers of that denomination who responded to the roll call. Colonel J. F. Jaques was in command and the regiment went from Springfield to Louisville, Kentucky, and with



other troops proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, to guard that city. Later an order came to return to Louisville and afterward the regiment participated in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, thence went to Nashville, Tennessee, and was in the battle of Murfreesboro and at Stone River. Thousands of lives were lost in the last named engagement and there were many wounded. Mr. Lloyd was in all of these engagements, also in the battle of Chickamauga and in many skirmishes. He was wounded in a skirmish near Resaca, Georgia, and was taken to the hospital at Nashville, where he remained for three months before he was able to rejoin his command. He afterward took part in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, and on the 15th and 16th of December, 1864, was engaged in hard fighting in and around Nashville. His regiment was in eighteen battles and skirmishes altogether during the terms of his service and he was continuously with his command save for the three months when disability compelled him to remain in the hospital. He was honorably discharged at Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, June 12, 1865, having done his full duty as a soldier, after which he returned to Menard county.

Mr. Lloyd has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising, devoting his entire life to the pursuit to which he was reared. He makes his home in township 19, where he has one hundred and seventy acres of land and his labors have been discerningly directed to the further improvement and development of his farm, which is now a very excellent property.

On the 22d of January, 1819, Mr. Lloyd was married to Miss Elizabeth A. Austill, a daughter of Solomon and Margaret (Botkin) Austill, in whose family were nine children: Rebecca, born in 1852; John W., who was born in 1854, and died in infancy; Solomon, who was born in 1856 and died in childhood; Mrs. Lloyd, born March 11, 1858; Benjamin F., who was born December 12, 1859, and died May 3, 1900; Sarah A., born November 11, 1861; Mary A., born October 11, 1864; George H., who was born July 15, 1865, and died in September, 1896; and Margaret A., born August 25, 1868. The parents have also passed away, the father's death having occurred Sep-

tember 11, 1897, while his wife died May 31, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd have five living children: Frank A., born October 2, 1879; Charles L., born on the 16th of April, 1881; Margaret P., born February 9, 1883; John A., who was born May 16, 1886; and Florence L., who was born November 15, 1889, and completes the family. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and are earnest Christian people, deeply and actively interested in various departments of the church work. In his political allegiance Mr. Lloyd is a staunch Republican and has served as school director fourteen years, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He is true to all duties of citizenship, being as loyal to his country and her welfare in times of peace as he was when in the blue uniform of the Union he followed the old flag upon southern battlefields.

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#### JAMES WILLIAM CHEANEY.

James W. Cheaney, deceased, was one of the representative and honored men of Menard county, connected with many lines of activity and enthusing his progressive spirit into the measures which have resulted greatly to the benefit of town and county. In political, business and social circles he bore an unassailable reputation in the community where he made his home, and his death was therefore the occasion of deep and sincere regret among his many friends.

Mr. Cheaney became a resident of Menard county in 1855. His birth occurred in Fleming county, Kentucky, February 1, 1830, his parents being Edward and Sarah (Neal) Cheaney. The father was a farmer and miller, following the two pursuits in Kentucky. The son was reared in his native state and educated in the public schools. After laying aside his text-books he worked on the farm for a time. He seemed to have imbibed his father's knowledge of carpentry and was a natural mechanic and builder. Having become tired of farm work, one day while plowing he took the harness off the horse and returning to the house

He told the family that he could stand it no longer, as it was too slow for him there. He then went to Frankfort, Kentucky, where he hired out to a carpenter at full pay as a journeyman, his employer never knowing that he was not an expert carpenter, so skillful was he in handling tools. After a short time spent at that place he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained two or three years, and later spent some time in Fort Smith, Arkansas, but while there his health failed. In 1855 he came to Petersburg, Illinois, and as a contractor and builder formed a partnership with Messrs. Quinn and Anderson. They were associated in business for about seven years or until 1862, when Mr. Cheaney turned his attention to the lumber trade, in which he continued until elected to public office. As a lumber merchant he was a member of the firm of Cheaney & Tice and later Cheaney & Hatfield, and upon his withdrawal from the business he sold his interest to Ewing Clark.

In 1869 Mr. Cheaney was elected county treasurer and assessor for a term of four years and proved a capable official, discharging the duties in a prompt and efficient manner. On the expiration of his term he retired from office as he had entered it—with the confidence and regard of all. He then went upon the road as a traveling salesman for the Chicago Lumber Company and represented its interests in that way for twenty years. His genial manner, cordial disposition, unflinching courtesy and thorough understanding of the business made him popular with the many patrons whom he secured for the house, and his capability as a salesman made him a trusted and valued employee of the Chicago Lumber Company. About 1894 he again engaged in the lumber business on his own account in Petersburg in partnership with his son Ed under the style of E. S. Cheaney & Company, and in this enterprise he continued up to the time of his death.

Mr. Cheaney was married February 4, 1858, at the old homestead on Rock creek, to Miss Sarah Catherine Houghton, who was born in Menard county, November 11, 1836. Her father, Elijah Houghton, removed from Kentucky to Menard county about 1821 and purchased a tract of land. He married Catherine

Merrill, also from Kentucky, and both were members of old New Jersey families. Mrs. Cheaney's grandfather, Aaron Houghton, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and other members of the family served in the Black Hawk war. Mrs. Cheaney is the youngest in a family of eight children, six of whom were born of the father's first marriage. Unto our subject and his wife were born two sons and a daughter. Edgar S., born in 1858, married Miss Maggie Miller and is engaged in the lumber business in Petersburg. Mary Belle, born in 1860, is the wife of John C. Pyatt, of Jacksonville, Illinois. Dr. William J. Cheaney, born in 1870, married Lula Ayres, of Athens, and they have three children. Mrs. Cheaney belongs to the Christian church, is identified with its societies and is also a member of several ladies' clubs.

Mr. Cheaney was called to his final rest on the 23d of February, 1902, at the age of seventy-two years and nineteen days. In his political views he was a staunch Democrat and was ever active in the party, doing all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. He belonged to Clinton lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., also to Salem lodge, No. 123, I. O. O. F., and his funeral services were held under the auspices of the latter organization. He was likewise a member of the Illinois Lumber Dealers' Association.

The following is a part of the obituary notice read by Elder Groves at the time of his death:

"For forty-seven years he has been intimately associated with the growth and welfare of this city, as one of its most intelligent business men and public spirited citizens. He was exact and scrupulous in all of his business dealings; his word or promise in any transaction was taken without any hesitation. In his view the highest citizenship was comprehended in the morality, enterprise and integrity of the people. His style was simple and easy; he employed not many words, but such as had a well understood meaning and were direct to the point.

"Brother Cheaney was by education, instinct and from choice a gentleman; he was well informed on topics of public concern, and had

the rare faculty of expressing his views with the logic of directness. I think when we come to a proper estimate of his character and seek after the secret of his sympathy and affection we shall find it in the richness and integrity of his moral nature, in that sincerity, that transparent honesty, that truthfulness which laid the basis for everything of goodness to which we do honor today. He lived in peace with his neighbors and enjoyed their friendship. He never gave up his old-time hospitality; his home was free to his friends and even the stranger found a welcome there. He was always genial in his manner, pure in purpose and clear in his opinions.

"Brother Cheaney was a public spirited man and the monuments to his enterprise will survive for years. His gifts to public and religious institutions were frequent and generous. He gave to the churches, to the poor, to public and individual enterprises. He was as unostentatious in his beneficences as he was in person and manners. He was possessed of many if not all the attributes of a Christian, but was not a member of any church; yet there was a living faith that made him fear no evil in the silent valley. He believed that some guardian angel would stand by the broken column through death's dark night and raise him up in the eternal morning.

"No man has left a better record for honor, integrity and uprightness. He was a kind and obliging neighbor and a devoted father and husband. Those who have been his associates for many years say they have ever found him a considerate, kind and helpful neighbor and friend, careful of their needs in health or sickness. Companionship with such a man is a benediction.

"There are left to mourn his departure the devoted companion of his earthly pilgrimage, two sons, one daughter, eleven grandchildren and a host of friends."

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#### CORNELIUS JANSSEN.

Cornelius Janssen, whose name has been anglicized so that he is known as C. S. Johnson in Menard county, was born in Stroek-

hold, Germany, on the 24th of October, 1854. He is to-day one of the leading business men of Menard county, having valuable farming interests and at the same time conducting coal mining operations with excellent success. His parents, Frink P. and Jantze (Junje) Janssen, came to America in 1865 and landed at New York city on the 8th of November of that year, after which they made their way to Petersburg, Illinois, which was then the terminus of the Chicago & Alton Railroad. In Menard county the father turned his attention to farming and here reared his family.

Cornelius Janssen was a youth of eleven years when his parents crossed the Atlantic. He is truly a self-made man, for at the early age of seven years he began earning his own living and was employed until eleven years of age at herding cows for his board. He received only rye bread and milk that had been skimmed. The bread was broken into a bowl and milk poured over it and handed him out of the door of the house. In that country the cows are not housed until late in November, at which time the weather was often very cold. Mr. Janssen would frequently force a cow to rise from the ground where it had been lying and he would then stand on the spot which had thus been warmed in order to warm his bare feet, for he had no shoes at that time. After coming to America Mr. Janssen earned his first money by carrying water for the men at work on the Chicago & Alton Railroad. Later he worked for the Old North Shaft Company, in which C. B. Lanning was a partner, and during five years of the sixteen years that he followed that business he had a contract to do all the driving for the company. In this way he gained an intimate and practical knowledge of mining. On leaving the employ of that company he removed to his present place of residence. He owned property in Petersburg, which he traded with Mr. Shipp for the home where he now lives, having here one hundred and forty acres of good farming land, worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. He has placed his fields under a very high state of cultivation and annually harvests good crops. He also has fine stock upon his place, the sale of which brings to him a good financial return.

He likewise has other business interests, having in 1902 sunk a coal shaft, called the Janssen Valley coal shaft, from which he sells on an average of about six hundred tons of coal per month. He and his sons superintend and work the mine, Mr. Janssen being a practical miner, having a state license, such as is required by all managers of mining property. His son Harman has passed the state inspection examination for hoisting engineers, his license being issued at Springfield, June 17, 1904. Mr. Janssen received from J. H. Meyers the money that enabled him to sink his coal shaft and that gentleman also furnished him with all funds necessary to continue the business, and Mr. Janssen gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Meyers and his deep feeling of gratitude to him.

On the 17th of October, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Janssen and Miss Helkelina Junker, a daughter of Roelf C. and Ahrends (Von Mark) Junker, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to America in July, 1871. The mother died of smallpox nine months after her arrival here. Mr. Junker died in Dawson county, Nebraska, in 1898. Mrs. Janssen was born at Groszolderfeld, Hanover, Germany, December 10, 1853, and by her marriage has become the mother of eleven children, all sons: Theodore, aged twenty-six years, is the eldest; Harman, twenty-four years of age, having passed the examination of the state board as a mining engineer, is taking charge of the mining interests of the firm of Janssen & Sons; Jerry is nineteen years of age, Willie sixteen years, Cornelius fourteen years and Luther twelve years of age. The other members of the family are deceased. The parents hold membership in the German Lutheran church and are prominent and influential people in their community. In his political views Mr. Janssen is a stalwart Republican, but has never had time or inclination to seek office, preferring to give his entire attention to his business affairs, which are capably conducted. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished, for he started out in life with no assistance at the early age of seven years, and all that he has since possessed and enjoyed has

been obtained through his perseverance and untiring labors. He is now one of the substantial citizens of Menard county and well deserves representation in this volume.

#### JOHN A. PETRIE.

Hon. John A. Petrie, formerly representative from his district to the Illinois general assembly and now engaged in the insurance and real-estate business in Greenvew, was born near Mount Carmel, Fleming county, Kentucky, February 8, 1856. His father, David A. Petrie, was born December 21, 1829, near Newport, Herkimer county, New York, and his father was of German and his mother of Irish descent. He went to Fleming county, Kentucky, in 1854, and was there engaged in farming and dairying. He married Hannah C. Levellin, April 30, 1855. She was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, March 24, 1832, and was a descendant of John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Leaving Kentucky, Mr. and Mrs. Petrie removed to Illinois, reaching Petersbnrg, Menard county, February 8, 1865. They lived on a farm for three years and in March, 1868, removed to Greenvew, where the family has since resided, the father being engaged in the lumber business and contracting. Unto him and his wife have been born the following named: John A.; Clarence A., who was born April 21, 1859, and died January 3, 1904; Frank H., born June 25, 1861; Lucy G. Hamil, born May 4, 1863; Lydia A. Moore, March 21, 1867; Phebe A., who was born April 20, 1869, and died September 8, 1870; Charles A., who was born December 28, 1871, and died July 18, 1872; and Claude, born September 22, 1873.

At the usual age John A. Petrie entered the Greenvew schools, where he remained as a student until June, 1872. He became a member of the freshman class of Lincoln University in September, 1873, and after a year left school to engage in business with his father in Greenvew. This was in the summer of 1874. He never returned to school but has always been a student and a great reader and

keeps posted on the affairs of the day, taking an active part in all that pertains to the progress and welfare of his town and state. Although born on a farm and there remaining until twelve years of age, he was not interested in farm life and always longed for a business or professional life, and up to the time he was twenty years of age he entertained the idea of studying law and in later years has many times expressed the regret that he did not do so. After coming to Greenview he attended school in the winter seasons and worked on a farm in the summers of 1869 and 1870. In 1871 he worked with his father and from July, 1872, until September, 1873, he clerked in the hardware store of W. S. Morse & Company, receiving a salary of twenty-five dollars per month and thus earning the money which paid his tuition in Lincoln University the following year. After leaving school he engaged in business with his father under the firm name of D. A. Petrie & Son, in 1874, and continued in the business until January, 1877, when they consolidated their hardware business with that of Frank Frorer, of Lincoln, Illinois, which was then being conducted under the name of Leighton & Company, by E. F. Leighton. The business was consolidated under the name of Petrie & Company. This firm handled grain of all kinds in connection with their hardware and farm machinery and did a large business, which they sold out in 1884 to A. E. Stewart. In 1880 John A. Petrie assisted in organizing the Greenview Coal Company and was its first secretary. He was a member of the board of directors for several years, was president of the company for one term and afterward was general superintendent, resigning in 1883, and selling his interest in 1885 to E. F. Crane, of Mount Sterling, Illinois. In 1886, with several citizens of Greenview, he helped to organize the Menard Coal Company, which began sinking the second shaft in Greenview, June 28, 1886. He entered the employ of this company as clerk in 1886, was appointed sales agent in 1887, was elected secretary about 1890 and had the active management of the company until January, 1899. He is still a director of the company. In the meantime the Greenview Coal Company and the Menard Coal Company

were consolidated in 1893, under the name of Menard Coal Company, and this was reorganized, in October, 1895, as the Greenview Coal & Mining Company. In March, 1899, Mr. Petrie opened an insurance and real estate office, and is now engaged in that business, enjoying a very satisfactory patronage, being ever mindful of the best interests of his patrons.

Mr. Petrie has ever worked for the best interests of Greenview and never fails to speak a good word for her business men nor try to promote their welfare as opportunity offers. He has always been closely connected with the business affairs of the village and has been a most earnest champion of its system of public education. He was elected school director when twenty-two years of age and has been connected with the school board, either as member or president, for the past nine years. He has served several times as trustee of the village, and for the last five years has been village clerk—elected three times without opposition.

Politically a Democrat, as was his father, Mr. Petrie, from the time he attained his majority, has taken an active part in politics and has been solicited many times by his friends to run for office. About two weeks before the primaries were held in 1896 he announced himself as a candidate for assessor and treasurer. He went into the county convention with the largest number of delegates and the largest popular vote, but, there being two other candidates—J. H. Clary and Henry Burfiend—the contest was close, and after seventy-three ballots were taken Mr. Clary withdrew from the convention and the nomination of Mr. Petrie was conceded, but three of the Oakford delegation failed to follow their instructions and voted for Burfiend, who was nominated by a half vote. The dissatisfaction caused by the action of the convention resulted in the defeat of a part of the ticket, and had it not been for the personal work of Mr. Petrie among his friends Mr. Burfiend, who was only elected by a small majority, would have been defeated. Mr. Petrie next entered the political field in 1900, when he became a candidate for member of the forty-second general assembly against Hon. T. W. McNeely, whom he defeated in the county convention, and, with the assistance



of Logan and Mason counties, in the senatorial convention held at Havana, Illinois. The candidate from Cass withdrawing, Mr. Petrie and Hon. John C. Young, of Mason, were nominated for the legislature and Lawrence B. Stringer, of Logan, for the senate. The thirty-second senatorial district was then composed of Logan, Mason, Cass and Menard counties. Mr. Petrie was elected by a large majority, and in January, 1901, entered upon his duties. His record in the forty-second general assembly was a clean, honest, business record, where he was ever on the alert, looking after the best interests of his constituents, working for good and working and voting against all vicious and unworthy measures. He was appointed on the following committees: fish and game, insurance, mines and mining, public charities, and roads and bridges. By his courteous treatment and gentlemanly bearing he made many friends among Republican as well as Democratic members. During this session of the legislature the gerrymander of the state changed Mr. Petrie's district from the thirty-second to the thirtieth and made a strong Democratic district, composed of Schuyler, Brown, Tazewell, Cass, Mason and Menard, and Tazewell having a holdover senator and every county a candidate for representative, the fight for preferment in the forty-third general assembly became a lively and interesting contest. Mr. Petrie was again a candidate and received the endorsement of his county without opposition, and after a hotly contested fight in the senatorial convention was renominated and again elected to represent his district. In the forty-third assembly he became an active worker and was appointed on the committees on rules, insurance, mines and mining, roads and bridges, revenue, appropriations, education, horticulture, and public buildings and grounds. Though he never made a speech in the house, his work in the committee rooms and his watchfulness on the floor of the house gave him a prestige among the members which surpassed any influence many speeches could have gained, and on leaving Springfield, at the close of the session, it was the wish of many members that he would again be returned from his district.

Mr. Petrie belongs to Greenview Lodge, No.

653, A. F. & A. M., and has always been one of its most active and influential members. He has filled all the various stations and served the lodge as master several times. He is a member of De Witt Chapter, No. 119, R. A. M., and St. Aldemar Commandery, No. 47, K. T., and has the distinction of having been elected eminent commander of the commandery the next year after being made a Sir Knight. He is also a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Tree Camp, No. 178, of Greenview, and the Fraternal Reserve Life Association, No. 48, of Greenview.

On the 10th of February, 1876, Mr. Petrie was married to Miss Samantha Pierce, who was born September 21, 1856, a daughter of Hon. Hiram L. Pierce, of Logan county, Illinois, now of Indian Territory. The wedding ceremony was performed at Lincoln, Illinois, by Rev. L. P. Crawford, of the Presbyterian church. They became the parents of two children: Nina Edith, born November 13, 1876; and Mabel Eva, born January 14, 1879. The former, a graduate of the Greenview high school of the class of 1894, was assistant in the postoffice here and then spent a year in Grand Rapids, Michigan, pursuing a course in kindergarten work, and for five years prior to 1905 she had charge of the primary department of the Greenview schools, and for three years had charge of the kindergarten at Old Salem Chautauqua. Mabel Eva, a graduate of the Greenview high school of the class of 1895, was a teacher of a country school in the winter of 1899-1900 and until January, 1901, when she resigned. She was married August 5, 1901, to Alonzo W. Larison, of Lincoln, Illinois, where they reside. They have a son, Donald Alonzo, born October 6, 1902. Mrs. Petrie, the mother, died in September, 1883, and her remains were interred in Rose Hill cemetery, near Petersburg, Illinois. She was an earnest, devoted Christian, was an active worker in the church, a lady of fine social qualities, and was loved and mourned by all who knew her. On the 13th of November, 1884, Mr. Petrie married Emily Florence Alkire, daughter of John H. Alkire, of Sweetwater, Illinois. Unto them was born a son, Loyal John Petrie, November 22, 1889. Mrs. Petrie

is a lady of sterling qualities, an advocate of the true and right, a disbeliever in the shams and an avowed enemy to the evils in life, and especially to the abuses and frivolities of the social world. She loves her family, and the loyalty of her son and his rapid progress in his school life and the honors he has won are especially due to her untiring oversight of his life and work.

Mr. Petrie is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, of which body he has been an elder and officer for several years. He is a regular attendant at the services of the

Sunday-school and church and has taught a class for many years, very seldom failing to be present. His wife and three children are also members of the same church. He is strong in his convictions of right and wrong, but liberal in his views and never infringes on the rights of others. Devoted to his family, attached to his friends, charitable to his enemies, he believes in giving every man a fair show in the world. Perhaps no one man in the town has done more to help his fellow men or tried more earnestly to make their burdens less than John A. Petrie.





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