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PAST AND PRESENT  
OF  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

By W. W. Stevens

President of the Will County Pioneers Association

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Assisted by an Advisory Board, consisting of  
Hon. James G. Elwood, James H. Ferriss,  
William Grinton, Mrs. Kate Henderson and  
A. C. Clement

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## BIOGRAPHICAL

### HON. JAMES G. ELWOOD.

The business interests of James G. Elwood have been so varied and of such magnitude that his superior ability and foresight are at once indicated thereby and his labors have been of a character proving directly beneficial to the city in the promotion of its commercial and industrial activity. In official circles, too, he has rendered no inconsiderable aid to Joliet, filling various positions of public honor and trust, and in military and fraternal circles he has gained equal prominence. A resident of Joliet from the age of four years, or since 1843, he was born in Lockport, Will county, a son of Nelson D. and Juliet L. (Parks) Elwood. His father, the pioneer railroad builder of northern Illinois, left the impress of his individuality upon the history of Will county and his influence has not ceased to be felt in those departments of activity where he labored to goodly ends. Born in Otsego county, New York, in 1818, he was a son of Daniel Elwood and a nephew of Isaac L. Elwood, at one time secretary of and a promoter of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He represented the fourth generation in America, the family having been founded in this country by a native of Essex county, England, who settled on the Hudson river during the colonial epoch in the history of the United States.

When eight years of age Nelson D. Elwood was left an orphan and at the age of fifteen he entered upon a clerkship in Lockport, New York. In 1837 he removed to Lockport, Illinois, securing employment as an engineer on the Illinois and Michigan canal, to which labor he devoted the

summer months, while in the winter seasons he engaged in teaching school, being one of the pioneer educators of this part of the state. His ability and public spirit led to his election to the office of county clerk in 1843 and to his removal to Joliet, where he took up the study of law while discharging his official duties. Admitted to the bar on his retirement from the office of clerk, he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Judge Parks, under the firm style of Parks & Elwood, and afterward managed the real-estate business of the firm, while his partner had charge of the law practice. The effect of his labors in connection with railroad construction in northern Illinois can not be overestimated, for the world acknowledges that no other agency has so greatly promoted civilization as railroad building. He became secretary of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad Company upon its organization and also acted as one of its directors until the completion of the line into Iowa. Governor Joel A. Matteson was the originator of the road, which was opened to Joliet in 1852. At a later date Governor Matteson and Mr. Elwood were associated in the construction of the division of the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad between Joliet and Alton, and this line, under its subsequent name of Chicago & Alton, has since become one of the most successful railroads of the state. In 1856 the Joliet & Northern Indiana Railroad, which connects with the Michigan Central Railroad at Lake Station, Indiana, was built by Governor Matteson and Mr. Elwood. Until 1859 the Chicago & Alton ran to Chicago on the Rock Island tracks, but in that year its road bed was extended and the road was

known as the Joliet & Chicago Railroad. Manifold duties connected with railroad building were under the direct supervision and control of Mr. Elwood and at the same time he supported and controlled important business and public interests in Joliet. He erected the first business house on Jefferson street, on the site of the building recently vacated as a postoffice, and in that same frame structure were for a time the offices of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, and there the building of that road was planned. He was for three terms alderman of Joliet and for two terms mayor, while for many years he served as a member of the board of school inspectors, the cause of public education finding in him a stalwart champion and helpful friend. Well fitted by nature for leadership and molding public thought and opinion by reason of his comprehensive understanding of public conditions and requirements, together with a devotion to the public good that was ever unquestioned, Mr. Elwood was called to public office and in 1848 was chosen secretary of the state senate. Although a strong democrat, he was in 1861 reappointed by Governor Yates as one of the penitentiary commissioners chosen to locate the state penitentiary, and filled that position until his death, which occurred February 24, 1861, when he was but forty-two years of age. Although it seemed that he was taken off in the midst of a most useful career when in the very prime of life, a review of his history shows that he had accomplished within the twenty-one years of his manhood much more than many men accomplish in an entire lifetime covering the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten. Extensive business interests and political honors did not shut him out from active participation in those things which relate to the higher and holier duties of life and concern man in his relations with his fellowmen. On the contrary he was for years a member of the vestry of Christ's Episcopal church and was also connected with the Odd Fellows and the Masons, being very prominent in the latter fraternity. He was grand high priest of the grand chapter of Illinois and at the time of his death deputy grand commander of the grand commandery of Illinois, an officer in the grand lodge and a thirty-third degree Mason.

Nelson D. Elwood married Miss Juliet L. Parks, of Lockport, New York, who survived him

for almost forty years, passing away in Chicago, May 6, 1900. Her father, Joel M. Parks, was postmaster and a merchant of Lockport, New York, and in 1837 removed to Lockport, Illinois, where he also engaged in merchandising and filled the position of postmaster. His last days were spent in Joliet. His daughter, Mrs. Elwood, was born in Bristol, Ontario county, New York, September 16, 1819, and on the 30th of February, 1837, gave her hand in marriage to Nelson D. Elwood. Her strong and salient characteristics were no less admirable than those of her husband and the number of her friends was only limited by the number of her acquaintances.

In early boyhood a student in the public and private schools in Joliet, James G. Elwood afterward attended the collegiate and commercial military school in New Haven, Connecticut, from which he was graduated with the class of 1857. While there he served as first sergeant for three months and later held the rank of captain. He decided to go abroad for further educational discipline when a choice of that or a Yale course was given him, and for a year he studied under a tutor at Geneva, Switzerland. He had completed the first year's studies in Frederick William University at Berlin when the death of his only brother left him the sole survivor of six sons, and at the request of his parents he returned home. A year was spent in his father's office, after which he further qualified for the duties and responsibilities of business life by a course in Bryant & Stratton Commercial College. He then re-entered the law and real-estate office of Parks & Elwood, where he remained until he won his mother's consent to his enlistment in the volunteer army in July, 1862.

Captain Elwood's service was one of distinction. He had been a deep and discriminating student of the signs of the times and the progress of events in the south and the patriotism of his nature was aroused by the unconstitutional attempt of the Confederacy to overthrow the Union. Organizing Company B of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, he was commissioned its captain by Governor Yates and went at once to the front. One of the first important military movements in which he participated was the engagement of Perryville, subsequent to which time he participated in the five days' fight at Murfreesboro.



Promotion came to him there, when he was made acting assistant adjutant general of the First Brigade, First Division, Twenty-first Corps, through appointment on the field by General George T. Buell. His brigade, which was in Wood's division, received an order to move by the left flank in the battle of Chickamauga. The order was unhesitatingly obeyed by fourteen hundred and fifty men, but the division lost six hundred and forty-eight men in its heroic effort to hold its position. In response to his mother's appeal to General Rosecranz that her son might return home, the General granted the request and Captain Elwood accordingly resigned in November, 1863, and again made his way to Joliet.

His business and political service have since closely connected him with the history of the city, although for a brief period he operated elsewhere along business lines, becoming a broker on the Chicago board of trade in 1866, while soon afterward he established a milling business at Matteson, Illinois. In 1870, however, he returned to Joliet and has since conducted a real-estate business, which in volume and importance has placed him foremost among the representatives of property interests here. His resourceful ability has also enabled him to extend his labors into various other fields of activity which have had a direct bearing upon the material development and permanent improvement of the city. In 1880 he built the telephone exchange, the first telephone in Joliet, in connection with ex-Mayor Paige, and three years later they sold out to the Chicago Telephone Company, although Mr. Elwood was retained as manager through the four succeeding years. He was instrumental in establishing the water works as treasurer, general manager and one of the directors of the company organized for this purpose and continued in those offices until the purchase of the plant by the city after four years. He became connected with the Joliet Gas Company in 1861, was its secretary for twenty years, and from 1888 until 1896 was its manager. In 1877, in partnership with Judge Parks, he erected the First National Bank building of Joliet. He is a director in the Will County National Bank and as promoter or financial supporter has contributed to the growth and prosperity of many local enterprises which have been of the utmost value to the city. In 1862 he was

chosen a director of Oakwood cemetery and has been its superintendent since 1871.

Captain Elwood ranks with the distinguished representatives of Masonry in Illinois, affiliating with Matteson lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet chapter, R. A. M.; Joliet Council, R. & S. M.; and Joliet Commandery, No. 4, K. T. In all he has held office and in 1884 he was elected grand commander of the grand commandery of Illinois, while for twelve years he was the representative of the grand commandery of New York in the commandery of this state. He belongs to Illinois commandery of the Loyal Legion and to Bartleson post, No. 6, G. A. R., of Joliet, and has been honored with election to the office of senior vice commander of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of Illinois, and twice as chief of staff, department of Illinois, G. A. R. He is present commander of Bartleson post.

His position upon political questions is never an equivocal one and yet Mr. Elwood is never aggressively partisan, his support of any measure arising from investigation thereof and a firm conviction concerning the value of its adoption. Reared in the democratic faith, he was a supporter of Douglas in the campaign of 1860, but during his military service announced his allegiance to the republican party, of which he has since been a stalwart and unfaltering advocate. His first political office came to him in 1872, when he was elected alderman from his ward, to be followed by re-election two years later. In 1877 he was a successful candidate for mayor of Joliet and was the first to hold the office under the present city charter. As chairman of the board of county supervisors for two years, he proved an efficient worker for the benefit of the people, not only devoting his salary to the benefit of the public work, but making personal contributions beside. From 1892 until 1894, embracing the period when the financial panic of 1893 caused many to be thrown out of employment, he acted as superintendent of the poor, during which period he had charge of feeding and helping forty-four hundred and fifty persons. He gave much of his time to the work, prompted not only by a sense of official duty, but also by a broad humanitarian spirit. His four years' service as postmaster, beginning on the 4th of July, 1898, was also equally creditable to the

city by the efficiency of the work done in the office under his direction.

Pleasantly situated in his home life, Mr. Elwood was married in 1868 to Miss Margaret Pearce, who was born in Seneca county, New York, a daughter of William L. Pearce, who in 1852 removed to Chicago and opened the Matteson House at the corner of Randolph and Dearborn streets. Mr. and Mrs. Elwood are the parents of two sons and two daughters. Ward Pearce, educated in Faribault, Minnesota, and in Chicago Manual Training School, is conducting a plumbing business in Joliet, while William Nelson Elwood is manager of the Western Broom Company. Louise Maynette Elwood was educated in Lasell Seminary at Auburndale, Massachusetts, and Elsie Parks, the younger daughter, was graduated with honors from the Joliet high and training schools.

The family spend the winters in Joliet and during the summer months occupy their country home, Elwood Terrace, on the St. Clair river in Michigan. They are communicants of Christ's Episcopal church, of which Mr. Elwood served as vestryman and warden for a long period. He took an active part in financing the interests of the church and aided actively in the erection of the house of worship. While he has gained a goodly competence he has not amassed a princely fortune, for his energies have not been concentrated solely upon that purpose. On the contrary, he has divided his time between his business affairs and those interests which effect local progress and improvement, which strive to ameliorate the hard conditions of life for the unfortunate and which affect man in his fraternal and social relations. Withal he has manifested a spirit of cordiality and genuine appreciation of character worth in others until it is said that no other man in the county is more widely known or has more friends than Captain James G. Elwood.

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#### JAMES W. MCINTYRE.

Among the leading citizens of Florence township the name of Mr. McIntyre is one deserving of mention in the history of Will county. He is an active and enterprising farmer, owning and operating the old homestead farm, comprising one hundred and

sixty acres, which constitutes a valuable and well improved tract of land. Mr. McIntyre was born in Fulton county, at Perth Center, New York, October 11, 1853, a son of Duncan and Lucinda (Hadsell) McIntyre, both natives of the Empire state, the former born at Perth, December 13, 1807, and the latter in Orleans county, November 2, 1827. The father came to Will county at a very early date in the history of its development, finally locating in Florence township in 1837, where he purchased a farm on section 28. He further made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage in Wesley township, in 1840, to Miss Hadsell, the daughter of J. Hadsell. He took his bride to his home in Florence township, where they remained until after the birth of two of their children, when, in 1844, he and his family went to his native state, where he bought a farm, situated in Fulton county, and there he followed farming until 1855, when he once more came to Will county, settling in Florence township, but his residence here covered a brief period, for his death occurred November 3, 1858. Of their family of seven children, three still survive, the two brothers of our subject being John D., a resident of New York, and Archibald, who resides in Wilmington, Illinois.

James W. McIntyre was but two years of age when he was brought by his parents to Illinois, and in Will county he was reared to the age of eleven years, when, in 1867, he returned to the Empire state, where he was for seven years a student in Fairfield Seminary. Returning home he engaged in farming on his own account and is now operating the old homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Florence township, owned by his brother Archibald, this place having become endeared to him through the associations of his boyhood and youth as well as those of his later manhood. He was formerly engaged quite extensively in feeding and shipping cattle and hogs, but is now renting a portion of his land and is not carrying on business interests to any great extent, although he still farms a part of his land. He owns two tracts, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, in Wilmington township, and also owns two residences on Benton street, Joliet.

On the 4th of December, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. McIntyre and Miss Ida Wayne, an estimable lady, who has indeed proved to her



J. W. McIntyre



husband a faithful companion and helpmate. They have five children, namely: John Wayne, who was born March 18, 1887, and is now attending the Metropolitan Business College; Lucinda Hadsell, who was born January 23, 1889, and is attending high school; George Filmore, born November 12, 1893; James Brower, born February 1, 1896; and Margaret L., born November 9, 1897.

While Mr. McIntyre keeps abreast of the times through reading and observation in regard to matters concerning the republican party, which he has always supported, he has never been active as an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his private business affairs. He is identified by membership relations with the Presbyterian church, at Elwood, while he affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Jackson camp, of that city. He has been identified with the agricultural development of Will county through a period of almost four decades, so that he is widely and favorably known, being classed among the most prominent and prosperous residents of his section of the state.

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#### SAMUEL S. CHAMBERLIN.

In those traits of character which endear man to his fellowmen Samuel S. Chamberlin was royally endowed. A residence of fifty-three years in Will county made him widely known among its citizens and as time passed and his life history unfolded there were found upon its pages the indelible impress of business acumen combined with business honor; an understanding of life's opportunities and needs combined with an exemplification of its higher ethical purposes; an appreciation of all that is just, good and true combined with a most kindly spirit and consideration for others.

Samuel S. Chamberlin was born in Henrietta, Monroe county, New York, August 19, 1817. His father, Luther Chamberlin, was proprietor of the old fashioned tavern, known as the Henrietta House, located near Rochester, in the midst of some of the fine farming land that has made the Genesee valley famous. At an early age he entered Monroe Academy, where he acquired his early education. At the age of sixteen years he left New York with his father and brother, Lewis L. Cham-

berlin, for the state of Illinois. That was before the era of railroad travel. They started in January, 1833, and Mr. Chamberlin rode the entire distance on an Indian pony. They reached Chicago, the only Indian trading station along the route, and there remained for a few days, after which they proceeded southward, making a settlement near the head of Hickory creek. The journey had been a long and cold one and had covered nearly an entire month. Luther Chamberlin made a claim on government land, remaining there until 1837, when he removed to Peoria county.

Samuel S. Chamberlin continued his education as a student in Jubilee College near Peoria, and in due time was graduated. From Peoria county the family removed to Lockport, Illinois, in 1844 and there he began business as an architect and builder, also taking contracts for the erection of warehouses and buildings. He erected the large warehouse for Norton & Company of Lockport, whose business became one of the most extensive in this section of the county. This, however, was not to be his life work, for in 1847 he embarked in the furniture and undertaking business, erecting new buildings for his purpose. He had advanced ideas in regard to his work and may be said to have been the pioneer in raising it to the standard of professional excellence in this portion of Illinois. During the cholera siege in 1854 Mr. Chamberlin was compelled to work day and night for nearly a month. Although the course involved great personal danger he conducted the funeral of nearly all in that section who fell victims to the awful pestilence, there being sometimes as many as ten or twelve per day. In 1873 Mr. Chamberlin removed from Lockport to Joliet and admitted his son, George N. Chamberlin, to partnership, while in Lockport his son, Charles G. Chamberlin, was associated with him. About 1885 the furniture department of the business was discontinued, but they continued in the business of funeral furnishings.

Mr. Chamberlin was married in 1839, in Homer, Illinois, to Miss Elizabeth Gray, who died April 11, 1889, after a happy married life of more than a half century. Mr. Chamberlin exhibited throughout his long business career remarkable tact and keen insight. He never sought office of any kind, although various positions of honor, trust and political preference were tendered him.



He preferred to concentrate his undivided attention upon his business and therein he met merited success. His personal life was of the highest type. During his business career of more than half a century his dealings were so honest, his acts so kind, his devotion to truth, honor and right so unswerving that his more intimate acquaintances learned to love him in a way that few men are loved. He was ever prompt and reliable in business and he also kept in touch with the trend of modern progress. He took great pride in the fine undertaking establishment which was erected in Joliet in 1890 and which is one of the best appointed of the kind in the state. He made the broad creed of humanity, love, truth and charity his social doctrine. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft in all of his relations with his fellowmen. He died December 4, 1897, at his home in Lockport, leaving two children—his sons, George N. and Charles G. Chamberlin.

The business has not suffered since the death of Mr. Chamberlin, who left a worthy successor in his son and former partner, George N. Chamberlin, who is well known throughout this section of the state. He was born December 20, 1851, in Lockport, Illinois, and entering the public schools passed through successive grades until he had completed the course in Lockport high school. Subsequently he learned telegraphy on the old Caton lines of the Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company, which controlled and operated the first telegraph lines in this state. After about three years he entered the employ of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Company in the telegraphic department, being located at what is now Englewood, then Chicago Junction, as night operator. He remained there for three years, when he was transferred to the city offices under the Sherman House in the general freight department, his uncle, Charles M. Gray, being assistant general freight agent at that time. Mr. Chamberlin afterward returned to Lockport and was with Norton & Company in the milling and commission business for four years, but in the meantime his father's business had grown to be so extensive that in 1875 he joined him in its conduct and has since continued in the same.

In his fraternal relations George N. Chamberlin is also a Mason, belonging to Matteson lodge, No.

175, A. F. & A. M., at Joliet. He likewise holds membership with the Woodmen, the Maccabees and the Commercial Club. On the 5th of December, 1876, he was married to Miss Ellen E. Munger, a daughter of Charles E. Munger an old resident and prominent citizen of Will county. Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin have two children, Fred M. and Jessie F.

The former, born August 30, 1877, in Joliet and completing his education in the Joliet high school, then entered the office of George H. Munroe, real estate and loans, with whom he remained for about three years. On the expiration of that period he became collection clerk in the First National Bank of Joliet, occupying that position for five years, when he entered into business with his father and the firm name of George N. Chamberlin & Son was assumed. They have at all times maintained an excellent system of conducting funeral work, combining tact, good taste, promptness and efficiency, and their work is recognized as a model which has been followed in conducting all of the better class of funerals. The extensive establishment at Clinton street and Arch court with its modern and complete equipment has always borne a reputation second to no house in this line in the state and they are perfectly justified in claiming high rank in their specialty.

Fred M. Chamberlin is prominently identified with the Masonic fraternity having served two successive terms as master of Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M., and is also a chapter Mason of Joliet chapter.

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#### PHILIP MERSINGER.

Philip Mersinger, who conducted the largest sewing machine business in Joliet and in the state outside of Chicago, was also the oldest merchant in this line in Will county. He was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1840, and died in December, 1906. The record of the Mersinger family can be traced back to a remote period in the history of the province of Wurtemberg, Germany. His father, John Mersinger, was born and reared in that country and there carried on merchandising. Accompanied by his wife, who bore the maiden name of Janette Whiteman and was a native of Ruchheim, Germany, he came

to the new world, bringing also their two children. They made their way to Pennsylvania and Mr. Mersinger opened a store at Penn's Valley, Center county, where he resided up to the time of his death. Unto him and his wife were born seven children, five of whom attained adult age, while three are still living.

Philip Mersinger was a mere lad when he became self-supporting. From early youth he displayed a spirit of industry and enterprise which won recognition and secured him important business positions. For a number of years he managed some of the largest farms in Center and Union counties, Pennsylvania, and gained an excellent reputation for ability as a manager and financier. In 1869 he became connected with the sale of sewing machines near Center Hall, Pennsylvania, and there made his home for some years. In 1878 he came to the middle west and after traveling for some time, visiting various sections of Kansas and Illinois, he established his home in Joliet, which at that time was a city of only eleven thousand population. He witnessed its subsequent growth until today it has fifty thousand inhabitants and he aided in the development of its business interests. He became the owner of one of the largest sewing machine, piano and organ business enterprises in the state outside of Chicago and built up an extensive trade which is not limited to his home town but extends throughout this portion of Illinois and is now carried on by his widow. The location of his first store in Joliet was at No. 109 South Ottawa street, where he remained for a period of twenty-six years, when in 1904 he removed to the premises at No. 117 North Ottawa street, where may be found on sale the New Home, Standard, White and Domestic machines. He also built up a large trade in pianos and organs and handled all kinds of musical merchandise. In point of years of continuous business activity he was the oldest merchant in the machine trade in Joliet.

In his work Mr. Mersinger was efficiently assisted by his wife, who is a lady of superior ability and now has entire charge of the business. She bore the maiden name of Sarah E. McCormick and is a daughter of William and Margaret McCormick, of Scotch-Irish and German parentage. She was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, where her girlhood days were passed and her mar-

riage was celebrated. Brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by determined, earnest and honorable purpose, Mr. Mersinger steadily worked his way upward in the business life and was a valued representative of commercial interests in Joliet, where he was known for his thorough reliability and his close adherence to a high standard of business ethics.

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#### DANIEL BARRETT.

Daniel Barrett is one to whom fate has vouchsafed an honorable retirement in recognition of unfaltering toil and activity in former years. He has been identified with agricultural interests or engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery for thirty-eight years, and was also well known as a breeder of Norman horses but has now put aside the more arduous duties of life and is enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

He was born in Florence township, April 15, 1852, and acquired his education in the schools of Wilmington, while spending his boyhood days in the home of his parents, William and Elizabeth (Kidney) Barrett. The father was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1841, landing at New York city. He thence proceeded by sailing vessel to New Orleans, where he lived for a year, after which he returned to the Empire state and assisted in building the new Erie canal. In 1844 he again went to the Crescent City, and in 1845 returned to New York, working on the New York Central Railroad. The year 1850 witnessed his arrival in Illinois, where he spent a number of years and then once more went to New York. On returning to Illinois he settled in Florence township, Will county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, while subsequently he purchased railroad land and at one time was owner of three hundred and fifty acres. He spent the subsequent years of his life in stock-raising and farming and became a prominent representative of agricultural interests in this part of the state. He never cared for public office for himself and at elections voted for the best men. His religious faith was that of the Roman Catholic church. He was married in New York to Miss Elizabeth Kidney, who

was born at Kingsail, County Cork, Ireland. The death of Mr. Barrett occurred in Florence township in May, 1889, when he was seventy-six years of age, while his wife survived until June 20, 1902, passing away at the age of eighty-five years. They had a family of three children: Daniel; Hannah who died September 25, 1906; and Dennis, who died October 29, 1904.

Daniel Barrett was reared upon the old homestead farm in this county, where he remained up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated April 26, 1892, Miss Mary Murphy becoming his wife. She was born in Wilmington, February 22, 1853, and is a daughter of Cornelius and Mary (McCarty) Murphy. Her father was born at Bellcolling, twenty miles from the city of Cork, and died in the town of Florence, Will county, Illinois, at the age of seventy-six years, while his widow, who was born in County Cork, is now living in Florence township at the age of seventy-five. They were married in New York city. Mr. Murphy had come to the United States in 1847 as a passenger on a sailing vessel, which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. He resided in the eastern metropolis until 1852, when he removed to Wilmington, and a year later he took up his abode in Florence township, where he spent his remaining days, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He served as justice of the peace for eighteen years, and his decisions were strictly fair and impartial. He was recognized as one of the leading residents of his township, was in politics a Jacksonian democrat, and in religious faith a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. He and his wife became the parents of seven children, of whom three are now living: Mrs. Barrett; Catherine, the wife of Edward Long, a resident of Florence township; and Ellen Eugene, who is a sister of the St. Xavier Order at Chicago and teaches in St. James Academy.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Barrett began farming on his own account and for a long period was closely associated with agricultural interests in Florence township, bringing his land under a high state of cultivation and annually gathering therefrom rich and abundant harvests. He practiced veterinary surgery for thirty-eight years and also engaged in breeding Norman horses, continuing actively in business until 1904, when he re-

tired and took up his abode in Wilmington, where he is now enjoying a well merited rest.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barrett has been born a daughter, Lizzie. For ten years Mrs. Barrett successfully engaged in teaching school in Florence township and is recognized as a lady of culture and refinement. Mr. Barrett has served as road commissioner for three years, is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, and holds membership in the Roman Catholic church.

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#### THOMAS F. HOTCHKISS.

Thomas F. Hotchkiss, general superintendent and purchasing agent of the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company of Joliet, is a native of Brooklyn, New York, born July 12, 1868. He was educated in the public schools of his native city and entered business life in the employ of Harper Brothers, publishers of New York, with whom he remained for two years. In 1887 he became connected with the Phoenix Horse Shoe Company as office boy in the offices of the firm in New York city. He was subsequently sent to Poughkeepsie, New York, and has steadily worked his way upward, filling various positions until he was promoted to that of general superintendent and purchasing agent of the Joliet plant, in which capacity he has remained for a number of years. The building operations of this company were started in Joliet in 1892 and the plant was put in operation early in 1894. It covers a site of twenty acres with ten main buildings, and shoes for both horses and mules are manufactured from steel and from iron. There are about three hundred and fifty employes and the trade is confined almost exclusively to the United States, there being a large home consumption for the product. This plant ships as far east as Ohio, the mill at Poughkeepsie, New York, supplying the trade east of that state. The business was established by Charles W. Miller at Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1885 and he remained its president up to the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1901, when he was succeeded by his son, Elisha H. Miller. The other officers are A. E. Nushbaum, treasurer; S. H. Roberts, secretary; and Thomas F. Hotchkiss, general superintendent and purchasing agent.



Mr. Hotchkiss was married in 1896 to Miss Margaret Phelps, a daughter of Captain Egbert Phelps, of Joliet, and they have become the parents of three children, Marjorie, Isabelle and Phelps. During their residence in Joliet they have gained a wide acquaintance and the hospitality of many of the best homes of the city is cordially extended them. Mr. Hotchkiss is recognized as a man of good business ability and executive force, able in his management, strong in purpose and with keen foresight—qualities which make him very capable in the office which he is now filling.

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### PATRICK FITZPATRICK.

Patrick Fitzpatrick, deceased, who came to Lockport in 1835 as a pioneer settler of limited means, was at the time of his death the owner of more than twelve hundred acres of valuable land, all in Will county. A business man at once recognizes the fact that to have advanced along the highroad to success must have required indomitable energy, perseverance and capable management. His early life was spent upon a farm in Ireland. He was born March 17, 1802, a son of John and Mary (Gowan) Fitzpatrick, the father a farmer and landowner of Queens county, Ireland. In the year 1820 Patrick Fitzpatrick bade adieu to the Emerald Isle and sailed for the new world, stopping in Quebec, Canada. He was at that time a young man of eighteen years. He joined a government surveying party engaged in surveying western Canada lands and was thus employed for three or four years. During his residence in the Dominion he was also an agent of the government, taking immigrants west for settlement. Shortly after leaving the government service he bought a small farm and sent for his parents, who joined him in Canada, where they lived for some time. Mr. Fitzpatrick, leaving that country, made his way by boat from Buffalo to Chicago in 1833, and after a brief stay in the future metropolis he came to Lockport, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of raw and unimproved land from a Mr. Hutchins. On this he built a log cabin and began farming in Lockport township, where

in the course of years he made extensive investments until he became the owner of something over twelve hundred acres of land in one body before his death. He was supervisor of Lockport township for three years and held many local offices there. He was very active in church work and was a communicant of St. Dennis, being one of its largest contributors during his life.

In 1842 Mr. Fitzpatrick was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Cassin, of Queens county, Ireland, and they became the parents of four children: Mary, the wife of T. J. Kelly, of Joliet, a merchant and former mayor of the city; Michael, Catherine and Frances, all on the home farm. Michael filled the office of supervisor of his township for five years and then resigned, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business interests. He is a member of St. Dennis Catholic church.

Mr. Fitzpatrick departed this life May 21, 1887, while his wife survived until March 13, 1895. He had been a resident of the county for more than a half century and was closely associated with its early development, having located here when Will county was largely a frontier district. He shared in the hardships and trials of pioneer life, made all the more difficult by the fact that he was in very limited financial circumstances, but as the years passed by his wealth increased as the result of his unfaltering diligence and determination, and he became one of the wealthy residents of his community.

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### A. J. VINSON.

The legal profession of Joliet finds a worthy representative in A. J. Vinson, who is engaged in practice in this city, having an office at 327 Jefferson street. Mr. Vinson was born in Plainfield, Illinois, in 1867, a son of Thomas and Julia (Willard) Vinson, the former a native of Prince Edward Island, while the mother was born in Watford, Wisconsin. The father came to Illinois in the '50s, at which time he settled on a farm in Wheatland township, Will county. Later he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a member of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, with which he served for three years. Returning home from

the war, he then took up his abode on a farm in Will township, purchasing a tract of land, on which he made his home until 1874. He then removed to Plainfield, where he continued agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1890. The mother still survives. There are three children of this marriage, all of whom reside in Will county.

A. J. Vinson, whose name introduces this record, was educated in the public schools of his native city and he also attended Jennings Seminary at Aurora in 1888. Deciding to take up the study of law, he prepared for his profession in Ann Arbor, Michigan, being admitted to the bar in 1894. He located for practice at Joliet, and now has a well equipped office at No. 327 Jefferson street. Mr. Vinson is thoroughly conversant with the principles of jurisprudence and has built up a large and lucrative clientage. He stands today as one of the leading representatives of the legal profession in Will county and his success is well merited, having come to him through close application and unflinching industry. In addition to practicing in the courts of Will county, Mr. Vinson is also filling the position of village attorney at Plainfield and is also a notary public.

Mr. Vinson was married at Lansing, Michigan, September 1, 1906, to Miss Grace Ferle, a native of that city, where she was supervisor of music in the public schools. She is a lady of superior musical talent and during her brief residence in this city has won many friends. Mr. Vinson gives his political support to the republican party, while his fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias.

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#### PETER A. BRONK.

Peter A. Bronk is numbered among the prominent and highly successful farmers and stock-raisers of Will county, while he is perhaps one of the largest landowners of this section of the state. In connection with his sons, Eugene and Edward C., he owns and operates five hundred and twenty acres of land, three hundred and ninety acres of which comprises the home place on section 23, Plainfield township, while the remainder lies in Troy township.

Mr. Bronk was born in Albany county, New York, July 18, 1836, and when eighteen months was brought to Illinois by his parents, Ephraim and Charlotte (Van Dalfson) Bronk, who settled on a farm in Kendall county just across the line from Will county. The father there purchased a tract of eighty acres from the government, to which he later added an eighty-acre tract. He was there engaged in general agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1865, when he was more than sixty years of age, while his widow survived until 1874, passing away on the home farm. Mr. Bronk served as road commissioner and as school director, and although he and his wife were not identified with any church organization, they were attendants and supporters of the Congregational church. Their family numbered three daughters and two sons, namely: Elizabeth, the wife of Jerome T. Smith, a resident of Plainfield, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Peter A., of this review; Mary, the widow of Joseph Brown and a resident of Kendall county; John V., who owns and operates the old home farm in Kendall county, and who is married and has three daughters; and Amelia, the wife of Solon Smith, a resident of Santa Barbara, California.

Peter A. Bronk, the second child of his father's family, was reared in Kendall county, assisting his father in the work of the home farm, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools, although his advantages in that direction were somewhat limited, for he left school at a very early age. He has, however, through reading, observation and investigation in later years become a well informed man. He remained a member of his father's household until he reached manhood, when he started out in life on his own account, operating a farm which he purchased in Manhattan township. He there made his home for twelve years, subsequent to which time he sold that property and invested his money in two hundred and eighty acres of land in Troy township, which he still owns and operates in connection with his sons. In 1888, however, he purchased his present home farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 34, Plainfield township, and for more than two decades has been engaged in its cultivation. In 1902 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres adjoining. He has a



PETER A. BRONK.



well improved property, on which stands a nice country residence and many substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also raises stock to some extent, and both branches of his business are proving a profitable source of income to him.

Choosing a companion and helpmate for life's journey, Mr. Bronk was married to Miss Harriet E. Storrs, who was born in Clinton county, New York, in 1840, a daughter of William and Kate (Thew) Storrs. Mrs. Bronk came to Illinois in company with a brother-in-law, the time of her arrival being January, 1856, she being then a young lady of sixteen years. In June following she was joined in Kendall county by her parents, who there resided throughout their remaining days, the father passing away in June, 1881, at the very advanced age of ninety-five years, while the mother's death occurred in 1879, when she was eighty-two years of age. William Storrs served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812. Mrs. Bronk is the youngest of ten children, of whom only four are now living, her three sisters being: Mrs. Sarah Baker, a resident of Kendall county; Mrs. Kate C. Gleason, also of that county; and Mrs. Emily Foss, who makes her home in Plainfield.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born five sons and one daughter, all of whom survive, namely: Eugene J., as above stated, is interested with his father in the ownership of a farm in Troy township, Will county. He wedded Miss Alice Hahn, by whom he has two sons, Clare and La Vergne. Ephraim A. is at home and assists his father in the operation of the farm. Edward C. is a resident farmer of Plainfield township, where, in connection with his father, he owns a good tract of land. He wedded Miss Sadie Smith, a daughter of Milton Smith, of California. Rosalthea, Emmett D. and Ernest R. are all yet under the parental roof.

Mr. Bronk has always given his support to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, yet he has never been an aspirant for office, for his extensive business interests have fully claimed his time and attention. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity, holding membership with the blue lodge at Plainfield. Mrs. Bronk was formerly identified with the Order

of the Eastern Star, and the daughter Rosalthea is now identified with that organization, while Edward C. likewise holds membership therein. The son Ephraim belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Joliet. Mrs. Bronk is a Spiritualist in her religious belief, while her husband favors the doctrines of the Universalist faith.

Mr. Bronk has lived to see Will county placed in the foremost ranks of the great state of Illinois, for he can remember when much of the land in this and Kendall counties was still unclaimed, when the homes of the settlers were widely scattered, there being but four houses between Plainfield and Chicago and the products of the farm being hauled to the latter city. Although he started out to face the responsibilities of life with a limited education and with little assistance from his father, he has gradually worked his way upward year by year until he is now one of the wealthy farmers of Will county. All that he possesses has been acquired through persistent effort and honorable and reliable methods, for he has never been known to take advantage of another in any trade transaction. He and his family are prominent in social circles and the hospitality of their own pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

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#### JAMES GRAY.

James Gray, who departed this life October 21, 1905, arrived in Joliet in 1871 and was engaged in horseshoeing and blacksmithing throughout his remaining days, covering a period of more than a third of a century. A native of Belfast, Ireland, he was born December 10, 1848, his parents being Alexander and Isabel Gray, who were natives of Scotland. The father was a blacksmith by trade and in his shop James Gray learned the business. He acquired only a common-school education in his native country and was the eldest of a family of twelve children. When he began working in his father's shop he was so small that he had to stand on a block to reach the anvil but even as a young lad he showed a spirit of strong determination and willingness that soon mastered the business. He worked in his father's smithy until early manhood, and then, thinking to enjoy



better business opportunities in the new world, he bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for America in 1868. He made his way direct to Will county, Illinois, settling first in the town of Frankfort, where he had a friend living, who was also a blacksmith and conducted a shop there. Mr. Gray entered the employ of his friend and thus started in business life in the new world.

While living in Frankfort Mr. Gray was united in marriage to Miss Arabella McKeown, also a native of Ireland and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Carmichael) McKeown, who spent their entire lives in Ireland and passed away there when Mrs. Gray, their only child, was but ten years of age. The father was a millwright by trade. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gray were born five children: Elizabeth, who is at home with her mother; Margaret, who is a teacher in the Richards street school in Joliet; William A., a machinist of this city; Ethel, a teacher in the Eliza Kelly school; and Mabel, a stenographer. All are at home with their mother, who owns a nice and beautiful residence at No. 201 Grover street, which was built by Mr. Gray.

Following his marriage Mr. Gray resided in Frankfort and worked at his trade there until the 1st of May, 1871, when he removed to Joliet. Here he rented a shop on Chicago street and began business on his own account, soon securing a liberal patronage. He made a study of horse-shoeing, in which he was an expert. Later he purchased the shop at No. 306 South Chicago street and subsequently he employed his brother, William Gray, as one of his helpers and the latter now carries on the business for Mrs. Gray. Mr. Gray continued in business up to the time of his death, and his excellent workmanship secured him a liberal patronage, so that as the years went by, through the careful husbanding of his resources, he acquired a handsome competence.

He was a staunch republican in politics and took much interest in the work and growth of the party but was never an office seeker. For many years he was an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and he held membership in the Episcopal church, of which his widow is also a communicant. While he did not seek to figure prominently in public life he was always interested in community affairs and the good qualities

he manifested in all life's relations won him the confidence and trust of his fellowmen and gained him those warm personal friendships which are not based upon honor, fame or success but have their bases in individual character.

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#### JUDGE FRANCIS GOODSPEED.

Judge Francis Goodspeed, who in the profession of law conferred honor upon the judicial history of northern Illinois, became one of the early members of the Joliet bar and throughout the years of his connection therewith maintained a foremost place in its ranks. The legal profession demands not only a high order of ability but a rare combination of tact, learning, talent, patience and industry. The successful lawyer and the competent judge must be a man of well balanced intellect, thoroughly familiar with the law and practice, of comprehensive general information, possessed of an analytical mind and a self-control that will enable him to lose his individuality, his personal feelings, his prejudices 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. Possessing those qualities, Judge Goodspeed justly merited the high honor which was conferred upon him by his elevation to the bench and for seven years he capably presided over the circuit courts until ill health caused his resignation.

Born in Deerfield, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of January, 1821, he was a son of John Goodspeed, a merchant. His early education was afforded by the common schools, but ambitious for further intellectual culture he left home and for two years was a student in Genesee Seminary at Lima, New York, then a famous institution of learning in the east. About the year 1847 he came to Joliet, where he resided continuously until his death. He was one of the pioneer lawyers of the city, being admitted to the bar in 1848 after pursuing the study of law in the office and under the direction of Hon. Hugh Henderson, a former circuit judge.

Soon after entering upon active practice Judge Goodspeed became a law partner of O. H. Haven and this association was maintained until the death





FRANCIS, GOLD-REED



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FRANCES WOODSPEED



of Mr. Haven in 1854. For a brief period Judge Goodspeed was then associated with Colonel F. A. Bartleson and about 1856 he formed a partnership with Hon. Josiah McRoberts, afterward circuit judge. The dissolution of this firm occurred in 1864 and in 1865 Judge Goodspeed formed a partnership with Hon. Henry Snapp and Augustus F. Knox, thus practicing until 1876. When the present judicial circuit was established in 1877 he was elected to the bench and in 1878 was re-elected for the full term of six years. He served in that capacity until June, 1888, when owing to poor health he resigned. His legal learning, his analytical mind, the readiness with which he grasped the points in an argument, all combined to make him one of the most capable jurists that has ever presided over that court and the public and the profession acknowledged him the peer of the ablest members of the bar in this portion of the state.

Judge Goodspeed attained equal prominence in public life and left the impress of his individuality upon public thought and action. He did much to mold public opinion and shape the policy of the city at an important crisis in the history of the country when men of known loyalty and ability were needed in all public offices because of the excitable conditions prevalent at the time he was elected and served as mayor, filling the office in 1859 and 1860 and giving a public-spirited administration. In 1861 he was elected as a delegate to the constitutional convention, participated in the debates of that body at Springfield and took an active part in framing the organic law of the state. His stalwart democracy was unquestioned and yet he never placed partisanship before the general good and personal aggrandizement was always made subservient to his devotion to the welfare of county, state and nation. After the opening of the Civil war, when new issues arose, he transferred his allegiance to the republican party, which stood loyally by the government in the darkest hour of our country's history.

Judge Goodspeed was married three times. In 1849 he wedded Mrs. Esther Wetherbee, who died the following month, and in 1854 he married Lucretia Knox, whose death occurred in 1864. In 1867 he was united to Frances Henderson, a daughter of Dryden and Maria (Coe) Henderson, who were natives of Herkimer county, New York.

Mrs. Goodspeed was born in Steuben county, New York, and still survives her husband. By his second marriage there were three sons but John, the eldest, who prepared for the practice of medicine, died in October, 1883, while Charles F. and Frederick are still living in Joliet. In 1866 Judge Goodspeed erected a fine residence on South Chicago street just south of Joliet. At that time it was one of the finest homes in or near the city and was provided with many improvements in advance of those usually seen in the dwellings of that period. The house was surrounded by fifteen acres of ground and everything about the place showed indication of most thorough care and development. Upon his place Judge Goodspeed had a herd of fine Jersey cattle. He also owned considerable farm property elsewhere in the county and Mrs. Goodspeed still retains some of this in her possession.

Becoming a member of the bar when its representatives in Will county were few in number, Judge Goodspeed ever maintained a foremost position in the ranks of the legal fraternity of northern Illinois. A contemporary biographer said of him, "He was a man of strong mental powers, entirely engrossed in the practice of his profession, which he loved and followed constantly as lawyer and judge for nearly forty years. In all the community no man stood higher in the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and no man more thoroughly deserved this confidence. Among the older residents of Joliet to say 'Frank Goodspeed said so' was to carry conviction. He was a man strong in his views yet of most sympathetic nature." He had the greatest appreciation for true worth of character and no sympathy whatever with the manifestation of a lack of truth or high principles. The honors which came to him in connection with the framing and the execution of the laws of the state marked the high consideration which his fellowmen entertained for his integrity, dignity, impartiality and love of justice as shown in both his private life and official career. He was a man of excellent traits of character, brave and manly, sincere and outspoken, gentle in manner, yet firm in the discharge of his duty. He gained a high place in his profession by hard work and by evidencing his ability to fill the positions with which the people entrusted him.

Mrs. Goodspeed still resides at the old home at No. 125 Union street. There lives with her Mrs. Azubah (Cameron) Smith and her daughter, Mrs. Benham, and the latter's family. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Goodspeed were schoolmates in Steuben county, New York. The former is the widow of Seneca S. Smith, who was a lumber dealer of Bath, New York, where his death occurred. Mrs. Smith's daughter Mabel is the wife of Harry H. Benham, who is employed in the Jensen store in Joliet, and they have five children: Charles G., Margaret, Charlotte, Mabel and Smith.

In addition to valuable city property Mrs. Goodspeed owns much fine farming land in this county together with the residence which she occupies on Union street.

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#### DAVID MORRISON.

On the roll of Will county's honored dead appears the name of David Morrison, who through a long period was identified with the agricultural life of this section of the state, and by his upright Christian life and his honorable business methods he won the esteem of all with whom he came in contact, so that his death, which occurred on the 1st of January, 1895, was the occasion of deep regret not only in his immediate household but to many friends and acquaintances. Mr. Morrison was born in Monaghan county, Ireland, April 15, 1831. He lived on a farm until he had reached the age of twenty years, during which time he had acquired a good education in the common schools. He also received training for a business life and then emigrated to America with his father, his mother having died on the Emerald isle. Following his arrival in this country he worked in a mercantile establishment for four years, but on account of poor health was then obliged to seek other employment. For two years he was attendant in an insane asylum in New Jersey and it was during his employment in that institution that he met the lady whom he afterward made his wife. In 1857 he continued his journey westward, locating in Carroll county, Illinois. He was employed on a farm for one year at fifteen dollars per month, during which time his wife was engaged in teaching at sixteen dol-

lars per month. Thus it was that they gained their start in life. Mr. Morrison then rented a tract of land and began farming for himself, working in the fields and cultivating his crops through the summer seasons, while in the winter months he engaged in teaching. In 1863 he arrived in Will county, settling on a farm of forty acres, which he had purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Through his industry and energy and the assistance of his estimable wife, he prospered in his undertakings, adding to his landed possessions from time to time until at the time of his death he was the owner of two hundred and eighty-three acres of well improved and valuable land. He possessed excellent business ability and sound judgment and was a man who was highly respected wherever known.

Mr. Morrison was a republican in his political views and affiliations and was active in the work of the party. He served as supervisor for two terms, was also assessor and school director, while for nineteen years he filled the office of justice of the peace, and in the discharge of his official duties he was prompt and faithful to the trust reposed in him. He was a member and one of the organizers of the West Peotone Methodist Episcopal church, of which he served as treasurer for a long period. For thirteen years prior to his demise he was in ill health but he always bore his affliction with great fortitude. After his death his son was elected to every position which he held, both in church and township relations.

Mr. Morrison is still survived by his widow to whom he was married in 1857, she bearing the maiden name of Matilda Duncan. Her birth occurred in County Antrim, Ireland, February 6, 1835, a daughter of Andrew and Nancy (Galspie) Duncan, both of whom were natives of the Emerald isle but were of Scotch descent. They emigrated to America in 1847, settling on a farm in Pennsylvania, where the father passed away in 1876, when he had reached the venerable age of ninety-six years, while the mother died in the Keystone state, at the age of eighty-eight. Four years ago Mrs. Morrison purchased a double lot in Peotone, where she erected a beautiful residence, of her own design. She is a lady of exceptional intelligence and culture and is fond of reading, keeping in touch with the writers of both modern and ancient history, and she takes



COUNTRY HOME OF FRANCIS GOODSPEED.





great delight in companionship with people of intelligence and learning. Like her husband she is prominent in public service, having for nine years been president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Will county, while for eleven years she served as president of the West Peotone Woman's Christian Temperance Union. For fifteen years she held the office of secretary of the Bible Society, succeeding her husband to the position, which is now held by her son. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which she takes a very active and helpful part. She is a sincere Christian woman and is proud of the fact that her sons have all followed the parents' example in that they are all identified with the church.

By her marriage she has become the mother of three sons and one daughter. William A. wedded Esther Mason, by whom he has five children. He is now acting as foreman of the Dempster Manufacturing Company, makers of windmills and pumps at Beatrice, Nebraska. George A. wedded Bessie Gilkerson, by whom he has four children. She is a daughter of David Gilkerson, one of the pioneers of Will county, and the young couple now make their home on a part of his mother's farm. David H. first wedded Carrie Barton, a daughter of James Barton, a pioneer resident of Peotone township. After her death he wedded Ruth Crawford, a daughter of Ralph Crawford. She died in September, 1906, leaving two children. This son also makes his home on a part of his mother's farm. Mary E. is now the wife of James Fletcher, a merchant of Peotone. She has become the mother of two children.

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### LYONS BROTHERS.

The Lyons brothers, James, Thomas and John, are well known business men of Joliet, dealing in lumber and coal, with offices at 114 Michigan avenue and 105 Eastern avenue, their yards extending through from one street to the other. This company was organized in September, 1897, the three brothers becoming partners and taking an active interest in the development of the business. They are native sons of Joliet and their

parents are John and Susan (Finney) Lyons, both now deceased. The father was born in Ireland and when a young man came to the United States, taking up his abode in Joliet about 1856 or 1857. He was originally a carpenter and in 1875 engaged in the lumber business on South Bluff street, this location proving convenient for shipment by canal. He continued in the trade until his death, which occurred in September, 1903, when he was seventy-two years of age. His life was thus one of activity and usefulness and in his business career he commanded respect and confidence by reason of his fidelity to high principles and straightforward dealing. He served as supervisor of Joliet township through election on the democratic ticket and he kept well informed on political issues and questions. He held membership in the Catholic church, as did his wife, who was born in Channahon township, Will county, Illinois, a daughter of Bernard Finney, who was a farmer and made his home in Channahon township until his death, which occurred over a quarter of a century ago. The marriage of John Lyons and Susan Finney was celebrated at the home of the bride and soon afterward they removed to Joliet. The husband survived his wife for many years, for she passed away in 1884, at the age of thirty-nine. In the family were four sons and three daughters, including William, who is engaged in the lumber business in Joliet; Mrs. Anna Cassidy, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mrs. Susan Ward, of Versailles, Ohio; and Mary, who died in Joliet in 1902. All were reared in this city and the children of the family were students in the public schools.

The three brothers thus associated were public-school students and in early life became connected with the lumber business through the assistance which they rendered their father. They have always continued in this line of trade and in September, 1897, they organized the present company as a partnership. They carry a full line of lumber, builders' materials and supplies and fuel, and employ five teams and seven or eight men to carry on the business, while the three brothers are all active in its management and conduct. They are progressive men, energetic and determined, and their long experience in this line has well qualified them for the conduct of a successful trade.

James Lyons was married to Miss Mary Rogan, who was born and reared in Joliet and is a

daughter of Thomas Rogan, an old resident of Will county, now deceased. Her mother, however, is living in this city at the age of sixty-five years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. James Lyons have been born three children who are yet living, Albert, Harold and James, and they also lost three who died in infancy. The family residence is at No. 117 South Center street, where Mr. Lyons has built a pleasant and commodious home. In politics he is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Columbus and his religious faith is indicated by the fact that he is a communicant of St. Patrick's Catholic church. His name has long been associated with the lumber trade of Joliet and is a synonym for reliable business dealing.

#### THEODORE HARDER.

Theodore Harder, who is numbered among the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Lockport township, owning and operating the old Harder homestead farm on section 22, was born in Columbia county, New York, October 21, 1828. His father, Peter I. Harder, was likewise born in Columbia county, August 16, 1797, and was engaged in farming in his native state. In 1832 he removed to Madison county, New York, and in 1852 came to Illinois, locating on the farm where the son Theodore now resides. On the 4th of August, 1816, he was united in marriage to Miss Lena Van Dusen, who was also a native of Columbia county, born June 30, 1799. Both parents died many years ago, the father having passed to his reward on the 25th of August, 1870. His wife survived for a few years and passed away December 4, 1874, while on a visit to her son in Wisconsin. Her father bore the name of Robert Van Dusen. Both she and her husband were devoted members of the Baptist church, to the support of which they were liberal contributors. Their family numbered twelve children, as follows: Robert, who was born February 27, 1817, and died December 20, 1867; Peter, who was born December 30, 1819, and died May 30, 1820; James, who was born August 31, 1821, and is a retired farmer living at Whitewater, Wisconsin; Jacob, who was born August 6, 1823, and died

in 1882; Richard, who was born July 11, 1825, and died June 19, 1898; Theodore, whose name introduces this record; Peter, who was born November 7, 1830, and died May 7, 1834; Elizabeth, who was born July 13, 1833, and died in 1904; Herman, who was born March 19, 1837, and passed away in Idaho; Edwin, who was born October 9, 1839, and died February 14, 1841; Francis, who was born September 9, 1841; and Jane, who was born February 5, 1845, and first married George Stuart, but is now the wife of James Pendleton.

Theodore Harder, the sixth in order of birth in his father's family, was reared to farm life, assisting his father in the various duties of the fields, while in the winter seasons he pursued his studies in the district schools. He was a little lad of four years when he accompanied his parents on their removal from Columbia to Madison county, New York, and was a young man of twenty-four years when he removed to Will county. He has always made farming his life work and now resides on the old family homestead, which was deeded to him by his father, the tract comprising two hundred acres of well improved land. He worked hard in former years, so that he is now enabled to enjoy the evening of his life in well merited rest from the arduous duties of farm work.

Mr. Harder was married in 1853 to Miss Susan A. Billings, of New Lenox. She was born in Windhall, Bennington county, Vermont, January 27, 1834, a daughter of Menard and Anna (Mellen) Billings. Her father worked in the woolen mills in Vermont and in June, 1836, established his home in New Lenox, this state. She remained with her parents until the time of her marriage, after which the young couple took up their abode in that village, where they remained for one year, subsequent to which time they removed to Lockport, and now reside on the old Harder homestead. Mrs. Harder is a devoted member of the Baptist church, and by her marriage has become the mother of three children. Ida A. is the wife of Charles H. Merrill and resides in Joliet. Jason R., who was born in 1859, acquired his education in the schools of Lockport and Joliet. He was married, March 26, 1885, to Miss Elizabeth Bretz, who was born in 1862 and was educated in the schools of Lockport. She is a daughter of Peter



and Elizabeth Bretz, who lived in that city, and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons: R. Osgood Harder, who for the past three years has been a student in the University of Illinois; and Clinton R., who is with his parents and is attending the high school at Lockport. Edison E. Harder was born in 1864, and attended school at Lockport and Joliet. He was married November 25, 1885, to Miss Allie Louise Kirkham, a daughter of John Kirkham, a well known farmer of Lockport township. They have one daughter, Susan Grace, who was born November 21, 1888, and is now the wife of Gilbert C. Pierce, their marriage being celebrated November 22, 1905. Mr. Harder has now passed the seventy-eighth milestone on life's journey and is now occupying a nice home on his farm in Lockport township, surrounded by a large circle of friends.

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#### REV. PATRICK W. DUNNE.

Rev. Patrick W. Dunne, who for twenty years has officiated at St. Patrick's church in Joliet, during which period this has grown to be one of the strongest churches of the diocese, is a native of Watertown, Wisconsin, born March 4, 1852. His parents Edward and Mary (Finn) Dunne, were natives of Queens county, Ireland, and of Prince Edward Island respectively. The paternal grandfather, Patrick Dunne, a farmer by occupation removed from the Emerald isle to Prince Edward Island and spent his last days in Chicago. In 1849 Edward Dunne became a resident of Watertown, Wisconsin, making the trip to Chicago by boat and thence to Watertown, where he was joined by his family. He was a contractor and builder and erected the first church in Watertown and the first bridge over the Rock river. In 1853 he went to Chicago and afterward built some of the first bridges in and near that city. He died in Joliet, July 2, 1888, and was buried from St. Jarlath's church, Chicago, on the 4th. He was one of nine children, there being seven brothers who came to America. One of them, Dennis, was vicar general of the Chicago diocese for years, holding the position at the time of his death in 1867. During the Civil war he organized a regiment that was known as the Dunne legion (later the Irish

legion). The crowning work of his life was the erection and management of an orphan asylum on Archer avenue in Chicago and the diligence and zeal with which he carried on this undertaking was really the cause of his death, for overwork brought on an illness that terminated fatally.

Edward Dunne in his building operations was closely associated with the work of early development and improvement in Watertown, Wisconsin, and in Chicago. He built the first Magdalene asylum in Chicago, but, just before the work was completed, the building was destroyed by fire and he thus suffered a heavy loss. He was a devout communicant of the Catholic church and for thirty-five years held the same pew. He reared a family of fifteen children including Dr. William Dunne, who was graduated from Rush Medical College with the highest honors of his class. He served as a surgeon in the Second Illinois Infantry in the war of the Rebellion and subsequently acted as city physician of Chicago for a number of years. He is now deceased. A daughter, Rose, is a sister in the Order of Loretto in Toronto, Canada.

From an early age Father Dunne was destined for the priesthood. He was educated in Christian Brothers' Academy on Adams and Desplaines streets, Chicago; St. Charles College at Ellicott City, Maryland, where he studied the classics from 1869 until 1875; and St. Mary's Seminary, where for two years he was a student of philosophy under the direction of the Sulpician Fathers, while three years were devoted to theology. On the 20th of December, 1879, he was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Gibbons in the cathedral in Baltimore and was assigned to the Chicago diocese.

Then returning to the west he became assistant in St. Mary's parish in Joliet, where he remained for six years, and on the death of Father Power of St. Patrick's he was assigned to his present pastorate on the 29th of January, 1886. This is one of the oldest Catholic churches of Illinois and Father Dunne has in his possession the records of the congregation extending from its organization to the present time. At the time he assumed charge of St. Patrick's the church edifice was in a dilapidated condition and the work of the church in its various departments was by no means at an ideal state. With marked energy and zeal he took up the work and in the remodeling of the

church his father proved most helpful. It was the latter's pride that the last work he ever did was the fitting of a house for the worship of God. A slate roof was put on and other improvements made. The church building has a frontage of four hundred feet on Hickory and three hundred feet on Broadway.

In connection with the church is conducted St. Patrick's parochial school, which was established by Father Dunne and now occupies a modern building that was erected at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. It contains six large schoolrooms and a commodious hall and has an attendance of more than three hundred pupils. The building is heated by steam and lighted by electricity and the school is in charge of the Ladies of Loretto, under whose supervision the pupils are given a thorough education in all of the common branches of grammar school grades. One of the most notable events in the history of St. Patrick's church was the celebration of its golden jubilee in 1889, on which occasion pontifical high mass was celebrated by Bishop Burke, of Cheyenne, and Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, delivered the jubilee sermon. The various departments of the church are now in excellent working condition and the labors of Father Dunne have proved a most potent element in the growth and upbuilding of Catholicism in Joliet. He is a learned and able man, commanding the respect of people of all denominations, and his influence has indeed worked for righteousness among his own parishioners.

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#### BENJAMIN K. WHITE.

Although a resident of Joliet for only a few years, Benjamin K. White was well known here. He came to the city on the 1st of May, 1867, and resided here until his death, which occurred six years later. A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, he was a son of Lewis and Melvina (Watson) White, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state, spending their earlier years in Philadelphia and that vicinity. Lewis White was there engaged in all kinds of railroad work until 1870, when he came to the middle west, settling in Wilmington, Illinois. He was afterward connected

with railroad work in this part of the state until his demise.

Benjamin K. White acquired his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and when a young man he began to learn the trade of carriage-trimming, which he followed for a brief period in Philadelphia. He then turned his attention to railroad work and was employed in various ways in that great department of industrial activity until 1867. At that time his brother-in-law, Jacob A. Henry, was engaged in railroad contracting in Joliet and vicinity, and through his influence Mr. White came to this city and entered the employ of Mr. Henry. The railroads were then being built through Joliet and there was much demand for labor here. Mr. White, therefore, engaged in all kinds of railroad work, acting as foreman of the track men and as superintendent of construction. Later he accepted a position as conductor on the Chicago & Alton Railroad and was soon transferred to the south division of that road, running as a conductor between Alton and St. Louis for two years but he found that the climate did not agree with him and he returned to Joliet much impaired in health. He never recovered and passed away in 1873.

Mr. White had been married in Whitehouse, New York, to Miss Ella A. Henry, a native of Henderson county, New Jersey, born October 31, 1836, and a daughter of Joseph and Nancy Henry. They were both natives of the east and always resided there, her father being a prominent and wealthy business man. Several of their children, however, came to the west and located in Joliet, including Jacob A. Henry, who for many years has been president of the Will County National Bank and is still at the head of that institution. All of the members of the family that came to Joliet prospered in business life here. Unto Mr. and Mrs. White were born a daughter and son: Annie, now the wife of Alexander Stearns, who was engaged in the coal, ice and livestock business until recently but is now suffering from ill health, he and his wife making their home with her mother, Mrs. White; and Joseph H., who holds a good position as bookkeeper in the rolling mills at Joliet.

In early life Mr. White gave his political allegiance to the democracy but afterward became a stalwart republican. He was reared in the Pres-

byterian faith and lived a life of uprightness, his many excellent traits of character gaining for him an enviable place in public regard. Mrs. White, although now almost seventy years of age, is still very active and energetic and takes care of her household duties. She owns a nice residence at No. 121 Second avenue, where she and her children reside, and she also has other property on Second avenue, which she rents.

### NIAL N. OSBURN.

Nial Nye Osburn, who has now advanced far on life's journey, has had in many respects a most eventful career and in former years was one of the largest wheat raisers of this part of the state. His life history embraces pioneer experiences in the far west, even before the period of mining excitement in California and goes down through the later decades of modern development and improvement, keeping him in touch with the agricultural progress of Will and Grundy counties and making him in the course of years, as the result of his well directed efforts, one of the wealthy farmers of northern Illinois. He was born in Athens, Ohio, November 19, 1819, and pursued his education in the schools of Mansfield, Ohio. His parents were Joseph and Mary (Gildersleeve) Osburn, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Scotland. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, spent much of his life in Ohio and met death in a runaway accident. His wife, who was a member of the Baptist church, also died in the Buckeye state. They were the parents of three children but Nial N. Osburn, the second son, is the only one now living.

Reared in the state of his nativity, Mr. Osburn of this review lived in Lancaster, Ohio, for a number of years and made his way to the middle west in April, 1841, stopping first in Iowa. In the spring of 1843 he started overland with ox teams for Oregon, being a member of the first caravan that made the trip. When the party arrived at Fort Hall, Mr. Osburn continued on his way toward the Sunset state, traveling on horseback. He swam many rivers on the trip and thirty-one times he has thus crossed the South Platte river.

Nine times he has crossed the continent and has been a witness of the evolution of travel from the days of the old ox train to the period of the modern Pullman coach. On that first journey he endured the hardships and privations incident to such a trip, arriving at Oregon on the 1st of October, 1843. There he remained until the spring of 1847, engaged in mining, after which he returned to Pennsylvania, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1848 he left Pittsburg by boat for St. Louis, Missouri, and proceeded down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and thence up the Missouri river to St. Joseph, Missouri, from which point he started on an overland trip to California in the spring of 1849. On the return trip he left California by boat, crossed the isthmus of Panama by way of the Nicaragua route on foot, and thence proceeded by steamer to New Orleans and on to Havana, where he spent one day. He then made his way to Cincinnati by way of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and on to Pittsburg, whence he proceeded to Philadelphia. There he had his gold converted into coin at the United States mint, after which he went to New York city, but the middle west attracted him with its advantageous opportunities and he again turned his face toward the setting sun, proceeding as far as Chicago.

From that city he came to Florence township, Will county, in the spring of 1850. He first purchased four hundred and thirty-two acres of land and later he bought seven hundred and twenty acres near Star Grove. Subsequently he made purchase of thirty-nine hundred acres of land known as the Goose Lake farm in Grundy county, making the purchase with government scrip. He thus carried on farming on an extensive scale, bringing his land under a high state of cultivation and making many improvements thereon. He erected some forty buildings in all, including fourteen dwellings and a large number of barns. He also sank twelve artesian wells. In 1860 he raised over fifteen thousand bushels of wheat on his land, becoming one of the most extensive wheat producers of the state. Thus he carried on his farming operations on a mammoth scale for a long period, being one of the leading representatives of agricultural life in this great state. He has since given much of his Illinois land to his children but he still owns two sections in Kansas and a fine farm in Wilmington township, Will county.

together with two hundred and eighty acres of coal land.

Following his return from the Pacific coast Mr. Osburn was married, September 22, 1853, to Miss Sarah E. Steadman, who was born April 22, 1832, at Cornwallis, Kings county, Nova Scotia, and died January 11, 1889. They were married in Florence township, Will county, where Mrs. Osburn had previously engaged in teaching school. She was a daughter of Daniel and Henrietta A. (Gilmore) Steadman. Her father, who was born in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, November 17, 1802, died at Star Grove, Will county, Illinois, June 6, 1850, while his wife, who was born September 15, 1808, at Horton, Nova Scotia, died November 26, 1884, at Wilmington. They were married in Horton, May 5, 1829, and became the parents of eight children but only two are now living: Nancy M., the wife of John Campbell, a resident of Wilmington; and Dr. Charles E. Steadman, who is living in Junction City, Kansas. Mr. Steadman removed from Nova Scotia to South Boston with his family in 1844. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and thus provided for the support of wife and children. In 1850 he came to Illinois, settling at Star Grove, Will county, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for his death occurred six weeks later. He was a well read man, of more than ordinary intellectual force and literary taste, and he wrote a number of poems. He held membership in the Presbyterian church and gave his political allegiance to the whig party.

Mr. and Mrs. Osburn spent their married life upon a farm in Will county until 1870, when they removed to Lawrence, Kansas, but five years later they returned to Will county and Mr. Osburn now lives in Wilmington. Five children were born unto them: William, born October 3, 1854; Samuel E., December 24, 1856; Mary, July 14, 1859; Lucinda G., July 17, 1861; and Charles S., October 18, 1867. Extended mention of William and Charles Osburn is made on another page of this work. Mr. Osburn cast his first presidential vote for General William Henry Harrison and was a supporter of the whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new republican party. His life history if written in detail would prove a most interesting study, giving a correct picture of frontier experiences in the far west

during the early days of mining development in Oregon and in California. He was for years one of the most prominent representatives of agricultural interests in Illinois, and the rest which he is now enjoying is the well merited reward of his close and unremitting attention to business. In all his undertakings he has been reliable as well as accurate and systematic, so that his name has ever been an honored one in business circles.

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#### HON. G. D. A. PARKS.

Hon. G. D. A. Parks, deceased, who was one of the most distinguished lawyers practicing at the bar of northern Illinois, also wielding a wide influence in public affairs, came to Will county in pioneer times. He lived in Illinois through the formative period in its history and left the impress of his individuality upon public thought and action which shaped the policy of the county and of this portion of the state.

Born in Bristol, Ontario county, New York, his natal day was September 17, 1817, and his parents were Joel M. and Bathsheba (Walker) Parks, the latter the youngest daughter of William Gooding, of Ontario county, New York. The father, Joel M. Parks, was born October 18, 1790, in West Stockbridge, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, while his wife was born March 25, 1799, in Bristol, Ontario county, New York, and died at Lockport, April 25, 1850. Juliet Louisa Parks, a sister of Joel M. Parks, was born at Bristol, September 16, 1819, and departed this life May 6, 1900. She was the mother of Captain James G. Elwood, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Another sister, Clarinda Parks, was born at Lockport, Niagara county, New York, March 22, 1823, became the wife of Captain N. L. Hawley, of Lockport, Illinois, and died at Chicago, March 27, 1890. A brother, William G. Parks, was born at Lockport, New York, April 9, 1825. He was a member of Company B, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, commanded by Captain Elwood. He was killed at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 23, 1864, thus laying down his life on the altar of the Union. Another sister, Maria Josephine Parks, was born at Lockport, New York,





*H. D. A. Parks*



October 7, 1831, became the wife of George R. MacGregor and died at Joliet, February 1, 1904.

Spending his boyhood days in his parents' home, G. D. A. Parks acquired his early education under the instruction of private tutors. Subsequently he attended Lewiston Academy at New York, where he mastered the common and higher mathematical branches and also some of the classics. At the early age of fifteen years he entered upon the study of law at Lockport, New York, and in 1837, when twenty years of age, he went to New York city, where he continued preparation for the bar, being admitted to practice in the courts of New York in 1841, after successfully passing the required examination. He entered upon the active practice of his profession in New York city. Attracted by the growing opportunities of the middle west, Mr. Parks left his native state and made his way to Lockport, Illinois, establishing a law office and entering upon active practice in that place in 1843. For a time he was also editor of the Lockport *Telegraph*. Will county was still in the period of its pioneer development. It was natural that a man of his mental capacity and strength of character should become a leader in public life and as early as 1844 he was appointed master in chancery for Will county, filling the position, however, for only a few months. In 1845, there being a great depression in the law, as in all other business, and his health demanding a more active, out-of-door life, Mr. Parks accepted a position with the engineering corps of the Illinois and Michigan canal and continued until the completion of the enterprise in the spring of 1848. The following year he was again called to public office, being elected county judge of Will county, which caused his removal to Joliet, where in partnership with his brother-in-law, Hon. N. D. Elwood, he resumed the practice of his profession, soon securing an extensive and growing clientage. Mr. Elwood was an experienced business man of very extensive acquaintance and to his untiring energy the firm owe a large share of its success and reputation. After his death, which occurred in 1861, Mr. Parks acted for several years as attorney for the Chicago & Rock Island, the Chicago & Mississippi and the Joliet & Northern Indiana Railroad Companies. Devotedly attached to his profession, systematic and methodical in habit, sober and discreet in judgment, calm in temper, diligent in re-

search, conscientious in the discharge of every duty, courteous and kind in demeanor and inflexibly just on all occasions, he became recognized as one of the most able members of the bar and these qualities also enabled him to take first rank among those who have sat upon the bench in Will county, and made him the conservator of that justice which is the safeguard of individual liberty and happiness and the defense of our national institutions. His reported opinions show a thorough mastery of the questions involved, a rare simplicity of style and an admirable terseness and clearness in the statement of the principles upon which the opinions rest.

His course during the momentous epoch in the country's history preceding the Civil war, also show forth the strength of the man and his fidelity to any cause which he believed to be right. He was ever fearless in defense of his honest convictions and in 1848 he joined the freesoil movement and made a canvass of his district. In 1850, after the consummation of the memorable compromises of that year and the dissolution of this party into its original elements, he resumed his relations with the democracy, with which he remained identified until the repeal of the Missouri compromise in 1854. He then again withdrew, making a strong anti-Nebraska speech at Lockport within a week after the introduction of that measure by Judge Douglas. He was nominated for representative from the forty-fifth district, comprising DuPage, Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties, and was elected. In February, 1855, the general assembly took up the task of electing a United States senator and Mr. Parks gave his support to Abraham Lincoln until it became certain that the Springfield lawyer could not command the requisite number of votes for election, after which Mr. Parks steadily supported Lyman Trumbull, who was elected on the tenth ballot. In 1853 he received appointment from Governor Matteson as one of the directors of the institution for the deaf and dumb and continued in that position for several years. In 1856 senatorial honors were conferred upon him by the sixth district, comprising Will, Kendall, Kankakee and Iroquois counties. In 1864 he was made a member of the board of visitors of the naval academy, then at Newport, Rhode Island, and in the same year he received appointment from Governor Yates as

one of the commissioners of the penitentiary at Joliet, in which capacity he served for a year.

Throughout the period of the war Mr. Parks was a stalwart champion of the Union cause. He delivered many addresses and patriotic speeches and did everything in his power to uphold the administration at Washington. A merited honor and one in which he took just pride was his selection for three succeeding years, 1863, 1864 and 1865, to deliver the address to the citizens of Wilmington upon the celebration of the birth of the nation. He was ever an earnest and eloquent speaker, presenting his ideas with clearness, logic and force, and while he knew well how to employ the art of rhetoric it never enshrouded the great truths which he presented. His earnest belief in the doctrines which he promulgated none doubted. He never measured his speeches by the rule of public policy if clear statement and truth had to be sacrificed by so doing. In 1872, having identified himself with the political movement originated at Cincinnati, he was nominated on the liberal republican ticket for congress from his district; but sharing the by no means uncommon fate of his liberal confreres, was defeated by the regular republican candidate, Mr. Corwin. He remained to the last an advocate of republican principles, although of a somewhat conservative type. He did not consider himself bound by party ties but supported unflinchingly those measures and movements which he deemed would work for the good of county, state or nation.

In 1848 Mr. Parks was married to Miss Lucetia S. Story, a daughter of Samuel and Catherine Story, of Moscow, New York. She was born in 1824 and died in Joliet, in 1893, while her mother passed away October 24, 1881, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Parks were born a son and daughter, but the latter, Kate W., born in Joliet, November 29, 1853, died in infancy. The son, Samuel S. Parks, now a wealthy resident of Joliet, was born at Lockport, Illinois, November 14, 1848. He was reared in this county, attended the public schools and afterward became a student in the naval school at Annapolis, Maryland. Returning to Joliet, he entered his father's law office, giving attention to the real-estate department of the business. Since his father's death he has lived practically retired at

his home on Scott street, supervising, however, his various real-estate interests.

The death of Mr. Parks occurred at Joliet, December 28, 1895, at the age of seventy-eight years. His religious faith was bound by no creeds or dogmas and yet there are few men who maintain a higher standard of human conduct. The literary taste which he developed in his youth remained with him throughout life and was heightened by his broad reading of ancient and contemporaneous literature. He was also a fluent writer, frequently contributing to papers and magazines, and upon the speaker's platform displayed superior oratorical power. His mind was enriched with the thoughts of master minds of all ages and he had the ability to assimilate that which he read. Few lawyers have made a more lasting impression upon the bar of northern Illinois, both for legal ability of a high order and for the individuality of a personal character which impresses itself upon a community.

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#### GEORGE WOODRUFF.

George Woodruff, numbered among the younger representatives of financial interests in Joliet, is president of the First National Bank and also a member of the Will county bar, but uses his law knowledge simply for the interests of the bank. He was born in this city May 25, 1881, and is a son of Frederick W. and Nellie (Davis) Woodruff. Entering the public schools at the usual age he passed through successive grades until he had completed the high school course, after which he matriculated in the University of Michigan and later he won the degree of Bachelor of Law from Yale University. He was admitted to the bar in Connecticut and also in Illinois in 1903 but has confined his practice to the business of the bank. He entered the bank while still but a boy in order to thoroughly familiarize himself with the business in every department, and when he had completed his college course in 1903 he entered the institution as assistant cashier. In addition to his law course in Yale he was a student in the Sheffield Scientific School where he studied banking and finance. When he finished his studies in finance he was offered a government position but



declined and, returning to Joliet, entered the First National Bank, serving as assistant cashier until 1904, when he was elected vice-president, and in January, 1907, he was elected president to succeed his father. Mr. Woodruff is the youngest national bank president in the United States.

He has traveled abroad through various countries, studying foreign exchange and foreign banking, particularly in London and Paris, and few men have more intimate, accurate or practical knowledge of the banking business in all of its departments than he. He gives his entire attention to the business and is the active force in its successful management. Socially he is interested in the leading organizations and clubs of Joliet and is serving officially in a number of them, being a popular young man with wide and favorable acquaintance.

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#### MORTIMER A. FLACK.

Mortimer A. Flack, deceased, was a representative of a pioneer family of Will county, established here in 1845. He was born in Essex county, New York, May 25, 1825, and was a son of John J. and Elizabeth (Nelson) Flack. The father was born in Washington county, New York, May 10, 1799, and on the 24th of December, 1818, he married Miss Nelson who was also a native of Washington county, born December 15, 1799. In 1819 they removed to Essex county, New York, where Mr. Flack was engaged extensively in farming and in the manufacture of lumber and iron. He was also a large dealer in horses, cattle, sheep and hogs and the extent and importance of his business interests made him one of the representative citizens of the county. He was for many years an officer in the court there and figured prominently in public life. In 1844 he purchased large tracts of land in this part of Illinois and the following year removed with his family to Joliet, soon afterward settling on a large farm two miles southeast of the city, where he spent his remaining days. He also had property interests in Joliet and in Chicago and in control of his business interests met with a gratifying measure of prosperity. He served as an officer of the court in Will county and was in other ways identified with public interests,

becoming a leading and influential resident of this part of the state. He died September 25, 1876, at his residence on Collins street, and his widow survived him for but a brief period. They were the parents of eight children, Jane A., W. Nelson, J. Alexander, Mortimer A., Maria A., Whallon J., Washington J. and Martha J., all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Martha J., who is the wife of Harvey Downey, a resident of Joliet.

Mortimer A. Flack was educated in the country schools of Essex county, New York. He was just twenty years of age when his parents removed to Illinois in June, 1845, and he at once began work on his father's farm in Joliet township. After two years he removed to Chicago, where he was engaged in the hotel business for several years, and on selling out there he went to Michigan City, Indiana, where he established and conducted a retail dry-goods store for several years. On the expiration of that period he sold out there and returned to Joliet, investing his money in city property, after which he lived retired here save for the supervision which he gave to his real-estate interests.

Mr. Flack was first married in Ohio to Miss Jane Wheeler, who died in Joliet, while the two children of that marriage died in infancy. In 1870, in this city, Mr. Flack was joined in wedlock to Miss Clara Anderson, a native of Kent county, Michigan, where her parents spent the greater part of their lives and there passed away. There were three children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Flack. Belle E. resides with her mother. Harry M., who married Alice Knowlton, is engaged in the coal trade as a member of the firm of W. T. Conklin & Company, of Joliet, his business being at No. 520 Jefferson street and his residence at No. 308 Osgood street. They have one child, Mortimer Edward, born August 15, 1905. Charlotte is the wife of John J. Allison, who was superintendent of schools at Joliet but is now retired. They have one child, Mary Clara, born May 9, 1905.

The death of Mr. Flack occurred August 19, 1904. He held the offices of alderman and supervisor of Joliet for several years and was a member of the library board. He took an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and gave his political allegiance to the democracy, while with the Masonic

fraternity he held membership. He also belonged to the Universalist church, of which his widow is a member. In his varied business interests he was successful and made considerable money from his real-estate investments in Joliet. He was widely known in the city and county where he lived for so many years and where his good qualities of heart and mind endeared him to a large circle of friends. Mrs. Flack now owns and occupies a nice home at No. 111 Second avenue, where she and her children reside, and she also has other residence property from which she derives a good annual rental.

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#### FRANCIS W. PLANT, A. M.

The name of Francis W. Plant has figured prominently in the history of commercial and industrial interests in Joliet and the spirit of enterprise which has actuated him in all that he has undertaken has gained him a gratifying measure of prosperity. He was born in Utica, New York, on the 13th of September, 1843, his parents being James and Hannah A. (Mason) Plant. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to John Plant, of Branford, Connecticut, who was among the volunteers in the Narragansett war and received a tract of land as bounty for military service. The next in line of descent was John Plant, Jr., of Branford, who was born in 1678 and died in 1752. He married Hannah Whedon, who was born in 1685 and died in 1754. Their son Benjamin was born in 1732 and died in 1808. He married Lorana Beckwith and lived in Branford, Connecticut. Benjamin Plant, Jr., of Utica, New York, was born in Connecticut in 1763 and died in 1812. He married Lucinda Potter, a daughter of Stephen Potter, who held a commission as captain in the war of 1812. Their son, James Plant, was the father of our subject. He was born in Utica, New York, June 17, 1798, and married Hannah Angel Mason, who traced her ancestry back to Sampson and Mary (Butterworth) Mason, of Rehoboth, Rhode Island, the former of whom died in 1676 and the latter in 1714. The next in descent were Isaac and Hannah Mason, of Rehoboth. Isaac Mason was born

in 1667 and died in 1742. His son, Nathan Mason, of Cheshire, Massachusetts, was born in 1705 and died in 1758, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Lillis Hale, died in 1797. Their son, Levi Mason, of Cheshire, Massachusetts, was born in 1750 and died in 1844. He married Amy Tilson, who was born in 1753 and died in 1844. Their son, Arnold Mason, of New Hartford, New York, was born in 1777 and died in 1812, while his wife, Mercy Coman, was born in 1776 and died in 1850. This worthy couple were the parents of Mrs. Plant, the mother of our subject. After entering business life, James Plant followed farming near that city until its growth enabled him to plat his land and sell town lots, which are now in the center of the city. He died January 5, 1860, while his wife, who was born May 19, 1812, passed away August 1, 1890. In their family were two children: Helen, the wife of T. D. Catlin, of Ottawa, Illinois; and Francis W., of this review.

The latter was provided with liberal educational privileges. He supplemented his early training by study in Utica Academy, from which he was graduated in the class of 1860 and from Hamilton College, at Clinton, New York, in 1864, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Subsequently his alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. He was a classmate of Elihu Root, afterward secretary of war and governor general of the Philippines. His collegiate course completed, Mr. Plant spent two years in connection with a bank at Utica, after which he engaged in the book and stationery business as a member of the firm of Davis, Gilbert & Plant. Thinking to enjoy still better business opportunities in the middle west, he removed from Utica to Joliet in 1869 and joined T. A. Mason and H. B. Plant in the lumber business. Later the firm became F. W. & H. B. Plant, and they engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds and also built up an extensive planing-mill business. This became one of the important industrial concerns of the city with a large and growing trade, the success of the enterprise being attributable in no small degree to the executive force and business discernment of Frank W. Plant. For years he was also president of the Peoples Building & Loan Association, and he is now connected with the Chicago Telephone Company as solicitor.

In Brooklyn, New York, on the 16th of October, 1866, Mr. Plant was married to Miss Elizabeth Merle, who was born in New York city, November 17, 1845, and died April 23, 1889, at Joliet. They were the parents of five children, Helen Merle, Laura Merle, Grace Merle, James Merle, and Anna Merle. For many years Mr. Plant was a member of the vestry of Christ Episcopal church and served on the building committee at the time of the erection of the house of worship in Joliet. His political allegiance has long been given to the republican party. Since his removal to the middle west he has been an active factor in business life here and his enterprise and activity have been of utilitarian value in promoting the growth and up-building of the city, while at the same time they have proven a source of individual prosperity.

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#### JOHN JACOBS.

John Jacobs is now living retired in a beautiful home in Peotone, while he also owns three hundred and sixty acres of finely improved farming land in Will county, from which he derives a good income, which supplies him with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. Mr. Jacobs is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to this country, his birth having occurred in Hanover, May 15, 1851, a son of Henry and Catherine (Tiemann) Jacobs, the former born in Hanover in 1817. They emigrated to this country a few years after our subject arrived here and both died at his home in Peotone township, the former in 1884, while the mother survived until 1891, passing away at the age of seventy-three years. Their family numbered three sons, of whom John of this review is the youngest, the others being Henry, who is a farmer living in Manteno township, Kankakee county, where he takes an active part in political affairs and is now serving as supervisor, while William Jacobs, who followed farming in Peotone township, died at the age of fifty years, leaving a widow, who still makes her home on the farm.

John Jacobs was reared in his native country to the age of seventeen years, when, having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages offered to ambitious young men in America, he decided to try his fortune across the Atlantic. He

made his way direct to Illinois, where lived his brother Henry, who had come to this country a few years previous. Mr. Jacobs was a poor boy, having no capital when he arrived in this state, but he possessed a strong determination and a will to succeed. He soon found employment at farm labor and when he had saved a sum of money continued his journey farther west, locating in Pierce county, Nebraska, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land. He then returned to Kankakee county, Illinois, where he was married, expecting to return again to Nebraska but his plans were somewhat changed and he remained in this state. He began farming here by renting land for a few years, but in 1880 he purchased eighty acres in Peotone township, erecting thereon many modern and substantial buildings. He labored diligently and energetically in his efforts to acquire a good property and as his financial resources permitted he added to his original holdings until he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres comprised in the old homestead farm, this being operated by his son, while he owns another farm of two hundred acres, which is operated by his son-in-law. He was engaged in general agricultural pursuits through a long period, during which time he followed the most practical and modern methods of farming, using only the latest improved machinery to facilitate his labors in the care and cultivation of his crops. He made his home on the farm until four years ago, when he removed to Peotone, where he purchased one of the most beautiful homes in the city, paying for the same thirty-two hundred dollars. The house is supplied with every modern convenience and equipment and the property presents a neat and attractive appearance.

On the 20th of November, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Jacobs and Miss Margaret Schnelly, who was likewise a native of Hanover, born February 10, 1852. Her father, John Schnelly, died in Germany at the age of eighty-two years, while her mother, who bore the maiden name of Marie Marvell, was also born in the fatherland, but died at the home of her daughter in Manteno, Kankakee county, in 1880. Mrs. Jacobs has two sisters living, Mrs. Christ Wolle and Mrs. Mary Bockermann, who reside in Manteno, Illinois. She also has a half-brother, John Schelle, living in Minnesota.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have been born two daughters and one son: Emma, now the wife of Fred Simpson, who is operating one of her father's farms in Peotone township; John, who wedded Mary Hoganow and lives on the old homestead farm; and Minnie, an accomplished young lady at home. Mr. Jacobs and his family are consistent members of the German Lutheran church, of which he has been treasurer for the past fifteen years, while the daughter, Minnie, is acting as treasurer of the Sunday school. The corner-stone of the new church edifice, which was erected in 1904, bears the name of Mr. Jacobs, he being a member of the extra committee. Mr. Jacobs is a stalwart advocate of republican principles and although he has been urged to accept public office he has always refused the honor, preferring to give his time and attention to his private business interests.

In former years Mr. Jacobs worked industriously and energetically to gain a start in the world, and that his efforts have been crowned with success is indicated by the fact that he is now the owner of valuable farming property and a good home in the city, all of which has been acquired through his own well directed efforts and capable business management, for when he came as a youth to this country he had no capital, but he has worked his way upward from the bottom to the topmost round of the ladder and can now look over his past record with a feeling of just pride for what he has accomplished. He and his family are prominent in church and social circles and the hospitality of their own pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

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#### WILLIAM CROXEN.

Among the old-time settlers of Will county who in recent years have passed away but have left behind a memory that is cherished by those who knew them, was William Croxen, who was born in Northamptonshire, England, February 16, 1820, and died December 26, 1905. He was a son of Benjamin Croxen, a farmer by occupation, and in his native land he spent the first twenty-nine years of his life, coming to the United States in 1849. He lived for a year in the state of New

York, working on a farm there, after which he removed to Will county, Illinois, settling in Plainfield. There is engaged in teaming and was also employed at farm labor for a number of years, subsequently coming to Peotone township, where he took up his abode upon a farm which he had purchased and which was situated on section 30. He there had one hundred and sixty acres of land and eighty acres on section 32. Upon this farm he lived and thrived to the end of his days, carefully conducting his business interests so that success resulted, making him a substantial agriculturist of the community.

Mr. Croxen was married to Nancy Donaldson, and unto them were born two children, Hannah M. and John J. For his second wife Mr. Croxen chose Matilda Allers, who was born in Nottinghamshire, England, July 8, 1838, a daughter of William and Maria Allers, who came to the United States in 1850, spending two years in Chicago and one year in Plainfield, Illinois, after which they removed to Lockport, where they lived for seven years. Mr. Allers was a carpenter and joiner by trade and engaged in boat building. While at Lockport he worked at his trade on canal boats. After seven years there passed he removed to Kankakee county, where he resided on a farm for about twenty years, making it his home until his death, which occurred in March, 1876, when he was eighty-five years of age. He was a well-to-do man, having prospered in his undertakings as the years passed by. He belonged to the Episcopal church, was a republican in politics and held a number of local offices. For a time Mrs. Croxen kept the toll-gate on the road between Wilmington and Joliet. By his second marriage Mr. Croxen had one child, Elizabeth, now the wife of E. J. Crawford, who resides opposite her mother's home. Mrs. Croxen's first husband was Arthur Croxen, a brother of William. There were five children of that marriage: Benjamin, who is with L. M. Arnold in Peotone; Esther, the wife of John Paulis, of Peotone township; Sarah, deceased; George, who is operating the home place; and Henry, who is in Chicago with the Sears-Roebuck Company.

In his political views William Croxen was a republican and served as school director but was never active in politics as an office seeker. He held membership in the Episcopal church, of







WILLIAM CROCKETT





MRS. MATILDA CROXEN



which Mrs. Croxen is also a communicant, and in the locality where he resided he had a wide and favorable acquaintance. His was a long and useful life, covering a period of eighty-five years and his name is now associated with the memory of an upright career, characterized by worthy and honorable principles and conduct.

#### PHILIP DIETER.

Philip Dieter, who is living retired on his farm of eighty acres, situated on section 21, Lockport township, is a native of Germany, born near the banks of the Rhine, in 1837. His father, John Dieter, was likewise a native of the fatherland, and in March, 1854, crossed the Atlantic to the United States. During the trip he cooked his own meals on shipboard and was forty-two days in making the voyage. Landing in New York, he at once made his way to Chicago, Illinois, and from there went to Naperville, where lived an uncle, Valentine Dieter, with whom he remained during the succeeding summer, and in the fall of that year he made his way to Will county and purchased the farm in Lockport township which is now owned and occupied by our subject. He was married in Germany to Miss Anna Miri, and they became the parents of seven children, as follows: Philip, of this review; Conrad, who is a resident of eastern Texas, having been the first settler in his section of the state, there being no settlement nearer than thirty miles, and who conducted a blacksmith and shoe-making business; John, a retired farmer of Humphrey, Nebraska; Adam, who has not been heard from in many years, but who is supposed to have gone to Cuba during the war and was there killed; Jacob, who is now living retired at Reynolds, Indiana; Susan, the wife of John Gardner, a resident of Chicago; and Margaret, who died in 1867 of cholera. The father died in the fall of 1867 of cholera, his death occurring only twenty-four hours after the death of their youngest daughter, while the mother survived for many years and passed away in Nebraska, when on a visit to her sons John and Conrad. The father gave his political allegiance to the democracy and both he and his wife were communicants of the Catholic church.

Philip Dieter acquired his education in the schools of Germany and was a youth of seventeen when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. After the family home was established in Will county, he was employed by others in his locality until 1864, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining his company at Joliet in March of that year, becoming a member of Battery I, Second Illinois Light Artillery. He served his adopted country until June, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois.

Following his return to Will county from the war, he was employed near his home until the spring of 1866, when he was made guard at the Joliet penitentiary, being thus engaged for two years, when, in 1868, in that city, he was united in marriage to Miss Magdalena Dezel, who was likewise a native of Germany. Following their marriage, the young couple located on his father's old homestead property, he buying the interest of the other heirs in the place, and here through their united efforts they acquired a comfortable competence. As opportunity offered he invested in land from time to time until he became the possessor of considerable farm property, but he has since given forty acres to each of his sons, but retains the ownership of eighty acres, situated on section 21, Lockport township, on which he is living retired, his son Philip now operating the property.

Unto our subject and his wife were born two sons and one daughter. John, the eldest, is a resident of Dwight, Illinois. Philip, who operates the old homestead, was married to Miss Bertha Hagmayer, who was born in 1880, a daughter of Albert and Lena Hagmayer, of Joliet, but both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Dieter are the parents of four children: Louisa, Linda, Leonard and Clarence. Lizzie Dieter is now the wife of William J. Geist, a resident of Aurora, Illinois. The mother of these children passed away on the home farm, February 17, 1900, at the age of sixty-eight years. She was a kind and devoted mother and an esteemed neighbor and friend and her loss was deeply felt by all who knew her. She was a communicant of the Catholic church, while Mr. Dieter also adheres to that faith.

Mr. Dieter possesses the traits of character so dominant in the German race and through his hon-

esty and industry has accumulated a competence that now enables him to enjoy the evening of his life in honorable retirement. He is highly esteemed by all who know him, and having lived for more than a half century in Will county has a very wide acquaintance and a host of warm personal friends.

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### JOHN JACOB WALZ.

John Jacob Walz is residing in a nice home in Joliet, having retired from business life, and he is now merely giving supervision to his invested interests. He is a large landowner of Will county, the rental of his property supplying himself and family with all the comforts of life, so that he can spend the evening of his life in honorable retirement. Mr. Walz was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1836, a son of Daniel and Margaret (Calmbach) Walz. The father was born in Walldorf, Wurtemberg, January 12, 1812, and his death occurred in 1884. He was a weaver by trade, manufacturing all kinds of cloth with a hand loom. He owned a small tract of land, on which he raised enough grain to provide a living for himself and family. Mrs. Walz was born in Wurtemberg in 1813, and her death occurred in 1867. They were devoted members of the German Lutheran church, and their family numbered three children: John Jacob, of this review; George Daniel, a brewer by trade, who also came to America and passed away in New Jersey; and John George, who resides on the old family homestead in Germany and is now mayor of his home town.

John J. Walz was educated in the schools of his native country and there remained until he had reached the age of eighteen years, when, having heard favorable reports concerning the opportunities which were offered to young men of ambition in the new world, he decided to try his fortune in America, and accordingly in 1854, he crossed the Atlantic on an old-time sailing vessel. Reaching New York, he there remained for nine months, after which he went to Connecticut, where he secured employment on a farm, receiving for his services the meager sum of eight dollars per month. He later, however, secured one hundred and fifteen dollars per year for his services

and worked in the east until 1856, when on the 9th of December, 1856, he made his way to Chicago, Illinois, where he lived for a brief period. In company with a friend he then came to Will county and took a contract to chop wood near New Lenox. He was engaged at farm labor for the various farmers of the community for several years, when, in the spring of 1863, in company with Nelson Smith he made his way to the Pacific coast, working on a fruit farm in the Sacramento valley for two summers and spent about a year in Nevada.

Returning to Illinois in 1866, he once more made his way to Will county, where he had invested in eighty acres of land purchased in 1861, his farm having been rented during his sojourn in the west. He then took up his abode on his place, and as he prospered in his undertakings added to his original holdings from time to time until he is now the owner of three hundred and seven acres in this county. He was here engaged in the development and cultivation of his land through a long period, making it one of the valuable farms of this portion of the state. He made many improvements, including the erection of a fine home and substantial outbuildings necessary on a farm. In addition to this he likewise owns a quarter interest in one hundred acres situated near Joliet, and his farm property now brings him a good annual rental. He formerly owned considerable farm land in Kansas but has disposed of this so that his possessions are now confined to Will county. In 1895 he retired from farm labor and in the spring of 1896 purchased his present fine home in Joliet, to which he then removed, making it his home continuously since that time. In addition to the home place he also owns other property in the city, including eleven houses which he erected near his home and which he rents, and also some vacant property.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Walz and Miss Henrietta Stricher, a resident of New Lenox. She was likewise born in the fatherland, her natal year being 1846. Her parents, Frederick and Sophia (Freier) Stricher, were both natives of the duchy of Mecklenburg, where they made their home until the early '50s, when they emigrated to the new world. On their arrival in Illinois the family first located in Green Garden township, Will county, but later removed to New Lenox

township, where they lived until the father was called to his final rest in 1880. Mrs. Stricher died at the home of one of her daughters.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born seven children: Adaline L. is the wife of Edward Francis, who resides on the old John Francis farm. George Albert, who is now operating his father's old homestead farm on section 27, New Lenox township, wedded Jessie Cooper, a daughter of N. P. Cooper. Florence Elizabeth pursued a course of study at Dennison College, in Ohio, and is now at home with her parents. Estella Henrietta is a graduate of the Joliet high school. Frank H., Sadie A. and Arthur L. are all deceased.

Mr. Walz has filled a number of public offices, having served as highway commissioner, supervisor and assessor, while for a long period he acted as school director and also trustee, the cause of education finding in him a warm and helpful friend. Mr. Walz is fond of travel and has spent two winters in Florida. He and his family are highly esteemed people, well known in Joliet, where they occupy a nice home at No. 607 Brown avenue.

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### JACOB J. HARTONG.

Jacob J. Hartong is one of the worthy citizens of Will county, now living retired in a pleasant home in Plainfield, where he is spending the evening of his days in well merited rest, for his labors in connection with agricultural interests in former years have placed him in possession of a fine farm in Plainfield township, from which he derives an income sufficient to supply him with all the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Hartong was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1830, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rich) Hartong, who were natives of the Keystone state, whence they removed to Ohio at a very early day. The father was a weaver by trade, but during his later years engaged in agricultural pursuits. Both he and his wife passed away many years ago. Their family numbered twelve children, but only four sons and one daughter now survive, the brothers of our subject being Jonathan, Levi and Frank Hartong, all of whom re-

side in Plainfield, while the sister, Liddie Thornton, is a widow and resides in Indiana.

Jacob J. Hartong was reared and educated in Summit county, Ohio, and it was there that he began farming on his own account. He was married in the Buckeye state, first to Miss Mary Beard, who was likewise a native of Summit county. She died in that state in 1859, when still a young woman, leaving four children: Mary E., who is now the wife of William D. Jones, a resident of Oklahoma; Martha Almeda, the widow of George Stoner and a resident of Naperville, Illinois; Henry J., who died at the age of nine years; and one son, who died in infancy. Mr. Hartong was married a second time in Ohio to Magdalena Gardner, a native of Summit county. She died in Will county on Christmas day of 1902, at the age of fifty-nine years and two months. Five children were born of this marriage, but the youngest, a son, died in infancy. Those surviving are: William H., a resident of Plainfield township; Elias G., who wedded Alferetta Schott, by whom he has two children, and who is now operating his father's farm in Plainfield township; Charles V., who is a farmer residing near Arthur, Iowa, and who is married and has five children; and Martin F., who is married and has two children, and is in the street car service at Aurora.

It was subsequent to his second marriage that Mr. Hartong left his native state and came to Illinois, the year of his arrival in this state being 1861. He first purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Plainfield township, situated on the Joliet road, and was actively engaged in its cultivation for seven years. He then sold that place and bought two hundred and six acres in Manhattan township, where he lived for thirteen years. On disposing of that property he purchased one hundred and seventy-four acres on the Joliet road in Plainfield township, which he still owns. He was practical and progressive in his methods of farm work, so that his labors brought to him a desirable success, thus placing him in very comfortable circumstances. Retiring from active business life, he removed to the village of Plainfield, where he has made his home for the past sixteen years. He still owns his farm property, which is now operated by his son Elias. He has ever been interested in advancement along agricultural lines and has not only been a wit-



ness, but an active participant in the progress that has been made in this connection in Plainfield township. In his political affiliations Mr. Hartong is identified with the republican party, while his religious views are indicated by his membership with the Evangelical Association of Plainfield.

#### GEORGE H. WOODRUFF.

In the annals of Will county no name is entitled to more lasting remembrance than that of Mr. Woodruff, who was one of its pioneers and is well known as its historian. A fluent writer, he put in permanent form for the benefit of future generations, many incidents connected with the early history of the county and its brave pioneers. Among his works are "History of the Black Hawk War"; "Patriotism of Will County," a record of the men from here who took part in the war with the south; "Will County on the Pacific Slopes," which gave sketches of the men who went to California during the gold excitement of 1849-51; and "Woodruff's History of Will County."

The first home of the Woodruff family in America was in Connecticut, and later generations lived in New York. In the latter state Theor Woodruff was born and spent much of his life, engaging in business as a manufacturer of scythes and edged tools, but at an advanced age he came to this county, joining his son in Joliet and remaining here until his death. His son, the subject of this sketch, was born in Clinton, New York, August 16, 1814, and was one of three children, of whom the other son died in boyhood, and the daughter, Adele, wife of M. H. Demmond, died in New York.

George H. Woodruff was educated in Hamilton College, at Clinton, from which he graduated at eighteen years. In the summer of 1834 he came to Joliet with his brother-in-law, Mr. Demmond, for whom he clerked in the general mercantile business. Prior to 1840 he established the Pioneer drug store on Bluff, between Exchange street and Western avenue, and afterward for many years had his place of business at the corner of Bluff and Exchange, continuing there until his death. He was the first circuit clerk and recorder

of the county and also held the office of county judge at one time. He assisted in the organization of the First Presbyterian church and long held office as its treasurer. A staunch believer in republican principles, he voted with that party after its organization. After having been in poor health for three years he died November 1, 1890, fifty-six years after his arrival in the then frontier town of Joliet.

The first wife of Mr. Woodruff, Hannah (Lucas) Woodruff, was born in New York and died in Joliet, leaving three children. The son, Henry Theor Woodruff, was graduated at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and died in Harvard, Illinois, in 1900. During the Civil war he was surgeon of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry and remained at the front until the close of the war, with the exception of the time when he was imprisoned in Libby. The daughters are Annie Mary, now a teacher in Mary Allen Seminary, Crockett, Texas, her home being in Rochester, New York; and Julia H., teacher of mathematics in the Joliet township high school.

Mr. Woodruff's last marriage united him, in Joliet, in 1857, with Mrs. Achsah (Wheeler) Perkins, who was born in Berkshire, Massachusetts, and is still living at the age of eighty-three years. Her father, Harry Wheeler, a native of Massachusetts, served in the war of 1812. Late in life he moved west to Illinois and established a lumber and nursery business in Aurora, from which city he came to Joliet, and died here at the age of ninety-two. His father, Benjamin Wheeler, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a member of the Massachusetts legislature. The latter's wife bore the maiden name of Achsah Johnson. The mother of Mrs. Woodruff was Clarissa, daughter of Elisha and Alice (Freeman) Harman, the former of whom was a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and a life-long resident there. Mrs. Woodruff is one of three children, having two brothers: Henry, who died in Aurora; and Mark H., who served in a Connecticut regiment during the Civil war until he was killed in the storming of Port Hudson. When a girl Mrs. Woodruff was a student at Mount Holyoke Seminary, graduating in 1848. Soon afterward she became the wife of Dr. John P. Perkins, a graduate of the Albany Medical College. They came to Joliet in 1856, and the Doctor





GEORGE H. WOODRUFF.



died in this city while still a young man. Afterward Mrs. Perkins was married to Mr. Woodruff, by whom she had two sons, namely: George F., who is associated in business with his brother; and Harry Wheeler, whose sketch follows this.

We can not more appropriately close this memoir than with the presentation of "Israel's Prayer," by Mr. Woodruff, as it appears in "Bitter Sweet":

Our father's God! To Thee we come once more,  
With united voice and heart, to offer  
Thanks and prayer. Thanks for the past, whether  
Of good, or seeming ill. Thanks that we meet  
Once more beneath the old roof! Our Father!  
Forgive our sin, for sin is ours, we dare  
Not lay it at Thy door! Our Father, give  
Us humility! May we not presume  
To comprehend Thee or Thy way so full  
Of mystery! We only ask light enough  
To guide us to Thee! We ask strength that  
May overcome our weakness and resist  
Temptation, and strong grow in virtue.  
Give us faith! Faith in Thyself and in Thy  
Wisdom, power and love and holiness,  
And in Thy purposes of good to man.  
Father, in Thy Son, and in His sacrifice;  
Father in heaven and in joy eternal  
In store for all who Thy dear Son accept.  
Give us love! Love supreme and reverent  
To Thyself!—to each other tender and  
Patient, and to the world, outside Thy fold,  
Pitiful and helpful.

And now once more  
We lie down to sleep, safe under Thy wing.  
May we wake rested and with thankful heart!  
And when we take our last deep sleep may we wake  
In heaven! We ask all in Christ's dear name.

Amen!

#### HARRY WHEELER WOODRUFF, M. D.

Dr. Harry Wheeler Woodruff is a well known representative of professional ranks in Joliet, where he is engaged in successful practice as an oculist and aurist. He was born in this city February 18, 1868. His father, George H. Woodruff, was a native of Clinton, New York, born in 1814,

and in the year 1834 became a resident of Joliet when the now thriving city was a mere hamlet. For several years he engaged in clerking in the general store owned by Martin H. Demmond and later he engaged in the drug business on his own account. He was for many years one of the most distinguished and honored citizens of Will county and a more fitting memorial of his life, its virtues and its accomplishments is given on another page of this work.

Dr. Woodruff, entering the public schools of Joliet at the usual age, passed through successive grades until he had completed the high school course by graduation with the class of 1886. Preparing for a business career, he was graduated from the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1889 and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago in the class of 1892. He acted as interne in the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary in 1892-3, after which he came to Joliet, where he has since successfully engaged in practice. He belongs to the Will County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the Chicago Ophthalmological Society, and the Chicago Medical Society, and is a member of the staff of the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary of Chicago and of the Chicago Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat College. In the line of his specialty he has gained considerable disinction, his ability being widely acknowledged by the profession as well as the general public. He has continually kept abreast with the advanced thought of the profession, promoting his knowledge and efficiency through constant reading and investigation, and he has few equals in the line of his specialty in this part of the state.

Dr. Woodruff was married to Miss Jennie L. Coventry of Deerfield, New York, on the 25th of June, 1895. She is a daughter of Robert Coventry and a great-granddaughter of Alexander Coventry, who was the founder of the Coventry family in this country at one time the president of the New York State Medical Society. Dr. and Mrs. Woodruff have four children: George H., Robert C., Lewis W. and Katherine, aged, respectively, ten, eight, five and four years.

Dr. Woodruff in his social relations is connected with the Union and the Commercial clubs. He is a gentleman of genial, pleasant manner, of laudable ambition and strong and earnest pur-

pose, and has made consecutive advancement in a profession which demands strong intellectuality, close application and unflinching zeal.

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#### EDWARD H. FEDDE.

Edward H. Fedde is numbered among the most successful business men of Peotone, where he is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, having one of the largest establishments of its kind in Will county, while he is also manager and vice-president of the Peotone Electric Light Company, of which William Yung is the president, these two gentlemen owning the entire stock of the company.

Mr. Fedde is a native son of Illinois and comes of German ancestry. His birth occurred in Mokena, Kankakee county, February 13, 1867. His father, Henry Fedde, who was born in Germany, came to America when a young man and engaged in working at his trade, that of a cabinet-maker, in Joliet. After a residence of eight years in that city he removed to Mokena, Illinois, where he continued to work at his trade until 1868, when he came to Peotone and established a furniture and undertaking business. In 1883 his building and stock were destroyed by fire, but he later rebuilt and carried on business operation until he disposed of his stock to his sons, who conducted the store, although the father remained a silent partner in the business until the time of his death, which occurred in 1889, when he had reached the age of sixty-seven years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Hecht, was also born in Germany, whence she came with her parents to this country. She survived her husband for a long period and passed away in a hospital at Chicago, September 24, 1906.

Edward H. Fedde is the eldest of the three children of his father's family. One son died in infancy, while John, who was a partner of our subject, passed away December 4, 1900. Edward H. Fedde was only a year old when he was brought to Peotone by his parents, and here the days of his boyhood and youth were passed, while in the public schools he acquired his education. He also spent one year in the Metropolitan Business College, in Chicago, where he received the training

which fitted him to enter the business world, at which time he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business with his brother John, while upon the death of the latter he became sole owner and proprietor. He carries a complete line of furniture and undertaking goods, having the largest store of its kind in Peotone. By his courteous manner, strict business methods and reasonable prices he has won a large patronage, not only in Peotone, but in the surrounding districts as well. He is popular in business circles and is numbered among the leading merchants of Will county. Mr. Fedde has also found time and opportunity for the development of other business enterprises, having in 1894 been instrumental in the organization of the Electric Light Company of Peotone, in which he became a large stockholder, while in 1902 the entire stock was purchased by Mr. Fedde and William Yung, who is acting as president, while Mr. Fedde is vice-president and manager. They have a contract for lighting the city, the business houses and many private residences and employ an expert electrician, C. A. Stewart, who has charge of the working of the plant.

In 1889 occurred the marriage of Mr. Fedde and Miss Lizzie Conrad, a daughter of Peter Conrad, one of Peotone's pioneer business men. Their home has been blessed with one son and two daughters: Harry, Ruth and Catherine. The parents are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church. Mr. Fedde gives his political support to the republican party, but has never been an aspirant for public office, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his private business interests. His fraternal relations are with the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The family occupy a beautiful residence and their home is noted for its warm-hearted and gracious hospitality.

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#### CHARLES F. GOODSPEED.

Charles F. Goodspeed, manager of the Will County Abstract Company at Joliet, his native city, was born August 26, 1860, and was a son of Judge Francis and Lucretia I. (Knox) Goodspeed. He was educated in the schools of Joliet, in Chicago University and in Knox College, at

Galesburg, Illinois, and when his more specifically literary education was completed he pursued a course in Bloomington Law School, from which he was graduated in 1882. He was admitted to the bar on the 15th of June of that year and has since practiced his profession, paying particular attention at the present time to probate business and land titles. For several years, however, he continued in the general practice of law and on abandoning it he became the manager of the Will County Abstract Company in 1900, purchasing the controlling interest in the business. He has full charge of the business, which was established in 1893. The company occupies offices at No. 120 North Ottawa street, in the Commercial Club building, which is a modern structure, thoroughly up-to-date. Mr. Goodspeed employs eight people to take charge of the office business, which is steadily growing, being the leading abstract business of the county.

On the 24th of October, 1883, was celebrated the marriage of Charles F. Goodspeed and Miss Hester A. Beedy, of Peotone, Illinois, and they have two sons: Frank, born September 2, 1884; and Nathan Lee, born January 1, 1887.

Mr. Goodspeed has taken an active interest in politics as an earnest and unfaltering republican. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise identified with the Union League Club and with the Commercial Club, and his contemporaries acknowledge him one of the leading business men of the city, having a wide and favorable acquaintance in professional and financial circles, his name being an honored one on commercial paper.

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#### HUGH E. CORBETT.

Hugh E. Corbett, attorney-at-law of Joliet, was born on a farm in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1871, his parents being Thomas and Ellen (Kane) Corbett. The father was a farmer by occupation and is now living in Chatsworth, Illinois. In the family were eight children, of whom four are living: Julia, who resides with her parents; John C., who is engaged in the grain, coal and lumber trade at Chatsworth and is vice president of the

Commercial National Bank there; Hugh E., of this review; and James A., who is located at Philo, Illinois, being manager of three banks—one at Philo, one at Fairland and one at Tolono, Illinois.

Hugh E. Corbett attended the country schools and is a graduate of the Chatsworth high school. He remained upon the home farm until 1889, in which year the family removed to Chatsworth, and after completing his studies there he pursued a business, teacher's and scientific course at Valparaiso, Indiana. He afterward taught for three years and then returned to Valparaiso, being graduated from that school. He likewise spent a year in the office of A. C. Norton, a leading attorney of Pontiac, Illinois, and later located for practice at Elkhart, Indiana, where he formed a partnership with Charles F. Waltz, remaining a member of the bar at that place for six years. He was chairman of the democratic county committee and of the democratic central committee while in Elkhart, and was prominent and influential in public life and in professional circles. In a profession where advancement depends entirely upon individual merit he made steady progress. The favorable judgment which the world passed upon him at the outset of his career has in no degree been set aside or modified, but, on the contrary, has been strengthened as the years have gone by, and he has demonstrated in the courts his strong and cogent reasoning and his familiarity with law and precedent. His position in public regard in Elkhart was indicated by the following, which appeared in a republican paper when he decided to leave that city:

"Hugh E. Corbett has decided to leave Elkhart. This will be unpleasant news to those who know Mr. Corbett and who appreciate the value to a community of men of such character and purposes. Mr. Corbett has proved himself a young man of ability, honor, public spirit and high character. Such young men are necessary in all cities, and the more of them a city has the better its standing in the state. Mr. Corbett will go to Joliet, Illinois, to practice his profession and has what seems to his friends an exceptionally good opportunity."

In 1904 Mr. Corbett came to Joliet and formed a law partnership with E. Meers. He soon won recognition here as an able member of the bar and



much important litigation has been entrusted to him, the clientage of the firm being large and of a distinctively representative character. He has always figured prominently in political circles and in 1906 was a candidate of his party for the office of county judge of Will county.

On the 14th of August, 1900, Mr. Corbett was married to Miss Agnes M. Murdock, of Elkhart, Indiana, and they have two children, Louise and George. He owns his own home and other property in the city of Joliet and fraternally he is connected with the Elks and the Knights of Columbus here. He manifests a public-spirited interest in citizenship and stands for progress in municipal and national affairs. The greater part of his time and attention, however, are given to his profession, and in the trial of a case he manifests definite thought, clear conception and logical reasoning—qualities which are essential to the conduct of successful litigation.

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#### FRED W. WALTER.

Fred W. Walter, attorney at law with offices at No. 317 Jefferson street, Joliet, was born in Lockport in 1870, so that he is a native son of Will county. He has found within its borders good business opportunities and in a profession where success depends entirely upon individual merit has gained a creditable name and place.

His father, M. Walter, an old-time resident of Will county, who for many years was engaged in the grocery business here, came to Illinois about 1854, locating for a time at St. Charles. About 1860 he removed to Lockport and while living there enlisted in the Mercantile Battery as a defender of the Union cause, serving until the fall of 1864. He then returned to Lemont, where he worked for Charles Boyer. About 1870 he embarked in the grocery business on his own account at Lockport, where he has since conducted his store, being now one of the old merchants of the town and one of its most successful and reliable business men. He was born in Germany sixty-eight years ago. His first wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Pitts, died about sixteen years ago. Her father was a great hunter at an early day as was his son, Nicholas Pitts, now

deceased, and his grandsons have followed in his footsteps in this direction, one of them, John Pitts, being now well known as a hunter. Mr. and Mrs. Walter had four sons and five daughters: Fred W.; John, who is now postmaster of Lockport; Frank and Robert, who are also residents of Lockport; Mrs. C. N. Ladd, of Auburn Park, Chicago; Mrs. C. W. Kiplinger, of Vicksburg, Mississippi; Mrs. Howard Norton, of Lockport; and two sisters who died in recent years. All of the children were born at Lockport.

Fred W. Walter was reared in his native town and at the usual age entered the public schools, passing through successive grades until he had completed the high school course. Later he spent two years in pursuing a special course of study in Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, after which he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he pursued a law course in the State University being graduated in 1893. He was then admitted to the bar of Illinois and immediately opened an office for practice in Joliet. In 1896 he became associated as a partner with Messrs. Higgins and Akin. On the election of Mr. Akin to the position of attorney general of the state of Illinois the firm dissolved and Mr. Walter has since been associated with Mr. Higgins as general practitioners of law under the firm style of Higgins & Walter. They have been accorded a distinctively representative clientage and have been connected with much important litigation tried in the courts of this district. In 1905 Mr. Walter was elected city attorney of Lockport for a two years' term. Prior to that time he served for seven years as village attorney and when Lockport became a city he was elected the first city attorney.

Mr. Walter was married in Bismarck, Michigan, in 1896, to Miss Mildred W. Walsh, of that city. They have two daughters, Mildred B. and Lowell, aged, respectively, eight and two years. Lowell is a family name, Mrs. Walter's mother having been descended from the Lowells of Massachusetts.

In his political views Mr. Walter is a republican and has taken an active part in support of the principles in which he believes. Socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the blue lodge at Lockport, and he also belongs to the Order of the White Cross of Joliet and to the Commercial Club. His time and attention,



however, are chiefly given to his profession and since becoming an active member of the bar he has prepared his cases with great thoroughness and care and by reason of his thorough understanding of the principles of the law has presented his cause with clearness, cogency and force.

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### NEEDHAM P. COOPER.

Needham P. Cooper, a retired farmer living on a fine tract of land of three hundred and fifty acres, a part of which constitutes the old Cooper homestead, situated in New Lenox township, one mile north of the village of New Lenox, represents one of the early pioneer families of Will county. His birth occurred in Brown county, Ohio, in 1833, a son of John and Lydia (Perry) Cooper, both of whom were likewise natives of the Buckeye state. The former was born in 1800 and died in Will county in 1875, while the latter was born in 1807 and died in 1854. The father followed the occupation of farming in Will county throughout his active business career, and through his diligence, enterprise and capable management he accumulated a large tract of land, giving to each of his children a tract of one hundred and eighty acres, the old homestead farm being now the home of the son whose name heads this sketch. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cooper were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church and were among the most highly respected pioneer residents of this section of the state.

Needham P. Cooper was reared to the occupation of farming, assisting his father in carrying on the work of the fields during the summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools. He received as a gift from his father one hundred and eighty acres of land in Will county, and at the age of twenty-one years he started out in life upon an independent business career. After operating his farm for some time he exchanged it for the old homestead property, and our subject there took up his abode, and this has continued to be his home to the present time. He has added to his original holdings until today he is in possession of three hundred and fifty acres of well improved and valuable land. He was for many years ac-

tively identified with the actual work of carrying on the farm, but his labors have resulted in the acquirement of a competence which now enables him to enjoy an honorable and well earned rest, while the farm is being operated by his son-in-law.

On the 26th of June, 1856, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cooper and Margaret L. Francis, who was born in New Lenox township, in 1834, on a farm adjoining that on which Mr. Cooper was reared. She was a daughter of Abraham and Mary Jane (Davidson) Francis, who were farming people of Will county, but both are now deceased. They held membership with the Methodist Episcopal church and were highly esteemed residents of their locality. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper resided on Maple street in New Lenox for a number of years, or until he removed to his present farm, where the death of Mrs. Cooper occurred in 1900. She became the mother of four sons and three daughters: Ella died in 1858. Johnie Thompson, who was born May 28, 1860, passed away February 12, 1863. Frank Howard, who was born March 2, 1862, died November 2, 1863. Margaret L. was born July 7, 1864, and in 1884 became the wife of Thomas Doig, who is now operating her father's farm, while the latter makes his home with her. She was educated in the public schools of New Lenox and by her marriage has become the mother of a son and daughter: George C., who was born in 1885 and is now assisting his father on the farm, and Alice May, who was born in 1896 and died July 1, 1899, when a little maiden of three years. Needham Perry, who was born March 10, 1867, Allen F., born July 3, 1870, and Jessie M., born May 11, 1872, are the other members of the Cooper family.

Mr. Cooper has always taken an active and helpful interest in public affairs, and his ability being recognized by his fellow townsmen, caused him to be elected to a number of public offices. He served as assessor and constable, and in the discharge of his duties was ever prompt and reliable, so that he won the good will and confidence of his fellow men. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. There is probably no citizen of New Lenox township who is better known or who occupies a higher position in the estimation of his association than

does Mr. Cooper. He came to Will county seventy-three years ago, and since that time has been identified with its agricultural interests. Receiving from his father a good farm, he worked diligently and persistently in the management of his affairs, and as opportunity offered added to its boundaries until he is now the owner of three hundred and fifty acres of land, situated in New Lenox township, a mile from New Lenox, so that while enjoying the quiet and rest of a rural existence, he is also in close touch with the conveniences and advantages afforded by the village.

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### CLEMENT S. WITWER.

Clement S. Witwer, as president, treasurer and general manager of the Joliet Manufacturing Company, is prominently connected with an enterprise which has direct bearing upon the commercial prosperity and industrial activity of the city, in which connection he has kept in touch with the trend of modern thought and progress in the business world and manifested an aptitude for successful management that has made the concern of which he is the head a profitable industry.

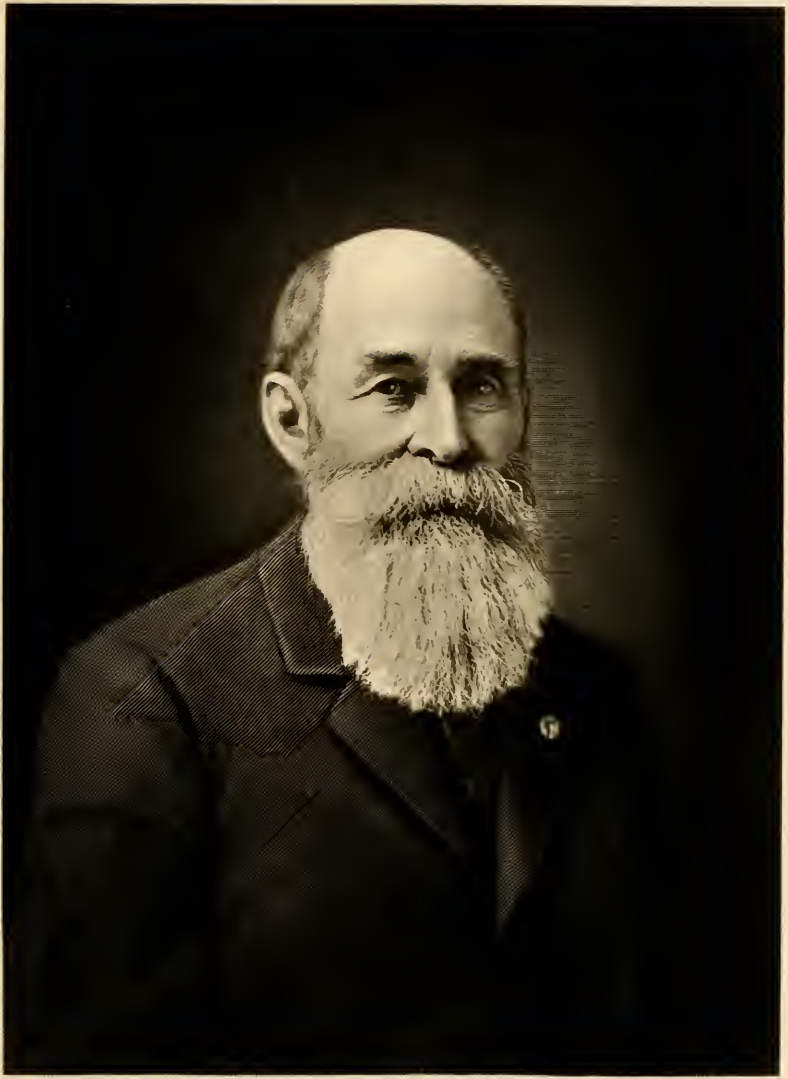
Mr. Witwer was born in Ashland county, Ohio, in 1862, and is a direct descendant of the sturdy race that more than two hundred years ago inhabited the two provinces on the banks of the upper Rhine, in Germany, which has become memorable in the annals of the two worlds. The Witwer and Sensesig connections were among the first settlers in Earl township, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, having located there in 1730. The township of Earl and the county of Lancaster were organized in 1729, and among the papers of Mr. Witwer's father was found a deed in which the name Michael Witwer appears, "From William Penn to William Sensesig," bearing date A. D. 1734.

In 1863 Clement S. Witwer accompanied his parents on their removal to La Porte county, Indiana, and in 1867 to Hamilton, Missouri, where he acquired his early education. His father conducted a general store, also handling implements and vehicles, being one of the first agents of the Studebaker Brothers' Manufacturing Company in the west. He was also a minister of the gospel

and was frequently called away from home to preach, thus rendering it necessary for his boys to work into the business when young. From the time that Clement Witwer was old enough to perform any sort of business service he either assisted his father in the store or herded cattle, and when fifteen years of age he was given five hundred dollars in cash by his employers, Dwight & Booth, of Hamilton, Missouri, and sent twenty miles on horseback to purchase cattle. Making the purchase, he drove the cattle five miles, weighed them, paid for them and drove them back to Hamilton for shipment. In 1879 he removed to South Bend, Indiana, and from that time until September, 1881, was employed by the Studebaker Brothers in the stock room and superintendent's office. In 1881 and 1882 he pursued a preparatory course in what is now Depauw University at Green Castle, Indiana, and it was the desire of his uncle, Clement Studebaker, who was paying his tuition in school, that he should continue there until his graduation, but Mr. Witwer was ambitious to make a start in the business world and left school before the completion of the regular course. He then accepted a position in the lumber department of the Studebaker Brothers' Manufacturing Company, remaining there until the fall of 1883, when he accepted a position with his brother, John S. Witwer, of Dallas, Texas, as head salesman. In 1886, however, he returned to South Bend, Indiana, and made arrangements whereby he went upon the road for Studebaker Brothers, remaining with that house until the fall of 1887.

About that time Mr. Witwer was united in marriage to Miss Mary Elizabeth Shreffler, the only daughter of Andrew H. Shreffler, who was at that time the president, treasurer and principal stockholder of the Joliet Manufacturing Company, while at the time of his death he was the oldest manufacturer of Will county. Two children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Witwer: Irene, who was born July 17, 1890, and died September 30, 1891; and Andrew Hafer Shreffler Witwer, who will be thirteen years of age on the 21st of February, 1907.

Mr. Witwer removed to Joliet, Illinois, in October, 1887, became interested in the Joliet Manufacturing Company and from that date until 1896 was the general superintendent. In 1896 the



A. H. Schreffler



president, Mr. Shreffler, died and at his request Mrs. Witwer assumed the title of president and treasurer of the company, although the active business of the concern was performed by Mr. Witwer, who after Mr. Shreffler's death was made vice president and general manager. Mrs. Witwer died October 20, 1905, and the present officers of the company are C. S. Witwer, president, treasurer and general manager; T. W. Witwer, vice president; Floyd W. Mohler, secretary; and W. J. Steckel, superintendent.

Mr. Witwer was a member of the South Bend Light Guards in the early '80's, being mustered in by Captain J. G. Greenwald, who swore the troops into service for three years. He is also a member of the Union League and the Commercial Clubs of Joliet and the Hamilton Club of Chicago. He has never united with any church but is a regular attendant at divine service and is a trustee of the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal church of Joliet, while to various churches and benevolent institutions he is a liberal contributor. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he cast his first presidential ballot for James G. Blaine in 1884 he has been a stalwart republican. He has never held a political office, although urged frequently by his friends to accept honors from his party, and at different times has been strongly spoken of by party leaders in Joliet in connection with the nomination for mayor. He has declined all political honors, however, because of personal interests, believing he could better serve his fellow countrymen by promoting material prosperity and creating employment for labor.

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#### WILLIAM W. ARMSTRONG.

William W. Armstrong, chief of the fire department of Joliet, was born upon a farm in Mitchell county, Iowa, August 27, 1865, and is a son of Jacob and Harriet (Laraway) Armstrong. The father's birth occurred near Albany, New York, and the mother was born near Syracuse, that state. They came to Illinois at an early day and were married in Joliet, subsequent to which time they removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, where they settled upon a farm. For many years they re-

sided upon a farm in Worth county and are now residents of the town of Plymouth, in that county. While living in Joliet the father was an employe at the Taylor rock quarry, where was employed prison labor, Mr. Armstrong acting as guard over the prisoners. The greater part of his life, however, has been spent upon a farm. In the family were twelve children, of whom two died in infancy, while one passed away later in life.

William W. Armstrong is the fifth member of the family and upon the home farm he was reared, while in the country schools he acquired his education. He remained upon the farm until he was in his twentieth year, when, in August, 1886, he came to Joliet and for a short period was an employe in Stevens' cedar mill. Later he was with the firm of Lambert & Bishops, in the wire mill, where he remained until August, 1888, when he joined the Joliet fire department under Frank Kramer, who was then its chief, while John D. Paige was mayor of the city. He served for two years and nine months, after which he resigned.

About that time Mr. Armstrong was married and removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in the Oliver wire mill for a short period, but, preferring Joliet as a place of residence, he returned to this city and after an absence of two years from the fire department he again became one of its members under John D. Paige, its chief, and Henry H. Stassen as mayor. He was made a captain and thus served until the winter of 1904, when he resigned and entered the employ of the Pullman Car Company as a conductor, running between Chicago and Colorado Springs. He remained in that position for about eight months, when he returned to his old position as captain of the fire department and on the 9th of May, 1905, he was appointed by Mayor Barr as chief of the Joliet fire department. There are five fire houses in different parts of the city under his direction and the force is equal to about ten companies. This is one of the best equipped fire departments in the United States and Chief Armstrong is to be congratulated upon the efficiency of his force and the great service he has rendered to the city. He is well qualified for the onerous duties that devolve upon him in this connection, being cool and clear headed in times of danger, thinking rapidly and utilizing his forces to the best advantage.



It was on the 25th of August, 1891, that Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Mary McCully, of Joliet, and they now have one son, William G., fourteen years of age, while they lost their only daughter, Pearl. Mr. Armstrong is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is a popular member of both organizations, a genial manner and genuine personal worth winning him the friendship and high regard of those with whom he is brought in contact.

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#### J. W. LOW.

J. W. Low is numbered among those who in recent years have contributed to the business development and progress that has made Joliet one of the leading industrial centers of this great state. He was born in Dunleith, now East Dubuque, Illinois, in 1868, and pursuing a public-school education, continued his studies until he became a high-school student at Elgin, Illinois. In early life he learned the trade of a printer and pressman, and nineteen years ago he entered the employ of Howe, Davidson & Company, of Chicago, with whom he remained as superintendent for sixteen years. In February, 1904, he became one of the organizers of the Carrier-Low Company, which was established with a capital of forty thousand dollars, with R. J. Carrier as president; William B. Gibson, secretary; and J. W. Low, treasurer and superintendent. The firm was formed for the manufacture of folding boxes, which are made from boxboard. The factory is equipped with the latest improved machinery and they have the largest gluing department in the country. The main building is seventy-five by one hundred feet and two stories in height. It is built of brick and there is also an engine and boiler room forty by sixty feet. They employ one hundred workmen in the manufacture of folding paper boxes for cereals, matches and other goods, which they supply by contract to firms, their trade extending from coast to coast. This has become a very extensive and important industry, they now having a capacity of five hundred boxes per day. The business was established in Chicago, but a year ago the plant was removed to Rockdale. They

have their own electric light plant and also a complete pumping plant. In the gluing and treating department there is considerable machinery of Mr. Low's invention. He is a practical mechanic and a thoroughly up-to-date business man, who forms original ideas and applies them in practical manner to the demands of the trade.

On the 16th of May, 1906, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Low and Miss Blanch George, of Evanston, Illinois. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained high rank, being affiliated with the lodge, chapter and commandery at Chicago.

William Gibson, also a member of the firm, was born in Montgomery, Michigan, in 1868 and was educated in Canada. After entering business life he was connected with the dry goods trade until he came to Joliet and was one of the organizers of the company of which he is now the secretary. In 1890 he removed to Chicago, where he has since resided.

Mr. Gibson was married in that city in 1899 to Miss Jennie Grant, a native of Scotland. They have three children, Inogene F., Ethel N., and William A. Mr. Gibson is also a chapter Mason and is a past master of Cleveland lodge in Chicago. Both Mr. Low and Mr. Gibson are prominent business men, well qualified for the successful conduct of the enterprise which they are now carrying on, and they have wrought along modern business lines, have recognized opportunity and utilize the means at hand toward the acquirement of desirable success.

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#### JOHN C. ALPINE.

John C. Alpine, living retired from active business, was in former years closely associated with commercial interests in Joliet. He came to this city in July, 1858, when a little lad of about six years, his birth having occurred in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 9, 1852. His parents were John and Frances (Gormley) Alpine and the latter is still a resident of Joliet. John C. Alpine was reared in this city and attended the public schools to the age of thirteen years, after which he spent two years as a student in the school conducted by Mrs. Grover. He then started in busi-



ness life, entering the employ of Augustus H. Hawk at No. 75 Jefferson street, on the 5th of September, 1867. He continued in that service until December 7, 1867, when James O. Gorman, Jr., and his father, J. O. Gorman, purchased the business from Mr. Hawk. Mr. Alpine remained in the store as clerk and partner with James O. Gorman and Catherine L. Gorman until March 1, 1906, the business being conducted under the firm style of J. O. Gorman & Company for some time.

On the 10th of January, 1888, Mr. Alpine was united in marriage to Miss Catherine L. Gorman, who was with the firm from March 25, 1876. She was born in Joliet, June 12, 1861, and was a daughter of James O. and Catherine (Furlong) Gorman. She is now the only representative of the family in Joliet. The Gormans came to this city in 1852 and James O. Gorman, Sr., entered business life here as a machinist and engineer. He acted as engineer in the old woolen mill from the time the enterprise was established until it was closed and he had formerly been engineer at different grain elevators of the town. He followed engineering all his life and remained a resident of Joliet until called to his final rest on the 20th of June, 1889, when he was seventy-one years of age. His wife had died a short time previous, passing away August 19, 1888, at the age of sixty-eight years. They were members of St. Mary's Catholic church. Unto Mr. and Mrs. James O. Gorman were born seven children: William, Louis, Richard, James O., Jr., John, Nellie and Catherine, all now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Alpine. James O. Gorman, Jr., was of the firm of J. O. Gorman & Company and died March 5, 1905, at the age of fifty-six years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Alpine were active in the business until the 1st of March, 1906, when they sold their interest to Mrs. Nettie K. Gorman. After she had acquired all the business of J. O. Gorman, deceased, the store was incorporated under the name of the J. O. Gorman Company with Mrs. Nettie K. Gorman as president.

Mr. and Mrs. Alpine have one son, John Gorman Alpine, who is fifteen years of age and is attending high school. The family home is at No. 210 Union street, where they have lived for the past fifteen years. Mr. Alpine exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. Becoming identified with

Masonry, he has taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter, council and commandery at Joliet, and is also identified with Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Chicago. He likewise belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and is a member of the Union League, the Country Club, the Commercial Club and various other social organizations. He is a gentleman of genial, courteous manner, always approachable and of kindly spirit. In business he has been alert and enterprising and his success is well merited, having resulted from careful management and keen discrimination.

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#### MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR.

Mrs. Harriet Taylor, of Joliet, is the widow of Henry Taylor, who died February 20, 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. He had been a resident of the city for about sixty years and was a native of England. When a young man, however, he went to Scotland and was married there, after which he brought his wife to the new world and established his home in Joliet. The city was at that time a small town with little commercial or industrial importance. He cast in his lot with its early settlers and his first work was in the mending of boats. Later he engaged in carpentering and subsequently was employed at building fences and in other building operations. He was a fine mechanic and erected the residence at No. 200 South Eastern avenue, which is still occupied by his widow. He purchased a strip of land there on what was then the raw prairie and lived to see it all built up with fine homes, becoming one of the populous and attractive residence districts of the city. It was he who named First avenue and Lincoln street, which thoroughfares bounded his property on the north and south. In many other ways he was closely associated with the development and growth of Joliet and he ever stood for progress and improvement along lines of substantial upbuilding.

After the loss of his first wife Mr. Taylor was again married, his second union being with Mrs. William Adderly, nee Harriet Thompson. She was born in Warwickshire, England, seventy-eight years ago and was married there to William Ad-

derly. They came to Joliet over a half century ago, bringing with them their two children, and another child was born to them in Joliet. Of the three, Ellen and Emma died in early womanhood. The other daughter is now Mrs. Inez J. Welch of Joliet. Mr. Adderly was one of the early jewelers of Joliet and had his store on Bluff street, which was for years the principal thoroughfare of the city. He continued a resident here up to the time of his death. Later his widow became the wife of Henry Taylor, with whom she traveled life's journey until they were separated by his demise on the 20th of February, 1905. Mrs. Taylor has nine great-grandchildren.

She resides at a comfortable home at No. 200 Eastern avenue and she also owns the cottage in the rear, fronting on First avenue. She has long resided in this city and has therefore seen its changes and its growth, watching its development from a small and unimportant town into a city of metropolitan proportions, with extensive business interests and with of all the evidences of a modern civilization.

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#### GENERAL PHILIP C. HAYES.

A residence of a family through many generations in one land brings a feeling of attachment and loyalty thereto which is indestructible. It is indeed the rare exception when there is found a man who has not a deep feeling for his native country, and the greater the service and sacrifice which one performs through a spirit of patriotism the greater is this attachment. Through the example of an illustrious ancestry and by reason of his devotion and public spirit in days of peace and of war, as manifest in political and military circles, the love of General Hayes for his country has constantly developed, making his service of the utmost benefit to city, state or nation, as the exigencies and opportunities of the moment require. He is, moreover, a business man of ability and enterprise and his labors in the field of journalism have been of direct benefit to Joliet. He is now living retired in the enjoyment of a well merited rest, yet he will never cease to be a public man in that his fellow townsmen will again and

again call upon him for service, which he capably renders.

George Hayes, the progenitor of the family in America, was of Scotch birth and ancestry and came to the new world in 1680, settling in Windsor, Connecticut. Of the same branch of the family to which the general belongs was President R. B. Hayes, the relationship of third cousins existing between them. Both are direct descendants of Ezekiel Hayes, the third son of Daniel Hayes, who was the eldest son of the founder of the family in America. Two of the most salient characteristics as manifest in the family are loyalty and patriotism and this has been manifest in the wars of the country, the great-grandfather of General Hayes having been one of the Revolutionary heroes, while Gaylord Hayes, father of our subject, and his brother, Ezekiel, were soldiers of the American army in the war of 1812.

Gaylord Hayes, a native of New England, wedded Mary Goodrich Humphrey and for some time they were residents of Granby, Connecticut, where the birth of General Hayes occurred on the 3d of February, 1833. In the fall of the same year, however, the parents brought their family to the west, settling near Ottawa, La Salle county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming.

The early childhood of General Hayes was spent in that locality. At the early age of twelve years he was thrown upon his own resources by the death of his parents and his lack of financial resources rendered immediate employment a necessity. When fifteen years of age he was working as a farm hand at eight dollars per month and in the winter season he worked for his board and the privilege of attending the country schools of the neighborhood. Ambitious to secure a good education, he eagerly applied himself to the mastery of the branches of learning taught in such institutions and when nineteen years of age had qualified himself for the profession of teaching. For several years he was connected as instructor with the district schools and during that period devoted his leisure hours to private study, thus preparing to enter college. He afterward attended Farm Ridge Seminary, in La Salle county, and on the 1st of September, 1855, matriculated as a student in the preparatory school at Oberlin, Ohio. A year later he became a regular student



R. C. Hayes -



in the college at that place and was graduated in September, 1860. He had determined to devote his life to the work of the ministry and when his literary education was completed he took up the study of theology, which he was diligently pursuing at the time of the opening of the Civil war. But the events which were so rapidly making history changed the course of his life.

General Hayes was a student of the signs of the times, felt deep sympathy with the abolition movement, and, noting the unrest in the south and the threats of secession, he waited almost breathlessly the outcome of those conditions. At the first call of President Lincoln for seventy-five thousand troops following the attack on Fort Sumter General Hayes enlisted as a private and when the company was formed was elected its captain, but the state had already furnished more troops than its regular quota and his company was therefore not accepted. A contemporary biographer, in speaking of the military service of General Hayes, said: In 1862 he made another attempt to enlist. He raised a company and was mustered into the United States service on the 16th of July at Columbus, Ohio. He was made captain of his company, which was assigned to the One Hundred and Third Ohio Infantry as Company F. The regiment was armed at Cincinnati, then crossed the river to Covington, where it was uniformed and furnished with other necessary supplies. Thus equipped, it marched to Fort Mitchell on the 6th of September. The people of Cincinnati and vicinity were at that time greatly excited over the threatened invasion of the enemy under the command of Kirby Smith. The One Hundred and Third took an active part in checking the advance of the foe, and in fact greatly assisted in forcing the rebel troops to beat a retreat. After pursuing the enemy for some distance, the command returned and went into camp at Snow Pond, where nearly half of the regiment were prostrated with sickness. Subsequently the One Hundred and Third was detached from the brigade and moved to Frankfort, where it went into camp on the bank of the Kentucky river.

In the early part of April, 1863, it was ordered out after independent squads of freebooters and marauding bands of mounted men. About the middle of August the national forces under Gen-

eral Burnside moved from Danville, Kentucky, across the mountains, to take part in the Tennessee campaign, the One Hundred and Third Ohio being in the command, and going by way of Stanford, Crab Orchard, Cumberland, Burnside Point, Montgomery, Lenoir and Concord. At that time Knoxville was the stronghold of the enemy, but on learning of the approach of the Union army they abandoned their fortifications there, which were quickly in possession of the advanced forces of Burnside. That march over the mountains was a most arduous one and pen can not portray the sufferings of the Union troops while thus engaged. At Knoxville the One Hundred and Third, with other regiments, was placed on cars and moved on to Henderson Station, and subsequently to Greenville, where later it joined the general advance against the enemy, then assembling at Jonesboro. The rebels were routed, but made another stand at Blue Springs, where they were attacked by the Union forces. Other gray regiments came up to bear their part in the encounter and a hot battle ensued, which resulted in the defeat of the enemy. In the early part of November the brigade to which the One Hundred and Third Ohio belonged, returned by rail to Knoxville, and during the siege of that place by Longstreet suffered the greatest hardships and privations. There the regiment took part in the sanguinary battle of Armstrong's Hill, resulting in the repulse of the rebels. The loss of the One Hundred and Third amounted to thirty-five men killed and wounded.

On the approach of General Sherman the enemy withdrew and the regiment went to Strawberry Plains and afterward to Bean Station, whence it soon returned to Strawberry Plains. On the 12th of March, 1864, it was ordered to join the pursuit of Longstreet and proceeded to Morrison, then to Mossy Creek, and later with the army advanced to Bull's Gap. Longstreet having been driven from East Tennessee, the One Hundred and Third was ordered to Chattanooga to join the forces under Sherman for service in the Atlanta campaign. They arrived on the 13th of May in front of Resaca and after the two ranking captains were killed on the following day the general took command of his troops in the charge against the enemy's works. His regiment fought gallantly and effectively, but in the desperate encounter lost



one-third of its available force. It joined in pursuit of the defeated army, marching through Cartersville and across the Chattahoochie river, and later continued on the steady and persistent advance to Atlanta, taking part in all the engagements of the brigade leading up to fall of the rebel stronghold. The next move of General Hayes' regiment was to accompany the Twenty-third Army Corps to Decatur, where it went into camp. The regiment's loss in that campaign was as heavy as its service was effective. For one hundred days it was almost constantly under fire, losing large numbers of both officers and men.

After the fall of Atlanta, General Hayes was appointed provost marshal general on the staff of General J. M. Schofield, which position he held until he was mustered out of the service. With his command he moved back to Nashville, Tennessee, marched to Pulaski, took part in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and, after the defeat of Hood's army, accompanied General Schofield to Alexandria, Virginia, and thence to Fort Fisher, North Carolina. On the 24th of February, 1865, the corps to which the general's regiment belonged arrived at Wilmington, and, after remaining there for a few days, proceeded through Kingston to Goldsboro, where it met Sherman's army, and a reunion of the soldiers was held. Thence the army resumed its march, and on the 13th of April reached Raleigh, where the One Hundred and Third remained until the 12th of June, when it was ordered to Cleveland, Ohio, and there mustered out June 22, 1865. General Hayes then at once returned to his home. His record as a soldier is a brilliant one. He was in the thickest of the fight in many of the most important engagements of the service, but was fortunate in that he escaped all injury. On the 5th of December, 1864, he was promoted from the rank of captain to that of lieutenant colonel. Meritorious service later won him the rank of colonel, and on the 13th of March, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier general. Fearless and true he led his men in many a gallant charge and won the love of those who served under him and the confidence and respect of his superior officers. Two of his brothers, Timothy E. and James H., were also in the army and the latter was severely wounded. The One Hundred and Third Ohio Regiment was at the front during the entire Atlanta campaign

and that its service was arduous is manifest by its heavy losses. It had five hundred men when it entered the campaign and at its close there remained only one hundred and ninety-six who were able to enter upon field service.

The following letter was written by General Cameron, the brigade commander, and fully testifies to the high standing of General Hayes in the army:

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,  
THIRD DIVISION, TWENTY-THIRD CORPS, BEFORE  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, July 30, 1864.  
Hon. John Brough, Governor of Ohio, Columbus,  
Ohio.

Governor:—I have much pleasure in recommending to the favorable consideration of your Excellency, Captain P. C. Hayes, One Hundred and Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Captain Hayes is, in my opinion, one of the best officers in this army. I have been familiar with the service rendered by him in the present campaign and in eastern Tennessee. I have always found him energetic, intelligent and faithful in the discharge of every duty. At two different times I have had occasion to commend him to the notice of my military superiors as most worthy of promotion for gallant service rendered on the field. I can consistently recommend Captain Hayes as worthy and well qualified to fill a higher position than his present one. His experience and efficiency as an officer would be of great value in any organization now forming, and as several new regiments are said to be raising in Ohio I ask for the captain your Excellency's most favorable consideration. I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

DANIEL CAMERON,  
Colonel Commanding Brigade.

From General Grant he received the following letter:

"Brigadier General Philip C. Hayes:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you, for gallant and meritorious service during the war, a brigadier general of volunteers by brevet.

U. S. GRANT, General.

Although a military record may be brilliant and it is an acknowledged fact that the country owes to her soldiers of the Civil war a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, one can not judge any



individual solely by a single epoch in his life history and while General Hayes' service on the field won him distinguished and well merited honors there are other phases in his record which have been equally creditable and have made him a valued citizen in days of peace. Returning to Ohio at the close of the war, he took up again the pursuits of civic life as superintendent of the public schools at Mount Vernon, acceptably serving in that capacity until the fall of 1866, when, as publisher of the *Circleville Union* at Circleville, Ohio, he entered the field of journalism. Publishing that paper until the spring of 1869, he then sold out and purchased the *Bryan Press*, which he edited until 1874. Removing to Illinois he then became owner of the *Morris Herald*, which he published continuously until 1892, when he also became owner of a controlling interest in the *Republican* of Joliet. The various papers with which he has been connected made steady and substantial progress under his guidance and had more than local weight in molding public thought and action.

General Hayes has likewise long been recognized as a leader in republican circles and his opinions have frequently been decisive factors in the councils of the republican party. In 1876 he received his party's nomination for congress as representative for the seventh district, embracing the counties of Grundy, LaSalle, Kendall and Will. He took his seat in the house on the 4th of March, 1877, and by re-election was continued there until the 4th of March, 1881. He proved an able working member of that body and was connected with much constructive legislation. His congressional record was as creditable as his military service had been and showed equal devotion to the country at large. While fearless and positive in support of his honest convictions, he does not jump at conclusions, but on the contrary shows a mind of judicial tendency in his consideration of any question from every possible standpoint.

On the 25th of January, 1865, at Oberlin, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of General Hayes and Miss Amelia Estelle Johnson, a daughter of Dr. Homer and Ann Johnson, who were descended from New England ancestry of worth and prominence. General and Mrs. Hayes became the parents of six children, of whom Jessie, Ralph W., Milo C. and Mary are still living.

They lost their first born, Carl J., and their fourth child, Georgie.

General Hayes holds membership in Bartleson post, No. 6, G. A. R., of Joliet, and is also connected with the Loyal Legion. While living in Morris, Illinois, he served for some years as commander of Darveau post, No. 329. His services are frequently called into requisition on Decoration day and other memorial occasions and he is a fluent speaker, whose oratorical power enables him to easily hold the attention of an audience. He has addressed many gatherings upon political questions as well, having been active in every political campaign from 1868 to 1900 and doing much by his speaking to strengthen and build up his party. He is the author of two books, "The History of the Hundred and Third Ohio Regiment" and "Socialism and What It Means." Such, in brief, is the life history of General Hayes. In whatever relation we find him—in the government service, in political circles, in business or in social relations—he is always the same honorable and honored gentleman, whose worth well merits the high regard which is uniformly given him.

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#### JOHN R. PITTS.

John R. Pitts, well known in commercial circles in Lockport as proprietor of a grocery store, and in political circles as a republican leader, was born in this city June 1, 1855, his parents being John and Catherine (Kirsch) Pitts. The father was a jeweler and watchmaker, who came to America from Luxemburg, Germany, the place of his nativity. He had learned his trade, however, in France, and in 1853 he sailed for the new world, taking up his abode in Lockport, where he carried on business in the line of his trade until his death in 1883. His wife survived for several years, passing away in 1891.

His son, John R. Pitts, pursued his education in the public school and afterward entered the dry goods business as a clerk in 1869. In 1872 he completed his apprenticeship at the trade of a watchmaker and jeweler and the following year he accepted a position as salesman in the dry goods store of M. Walter. In 1874 he began clerking in a grocery store owned by Mr. Walter,

in whose service he remained for sixteen years, being a most trusted and faithful employe, as is indicated by his long continuance in the position. In May, 1889, desirous of engaging in business on his own account, he opened a grocery store, which he has since successfully conducted, meeting with a goodly measure of prosperity in this undertaking. He carries a large and carefully selected line of staple and fancy groceries, his store is tastefully arranged and attractive in its appointment, and his reasonable prices and honorable dealing constitute strong elements in his success.

Mr. Pitts was married on the 3d of November, 1880, to Miss Sarah O. Felter, of Lockport, a daughter of John and Maria K. (Hawley) Felter. Her father came to Lockport as one of its earliest settlers, arriving in 1835 from Henrietta, New York, where he was born. On removing to this state he took up farming as an occupation, but later established his home in Lockport and was connected for many years with the firm of Norton & Company in their milling business. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army as a member of Company D, Fourth Illinois cavalry, and was elected captain. He served with his company throughout the entire period of hostilities and participated in many hotly contested engagements which led up to the final victories that crowned the Union arms. After the close of the war he returned home and in a short time went to the west, where he remained until his death. His wife passed away April 20, 1891. Their son, Walter H. Felter, who was in the army with the Chicago Mercantile Battery, was taken prisoner and died in Camp Ford, at Tyler, Texas.

Mr. Pitts has not only figured prominently in business circles, but has also been active and influential in community interests. At one time he was president of the village and was town clerk for four years, being the first republican elected to fill that office, for the town has a large normal democratic majority. He was also supervisor of Lockport township for four years and alderman of the village for two years, and in all these positions he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity, indicative of his public spirited citizenship. He has given unfaltering allegiance to the republican party since attaining his ma-

jority and is recognized as one of its local leaders, having many times been chosen as a delegate to the county and state conventions. He is also prominent in fraternal circles and for twelve years has been clerk from this city of camp No. 115, M. W. A., and was one of the promoters at its organization. Since the organization of a lodge of the White Cross at Lockport, he has been its recorder, and he is a member of Lockport lodge, No. 538, A. F. & A. M., and past noble grand of Lockport lodge, No. 23, I. O. O. F.; a member of the Elks lodge at Joliet; of the North American Union; of the Maccabees tent, No. 1064; and he and his wife are both connected with the Eastern Star and the Rebekah lodge, the ladies' department of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities, respectively. Mrs. Pitts is very prominent in these organizations, being deputy grand master of the district and vice grand of Fraternity lodge, No. 553, which was named by her husband. She is also connected with the Royal Neighbors and is a charter member of the White Cross, having served since its organization as treasurer with the exception of a period of two years. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are prominent socially in Lockport, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them, while the spirit of friendship, consideration and good will in their own home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pitts have been born two sons and two daughters: Stella Louise, now the wife of George H. Bush, a machinist of Lockport, by whom she has a daughter, Mildred Elizabeth; Walter John, who assists his father in the grocery business; Erma Arretta, a stenographer employed by the Illinois and Michigan Canal Company; and Clayton Arthur, attending school.

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#### LOUIS M. RUBENS.

Louis M. Rubens, who is conducting the largest coal and transfer business in Joliet, was born in Chicago June 6, 1877. His parents, Nathan James and Amelia (Goldman) Rubens, were natives of Kensington, England, and came to the United States in 1865, settling in Chicago, where they still reside. The father, who was a civil en-



L. M. RUBENS.



gineer, did a great deal of work in the navy department for the government, but is now retired. In the family were twelve children, all of whom are living: George B., an electrical engineer at Indianapolis, Indiana; Morris M., a lieutenant and the youngest officer in the United States navy at the present time; Louis M., of this review; Julius J., who is attending school in Chicago; Harry, an electrical engineer of Chicago; Claude, a civil engineer; and six daughters, five of whom are married.

Louis M. Rubens was educated in the city schools of Chicago and for eleven years after entering business life was connected with the mercantile house of Willoughby, Hill & Co., of that city. In 1899 he came to Joliet and has since engaged in his present line of business, having now the largest coal and transfer business in the city. He uses about fifteen wagons and was the first person in Joliet to introduce the covered moving van. He has wagons with a capacity of fifty thousand pounds—as much as any ordinary railroad car. His average annual output of coal amounts to about sixty thousand tons and he is interested in coal mines at Coal City, Illinois, and also at Braceville, this state.

Mr. Rubens was married on the 7th of June, 1899, to Miss Rebecca J. Goldberg of Joliet, and they have two children, Lillian M. and Charlotte G. Mr. Rubens is a member of the lodge and chapter of Masonry and is also identified with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Eagles, the Modern Woodmen and the Red Men. He is recognized as one of the active representatives of business life in Joliet and has been very successful, making steady advancement since he came to the city until he is accounted a leading merchant here and the consensus of public opinion regarding his business history is altogether favorable.

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#### HON. SYLVESTER W. RANDALL.

Hon. Sylvester W. Randall, who for years was a prominent lawyer of the Joliet bar and represented his district in the state legislature, was born in Hoosick Falls, New York, March 23, 1808. His parents were Benjamin and Polly

(Lathrop) Randall, natives of New England, whence they removed to the Empire state in 1806, the father there following the occupation of farming.

When nine years of age Sylvester W. Randall accompanied his parents on their removal to Fredonia, New York, where he attended the academy to the age of sixteen years. He then put aside his text books and began learning the lessons that come in the school of experience. He was first apprenticed to the printer's trade, with which he was closely connected until twenty years of age. He then removed to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and ambitious to enter professional life took up the study of law under George Galbraith, while later he was a student in the office of Chief Justice Thompson. He taught school and followed the printer's trade at intervals in order to make money enough to defray his expenses while preparing for the bar, and in 1834 he was admitted and entered upon active practice at Erie, Pennsylvania. He was also associate editor of the *Erie Observer* in 1873. Following his removal to Joliet, he was elected judge of the Circuit court and was also chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, where he served on the committee on banks and corporations, acting in that capacity when the charter of the Illinois Central Railroad, the Rock Island, and the Chicago & Alton Railroads were passed upon. He was recognized as one of the ablest chancery lawyers of the state and had broad and intimate knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence in all of its departments. In civil cases he presented his cause with clearness and force and in criminal cases was strong in argument and logical in his deductions. During his practice of thirty years no client of his was ever sent to the penitentiary or to the gallows. He was a fluent speaker, of marked oratorical power, and in addition to his ready gift of language he had keen perceptive power and accurately applied the principles of law to the points in litigation. He was chosen a state elector in 1860 on the Douglas ticket and was a stalwart champion of democratic principles.

Mr. Randall was married three times. In 1853 he wedded Miss Perry of Pennsylvania, who died in 1857. His second wife was Miss Stillman of Erie, Pennsylvania, who passed away in 1868. On the 5th of December, 1872, he married Miss Mar-



tha D. Risley of Will county, who was born in New Hartford, New York, and came to Illinois with her father, George Risley, in 1860. She is still living. Mr. Randall, however, passed away in 1889. He left the impress of his individuality upon the court records of Will county, where he was widely recognized as a prominent and able lawyer. He put the talents with which nature endowed him to the best possible use and left behind him an honored name and the record of a life of capable service for his fellowmen.

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### JOSEPH FRANK.

Joseph Frank is numbered among the worthy sons that Germany has furnished to Will county, and in this section of the state he has demonstrated the power of industry and perseverance as active factors in the attainment of success. He was born in Germany, March 21, 1833. His father, Erasmus Frank, was also a native of that country and was a cooper by trade. He possessed great physical strength, his prowess in that direction being unequalled by scarcely any resident of his part of the country. He died, however, when his son Joseph was only five years of age. The mother, Mrs. Margaret (Ludwick) Frank, was born in Elbach, Germany, and was a miller's daughter. She was a member of the Catholic church and died in her native country. In the family were three children: Elizabeth, now deceased; Martha; and Joseph.

In the schools of his native country Mr. Frank of this review acquired his education. He came to America in 1853, when a young man of twenty years. Having bade adieu to friends and native country, he took passage on the sailing vessel Jerome, which was three months in making the voyage. The supply of water and food became exhausted and the ship was held in quarantine in the harbor for ten days before the passengers were allowed to land. At length they first set foot on American soil at New York and Mr. Frank secured employment there at the butcher's trade at the meager salary of six dollars per month. He remained in the eastern metropolis for about a year and a half, and from New York vent to Pennsylvania, where he worked twelve

hours per day for ninety cents. He then walked sixty miles to get back to New York, after which he took ship to New Orleans, remaining for a year in the Crescent City. During that period he made several trips to Mobile. While in the south he saved from his earnings a sufficient sum of money to enable him to make his way to Chicago, where he arrived with a capital of only ten dollars. He went up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and journeyed as far as Peoria by boat, for at that time the railroad extended only from Chicago to Peoria. Mr. Frank was married in Cook county and established his home in Lemont, where he conducted a butcher shop. He was quite successful in that undertaking and as his financial resources increased he invested in land, accumulating quite a fortune. He bought three hundred and sixty acres of land in Homer township and upon this farm is now living retired.

In 1862, Mr. Frank was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Ennesser, who was born in Kellstet, Germany, August 21, 1846, a daughter of Louis and Barbara (Fernboch) Ennesser, who were likewise natives of Germany and spent their entire lives in that country. Mrs. Frank came to America in 1860 on the steamer Wanderbill, being on the ocean for one week. She came with her eldest brother, Louis, who is now living in Chicago at the age of eighty-four years and is her only relative in America. She first met her future husband at the home of Andrew Kenny, in Homer township. They were married in 1862 and became the parents of five children. Joseph, the eldest, living in Chicago at the age of forty-three years, is engaged in the ice business. George has been manager for the firm of Swift & Company, at Joliet, for twelve years. Frances is the wife of Matt Webber, of Homer township, living on one of his father's farms, and they have four children, three daughters and one son. Rosie is the wife of Ebb Carroll, of Homer township, and they have three sons and two daughters. Millie is the wife of Steve Pootz, and they have one daughter.

As the years have passed Mr. Frank has prospered in his business undertakings and has paid as high as sixty-five dollars per acre for his land. He made all of his money in the butchering business and then judiciously invested in real estate, so that he is now the owner of a very valuable farm. He is also an expert in the manufacture



of wine, making what he wants for home consumption and usually keeping about three barrels on hand. His wife is a member of the Catholic church and both are highly esteemed people, for Mr. Frank has been a most energetic man, diligent and persevering in all of his work, winning his success by reason of his own well directed labors.

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### JOHN J. HUNT.

John J. Hunt, deceased, who dated his residence in Joliet, Will county, from the 17th of July, 1851, was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits and became the owner of valuable farm property, but for several years prior to his demise lived retired in Joliet. He was born in Glastonbury, Somersetshire, England, November 7, 1832, a son of Joseph and Charlotte (Green) Hunt, both of whom were natives of the mother country and died in Lancastershire. In their family were three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Hunt remained at home until he reached the age of eighteen years and then crossed the briny deep to the land which had attracted him by its promise of broader business opportunities for the exercise of the energy and perseverance which were his dominant qualities. After landing on the Atlantic coast he made his way to the Prairie state, reaching Joliet in midsummer of 1851. He soon afterward found employment on a farm on Hickory creek, where he worked by the month for about seven years, when, desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he rented a farm belonging to William Ferguson. The following three years were spent as a renter on an estate belonging to William Hughes.

While living there Mr. Hunt was married, on the 7th of May, 1861, to Miss Olive J. Wheeler, who was born in Vermont, June 23, 1839. Her parents were David N. and Lydia (Stanley) Wheeler, also natives of the Green Mountain state, whence they came to Illinois in the '50s, settling in Frankfort township. Their family consisted of five sons and five daughters, of whom Mrs. Hunt is the eldest. For nearly two years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hunt resided upon the Hughes farm, after which they purchased

property in Manhattan township, where they made their home for thirteen years. Mr. Hunt became the owner of two hundred acres in Manhattan township, and five acres on section 22 and fifty acres on section 23, Joliet township. He broke the land and improved the fields, placing the farm under a high state of cultivation. He devoted the greater part of his life to agricultural pursuits and stock-raising and in this work was quite successful, becoming recognized as one of the leading farmers of the county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were born four children: Joseph C., who is now a merchant at Duck-er's Corner, Joliet; Mrs. Cora E. Hinckley, a resident of Chicago Heights; John W., a traveling engineer, who makes his home in Michigan City, Indiana; and Mrs. Edna E. Ingold, who is living in Joliet.

In his political views Mr. Hunt was a stalwart republican from the time when he became a naturalized American citizen. He has never sought or desired office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and energies upon his business affairs. He knew the value of earnest, persistent labor, and as the years advanced he won a place among the foremost representatives of agricultural life in Will county and at the same time made a most honorable record for business reliability. He passed away January 27, 1899, being a resident forty-eight years in the county, during which time he gained a wide and favorable acquaintance. While he had a sincere attachment for the land of his birth, he regarded America as his home and was most loyal to its institutions, having the deepest love for the republic.

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### HARVEY SHAW.

That Joliet has become one of the important industrial centers of Illinois is due not to the labors of one man, but to the aggregate endeavor of many. Among those who have been leaders in this work and have pushed forward the wheels of progress is numbered Harvey Shaw, of the Silas Shaw Brick Company. He was born in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1870, a son of Silas Shaw, who was born at Brockville, Canada, in 1836, and died at Joliet on the 28th of August, 1899, when sixty-

three years of age. The brick manufacturing enterprise with which Harvey Shaw is now connected, was established in 1854 by his grandfather, James Shaw, who came to Joliet in 1852 and was succeeded by his two sons, Silas and J. E. Shaw, who conducted the business from 1871 until 1889. In that year Silas Shaw purchased his partner's interest and remained alone in the conduct of this important and successful enterprise until his life's labors were ended in death in 1899. The business was started on a small scale for the manufacture of building brick and has steadily grown to its present capacity, which is thirty-five thousand brick per day. Employment is furnished to fifty men and the output is highly satisfactory so that a continuance of a liberal patronage is assured. Since the death of Silas Shaw the business has been continued by his two sons, Fred and Harvey. In the early days of the industry James Shaw took a contract from the British government to manufacture brick for the fort at Quebec, and from that time to the present the demand for the products of the house has continually increased and for more than a half century the trade has been conducted under the name of Shaw, the grandsons now carrying on the enterprise, which they are enlarging in its scope, at the same time keeping in touch with the progress and development that have been made along the line of brick manufacture. For a time Silas Shaw operated a brickyard at Wilmington and also established what is known as the Galesburg Brick Paving Company, conducting business in Galesburg, Illinois, for a time. The family were the first brick manufacturers in this part of the country. James Shaw died in 1872 but there was no diminution in the business and the safe, conservative policy which he followed was maintained by his sons and has been continued in turn by his grandsons, who are recognized as most reliable and enterprising men. They have eighty-three acres connected with their yards where they secure their supply of clay, and located on the line of the Rock Island Railroad.

Silas Shaw was supervisor of Joliet and was chairman of the building committee when the present courthouse was erected. He always stood for improvement and reform in matters pertaining to the general welfare and his co-operation could always be counted upon to further progres-

sive public movements. He was a stalwart republican and held membership in the Masonic fraternity and the Presbyterian church.

Silas Shaw was married in Joliet to Miss Jane Mooney, who came to this city with her father, J. W. Mooney, by boat from the state of New York at a very early day. Seven children were born unto them: Edward, who is married and lives in Seattle, Washington; Ella, the wife of J. F. Brady, of Atkinson, Nebraska; Fred K.; Bert; Harvey; Roy; and Maud A.

Harvey Shaw in connection with his other business interests is one of the stockholders in the Joliet Pottery Company, which was organized for the manufacture of pottery. He helped to build up this enterprise and his sound judgment and business force have been the impetus in its growth and success. Throughout his entire life he has been connected with the business of manufacturing brick and is thoroughly acquainted with the trade in principle and detail. While he keeps in touch with modern business methods he also manifests the same spirit of reliability and trustworthiness which has ever made the name of Shaw an honored one in business circles. In politics he is a republican and he belongs to the Masonic and Elks lodges and to the Presbyterian church.

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#### AXEL FLINT.

Axel Flint, who is now at the head of an extensive business, as a dealer in milk, cottage cheese, butter and also ice cream, which he manufactures, was born in Sweden in 1864. His father, N. N. Flint, was a native of that country, born in 1834. He came to American in 1881, locating at Lemont, where he worked as a common laborer in the rock quarry. His wife, Gertrude Flint, was also a native of Sweden and their family numbered eight children: Nils, living in Sweden; August, who is a painter of Joliet; Axel; Thomas, of Joliet; Oliver, who is alderman from the First ward of Joliet, and is in the dairy business with his two brothers, Axel and Thomas; Johanna, the wife of Peter Munson, of Joliet; Anna, who is a deaconess in Omaha, Nebraska; and Minnie, the wife of Ernest Anderson, of Joliet.

Axel Flint came to the new world about 1883. He was then a young man of nineteen years and the opportunities for more rapidly winning success in the United States caused him to bid adieu to friends and native country and come to America. After two weeks spent upon the water he landed at New York and thence made his way to Lemont, where he remained for a short time. He afterward accompanied the family on the removal to Edmonson county, Kentucky, making settlement at a place now called New Sweden. Three months later, however, he returned to Lemont, where he remained for about a year, then removing to Lockport, where he worked in the flour mills for a year. On the expiration of that period he accepted a position with Mr. Sprague, delivering milk in Joliet, for three years, after which he embarked in business on his own account, opening a store at No. 406 Collins street, where he buys and delivers milk, also buys and sells butter and manufactures ice cream. He began the business in 1891 and continued alone for a year, after which he admitted his brother Tom to a partnership. When another year had passed their brother Oliver became a member of the firm, which is known as the Flint Sanitary Milk Company. They now have an extensive trade, handling milk, cottage cheese, butter and ice cream, and they have steadily prospered, now doing a business which amounts to fifty thousand dollars annually. The excellence of their products has secured to them a liberal patronage, which is continued by reason of their fair and honorable methods and their earnest desire to please their customers. Mr. Flint has been dependent upon his own resources since coming to the new world and has made steady advance in business circles, thus winning his way to a position of affluence.

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#### JACOB BUEHLER.

Jacob Buehler, whose business life might be summed up in the one word "industry," is the owner of an excellent farm in Joliet township. A self-made man, whatever success he has achieved is due solely to his own earnest labor and indefatigable perseverance. He was born in Switzerland in 1850. His father, Ulrich Buehler, was

also a native of the land of the Alps, born in the year 1819. He was a farmer by occupation and came to America in 1867, settling in the state of New York. He was there employed as a day laborer and died from a sunstroke in 1871. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Schoh Buehler, was born in Switzerland in 1831 and her last days were passed in Chicago, where she died in 1902, having long survived her husband. They were the parents of five sons and four daughters.

Jacob Buehler spent the first nineteen years of his life in the land of his birth and attended school there as opportunity offered. He then crossed the Atlantic to the new world and lived with his father until the latter's death, after which he came to Joliet in 1872. He had heard that better business opportunities could be enjoyed in the middle west and accordingly he came to Illinois, entering the employ of Adam Warner, for whom he drove a team at a rock quarry. He afterward worked by the month as a farm hand. He lived frugally and economically, worked hard and persistently and as the years passed made steady financial progress. When he first came to America he worked at ten dollars per month and later he received fifteen dollars per month. When he had saved enough from his earnings he purchased land and has since added to his property until he now owns a valuable tract of one hundred and ten acres adjoining Joliet on the south. In connection with the cultivation of his fields he conducts a dairy and has an excellent milk route. He also owns two houses in Joliet and his own residence is a fine home, bordering what is known as the Orphans' Home *carré* line.

Mr. Buehler was married in 1875, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Engimann, who was born in Switzerland in 1853 and is a daughter of John and Eliza Engimann. Her father is now deceased and the mother is still living, her home being in Joliet. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buehler have been born a son and two daughters: Albert, who is living in Joliet and has a milk route there; Frieda, who is at home with her parents; and Mary Elizabeth, who died at fourteen years of age.

The life record of Mr. Buehler should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others who have to start out as he did. He had

no money to assist him when he began earning his own living but depended entirely on his labor, and as the years passed by he gradually advanced until he is today one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of his community, owning a valuable property adjoining Joliet.

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#### WILLIAM DOUGALL, M. D.

Dr. William Dougall, successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Joliet, was born March 1, 1842, in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His father, John Dougall, was born December 10, 1799, in Fintry, Stirlingshire, Scotland. The family name is derived from Dugall or Dughil, a son of Somerled, who died in 1164, and who was the founder of the clan of MacDougall. In 1230 A. D. the priory of Ardehatten was founded on the shores of Loch Etive, Scotland, by Duncan Dougall. The Dougalls were opposed to the claim of Robert Bruce to the throne of Scotland. This hostility arose from the murder of John, the Red Comyn, rightful heir to the throne, who was father-in-law of Alexander Dougall, the head of the clan of Dugall or MacDugalls. In 1303 a battle took place at Dalriechin, Perthshire, where Bruce was defeated and narrowly escaped capture or death, as he was being pursued by three of the most determined MacDugalls. They caught him while he was wading a ford on the River Almond, and had not the brooch which fastened his plaid given way he would have been taken prisoner. The brooch is still in possession of the clan at Dunolly.

John Dougall, father of our subject, was a leading cotton spinner in west Scotland. In 1858 he came with the other members of his family to America, settling at New Haven, Allen county, Indiana, where he died in 1874 at the age of seventy-five years. His wife, Margaret Houstoun, born January 1, 1801, in the town of Houstoun, Renfrewshire, Scotland, was a descendant of Sir Patrick Houstoun, a French Huguenot. He left France about 1585 and built Houstoun Castle, Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. John Dougall had six sons and six daughters, and eleven of the number were living at the time of her golden wedding, in 1872. She survived her husband for about four-

teen years, passing away June 17, 1888, in her eighty-eighth year.

Dr. Dougall pursued his early education in the common schools of Scotland and afterward attended, successively, the high school of Glasgow, the University of Michigan and the Chicago Medical College. He pursued at various times literary, scientific and medical courses and was graduated in Chicago with the degree of M. D. in 1868. He was reared in a scientific atmosphere and manifested some leaning toward theology. He was passionately fond of a sailor's life, however, and enjoyed such an experience for a short time when he was fifteen years of age. In 1858 he came to America with his father, who wished to retrieve his fortunes in the new world, and in Indiana Dr. Dougall aided in clearing timber land for farming. In May, 1858, he left school and made his way with his father to Fort Wayne, Indiana, after which the family home was established on a timbered farm near New Haven. He aided in the support of the family by clearing land and raising the crops of the farm and thus amid pioneer surroundings he developed a spirit of self-reliance and energy which have been of benefit to him in later years.

At the time of the outbreak of the Civil war, having been reared to believe in the cause of abolition, he offered his services to the government, enlisting in June, 1861, as a member of Company C. Fifteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, with the avowed purpose of aiding in making the whole country free. He participated in many important engagements, including the battle of Rich Mountain, West Virginia, July 11, 1861; Green Brier, West Virginia, October 3, 1861; Shiloh, Tennessee, April 7, 1862; the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, from the 30th of April to the 30th of May of the same year; the battle of Munfordsville, Kentucky, September 14-21, 1862; Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862; Laverne, Tennessee, December 26, 1862; Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862; Tullahoma, Tennessee, June 24-July 3, 1862; Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 8, 1862; Johnsonville, Tennessee, November 2-4, 1864; Nashville, December 15-16, 1864; and a number of skirmishes. He served successively as corporal, sergeant and first sergeant of Company C of the Fifteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was examined by the West Point





*Yours truly*  
*William Dougall. M.D.*





officers and commissioned captain of the Thirtieth United States colored infantry in October, 1863. He then commanded a battalion of colored mounted infantry and led a charge of colored troops at Overton Hill, in the battle of Nashville, Tennessee, where Hood was defeated by General George H. Thomas on the 16th of December, 1864. His company carried the colors and lost seventeen killed and thirteen wounded out of a total of forty-three men. Captain Dougall was slightly wounded, but not disabled until the following day. He was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 31, 1862. He proved a brave and loyal officer, winning promotion in recognition of his capable and valorous service.

Returning to New Haven, Indiana, at the close of the war in 1865, Dr. Dougall, after providing for his father and mother, resumed the study of medicine and upon his graduation in 1868 located at Lemont, Cook county, Illinois, where the summit level of the Illinois and Michigan canal was being deepened. Unassisted, he often performed surgical operations in the shanties of the laborers with good success.

On the 1st of October, 1872, Dr. Dougall was united in marriage to Miss Cassie Walker, the eldest daughter of Edwin Walker, of Lemont, Illinois, and removed to their present residence, where they have since lived. The lady was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, and her father for many years operated extensive stone quarries in Will county. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Dougall have been born a daughter and son, Mary Clapham and William Houstoun. The former was married December 20, 1906, to Hon. Richard J. Barr, mayor of Joliet from 1905-1907, and senator of the forty-first district of Illinois since 1902, his incumbency to continue until 1910.

Dr. Dougall has also filled some positions of public trust. He was postmaster of Joliet from 1879 until 1883 and he is widely recognized as a stalwart and unflinching republican. He served as chairman of Will county republican central committee from 1876 until 1879, inclusive, and was closely connected with General John A. Logan in his election for United States senator in the work which was carried on for that end from 1876 until 1878. He is also prominent in various organized societies of a fraternal, social and

professional nature. On the 18th of October, 1865, he became a member of the Masonic fraternity and was commander of Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T., in 1879 and 1880. In 1866 he joined the Grand Army of the Republic in Indiana and was commander of Bartleson post, No. 6, at Joliet, in 1890. He joined the military order of the Loyal Legion as a member of the commandery of Illinois, May 8, 1890. He was secretary and president of the Will County Medical Society, with which he has affiliated since 1875, and in 1877 he joined the Illinois Medical Society and the American Medical Association. Through these avenues as well as by extensive travel, reading and investigation, he keeps in touch with the modern trend of thought and experiment and advanced learning in the medical profession and is today recognized as one of the most able and learned physicians practicing in Joliet. Socially he is connected with the Joliet Commercial Club, which he joined in 1906, and he is a member and vestryman of Christ Episcopalian church at Joliet. A glance over his history will show that his life has been one of untiring activity and of consecutive progress. Endowed by nature with keen intellectual powers, he has so developed his talents as to grow in usefulness as well as in learning, and in a profession which many regard as the most important to which a man can give his energies he has made for himself a creditable name, gaining a goodly measure of professional and financial success.

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#### JAMES W. LOVE.

James W. Love is a well known and prosperous representative of industrial interests in Joliet, where he is engaged in the manufacture of store and office fixtures and is also doing a jobbing and repair business. He is one of the citizens of Canadian birth who have come across the border to enjoy the broader opportunities furnished in the United States with the livelier business competition and better advantages here supplied.

Mr. Love was born in Whitby, Canada, March 17, 1855, and began to learn the carpenter's trade when seventeen years of age, remaining in the employ of one man for five years. In the fall of

1877 he came to the United States and for three years thereafter was in the service of Mr. Burlingame, a contractor and builder of Joliet, while for six years he was in the employ of Mr. Van Fleet, handling sash, doors, blinds and builders' supplies. Previous to that time, however, he was engaged in the bridge department of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad, and in 1894 began jobbing, opening a shop in the old Republican Sun building near the river. Two years later he removed to North Joliet street and after a year located at No. 212 North Ottawa street, while at the present writing he is located at No. 315 North Joliet street. Each change in location has indicated an increase in business and his patronage has steadily grown until his business is now large and prosperous.

In Seaforth, Ontario, on the 24th of March, 1885, Mr. Love was united in marriage to Miss Essie Ward, of Canada, and they now have one son, Harry Ward Love. Mr. Love gives his political allegiance to the men and measures of the republican party and has been a committeeman and delegate to conventions but has never sought the honors or emoluments of public office as a reward for party fealty. His character is largely indicated by the fact that he is a valued member of the Odd Fellows society, the Sons of St. George and the Methodist Episcopal church—associations which indicate the principles which govern his conduct and guide him in all his relations with his fellowmen. He is not only a member of the subordinate lodge of Odd Fellows, but also belongs to both the encampment and canton at Joliet.

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#### CHARLES S. OSBURN.

Charles S. Osburn is one of the leading representatives of agricultural interests in this part of the state. He was born in Florence township, October 18, 1867, and is a son of Nial N. and Sarah E. (Steadman) Osburn, who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He acquired his education in the public schools of Wilmington and has devoted his entire life to general farming and stock-raising interests. He was superintendent of the stock-raising department of the father's business from 1892 until 1902, and since that

time has advanced his individual business affairs, making extensive improvements upon his farm, comprising twelve hundred acres. The land is richly cultivated and brings forth large and abundant harvests and the best methods of farming, according to modern scientific ideas, have been introduced and the value proven upon his place.

On the 12th of October, 1892, Mr. Osburn was united in marriage to Miss Emma Bertha Rathke, the wedding being celebrated at her father's home in Florence township. She was born in that township, July 2, 1874, and is a daughter of Henry and Katherine (Doering) Rathke, both of whom are now deceased.

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#### JAMES J. KELLEY.

James J. Kelley, serving as collector of Joliet, his native city, was born July 18, 1876. His father, John B. Kelley, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and in 1866 came to Joliet. Soon afterward he entered the employ of the Illinois Steel Company and is still a mill man in that service, his long connection therewith being incontrovertible proof of his fidelity and capability. He wedded Bridget Mary Sheridan, who was born in County Meath, Ireland, and was brought to the United States at the age of three years, settling in New York city, where she remained for a few years, when she accompanied her parents on their westward removal to Livingston county, Illinois. There she was reared and educated and in 1870 she gave her hand in marriage, in Livingston county, to John B. Kelley. By this union there were born four daughters and three sons, namely: M. S., John B. and Catherine, all of whom are residents of Denver, Colorado; Anna, the wife of John Connors of Joliet; Veronica, at home; Isabelle, a student in the high school at Joliet; and Charles, who died when fourteen years of age.

The other member of the family is James J. Kelley of this review, who acquired his education in the public schools of Joliet, passing through successive grades until he had become a junior student in the high school. He then put aside his text-books in order to learn the machinist's trade when seventeen years of age and followed that pursuit for eight years. He became promi-

nent in union circles and was president of the Machinists Union. He has also been greatly interested in political affairs and in 1902 announced himself as a candidate for alderman. In 1905 he was appointed to the office of city collector, in which position he will continue until the spring of 1907. He has proved capable and reliable in this office, his service giving uniform satisfaction.

Mr. Kelley is a member of the White Cross and of the Knights of Columbus, and resides with his parents at No. 409 Collins street in Joliet. He is well known in this city, where his entire life has been passed, and many of his staunchest friends are those with whom he has been acquainted since his boyhood days.

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#### HENRY O. WILLIAMS.

Henry O. Williams, filling the office of sheriff of Will county, to which he was elected in the fall of 1906, was born in Joliet, July 29, 1864. He is a son of Robert Williams, who came from Ohio in the early '60s and who worked in the Chicago & Alton woodyard for a few years. He then removed to Springfield, where he remained for five years as baggage master for the Chicago & Alton Railroad. Returning to Joliet he was employed in a similar capacity for the same road for several years, and his death here occurred in 1872. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy A. Callan, was born in Ohio, where they were married. They came together to Illinois and her death occurred in Joliet in 1898, when she had reached an advanced age.

Henry O. Williams was educated in the Joliet public schools and his start in life was secured solely through his own efforts. He began selling newspapers and shining shoes and in this humble way entered the business world, wherein he has since made a creditable record. For a time he carried telegrams for the Chicago & Alton Railroad and worked his way upward to a position in the freight department, where he remained for five years. He then became cashier for the Michigan Central Railroad, occupying that position for a few years, after which he accepted a position of teller in the Joliet National Bank, thus serving until a recent date.

Mr. Williams has made a creditable record in public office as well. He was city treasurer for two years and discharged his duties with such promptness and fidelity that he readily secured the nomination for sheriff of Will county, to which position he was elected on the 6th of November, 1906. For years he was a member of the republican county central committee and in that connection did effective service for the party organization. He is identified with many fraternal bodies, including the Modern Woodmen camp, the Elks lodge, the Eagles, the Royal Arcanum, the White Cross, the National Union, the Court of Honor and others.

In 1890 Mr. Williams was married, in Joliet, to Miss Kate A. Mitchell, who was born in this city and is a daughter of Matthew Mitchell, one of the early settlers here. They now have a son and daughter: Walter F., who, at the age of fourteen years, is attending college in Quincy, Illinois; and Mary Edith, three years of age, at home. The record which Mr. Williams has made indicates a strong force of character, laudable ambition and earnest purpose, for, starting out in life empty-handed, he has depended entirely upon his own resources and is today accorded a place of prominence in public regard in Joliet by reason of the position which he has filled in business and political circles.

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#### DAVID J. EMERY.

Joliet has been signally favored in the character of men who have filled her public offices and among those who stand as representatives of municipal interests at the present time (1907) none are more deserving of mention among the representative citizens of Will county than is David J. Emery, chief of police. He was born in the county seat, September 22, 1873, and is a son of David and Martha (Hammond) Emery, who are of Scotch-Irish descent and came to Joliet about 1869, since which time they have been residents of this city. The father has been connected with the Illinois Steel Company throughout the entire period of his residence here and was engaged on the construction of the old mill.

David J. Emery, whose name introduces this record, is indebted to the public-school system of the city for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and after leaving school he worked in the steel mills for several years. Early in 1897, however, he became connected with the Joliet fire department and served therewith until May, 1901, when he became connected with the police department acting as night patrol sergeant during Mayor Barr's administration, or until 1903. During Mayor Crolius' term he served for two years at the Illinois state prison as keeper and when Richard J. Barr was re-elected mayor in 1905 Mr. Emery was appointed to the position of chief of police, in which capacity he is now rendering signal service as a defender of the rights and liberties of the people and their property interests. He has a well organized police department under his control, is fearless in the discharge of his duties and has the strong endorsement of the law-abiding element of the city.

Mr. Emery is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Joliet. He was married, December 6, 1905, to Miss Edith Morgan. A young man, he has already made for himself a creditable position in connection with municipal interests, and his loyalty to the general welfare is above question.

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#### CHARLES CHAXEL.

Charles Chaxel, who departed this life October 3, 1903, was one of the best known and most successful musicians and piano tuners in Will county. He was born in the dukedom of Baden, Germany, in the town of Herbolzheim, near the French border, on the 18th of October, 1849, and was a son of Joseph Chaxel, who lived and died in that country. Charles Chaxel was graduated from the grammar school and, possessing the love for and talent in music so characteristic of people of his nationality, he studied the art in Germany until fourteen years of age, when he was sent to Switzerland to learn the piano and organ building trade. He devoted six years to its mastery and became an expert in that line, thoroughly familiar with the business in every detail. When twenty years of

age, attracted by the business conditions and opportunities of the new world, he crossed the Atlantic to America, locating first at Chicago, where for six months he followed his trade. His sisters had preceded him to Will county and accordingly Charles Chaxel made his way to Lockport, where he engaged in piano tuning and also in the sale of pianos. After three years spent at Lockport he removed to Joliet in 1882 and continued in business from that time until his death, accumulating a very gratifying competence, for he had a liberal patronage. He was well known in musical circles in the city and his talents enabled him to contribute in large measure to the pleasure of those who enjoy the art.

Mr. Chaxel was twice married. At Lockport he wedded Miss Marie Baumgarten, who died there, leaving two children, Ella Marie, now the wife of W. Miller, a resident of Chicago; and Mary Pauline, who died in infancy. Mr. Chaxel was again married at Lockport to Miss Matie J. Beck, a daughter of William and Frances (Kittinger) Beck. Mrs. Chaxel had come to Will county with the family in the later '70s.

Mr. Chaxel purchased a five-acre tract of land just west of Joliet on Western avenue and there erected the fine residence still occupied by his widow. One acre of the land has since been sold, but the ground still occupies four acres, in the midst of which is a most attractive home—a monument to the enterprise, labors and business ability of Mr. Chaxel. Fraternally he was connected with the Knights of Pythias, while in political faith he was a republican. He was reared in the Catholic faith, but later affiliated with the Christian Science church. He was a man of strong mental force, of keen insight and broad knowledge, and his mental and social qualifications rendered him popular, while his business ability gained for him a desirable measure of success.

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#### CHARLES H. TALCOTT.

Charles H. Talcott, for twenty-two years connected with the Will County National Bank, of which he is now cashier, sustains an unassailable reputation in financial circles as a man of excellent executive ability and of thorough understanding of







Chas. C. Haxel



MRS. M. L. EDWARDS



the banking business. He was born in Silver Creek, New York, August 19, 1854, and is a son of William D. and Persis B. (Gage) Talcott, the former a native of New York and the latter of Connecticut. The mother was a daughter of General Gage, of Revolutionary war fame, who served with the British forces. William D. Talcott was engaged in the lumber business in Buffalo, New York, for a number of years and owned several fleet boats on Lake Erie, becoming captain on a Lake Erie steamer. He served as supervisor for some time and was a man of more than local prominence because of his business success and the influence which he exerted in public affairs. He died in Silver Creek, New York, and his wife has also passed away. They were the parents of seven sons and one daughter.

Charles H. Talcott was educated in the public schools at Silver Creek, New York, and continued his studies in Clinton College of that state. After putting aside his text-books he went to New York city, where he was employed in a lumberyard, performing all kinds of labor incident to the conduct of the business. There he remained for several years and his ability and diligence won him ready recognition in promotion until he became superintendent of the yards and bookkeeper for the firm. He was thus identified with business interests in the metropolis until 1876, when he came to Joliet and was made car accountant of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, filling that position until 1882, when he was employed by the Chicago Telephone Company as manager of the Joliet office. He remained with that corporation until 1884, when he entered the Will County National Bank as bookkeeper, which position he filled for two or three years. He was then made assistant cashier and a year later was chosen cashier, in which capacity he has since remained to the entire satisfaction of all concerned—both the owners and the patrons of the bank. During this period he has thoroughly mastered the banking business in principle and detail and the success of the institution is attributable in no small measure to his labors.

On the 17th of November, 1880, Mr. Talcott was united in marriage to Miss Hattie A. Claves, a native of Joliet, and they have four children: Ethel M.; Clarence E. and Raymond G., who are now college students; and Persis E. The parents

hold membership in the Central Presbyterian church, in which Mr. Talcott is now a trustee and also director of music. He is a gentleman of broad humanitarian principles, taking an active and helpful interest in the various departments of church work, and he was also one of the founders of the Silver Cross hospital and is now its treasurer and a trustee. He is identified with various fraternal organizations and has attained the Knight Templar degree of Masonry, belonging also to the Mystic Shrine. He is likewise connected with the Elks, the Woodmen and the White Cross and for a number of years he has been treasurer in the Knight Templar commandery. He stands for all that is ennobling and uplifting in man's relations with his fellowmen and in his life has been actuated by high principles, while his conduct has been governed by worthy motives.

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#### MRS. MARTHA J. DOWNEY.

Mrs. Martha J. Downey, the wife of Harvey Downey, residing at No. 642 South Chicago street, is a member of one of the old pioneer families of Will county. She was born in Essex county, New York, July 6, 1839, and is a daughter of John J. and Elizabeth (Nelson) Flack, who were natives of Washington county, New York, but resided in Essex county, that state, until 1845. Her father was born May 10, 1799, and her mother on the 15th of December of the same year. Their marriage was celebrated December 24, 1818, and in 1819 they removed to Essex county, New York, where Mr. Flack made for himself a prominent place in business circles. He followed general agricultural pursuits, engaged extensively in dealing in horses, cattle, sheep and hogs and was a manufacturer of lumber. He also owned a general store there and continued his commercial and agricultural interests for many years. He was likewise the founder of what has always been known as the town of Flackville. At the age of fourteen years he enlisted for service in the war of 1812 and remained with the army until the close of hostilities, being known throughout the ranks as "the young volunteer." In 1844 he visited Will county, Illinois, and purchased large tracts of land in this part of the state, becoming

owner of five farms, which he purchased in order to give one to each of his sons and retain one for himself. In 1845 he removed his family to Joliet and settled upon a large farm two miles southeast of the city, where he spent two years, then moving to Joliet, where he lived until his demise. He arrived here during the pioneer epoch in the history of the county, when the work of development and improvement was in its incipient stages. In those early days he had to haul his grain by wagon to the Chicago markets. On the old Flack homestead two miles southeast of Joliet is still standing the log house in which he first resided on coming to the county. He became the owner of property interests in both Joliet and Chicago and in public life he exerted a widespread and beneficial influence. He served as an officer in the courts of Joliet and of Will county for many years and he died September 25, 1876, after a useful and honorable life, his widow passing away only a little later.

Of the eight children born unto Mr. and Mrs. John J. Flack, Mrs. Downey is the only one now living. She was a little maiden of five years when her parents came to Will county and here she was educated in the public schools, attending school with H. M. Wiginbotham and many other citizens now prominent in Joliet and Chicago. She has been three times married. Her first husband was John K. Shaw, of Rutland, New York, who came to Joliet in 1855 and was here engaged as freight agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company. Later he was promoted to assistant ticket agent and held that position for several years. He afterward removed to New York city and died near the eastern metropolis in 1861. There was but one child by that marriage, Dr. John Bliss Shaw, who wedded Lidia Hammond, and they now reside at No. 303 North Ottawa street in Joliet, where he has a large practice. Mrs. Downey's second marriage was to Aaron Shreffler, a native of Pennsylvania, who also came to Will county at an early period in its development and here engaged in the manufacture of brick until his death. There was one child by that marriage, Celia A., now the wife of Harry A. Roberts, a resident of Chicago. After losing her second husband Mrs. Shreffler became the wife of Harvey Downey, a native of Oswego, New York, and a son of Bosworth Downey, of the Empire state, who

likewise became a resident of Will county, Illinois, and carried on blacksmithing in Joliet until his death. Harvey Downey is also a blacksmith and horseshoer by trade, and he and his brother, under the firm name of Downey Brothers, now carry on business at No. 106 Washington street.

Three children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Downey: Dr. Charles E. Downey, who married May Love, of Joliet, and is the physician for a new railroad company, operating in the west, moving westward as the railway is completed; Maud L., the wife of John Kriemier, a farmer living in Manhattan township; and Kate E., the wife of Dr. John Morrison, a practicing physician at Plainfield. Mr. Downey was a democrat in politics in early life but is now a staunch republican. Mr. and Mrs. Downey attend the Methodist Episcopal church in Joliet and own and occupy a nice home at No. 642 South Chicago street. Mrs. Downey has a very wide acquaintance in this city, having been brought to Will county in her early girlhood days. She has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development and as the years have passed the circle of her friends and acquaintances has increased.

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#### E. R. GIFFIN.

Among the representative agriculturists and large land-owners of Will county, none are more worthy of mention in this volume than E. R. Giffin, who owns an excellent farm of three hundred and two acres situated on section 21, Lockport township. He is a native son of this township, his birth here occurring in 1852. His father, John E. Giffin, was born in Pennsylvania and was one of the early settlers of Will county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout a long period, being the owner of a good farm of eighty acres at the time of his death, which occurred August 27, 1891, when he had reached the advanced age of seventy-seven years. The mother bore the maiden name of Cynthia Rodgers, and was a daughter of William and Miriam Rodgers, the former a chair-maker by trade. She survived her husband for only a few years, passing away in 1895, at the age of sixty-six years. She was a communicant of the Episcopal church at Lock-



port, while Mr. Giffin was a member of the Congregational church and was a republican in politics. E. R. Giffin of this review is the only son of that marriage, his sisters being Myra, Martha, Mary and Cynthia.

The son, whose name introduces this record, was reared in the usual manner of farm lads of that period, assisting his father in the various tasks of carrying on farm work, and during the winter seasons he pursued his studies in the district schools of Lockport township and remained with his parents until twenty-four years of age, when he started out in life on his own account, engaging in the pursuits to which he had been reared. He has worked energetically and persistently in the acquirement of a good property and as he prospered in his undertakings he added to his land from time to time until today a fine farm of three hundred and two acres, situated on section 21, Lockport township, gives evidence of the success which he has achieved. He paid from fifty to one hundred dollars per acre for his land, all of which is now under a high state of cultivation. He is practical and progressive in his work, using the latest improved machinery in the development and cultivation of his fields. He has improved his farm with good buildings, has a fine country residence and many substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and his property is kept in the best possible condition.

Choosing a companion and helpmate for life's journey, Mr. Giffin was married September 19, 1882, to Miss Mattie Hayward, who was born in Cook county, near Chicago, her natal year being 1846. Her father, Richard Hayward, was a farmer of Green Garden, where his death occurred. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Rider, died when Mrs. Giffin was forty-four years old. Unto our subject and his wife have been born seven children, all of whom are still under the parental roof. The record is as follows: John E., who assists in the operation of the home farm; Beulah E., who is now a college student; Merritt H.; Grant; Cora; Gilbert; and Mary. Mr. Giffin is a member of the Eastern Avenue Baptist church at Joliet.

Mr. Giffin has spent his entire life in Will county and has here found in the development of its rich agricultural resources ample opportunity

to acquire a competence, and through the assistance of his estimable wife he is now in possession of a good property which supplies himself and family with all the comforts of life, and he is also enabled to give to his children good educational advantages. He has ever been found reliable and straightforward in all business transactions, so that he has won the confidence and good will of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social relations, and he and his family are popular with a wide circle of friends.

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#### ERNST WUNDERLICH.

Ernst Wunderlich, a resident of Joliet for more than a third of a century and for many years engaged in the marble and monument business, being now located at Nos. 804 to 808 North Hickory street, was born in Fleissen Kries Eger, Germany, November 3, 1848. His father, John Frederick Wunderlich, was also a monument sculptor and died in his native town at the age of forty-five years. His son Ernst remained a resident of the fatherland until in his twenty-first year, when, thinking to enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, he came to the United States in 1869. He did not tarry on the eastern coast, but made his way at once to Illinois and settled at Joliet, where he has since resided. He was here employed at his trade until 1874, when he opened business on his own account. After three months he removed to No. 804 North Hickory street, where he has since remained, his business house now covering three numbers. In the establishment of the new enterprise he brought to the undertaking an excellent knowledge of the business and superior skill in workmanship and from his place have been sent out some of the finest monuments ever made in Will county. He has been accorded a liberal patronage, which he well merits by reason of his skill and ability and his honorable business methods.

On the 3d of August, 1869, occurred the marriage of Mr. Wunderlich and Miss Margaret Geipel, a native of Germany, who had been a school-mate with her husband in her girlhood days. She

was a daughter of John Geipel, a well known farmer of Fleissen, who died in his native country at the age of sixty-six years. She came to this country about three months after the arrival of Mr. Wunderlich. Unto them have been born twelve children, of whom eleven are yet living: Albert, who died at three years of age; Mrs. Emma Steiner, the wife of James Steiner of Joliet; William, a leading undertaker of this city, who married Minnie Faust; Minnie, now the wife of Dr. H. G. Schuessler; Ernst H., who is in business with his father; Amelia, at home; Arthur G. and Edward J., who are also assisting their father; Laura, who is with her parents; Walter C. and Alfred F., who are connected with the marble business; and Milton Joseph, who is attending school.

The family attend St. Peter's German Lutheran church, of which Mr. Wunderlich has been a member continuously since 1869. Seeking the broader outlook and better advantage of the new world in the days of his early manhood, he has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for in America, where labor is king, he has developed a business of large and profitable proportions and thus made a good home for his family.

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#### FRANZ OFFERMANN.

Franz Offermann, who is living on section 32, Joliet township, was born in Germany in 1830 and though he is now in comfortable financial circumstances he started out in life empty-handed. His father, Hubbard Offermann, spent his entire life in Germany, as did the mother, Mrs. Catherine Offermann. Their family numbered four sons and three daughters.

Franz Offermann pursued his education in the schools of his native country and remained in Germany until 1857, when he bade adieu to friends and fatherland and crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He took passage on a sailing vessel which was forty-two days in making the voyage. Landing in New York, he continued on his westward-way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and, while there, in order to earn a living, he chopped cordwood, receiving about two shillings per cord.

He afterward made his way to Joliet, spending two weeks in the city, and later continuing his journey on foot to the vicinity of St. Louis, Missouri. He worked as a farm hand near that city for about two years and after the outbreak of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid to crush out the rebellion, enlisting at Belleville, Illinois, in 1861 as a member of Company B, Twelfth Missouri Infantry. He participated in several skirmishes, proceeded southward to Jackson, Mississippi, and was afterward at Vicksburg and Lookout Mountain. At St. Louis, Missouri, he was mustered out, having made a creditable record as a valiant and fearless soldier. He then started for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, purchasing a ticket to that place, but when he arrived at Joliet he decided to stop here.

Six weeks after his arrival he was married and then began farming on his own account, purchasing ten acres of land about three miles southwest of the city in Joliet township. Later he disposed of his first tract of land and bought a larger farm and to this he has added until he is today the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich, cultivable and productive land on section 32, Joliet township. He has a good farm here, well improved, and in its care and development he displays excellent business qualifications and thorough understanding of the best methods of carrying on agricultural interests.

Mrs. Offermann bore the maiden name of Susan Korst. She was born in Germany in 1825, came to the United States with her brother, was married in Joliet in 1864 and died in 1896 in the faith of the German Catholic church, of which she was a devoted communicant. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Offermann were born two sons. Joseph is employed in the Spot Cash store in Joliet, having been with the firm for a number of years, and is regarded as a splendid young business man, having the entire confidence of the house which he represents. Nicholas, the younger son, lives with his father. In 1892 he married Matilda Schweizer, who was born in Joliet in 1873, and acquired a good common-school education here. Unto this marriage there have been born six children: Viola, Joseph, Frederick, Alfred, Margaret and Henrietta.

Mr. Offermann gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a member of the Ger-



MR. AND MRS. FRANZ OFFERMANN.



man Catholic church. He was a faithful soldier of his adopted country at the time of the Civil war and has always been loyal to its interests and its welfare, while in this locality, where the greater part of his life has been passed, he is known as a public-spirited man as well as a successful farmer.

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### JOHN MCCLELLAN.

John McClellan, who died December 12, 1906, in Plainfield township, was born at Colerain, Franklin county, Massachusetts, November 16, 1826, a son of Michael and Jane (Patterson) McClellan, both of whom were natives of the old Bay state, and there lived and died.

Mr. McClellan was the last surviving member of a family of eight children, and was the only one of the family who ever came to Illinois. He was reared and educated in his native state and there engaged in farming to the age of twenty-nine years, when he located in Will county, arriving there in February, 1856. He first operated rented land in Plainfield township, but two years later, in 1858, having made a selection of land, purchased a tract on section 29, Plainfield township. He cultivated that farm for a decade, and in 1868 disposed of the property and invested his money in a farm situated on sections 22 and 23, the same township, where he continued to make his home until his death. The house was built in 1850 and is the oldest frame structure on the Plainfield and Joliet road. Mr. McClellan was for many years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits on his farm, and his enterprising spirit and untiring efforts brought to him a very desirable and gratifying success. For twenty-three years he made his home in the village of Plainfield but for several years prior to his death lived retired on his farm, the place being operated by his son.

It was prior to his removal to the west that Mr. McClellan was married, his union being with Miss Arathusa Brown, their wedding being celebrated in Massachusetts in 1850. She was born in that state and died in Will county, in April, 1905, when she had reached the advanced age of seventy-eight years. She was devoted to the interests of her family and was a lady of many excellent traits

of heart and mind, winning friends wherever she went.

Mr. McClellan was in early life a supporter of the whig party but upon the organization of the new republican party joined its ranks. He served for twenty-one years as road commissioner but aside from this held no public offices. He was not identified with any church organization but was an attendant upon the services of the Congregational church, to which he gave his support.

The only child of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. McClellan is Edward R., who is now operating the homestead farm. He married Miss Carrie McAllister, a daughter of Captain Edward McAllister, of Plainfield township. Their marriage has been blessed with two daughters and one son, Inez Arathusa, Vera Aileen and John Raymond. Mr. McClellan is identified in his fraternal relations with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, at Plainfield. The members of the McClellan household are highly respected throughout Plainfield and Will county and deserve prominent mention in a work of this character.

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### BERNARD G. VAUGHAN.

Bernard G. Vaughan is superintendent of the Illinois Match Company, which was organized at Joliet about 1901 by T. C. Cadwallader and B. J. Metzger, while later L. A. Sherwood and Fred Bennett were admitted to a partnership in the business. The present officers are: Colonel Fred Bennett, president; B. J. Metzger, secretary; T. C. Cadwallader, vice president; L. A. Sherwood, manager and treasurer; and B. G. Vaughan, superintendent. The company manufactures parlor matches. The plant was destroyed by fire November 29, 1905, but was rebuilt in 1906. The buildings are of brick and stone and are equipped with the most modern improved machinery for carrying on the work. The company owns its own lighting plant, steam power and heat. There are several buildings for the different departments, including a main building eighty by one hundred feet, a stick department fifty by eighty feet, engine room and machine shops forty by eighty feet, a chemical department twenty-six by forty feet, and a box machine room for the manufacture of



paper boxes twenty-six by forty feet. There are also two warehouses, one fifty by eighty feet and the other sixty by eighty feet, while the commodious office room is twenty-six by forty feet. All are of brick and are fireproof structures with automatic sprinkler, engine hose, fire pump and other improved methods for fighting fires. There are about one hundred employes outside of the office and ten or fifteen men are employed in cutting timber. The plant is located along the line of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad and thus fine shipping facilities are secured. It stands just outside the city limits to the north and the capacity is about one thousand gross of matches per day. The product is handled through jobbers, none of it being sold to the retail trade, and practically all shipments are made by carload.

Mr. Vaughan has thus been engaged for the past three years. He is thoroughly practical in the conduct of the business and has designed several machines which have been great improvements upon the old methods of work employed. He was formerly with the Continental Match Company and also with the Pennsylvania Match Company and another company of similar character in the Keystone state, spending some seven years in Pennsylvania. He has devoted most of his life to the business of manufacturing matches and is thoroughly acquainted with the trade in every particular.

Mr. Vaughan was born in Maine in 1871 and was there reared and educated. After putting aside his text books he became connected with the business of manufacturing matches and has so continued, constantly promoting his efficiency through broad experience and investigation. He is married and resides on the west side of Joliet. Socially he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined the organization in the east.

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#### CHARLES B. GARNSEY.

Charles B. Garnsey, deceased, was for many years one of the leading lawyers of Joliet. He was born in Livingston county, New York, October 25, 1842, and was a son of N. B. and Emily Garnsey. He obtained his literary education in

the schools of the east and pursued his legal studies at the Union College of Law, now the Northwestern University Law School, from which he was graduated in 1862. It was in May, 1859, that he came west and located in Joliet. When the country became involved in Civil war he enlisted, July 30, 1862, in the One Hundredth Illinois infantry and remained in the service until the close of hostilities.

In 1865 Mr. Garnsey began the practice of law in Joliet and soon won distinction as one of the ablest members of the Will county bar. He was deputy collector of internal revenue from 1867 until 1871. The office of corporation counsel was created for him in 1876 and he was elected county judge in 1882, serving on the bench until 1890. In 1903 he was elected circuit judge and was filling that position at the time of his death, which occurred April 1, 1905. He acted as corporation counsel for the Joliet Iron & Steel Company from its organization and took an active and helpful part in its development until it became the Illinois Steel Company. He remained with the latter corporation as counsel until he went upon the bench in 1903 and was connected with the enterprise at the time Lord Leith was at the head of the Joliet Steel Company. He was also counsel for the defense in all of the important sanitary cases which were tried in this district and was secretary of the old Joliet & Lockport Railway Company. In fact, he was recognized as one of the ablest members of the bar in this part of the state and his opinions were received as authority on canal and water laws of this state. His mind was trained in the severest school of reasoning and investigation and few men had more intimate knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence. He prepared his cases with great thoroughness and care and his ability was manifest in his able handling of important litigation and in the excellent results which attended his efforts.

On the 4th of November, 1867, in Wilmington, Illinois, Judge Garnsey was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Henderson, a native of Herkimer county, New York. Her father, John D. Henderson, was a man of much prominence in Will county at an early day. He came to Illinois in 1846 or 1847 and was one of the engineers on the construction of the Jackson street dam in Joliet. He afterward removed to Wilmington, where for a

long period he made his home, becoming one of the leading and influential residents of that section, leaving the impress of his individuality for good upon public thought and action. He was a brother of Judge Hugh Henderson and died in the year 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Garnsey had two sons, John H. and Charles B.

Judge Garnsey was a member of Bartleson post, G. A. R.; of the Army of the Cumberland Society; of the Illinois State Bar Association; and in Masonry attained the Knight Templar degree, being a member of Joliet commandery, No. 4. Endowed by nature with strong intellectual force, he developed his talents and energies with the passing of the years and won for himself a most favorable recognition as a representative of the legal profession in Illinois.

#### JOHN HENDERSON GARNSEY.

John H. Garnsey, son of Judge Charles B. Garnsey, was born in Joliet, August 15, 1868, and was largely educated by private tutors. His alma mater is the Northwestern University of Chicago and on completing the law course he was graduated with the class of 1890. For six years thereafter he devoted his time and energies to the newspaper business, spending most of that period in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and Atlanta, Georgia. Returning to Joliet in 1896, he entered upon the practice of law and is now attorney and general counsel for the Bates Machine Company and local counsel for the Illinois Steel Company, in addition to which he has a large general practice.

Mr. Garnsey is a valued and popular representative of various social and fraternal organizations. He belongs to the Hamilton Club of Chicago, the Commercial Club of Joliet, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the War of 1812, the Army of the Cumberland Society and the Order of the White Cross, of which he was the first supreme commander. In religious faith he is an Episcopalian, while it is a well known fact that his political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party.

On the 28th of December, 1897, Mr. Garnsey was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia Mason,

a daughter of T. A. Mason, and they now have one child, Charles Truman Garnsey, born October 5, 1898.

#### JOHN BELL HOWE, M. D.

Dr. John Bell Howe, successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Peotone, was born in Winnebago, Minnesota, in 1875, his parents being George Hutchins and Harriet Newel (Foote) Howe. The father was born in the state of New York and was a practical machinist and inventor of considerable note. He invented a straw binder and single apron for the Walter A. Wood Mowing & Reaping Machine Company. This machine won first prize at the agricultural exhibit at the Paris Exposition. He made much money, but was never economical, and while he did not amass great wealth he was yet worth forty thousand dollars at the time of his death, while from his inventions his family received a royalty of ten thousand dollars per year for ten years. He held membership in the Presbyterian church and took a most active and helpful interest in its work. He was broad-minded and very charitable and gave freely of his means to the poor and distressed. He was interested in fraternal organizations and was an ardent and stalwart republican. His death occurred in 1889, when he was forty-three years of age. Mrs. Howe, who bore the maiden name of Harriet Newel Foote, was born in northern New York and, like her husband, came of English ancestry. She was first married to a Mr. Whitney, by whom she had one daughter, Lillie, now the wife of Andrew McLean, a machinist of Hoosick Falls, New York. She afterward married George Hutchins Howe and still survives him, making her home in Chicago, at the age of sixty years. She, too, is a devoted member of the Presbyterian church. By her second marriage she had three children: Kittie, the wife of Dr. Benjamin McBurney, a physician and surgeon of Austin, Illinois; John, of this review; and Smiley, who is engaged in the practice of dentistry in Chicago.

John Bell Howe completed his literary education in the high school of Hoosick Falls, New York, and after two years' study under private instruction he passed the examination before the

New York state medical regents in 1891. He afterward entered the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College in 1892, and was graduated therefrom in 1895. Dr. Howe located for practice in Vinton, Iowa, where he remained nine months, and in April 1896, he came to Peotone, where he has since remained, his success here passing beyond his utmost anticipations. He has been accorded a most liberal patronage and his success in the medical profession only comes to him in recognition of ability and skill and is an indication of his high standing.

On the 22d of July, 1897, Dr. Howe was united in marriage to Miss Ida A. Schroeder, who was born in Peotone in 1873, and is a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Conrad) Schroeder. They have two children, Marjorie and Eleanor, aged, respectively, eight and three years. Mrs. Howe belongs to the German Evangelical church.

The doctor holds membership with the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias fraternities, and likewise has membership relations with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of the Globe and the Yeomen of America, being state examiner for the last named. He is a socialist with broad humanitarian principles and in the line of his profession he is connected with the Will County and Illinois State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. Actuated by laudable ambition in all of his professional career Dr. Howe has made a most creditable record and has won more than local prominence, while his success has been most gratifying.

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#### WILLIAM H. SCHEIWE.

William H. Scheiwe is a retired farmer, making his home in Crete, to which village he removed ten years ago. He was born on a farm in Crete township, July 15, 1856, a son of John S. and Mary (Wehmhoefer) Scheiwe, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence the father emigrated to America in the early '50s. He was a poor man and it was the hope of bettering his financial condition that led him to seek a home in the new world. Upon arriving in this country he at once made his way to Chicago, where he arrived with but fifty cents in his pockets. He first secured

employment on a farm near the city and was there married to Miss Wehmhoefer. During their residence in that city the father was once ill and the mother provided for the support of the family and also earned the money with which to pay her husband's doctor bill. The family later removed to Crete township, settling on a farm of forty acres, which was covered with timber. At that time the village of Crete contained but one store. The father built a log shanty upon his land, in which the family took up their abode. It was a crude building and he often had to shovel the snow out of the house in the morning before he could build a fire. He, however, was a successful farmer and prospered in his undertakings, eventually becoming owner of five hundred acres of land. His death occurred on the farm in 1890, when he had reached the age of sixty-nine years, while the mother survived and also passed away on the homestead farm, when she had reached the advanced age of eighty-two years. Both parents were consistent members of the Lutheran church and both took an active part in the organization of the church at Eagle Lake and also at Crete. Their family numbered five children: Henry, who resides at Eagle Lake; Sophia, the deceased wife of J. O. Meyer, of Iroquois county; William H., of this review; John, who died at the age of one year; and John, the second of the name, who makes his home on the old homestead property.

William H. Scheiwe was reared on the old homestead farm, being early trained to the duties of the fields, while in the winter months he pursued his education in the district school near his father's home. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of twenty-six years, when he began business on his own account. He purchased from his father a tract of one hundred and ninety-three acres, situated in Washington township, which he placed under a good state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. He carried on general agricultural pursuits, meeting with very desirable success in his undertakings. About ten years ago, because of impaired health, he abandoned business pursuits and removed to the village of Crete, where he has since made his home. He is everywhere known as a reliable and straightforward citizen and is numbered among the highly esteemed men not only of the village where he resides, but also throughout Will county.

In 1883 occurred the marriage of Mr. Scheiwe and Miss Anna Meyer, who was born in Crete township, Will county, July 19, 1865, a daughter of John D. Meyer, who is now deceased. Unto our subject and his wife have been born two sons. John, the eldest, pursued his education in the common schools, this being supplemented by a four months' course in a business college. He is now acting as a clerk in the Bank of Steger. He is an exemplary young man and one in whom his employers place the utmost trust and confidence. William is still under the parental roof and is now attending school.

Mr. Scheiwe and his family are members of the Lutheran church, and he gives his political support to the republican party, but is not active in local ranks of his party. During his earlier life Mr. Scheiwe worked persistently and energetically to acquire a competence and he is now enabled to spend his days in honorable retirement. Both he and his family are highly respected in Crete and their home is noted for its gracious and warm-hearted hospitality.

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#### ELRY G. SPANGLER.

A beautiful and modern country residence, standing in the midst of a well improved farm of two hundred and fifteen acres situated on sections 19 and 20, Jackson township, is the home of Elry G. Spangler. He is a native son of this township, born on his father's farm, June 21, 1860, a son of Henry and Rachel (Grove) Spangler. The father was born in Summit county, Ohio, February 26, 1837, and in 1858 he located in Will county, taking up his abode on a farm in Jackson township, following general agricultural pursuits here until 1889, when he removed to Joliet, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred in September, 1897, while his wife, surviving for only about a year, was called to her final rest in February, 1898. They were the parents of five children, four of whom survive, namely: Samuel M., who resides in Manhattan township, Will county; Elry G., whose name heads this sketch; Alvin O. and Mrs. Frank Brown, both of whom also reside in Jackson township.

Elry G. Spangler, the second in order of birth in his father's family, was reared on the old homestead farm in Jackson township, early becoming familiar with the best methods of farm work. When not actively engaged with the duties of the fields he pursued his studies in the district schools. When he started out in life to provide for his own support, he chose the occupation to which he had been reared, and he has since continued in general agricultural pursuits. His present property comprises two hundred and fifteen acres of well improved land, lying on sections 19 and 20, Jackson township. He has improved the place by the erection of good and substantial outbuildings, while a modern and commodious residence adds to the attractive appearance of the farm. He is practical in his methods of carrying on the farm work, so that each year brings him rich and abundant harvests as a result of the care and labor he bestows upon the fields.

Mr. Spangler was married on the 15th of March, 1882, to Miss Eva M. Winter, a native of Jackson township and the eldest of three children born unto Robert and Ellen (Morse) Winter, the other living member of the family being Charles Winter. Mr. Winter came to Illinois from Pennsylvania at an early day, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of Will county. He served throughout the period of the Civil war as a member of Company B, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry. He is now making his home in Marion, Wisconsin, his wife having passed away in 1884. Mrs. Spangler was born September 3, 1860, and by her marriage has become the mother of four children: Fred W., at home; Mrs. Garland Blatt, who resides in Elwood; and Bertha M. and Ollie, both of whom are with their parents.

Mr. Spangler has always given staunch support to the democratic party, and on that ticket was elected to the office of road commissioner, in which capacity he has served for the past fifteen years, and is the present incumbent. In his fraternal relations he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, White Cross, the Masonic order, the Court of Honor, and Jackson Grange, and is prominent in the different orders with which he affiliates.

Mr. Spangler and his estimable wife are hospitable, genial people and take great delight in entertaining their many friends, while in business



and political circles Mr. Spangler is well known, being a leader in many movements and measures instituted for advancement and progress in his home locality.

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### L. E. INGALLS.

The history of mankind is replete with illustrations of the fact that it is only under the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of opposition that the best and strongest in man are brought out and developed. The truth of this assertion finds another verification in the life record of L. E. Ingalls. Varied and extensive have been his business interests, and his ready recognition of opportunity has been the open sesame to success. An analysis of his life record shows that one of his strongest characteristics has been the perseverance that has enabled him to carry forward to a high state of perfection whatever he has undertaken. Joliet has profited largely by his business operations and many substantial enterprises of the city have felt the stimulus of his sound, directing judgment and keen discrimination. He is still financially interested in different concerns of Joliet, and at the same time is operating largely in real estate in Chicago, seeking the broader field of labor offered by the city marvelous.

A native of Illinois, from the outset of his business career Mr. Ingalls seems to have been prompted by the spirit of enterprise and progress which has been the dominant factor in the up-building and development of the middle west. He was born in Dupage township, Will county, October 26, 1839. His father, Henry Ingalls, a native of Vermont, was born in 1800. Following his removal to the middle west, he followed the occupation of farming in Dupage county, and died in the year of 1875. The mother bore the maiden name of Lois Royce and was a sister of Jonathon Royce and Abner Royce of Dupage township, now deceased. She was born in the state of New York in 1800 and passed away in 1856. Their family numbered twelve children: Samuel, Mary, Henry, Jonathon, Phoebe, Hannah, George and Andrew, deceased; Abner E. Ingalls, of Joliet; Frank I.

Ingalls, of Seneca, Kansas, and Lois Sargent, of Naperville, Illinois, still living.

The educational advantages of L. E. Ingalls were limited to about eight months attendance in the Naperville school, but reading and observation have largely broadened his knowledge, and in the school of experience he has learned the many valuable lessons that have made him a well informed, practical and successful man.

He started upon his business career when sixteen years of age, having no capital save strong determination and earnest purpose. He worked first for his board and afterward was employed at farm labor at ten dollars per month, and later received sixteen dollars per month, and subsequently twenty-five dollars per month. He did not continue long as a farm hand, however, being ambitious for a broader business outlook. He eagerly watched for opportunities and improved them when they came. He purchased the right of way for the Chicago, St. Louis & Western Railroad Company and also had charge of the grading of the road south of Joliet and at different places along the line. Gradually he worked into the field of real-estate operations and has handled more property than any other man in Joliet. In the year of 1869 he purchased his home place adjoining the corporation limits of the city and he now owns three hundred and forty acres, constituting a valuable farm, which borders the gravel road. It is beautifully located near the Higinbotham place, and in fact Mr. Ingalls sold some land to Mr. Higinbotham. Nature has furnished much original beauty which has been enhanced by the arts of the landscape gardener. There is a fine park and race track on the place known as the Ingalls park, and here fairs and races are held. There is a street car line running through the farm and in the development of the property Mr. Ingalls has made a model country place, where he finds rest and recreation from the rush and turmoil of business life in the city. A large dairy business is conducted on the farm and the equipments are of most perfect character.

Connected with various business enterprises the labors of Mr. Ingalls have directly benefited Joliet in many ways. He was for fifteen years engaged in the conduct of the electric light plant of Joliet, first, the Joliet Lighting Company and afterward two other companies, and finally with





Truly Yours  
L E Ingalls



others purchased dam No. 1 and then formed the Economy Light & Power Company. He was also engaged in the lumber trade and he sold lumber and material to the steel mills in 1871 and in 1872 sold the lumber business to Mason & Plant. He originated the plan for the purpose of the purchase of the water plant of Joliet and thus his labors have been directly beneficial to the city in many ways. For a time he was connected with the Chicago & South Western Railway Company, which he sold to the Santa Fe Railroad, after which he continued with the latter company for two years. In 1887 he transferred his business interests largely to Chicago and now has a suite of rooms at No. 184 La Salle street, where he is president of the Richmond-Smith Company, milk agency, representing nearly three thousand farmers who ship their milk to Chicago. He also owns the Del Prado Hotel, at Fifty-ninth, Madison and Washington avenues. He also owns the large Chicago fireproof storage warehouse at Twenty-first and Wabash avenue, and likewise owns a large building at the corner of Illinois and Dearborn streets and another commodious compartment building on Fifty-ninth and Michigan avenue. His real estate holdings in the city are very valuable, and few men are better informed concerning the valuation of realty in the metropolis. He has held offices in the real estate board of Chicago and his opinions regarding property are largely received as authority in real-estate circles.

Mr. Ingalls has been married twice. He married Amelia Emmers, and his present wife bore the maiden name of Esther E. Bartholomew. She was born in Illinois, a daughter of Russ Bartholomew, a farmer of McHenry county, Illinois. Mr. Ingalls has lost three children, Millie, Roy and Charles, his surviving daughter being Myra, the wife of George M. Peale, a resident of Joliet.

Mr. Ingalls is a member of the Masonic lodge, chapter and commandery at Joliet, and Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Chicago. He also belongs to the Union Club and Commercial Club of Joliet and to the Union League and Hamilton Clubs of Chicago. There is naught of the theorist about Mr. Ingalls. On the contrary he is a man of action, and while others might argue and debate he has gone to work and demonstrated. It is his ready execution that has been one of the strong elements in his success, advancing him from an

humble financial position to one of business progress and affluence. He stands as a representative of the best type of American citizenship, belonging to that class of men who, while winning success, do not strew their pathways with the wreck of other men's fortunes. On the contrary, in his beautiful country home Mr. Ingalls has given evidence of his appreciation of nature in all of her loveliness and in his business relations has many times manifested a spirit of public progress that has prompted him to put forth generous and effective aid in support of many measures that have been of direct benefit to the city.

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#### JOSEPH ROSE.

Joseph Rose is a retired farmer of Manhattan and is well known in Will county, where for many years he was engaged in general agricultural pursuits. He was born in Nottinghamshire, England, March 1, 1825, his parents being John and Sarah (Whitely) Rose. The father, who was a farmer and lived on rented land, died during the early boyhood of his son Joseph, who then lived with his widowed mother until he had attained his majority and largely relieved her of the care and work of the farm. He came to America in 1850, sailing from Liverpool, on the sailing vessel *Manhattan*, commanded by Captain Mulligan. After a voyage of six weeks he landed in New York City and thence proceeded by the water route to Chicago, from which point he made his way over the Michigan and Illinois canal to Lockport. At that place he lived with Charles Robinson, who was formerly a resident of England, his home being seven miles from the Rose farm. Mr. Robinson lived in a house which he built from one load of lumber. When it rained pans and tubs were set at different points over the floor to catch the water running through the roof.

Mr. Rose had just twelve dollars when he reached Lockport. He left his wife and children in England, but as soon as he had earned sufficient money he sent for them and they arrived the following year. He worked for D. C. Young for three years for thirteen dollars per month, the highest wages paid at that time. He afterward engaged in farming for himself on rented land.

During the period of the Civil war, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land on section 12, Wilton township, the purchase price being one thousand dollars. He did not have quite that sum of money at the time, but soon discharged his indebtedness. He built a house and other buildings there and carried on the work of the farm year by year, meeting with excellent success. He there continued until 1891, when he retired from active farm life and removed to the village of Manhattan, but still owns the farm of two hundred and forty acres in Wilton township, from which he derives a good income. He also has four residence properties in the village and a half interest in the postoffice building.

Mr. Rose was married in England in 1846 to Miss Mary Allam, a native of that country, who died soon after the Civil war. They had seven children, namely: William, who is living in Joliet; Mrs. Graves, of Wilton township; Mary Jane, the wife of Robert Mackender, who is living on her father's old homestead; Charles, a resident of California; Robert, in the state of Washington; Hattie, who is married and lives with her father; and James, who is living on a part of his father's farm. Since losing his first wife Mr. Rose has been married twice. He first married Miss Hazard and afterward Miss Chadwick, but his third wife is also deceased.

Mr. Rose has always been a very industrious man and lived in a frugal and economical way, thus accumulating a competence, and he is now enabled to live retired. In politics he has always been a republican, but without aspiration for office. He is known as an honest man and one who has by close application and unflinching diligence gained the success which he now enjoys.

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#### WILLIAM ROBINSON.

William Robinson, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land in Wilton township, of which eighty acres is comprised in the home place, is an honored veteran of the Civil war, having loyally served his adopted country as a defender of the Union cause. He was born in Nottinghamshire, England, March 13, 1840, a son of Charles

and Ellen (Caudlin) Robinson, who emigrated to America in 1849, the ocean voyage requiring six weeks. The family home was established in Lockport, Will county, Illinois, where the father worked at farm labor for a time, for he was in limited financial circumstances. He worked industriously and perseveringly in order to provide for himself and family, and while so doing also saved some money, so that he was at length enabled to engage in farming on his own account, operating rented land for a time. In 1855 he came to Wilton township and purchased one hundred and sixty acres, on which stood a little shanty, while the land was partially cleared. He improved the place and carried on farming for many years. As he prospered in his work and added to his financial resources he invested his money in more land, so that at his death he left to his family an estate of four hundred acres. He died on his farm sixteen years ago, when he had reached the age of seventy-two years, while his wife passed away August 8, 1885. He was a republican in his political views and affiliations, and both he and his wife held membership with the Methodist Episcopal church. William Robinson of this review is the eldest of their six children, the others being: Robert, a resident of Joliet; Emma, the wife of James Barton, of Peotone; Joseph, who enlisted in Company H, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer infantry, during the Civil war and died at Nashville, Tennessee, December 16, 1863; Mrs. Hannah Rauworth, a resident of Chicago; and Charles, who died at the age of nine years.

William Robinson was a little lad of nine years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to this country, and he can well remember the incidents of that long and tedious voyage across the Atlantic. He was reared under the parental roof until he attained his majority, when, on the 25th of April, 1861, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company F, of the Twentieth Illinois Volunteer infantry, which was organized at Joliet. He proved a loyal and faithful soldier, never faltering in the performance of any duty that was assigned him. At the engagement at Briton's Lane, Tennessee, Mr. Robinson was shot in the thigh. He served with his regiment for four years and three months, being discharged July 22, 1865, having made a most creditable military record.

Following his return from the war, Mr. Robinson spent two years in the lumber woods of Wisconsin, after which he came to Wilton township, Will county, Illinois, and worked for his father for two years. In the meantime he was married, in 1868, to Miss Alice Rauworth and at the end of two years they received a little money from her father's estate, which made it possible for them to purchase eighty acres of land, which had been partially improved. After a residence of five years thereon they sold that property and purchased their present place of residence, the farm comprising eighty acres. All of the improvements which are here seen have been placed by Mr. Robinson, and everything about the place is kept in excellent condition, and he ever follows the best methods of farm work in the prosecution of his labors in the fields. In addition to his home farm he also inherited one hundred and sixty acres from his father's estate, this being operated by his son.

Mrs. Robinson was born in Yorkshire, England, June 6, 1846, a daughter of Benjamin and Martha (Armistead) Rauworth both of whom were natives of that country, whence they emigrated to the United States in 1862. The father was a wholesale and retail butcher in England and came to America to establish his sons in farming, intending to live here the remainder of his life, but died before his work was done. He had gone back to England to settle up his estate and died there. His wife passed away in this country twenty-two years ago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have been born eleven sons, the eight surviving members being: Joseph, who follows farming in Iowa; Wesley, who operates his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Wilton township; Amos, a painter and paper hanger, making his home in Joliet; Herbert, who follows farming in Oklahoma; William, at home; Lawrence, also at home; Walter, a resident of Oklahoma; and Vernon, at home. The deceased members are: Charles, the oldest son, who died at the age of fifteen years, while his twin died when only two weeks old; and Albert, who was two years of age at the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are consistent Christian people, holding membership with the Methodist Episcopal church, and their example is exemplified in the lives of their sons, who are noble and honorable young men—a credit to the communi-

ties in which they reside. The father has never used tobacco or intoxicants in any form and his temperance habits are strictly adhered to by his family of sons. The influence of this worthy couple is also felt throughout the community where they make their home, and there are no citizens of Wilton township who are more highly honored or have a larger circle of warm friends than does Mr. Robinson and his estimable wife.

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### JACOB GROSS.

Jacob Gross, engaged in the boot and shoe business at Peotone, Will county, is the oldest merchant in this place, having since 1888 continued his enterprise in the building which was at that time erected by him. Mr. Gross is a native of Germany, born in Medard, August 5, 1851, a son of Jacob and Mary (Gluck) Gross, both of whom were natives of the fatherland, and there spent their entire lives. The father was a shoemaker by trade and died at the comparatively early age of forty-three years, while his wife passed away at the age of thirty-eight.

Jacob Gross is the eldest of three children and is the only one who emigrated to America, the other members of the family continuing their home in Germany. At the age of fourteen years Mr. Gross became apprenticed to the shoemaker's trade for a period of three years. Believing that he might enjoy better business advantages in the new world, he then crossed the Atlantic to the United States, making his way direct to Peotone, where lived an uncle, Peter Conrad, who was engaged in the boot and shoe business at this place. For several years Mr. Gross worked at the bench in his uncle's establishment, during which time he carefully husbanded his resources, so that in 1888 he was enabled to erect a store building and put in a stock of boots, shoes and rubbers, and he has continued at this same stand since that time. Through his reliable and straightforward business methods he has built up a large and lucrative trade and is now the oldest merchant in the city in point of continuous connection with its business interests.

In 1876 occurred the marriage of Mr. Gross and Miss Lizzie Lauman, who was born near



Frankfort, Will county, a daughter of Conrad Lauman, one of the early settlers of Will county. Soon after the birth of the daughter, the father went to California, where his death occurred. Unto our subject and his wife have been born nine children: Ida, the wife of George Rehkopf, proprietor of the Peotone Steam Laundry; Emma, the wife of George Lann, a resident farmer of Will township; Frank, employed in the office of the Poultry Publishing Company, of Peotone; George, who is editor of the *Peotone Vedette* and is also acting as assistant postmaster; Alfred, a book-keeper for the Poultry Publishing Company; Carrie, a young lady at home; Herman, who is working at the butcher's trade in Peotone; and Ottie and Alfreda, who are in school.

When a young man of twenty years, Mr. Gross became identified with the United Evangelical church and has ever taken an active interest in its work, while he is now acting as a teacher in the Sunday school. In politics he is a republican where national issues are involved, but at local elections votes for the men whom he deems best qualified for office regardless of party ties or affiliations. Since 1882 he has acted as justice of the peace and for sixteen years has been police magistrate. He is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen camp, No. 1405, of Peotone, and for twenty years has been identified with the Masonic order, while he is also a member of the Eastern Star.

In manner Mr. Gross is quiet and unassuming and in business, social and fraternal circles commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he is associated.

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#### GEORGE ABBOTT, SR.

George Abbott, Sr., is now practically living retired in Joliet, although to some extent he engages in gardening. He was born in Keene, New Hampshire, in 1828 and though he has almost reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey he has never been confined to his home by illness. This is certainly a remarkable record and is largely due to the fact that he has never abused nature's laws. His father, Daniel Abbott, was of English parentage and for many years carried

on agricultural pursuits in New Hampshire, where he was also prominent in public life, serving for several terms in the state legislature. He married Polly Brown, a native of the old Granite state, and they became the parents of seven sons and two daughters, of which family two died in childhood. Three of the number are now living: Charles Abbott, who, at the age of more than eighty years, resides in New Hampshire; Mary A., also of that state; and George, of this review.

Having arrived at years of maturity, George Abbott sought and won as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Eunice Foster, of Keene, New Hampshire, who died in Joliet in 1861 and was laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery. For his second wife he chose Mrs. Abbie Ann Cutting, who came from Maine to the middle west, and whose father was a tanner by trade. She died more than ten years ago, when about sixty years of age. By her marriage she had become the mother of three sons and three daughters: John, who is a keeper at the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet; Lawrence, an engineer on the Chicago & Alton Railroad living at Joliet; George, who resides with his father; Lulu, the wife of James Wroughton of Joliet; Belle, the wife of Frank Shaw, employed at the steel mills in Joliet; and Isabelle, the wife of George East, an engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, residing at Brookfield, Missouri. There was also one child that died in infancy.

George Abbott of this review came to the middle west when twenty-three years of age. He first made his way to Missouri and helped get out timber for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, acting for about one year as foreman of a gang of men. He then became overseer on the plantation belonging to General Bolton, in which connection he supervised the labors of a crew of negroes. He then went to the east and married, after which he returned to Illinois and engaged in the cultivation of a large farm in Winnebago county for one year. In 1857 he arrived in Joliet and for eighteen years conducted a restaurant in the Rock Island depot. He afterward spent ten years in the same line of business at the corner of Chicago and Jefferson streets, erecting the building there which he still owns. He afterward bought ten acres of land in the western part of the town on Oneida street and engages to some extent in gar-



*George Abbott*



dening, although he is largely living retired. He has led a very busy, useful and active life and whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own labors and perseverance. In all of his business dealings he has been faithful and honorable and in the evening of his days receives the respect and veneration which should always be accorded one of his years. Socially he is connected with Joliet lodge, No. 4, A. F. & A. M., of which he is an exemplary member. In politics he has always been a republican, voting for each presidential candidate of the party since he attained his majority.

#### FRANK BROWN.

Frank Brown, owning a valuable and well improved farm of three hundred and sixty acres, situated on sections 13, 14, 15, 16 and 21, Jackson township, a part of which constitutes the old homestead property of his father, is also engaged quite extensively in breeding full blooded Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle.

Mr. Brown was born in Jackson township, February 26, 1860, a son of Ara B. and Martha (Haugham) Brown. The father came with his parents from his native state, New York, to Will county in 1834. He remained with them during the period of his boyhood and youth and when starting out in life on his own account engaged in farming on section 15, Jackson township, continuing in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1865. His family numbered thirteen children, six of whom still survive, namely: Mrs. Sarah B. Sharp, a resident of Danville, Indiana; Elias, a resident farmer of Jackson township, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Nancy J., a resident of Joliet; Mrs. D. F. Higgins, also of Joliet; Frank, of this review; and Martha M., a resident of Joliet.

Frank Brown was reared on the old homestead farm, assisting in the cultivation of the fields and the harvesting of the crops, thus gaining practical knowledge of carrying on general agricultural pursuits. When not engaged with the duties of the farm he pursued his studies in the district schools near his father's home. He also attended school at Elwood for three winters and during the win-

ter of 1883-4 was a student of Valparaiso, Indiana. He was early trained to habits of industry, thrift and economy, and this is no doubt the secret of his present gratifying success, for his present fine farm has been acquired entirely through his own persistency of purpose and his unremitting labors. He is today in possession of one of the most valuable farms of Jackson township, and he keeps the fields under a high state state of cultivation through the rotation of crops and the practical methods which he follows in the prosecution of his labors. He has a fine home and many good outbuildings upon the property, and one of the notable features of the place is the barn, which was erected by his grandfather, Peter Brown, in 1838, and which has been continuously used since that time and is still in a good state of preservation. The frame is constructed of hewed logs, fourteen inches square, while the roof is made of slabs of hardwood, and so far as is known this structure is the oldest one in Jackson township.

Perhaps the most important event in the life record of Mr. Brown occurred November 16, 1886, when he was united in marriage to Miss Adelia Spangler, who was born in Will county, a daughter of Henry and Rachel (Grove) Spangler. The father was born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1837, and in 1853 he located in Will county, taking up his abode on a farm in Jackson township, following agricultural pursuits here until 1889, when he removed to Joliet, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred in 1897. His wife, surviving for only about a year, was called to her final rest in 1898. Of their five children, four still survive, namely: Samuel, who resides in Manhattan township, Will county; Elry G., a resident farmer of Jackson township, further mention of whom is made on another page of this work; Alvin O., who lives in Jackson township; and Adelia, now Mrs. Brown. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born six children, all of whom are still under the parental roof: Almeda J., Elda, Frank S., Chester G., Martha M. and Donald, known as "Buster" Brown.

Mr. Brown is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen camp No. 3318, at Elwood. He has always been a supporter of the principles of democracy and is ever interested in all movements and measures tending toward the advancement

and progress of his town and county. He is known as a reliable business man, enterprising and alert, and he commands the respect and good will of all with whom he comes in contact.

#### WILLIAM WALLACE STEVENS.

William Wallace Stevens., the nestor of the Will county bar, the oldest member of the different Masonic bodies in Joliet, and one among the oldest residents of the city, was born in Rumford Falls, Maine, July 14, 1832. His parents were Bernard C. and Esther A. (Lufkin) Stevens. The father was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, in 1800, and was a son of Jonathan and Mary Stevens, also natives of that town. At the age of twenty-one years Bernard C. Stevens went to Rumford Falls, Maine, where he met and married Esther Abbott Lufkin in 1825. She was born in Rumford, June 14, 1797, and was a daughter of Benjamin and Mehitable (Abbott) Lufkin, also natives of that place. Mrs. Stevens was a lineal descendant of the Abbotts, the first settlers of Concord, New Hampshire, and of the Lufkins, the first settlers of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Her father was a soldier of the Revolutionary army and was wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill. Afterward he served in Captain John Drury's company, in Ezra Wood's regiment and participated in several of the important battles from 1778 to 1780, when he was discharged. Benjamin and Mehitable Lufkin had eleven children, eight sons and three daughters. Three of the sons were ministers in the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years were very prominent in church circles in their native state. Among the daughters were Esther A. Lufkin, who in 1825 gave her hand in marriage to Bernard C. Stevens, who was a farmer by occupation. They became the parents of seven children, of whom only two now survive: William Wallace, of this review; and Reuben F. Stevens. Both are residents of Joliet. The father died in October, 1874, and the mother on the 19th of April, 1849.

W. W. Stevens, after attending the common schools in his early youth, became a student in Tubbs Union Academy, at Washington, New Hampshire, and later in the Andover (N. H.)

Academy, from which he was graduated in the summer of 1854. In the following winter and spring he was assistant principal of the McIndoes Falls (Vermont) Academy and in November, 1855, he came to Joliet, where he entered the law office of Messrs. Parks & Elwood and commenced the study of law. He remained with that firm until March, 1859, when he was admitted to practice as an attorney, so that he has been a member of the bar for almost half a century.

On the 6th of September, 1859, Mr. Stevens was married to Miss Althea Hawley, a daughter of the late Judge Oscar L. and Nancy (Burdge) Hawley. Mrs. Stevens was born in Lockport, this county, April 13, 1839. Her father was born in Schoharie county, New York, in 1809, and was a son of Lyman and Althea Hawley, also natives of the Empire state. They came to this county with their son Oscar in 1834, establishing their home here when Will county was a frontier district and Joliet little more than a crossroads village. Judge Hawley became one of the prominent men of the county. He was elected county clerk in 1849 and held the office until 1857, when he was elected county judge, continuing to serve upon the bench until his death, on the 8th of November, 1861. Mrs. Hawley was born in Chautauqua county, New York, August 18, 1819, was married in April, 1838, and died in Lockport, in 1848.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens are the parents of seven children: The eldest, Ada H., in 1881, became the wife of Charles M. Becker, of Joliet, who died in Daytona, Florida, September 19, 1888, leaving a son, Claude W. Kate Esther, the second daughter is at home. Will H. married Fannie Oviatt, of Lauding, Michigan, and they have two children, William Wallace and Maude Winifred. They are residents of Daytona, Florida. Ella V. is the wife of Will S. Hamm and they reside at Lakeside, Illinois, with their two daughters, Grace Winifred and Willa Elanore. Jennie M. is at home. Frank M. married Miss Sadie Perkins, of Joliet, lives at Oak Park, Illinois, and has two children, Edna Althea and Harold Perkins. Winifred Wallace, the youngest, is also at home.

Mr. Stevens is a member of Mount Joliet lodge, No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; and Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T., and is the oldest member of each of the three



bodies and also the oldest past master of the lodge and high priest of the chapter. He is likewise dean of all the attorneys of the county, and because of his long connection with the bar, with fraternal interests and with those movements and measures which have direct bearing upon the welfare and upbuilding of the county, it would be difficult to find one who has more intimate knowledge of the events which have shaped its history and the men who have promoted its progress.

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#### WILLIAM J. KOEPKE.

William J. Koepke, engaged in general merchandising in Peotone, has developed a business of gratifying proportions and has made a creditable record by the commercial ethics which he has followed. He was born in Monee, Will county, in 1872, a son of Christian and Wilhelmina (Buethe) Koepke, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father came to the United States with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Koepke, when fourteen years of age, the family home being established upon a farm in Green Garden township among the pioneer residents of Will county. Although reared to agricultural pursuits Christian Koepke was for twenty-five years a merchant of Monee, and a prominent representative of commercial interests in his section of the county, but during the past fifteen years he has lived retired from business, having through his capable management and the careful husbanding of his resources obtained a competence that enables him to rest from further labors. He now owns three farms in Green Garden township and also has landed interests in Kansas. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, in the work of which he takes an active interest and to its support contributes generously. For many years he has been a loyal democrat and at different times has acted as president of the village board of Monee. In 1904 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away at the age of sixty-two years, in the faith of the German Lutheran church, of which she had been a devoted follower. They were the parents of five children, of whom two died in infancy, while Doretta died in 1891. The living daughter, Lena, is now the

wife of William Plagge, a retired merchant of Monee.

William J. Koepke, the only surviving son, attended school at Monee and also the Metropolitan Business College in Chicago. He entered commercial life as a salesman in a drug store in Chicago where he remained for five years, after which he pursued a course of pharmacy in the Chicago College of Pharmacy and was there graduated. In 1894 he bought out the general stock of merchandising of Frederick Wahls, of Peotone, and has since been continuously in business, covering a period of twelve years. He carries a good line of dry goods, clothing, groceries, furs and other general stock and has a liberal patronage, which is accorded him in recognition of his reasonable prices and his honorable business methods.

Mr. Koepke was married in 1895 to Miss Bertha Wahls, who was born in Peotone, in 1875, a daughter of Frederick and Catherine Wahls, the former a pioneer merchant of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Koepke have one daughter, Catherine, now six years of age. They are members of the Lutheran church and theirs is one of the most beautiful homes of Peotone, having been erected at a cost of six thousand dollars. It is beautifully furnished and gives every evidence of a refined and cultured taste. Mr. Koepke supports the democracy and has served as a member of the village board for a number of years. Community interests awaken his earnest admiration and many movements for the public good receive his hearty endorsement and co-operation.

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#### ROBERT EATON.

Robert Eaton, one of the leading farmers of Jackson township, was born on the 2d of November, 1858, in Kendall county, Illinois, and was a child of four years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Will county, the family locating in Jackson township in 1862. His father, Daniel Eaton, was born in Craigh Warren in the north of Ireland, September 26, 1828, his parents having removed to that country from Scotland a few years prior to his birth. In the family were five sons. On attaining his majority Daniel Eaton was united in marriage to

Miss Mary McClintock and seven years later they came to the new world, locating first in Kendall county, Illinois, where they made their home until coming to Will county in 1862. Unto them were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters, of whom two sons and the three daughters still survive, namely: Daniel, a resident of Joliet; Robert, of this review; Mrs. G. J. Eib, of Jackson; Mrs. Anna Jacobson, also of Jackson; and Mrs. Mary Ralf, of Cedar Falls, Iowa. At the father's death, which occurred December 7, 1906, he had eighteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Throughout his active business life he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits and met with fair success, so that he was able to leave his widow in comfortable circumstances. He was an earnest and consistent member of the Central Presbyterian church of Joliet and his upright, honorable life won for him the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact either in business or social relations.

Robert Eaton grew to manhood upon the home farm and has always followed the occupation to which he was reared, being now the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres on section 9, Jackson township. In connection with general farming he makes a specialty of the raising of full blooded Poland China hogs, Percheron horses and shorthorn cattle.

On the 3d of February, 1882, Mr. Eaton married Miss Julia E. Young, of Jackson township, who is the tenth in order of birth in a family of thirteen children, her parents being Sheldon and Eliza (Haugham) Young. She has four sisters and one brother still living, namely: Mrs. Lena Williams, a resident of Oklahoma; Mrs. L. H. Eib, of Joliet; Mrs. Emma Palmer, of Jackson township; Mrs. Mattie Pierce, of Chicago; and Walter H. Young, of Southington, Connecticut. The father of this family was born in New York state in 1820 and in 1838 came to Jackson township, Will county, Illinois, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred July 17, 1900. His wife died on the 28th of June, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton have four children: John R., Ernest L., Harry L., and Robert Young, all at home.

On attaining his majority Mr. Eaton affiliated with the republican party, which he continued to support until the fall of 1906, when he became a

prohibitionist and on that ticket ran for state senator. Although defeated at the polls he received the largest vote the prohibition party ever polled in Will county. Both he and his wife are active members of the Central Presbyterian church of Joliet, and he is a prominent and influential member of several social organizations, having been an officeholder in the Illinois State Grange for fifteen years. He also belongs to the Court of Honor and Knights of the Globe and is now serving as president of the Will County Farmers Institute. He is a genial, broadminded man whom it is a pleasure to meet, and he has a host of friends throughout this section of the state.

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#### MATT BERSCHIED.

Matt Berscheid, well known in musical circles in Joliet, having for a quarter of a century devoted his time to the art, while for a number of years he has been leader of the orchestra in the Joliet theater, was born in Mendota, Illinois, in 1857. His father, Bernard Berscheid, was born in Germany and came to Illinois in 1853, settling in Lockport. He was a miller in his native country, and after arriving in Will county he followed his trade in Lockport, Mendota, Hennepin, LaSalle and Joliet, continuing in that line of business until his death, which occurred in 1892, when he was seventy-two years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Susan Zahren, was born in Germany and came with her parents to America about 1854, the family home being established in Will county. She survived her husband for some time and passed away March 29, 1906. In the family were eleven children: Henry; Matthew; Peter, deceased; John; Frank, who is alderman of the third ward in Joliet; Julia, the wife of James Maloy; Mary, the wife of John Harrigan; Kate, the wife of Jerry Harrigan; Bert; Anna, deceased; and Bart.

Mr. Berscheid of this review became a resident of Joliet in 1871, when fourteen years of age. In early life he learned the barber's trade, which he followed for a number of years and while thus engaged he took up the study of music preparatory to devoting his life to that art. He has given twenty-five years to that line of business



MATT BERSCHIED.



and for a considerable period has been leader of the orchestra at the Joliet theater. He has superior talent and skill as a musician and his ability has won him wide and favorable recognition.

Mr. Berscheid was married in Joliet, in 1900, to Miss Elizabeth Horan, who was born in this city, and they have three children, Marie, Matthew Stanley and James Robert. In his political views Mr. Berscheid is a democrat and is one of the local leaders of the party. In 1903 he was elected city clerk and was again chosen to that office in 1905, so that he is the present incumbent. His re-election was proof of his capability, his promptness and fidelity in the discharge of his duties. He has been a resident of Joliet for more than a third of a century and its history is well known to him.

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#### JOEL WILLIAM GOUGAR.

Joel William Gougar is numbered among the native sons of Will county, who was formerly identified with agricultural interests, but is now local manager of the Chicago Telephone Company's exchange at New Lenox. He represents one of the well known pioneer families of Will county, his birth having occurred on his father's farm in New Lenox township in 1861, a son of William and Clarissa (Hawkins) Gougar.

The paternal great-grandfather, William Gougar, was born in Germany, whence he emigrated to the United States, locating in Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he developed a farm. He was accompanied to the new world by two brothers, one of whom settled in Virginia, while the other located in Kentucky. The paternal grandfather, William Gougar was married in Berks county to Miss Catherine Abel, and following his marriage he remained there until 1818, when with his family he went to Pickaway county, Ohio, where he purchased and developed a new farm, whereon he made his home for four years, subsequent to which time he disposed of his property and removed to Vermillion county, Indiana, there making his home until 1831, which year witnessed his arrival in Will county. Here he made purchase of a tract of wild land on Hickory creek, and at once began the arduous task of developing and cultivating the fields until he made

it a valuable property, adding to his holdings as his financial resources increased until at the time of his death he owned three hundred and twenty acres, constituting him one of the large landowners of this county. For many years he made his home in a log cabin, in which the family lived in true pioneer style, but he later erected a more commodious frame residence and added many substantial improvements to his place. He was a prominent citizen of his locality and on the democratic ticket was elected to various public offices, serving for several years as commissioner, while for a long period he served on the district school board. He was reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church, and his home was frequently used as a place of worship for there was no church of that denomination in his locality. After many years of happy married life Mrs. Gougar was called to her final rest in 1854 when she had reached the age of fifty-six years, being survived by her husband until 1861, when he, too, passed away, having reached the advanced age of eighty years. Their family numbered eleven children, while two of the number still survive, these being: Lewis and Joseph E., twins, the former residing in Denver, Colorado, while the latter makes his home in Will county.

William Gougar, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, August 24, 1818, the same year of the removal of his father's family to that state from Pennsylvania. He was reared in the Buckeye state to the age of four years after which he accompanied the family on their various removals, being a lad of thirteen years when the father made a permanent settlement in Will county. Owing to the new and unsettled condition of the country his educational advantages were limited to a pioneer district school built near his home on the banks of Hickory creek. His education was supplemented in later life through reading, observation and investigation. At the early age of fourteen he enlisted for service in the Black Hawk war, spending several months in active warfare and enduring many privations and hardships. Two of his brothers, Daniel and Nicholas, were members of the militia in the Black Hawk war. Following his return from the war, William Gougar assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, remaining under the parental roof until 1850, when he made the over-



land trip to California, remaining on the Pacific coast for three years, during which time he met with fair success in his mining operations. In 1853 he returned to Will county and purchased a farm in New Lenox township, the place being located one mile west of the village. He was there engaged in farming and stock-raising until 1891, when he retired from active business life and removed to the village of New Lenox, where he purchased a home, for he had become incapacitated for farm work as the result of injuries which he had sustained in an accident. He started out in life as a poor boy but through his close application, his industry and his economy, he gradually worked his way upward until he became the owner of five hundred and thirty acres of valuable farming land in Will county. He was actively identified with the progress and advancement that has here been made, for at the time of his arrival the Indians were more numerous than the white settlers and on one occasion the family were driven from their home during an Indian raid. He gave his political support to the principles of democracy and served a number of years as school director, aiding in the erection of school-houses and other public buildings. Deprived in his youth of good educational advantages and realizing the value of broad learning, he did what he could to furnish such advantages to his children as well as his neighbors' children.

In 1859 occurred the marriage of Mr. Gougar and Miss Clarissa Hawkins, who was born in Limestone township, Kankakee county, Illinois. She was an estimable lady, highly respected in New Lenox, where she died October 28, 1899, surrounded by a host of warm personal friends. The family has been called upon to mourn the loss of the father, whose death occurred July 2, 1906. He was devoted to the welfare and happiness of his wife and children, taking the utmost pleasure in their companionship, while he was faithful in friendship and loyal in citizenship, so that his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret not only in the village where he made his home but throughout Will county, where he had a wide and favorable acquaintance. Their three children, Joel W., Helen and Frank, still survive.

Joel William Gougar, the eldest member of the family, was reared to farm life on the old home-

stead, assisting in the operation of the fields during the summer seasons, while through the winter months he pursued his early education in the district schools near his father's home, this being supplemented by study during two winter seasons at Valparaiso, Indiana. Following his father's removal to the village of New Lenox, the son operated the homestead farm until 1899, when, he abandoned agricultural pursuits and removed to the village, where in 1902 he engaged in the telephone business, and this has continued to be his occupation to the present time. He formerly owned two hundred acres of valuable farming land but recently disposed of this to good advantage, it being a tract which was purchased by his father in 1884.

Choosing a companion and helpmate for life's journey, Mr. Gougar was married December 1, 1886, to Miss Charlotte Finette Gillett, who was born in New Lenox township, Will county, in 1867, a daughter of Eglert A. and Emily Gillett, both of whom are still living and now make their home in Utah. Mr. and Mrs. Gougar are communicants of the Episcopal church, and Mr. Gougar is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Matteson lodge, No. 175, at Joliet. He follows in his father's political footsteps, thus supporting the democratic party. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gougar has been blessed with a daughter and son: Myrtle Helen, who is now a student in the Joliet high school; and Walter B., who is a public school student. Mr. Gougar and his family occupy an enviable position in social circles and the hospitality of their own pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

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#### WILLIAM F. KOELLING.

William F. Koelling, cashier of the Crete State Bank, in which connection he has gained a creditable position in financial circles, although one of the younger business men of the town, was born in Monee township in 1877. His father, Ernest Koelling, was a native of Germany and is now living in Chicago Heights at the age of sixty years. He came to the United States in 1857, settling in Monee township, Will county,

where his parents purchased a farm. He was reared upon the old family homestead there and attended the country schools. Throughout his active business life he carried on the work of tilling the soil and after he had spent sometime in this county he rented a farm in Washington township, while in 1886 he removed to a farm in Crete township. There he resided until 1901, when he retired from active business life, making his home in Chicago Heights. He was practical and enterprising in all that he did and thus won a goodly measure of success as an agriculturist, acquiring a handsome competence that now enables him to live retired from further labors. He belongs to the Lutheran church and was a democrat in political faith until 1904, when he cast his ballot for Theodore Roosevelt. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lizzie Wedel, was born in Germany and is now fifty-six years of age. She came to the United States in 1875 and after living for one year in Chicago she was married in 1876 to Ernest Koelling. She, too, is a member of the Lutheran church. They have one son and four daughters: William F.; Louise; Anna; Emma; and Alvina. The daughter Emma is the wife of George Merker, who is engaged in the ice business at Chicago Heights.

William F. Koelling was reared upon a farm and attended the district schools. He spent a year in a Chicago business college to further equip himself for life's practical duties and upon leaving the farm in 1900 he accepted a position in a grain office at Chicago Heights, where he remained for a year. He was afterward for two years with a lumber firm at that place, on the expiration of which period he entered the real estate office of Ernest W. Balgeman of Chicago Heights, and in 1904 they organized the Crete State Bank with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, which was later increased to fifty thousand. Mr. Balgeman is the president, with H. C. Wehmhoefer as vice president and William F. Koelling as cashier. The bank has done an excellent business from the start and its deposits have reached one hundred thousand dollars. They own a beautiful bank building, a one-story structure with a stone front, built in Grecian style of architecture and supplied with modern fixtures. Mr. Koelling is a member of the American Bankers' Association and of the

Illinois Bankers' Association, and has shown excellent business discernment in the control of the institution which is now under his management.

In 1903 occurred the marriage of William F. Koelling and Miss Mary Luecke, who was born in Washington township, Will county, in 1877, and is a daughter of Fred and Frederika Luecke, who came to the United States in an early day, settling on a farm in Washington township, her father becoming one of the successful agriculturists of that locality. He died in 1883, while his widow still resides in Crete. Mr. and Mrs. Koelling have two children: Arthur Howard, who was born August 20, 1904; and Mabel Alice, born December 11, 1906. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Koelling is a republican who is now serving as treasurer of the village. He is one of the men of enterprise and business activity who are doing much for the village in which he is located and he has become popular in both business and social circles.

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#### EDWARD DONAHOE.

Edward Donahoe, living retired in a pleasant home in Wilmington, was for many years actively engaged in commercial pursuits in this village. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, January 7, 1848, and when a little lad was brought to this country on a sailing vessel by his parents, Timothy and Mary (Williams) Donahoe, both of whom were natives of the Emerald isle. They arrived in the United States in April, 1854, making their way at once to Joliet, Illinois. They were communicants of the Roman Catholic church and both passed away in this village, the former at the advanced age of eighty years.

The son acquired his education in the public schools of Joliet and remained with his parents through the period of his boyhood and youth. In September, 1867, when a youth of nineteen years, he came to Wilmington and here engaged in business as a dealer in groceries, provisions, crockery, glass, wooden and willow ware. He applied himself diligently to his new business venture, and by his capable management and fair dealing soon demonstrated his ability to rank with the leading

merchants of this community. In 1874 he established a branch store at Braidwood, which he afterward turned over to his brother, John T. Donahoe. Mr. Donahoe continued his business enterprise here until 1889, when he sold out, but the following year resumed business operations, conducting his store with gratifying success until 1895, when he turned the business over to his son and daughter, Timothy J. and Rita Donahoe, now continuing the business which was established by their father almost a half century ago, so that the name of Donahoe is a familiar one in commercial circles.

Although leading a very active and busy life, Mr. Donahoe always found time for public interests, being a member of the city council in 1876-77, and his aid and support can always be counted upon in movements or measures which tend toward the advancement of his town or county. He is public spirited to a marked degree and is one of the leading citizens of this section of the county. During his active life he accumulated a comfortable competence, which now enables him to live in honorable retirement in a pleasant home, surrounded by his family and many warm friends. He is the owner of the Empire block in Wilmington, which he has remodeled and improved, making it an up-to-date building, now worth about twenty thousand dollars. The first floor is occupied by three stores and the Commercial National Bank; the second floor is used as an opera house and office rooms; and the third floor as lodge rooms.

On the 1st of February, 1872, Mr. Donahoe was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Feehan, of Wilton township, who was born in Ireland and brought to the United States during her infancy. They became the parents of six children, of whom five are still living, namely: Mary J., now the wife of A. B. Towle, a resident of Wilmington; Mathew J., who is engaged in the hardware business at Wilmington; Rita; Frances; and Edward P., who in connection with his sister Rita is engaged in the grocery business in Wilmington. One son, Timothy J., died December 23, 1904. The family are prominent both in business and social circles in their home town. In religious faith they are communicants of the Catholic church, and Mr. Donahoe is identified with a number of fraternal orders, including the Modern Woodmen

camp, No. 124; the Elks lodge, No. 296, of Joliet; and Division No. 4 of the Ancient Order of Hi-bernians at Joliet.

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#### PHILIP YOST.

Philip Yost, a member of the firm of Yost Brothers, proprietors of a meat market at Lockport, was born November 14, 1862, his parents being John A. and Mary (Miller) Yost. The father came from Germany in 1851. He was a shoemaker by trade but shortly after his arrival in Lockport he became connected with the firm of Norton & Company, in the milling business and acted as superintendent of their flour and paper mills at Lockport until he retired from business life. He died at the age of seventy years.

Philip Yost, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the public schools of Lockport, passing through successive grades until he had completed the high-school course. He began business life as a farmer but afterward entered the employ of the Illinois & Michigan Canal Company, and when he left that service went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he began clerking in a grocery store. He spent five years as a salesman in that city, after which he returned to Lockport and opened a meat market in connection with his brother Henry, under the firm name of Yost Brothers, in 1885. This business has since been continued with constantly growing success and a large trade is now enjoyed, many of their patrons having remained with them throughout all these years.

Mr. Yost was married to Miss Frances E. Waldvogle, of Lockport, a daughter of Andrew and Mary Waldvogle, the former a merchant. The marriage, which was celebrated May 1, 1889, has been blessed with two children, Casilda and Muri-lla. Mr. Yost is recognized as a citizen of worth and value and has twice been elected alderman. During his first term he was one of those who assisted materially in securing the passage of the ordinance for the laying of concrete walks throughout the city. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen, and is a charter member of

the Heptasophs and also of the volunteer fire department, of which he was formerly chief.

Henry J. Yost, brother and partner of Philip Yost, was born May 28, 1859, and acquired a public-school education. He afterward entered the paper mill of Norton & Company, where he remained for some time, going thence to St. Louis Missouri, where he learned the butcher's trade. He afterward engaged in business on his own account in that city until 1885, when he disposed of his market there and returned to Lockport. where in connection with his brother Philip he opened a large meat market, which they have conducted up to the present time, this being one of the leading enterprises of this character in the town. He, too, has been somewhat active in connection with public affairs, has served as assistant supervisor for four years and was treasurer of Lockport for two terms. While filling that position the bank of Lockport failed and with many others he lost a goodly sum.

Henry J. Yost was married to Belle Ruppert, of St. Louis, Missouri, a daughter of Henry and Catherine E. Ruppert, the former owner of a transfer and teaming business in St. Louis, where he died at the age of fifty years. Two children have been born of this union, Lillian P. and May Louise. Henry Yost as a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and also affiliates with the Macabees and the Elks of Joliet. The brothers are well known business men of marked diligence and enterprise, whose close application and unfaltering energy constitute the foundation upon which they have built the superstructure of their business success.

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#### HOWARD T. KELLIE.

Howard T. Keltie, dependent upon his own resources from an early age, is today one of the most prominent representatives of industrial life in Joliet and in business affairs has been energetic, prompt and notably reliable. He is today secretary and treasurer of the Keltie Stone Company, which is operating extensively in the quarrying and sale of stone: nor have his efforts been confined alone to one line but have reached out to various fields of activity wherein the business

development of the city has been promoted, while individual success has also been accomplished thereby.

Mr. Keltie was born in Clinton, Canada, June 27, 1851, a son of Thomas and Mary H. (McCullough) Keltie. The father was a native of Scotland and at an early age became a resident of Kingston, Canada, whence he removed to Clinton and there died in the prime of life. He was a carpenter by trade and in that manner provided for the support of his family, which numbered wife and seven children, three sons and four daughters, of whom two sons have now passed away. The mother, who was of English parentage, was born in Canada and died in Detroit but was buried at Joliet. In religious faith she was identified with the Methodist Episcopal church.

Howard T. Keltie was but three years of age when taken to Point Clark on Lake Huron. Four years afterward he returned to his native town and there attended the common schools until he reached the age of sixteen, when he began earning his own livelihood through employment in a stove factory. He afterward spent three years as engineer in the drilling of salt wells in Ontario in the vicinity of his old home and coming to Illinois, he was engaged to put down an artesian well at Lemont, beginning the work in July, 1873. He dug a well thirteen hundred and sixty feet deep—the first deep well in the locality. Subsequently he spent several months in deepening wells in Joliet, after which he returned to Canada, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1874 he arrived in Mendota, Illinois, where he dug an artesian well twenty-two hundred feet deep and subsequently he put down a well at Champaign, Illinois. Later he deepened the well at Mendota and his next contract was near Marseilles, Illinois, where he put down a well that was twenty-one hundred feet deep.

It was while at Marseilles, that Mr. Keltie formed the acquaintance of Mr. Hays of the Joliet Stone Company, who engaged him to buy an engine and machinery for sawing stone and put it in operation. With this company Mr. Keltie continued as an engineer for four years and was then superintendent of the quarries for a similar period. In 1884 he bought an interest in the Joliet & Chicago Stone Company and superintended the work at the quarries at Fourth



and Rowell avenues. Two years later he was made vice president and secretary as well as superintendent and continued to act in those capacities until he resigned in 1893. Organizing the Douglas & Keltie Stone Company, he became its manager and soon afterward bought his partner's interest changing the name to the Keltie Stone Company, of which he has since been secretary, treasurer and manager. Under his supervision quarries were opened between Jackson and Cass streets on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, where the company bought a large tract of land. He also opened and began to operate twenty acres west of Joliet on the same railroad. The quarries are provided with steam plants, derricks, siding and other necessary equipments, and the product is a good quality of building stone. He is also a contracting stone-mason and does all the work in this line for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. He also has had contracts for the material used in the government piers at South Chicago and at the present writing the Keltie Stone Company has the contract with the Great Lakes Dredging & Dock Company to furnish thirty thousand cords of stone for the new town of Gary, Indiana. Shipments of stone are made to all parts of the country with particularly large markets at Milwaukee and St. Louis. Mr. Keltie has become one of the foremost representatives of the stone industry in Joliet, having developed his business along modern progressive lines, and his keen perception, careful management and correct business principles have enabled him to develop an enterprise which has reached a large volume. Extending his efforts into other fields of activity, Mr. Keltie is financially interested in the Will County Bank and was one of the incorporators of the Vance Furniture Company, acting as its secretary until the business was sold.

In community affairs Mr. Keltie is deeply and actively interested. He is a valued representative of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained high rank, belonging to Mount Joliet lodge, No. 42, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T.; and to the Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine in Chicago. He is likewise connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, having served as chancellor commander in the latter organization. In his political views

a stalwart republican, he has served as a member of the county central committee, has been treasurer of the Working Men's Republican Club and has labored earnestly and effectively in behalf of the principles in which he believes. He has served as a member of the board of school trustees for Joliet township and as its president, and in 1904 was elected a member of the city council, to which position he was re-elected in 1906.

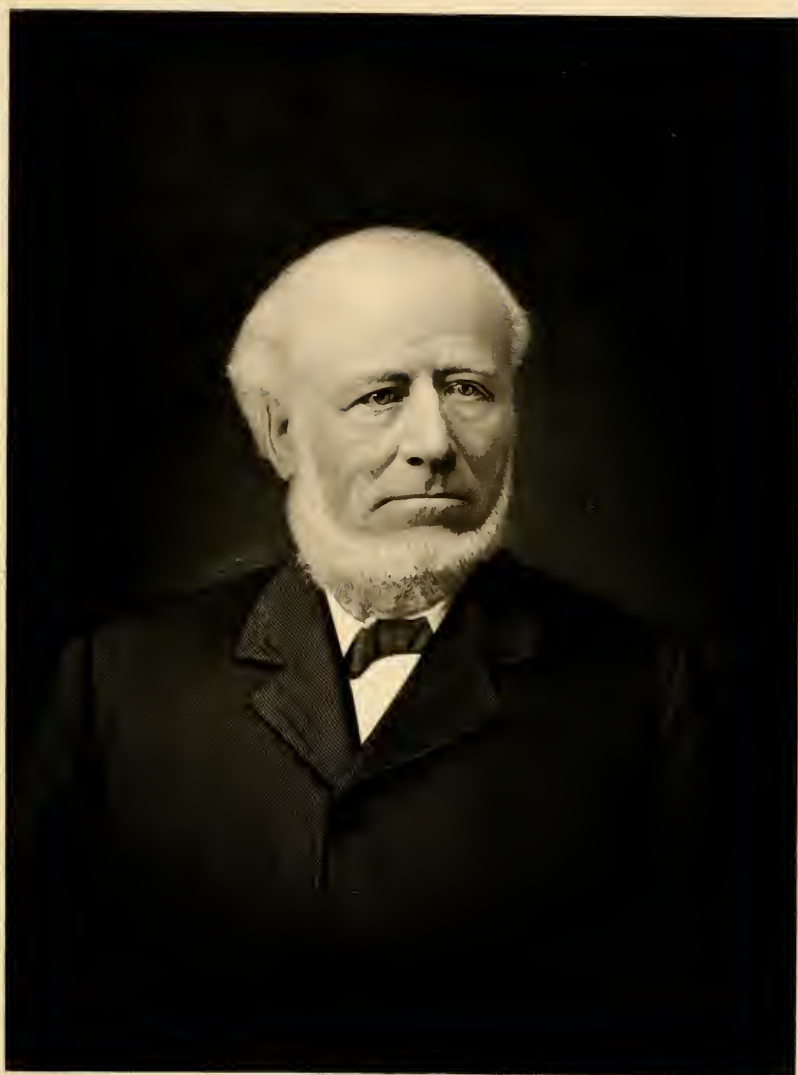
In Joliet Mr. Keltie was married to Miss May T. Smith, who was born in this city, a daughter of William Smith of Joliet, and they have three children, William H., Arthur J. and Laura M. They also lost one son, Howard, who was killed in front of their residence by a street car when four years of age. The family hold membership in the First Baptist church, in which Mr. Keltie is now serving as a trustee. They are well known socially and the hospitality of their own pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by many friends. Mr. Keltie thoroughly enjoys home life and takes great pleasure in the society of his family and his associates. He is always courteous, kindly and affable and those who know him personally have for him warm regard. A man of natural ability, his success in business from the beginning of his residence in Joliet has been uniform and rapid. He is, moreover, a public-spirited citizen and 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.

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#### JOSEPH S. BURTON.

Joseph S. Burton was for fifty-five years a resident of Wilmington and his many good qualities and strong traits of character made him a most highly respected citizen. He was born in Longworth, Lincolnshire, England, November 4, 1822, and was therefore in the eighty-third year of his age when he passed away at Wilmington on the 7th of February, 1905. He pursued his education in the schools of his native country while spending his boyhood days under the parental roof. He was a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Stennet) Burton, both of whom were natives of England, in which country they passed away. The





*Joseph T. Barton*



father engaged in market gardening there. The family numbered five sons and a daughter, but only one is now living—William—who resides in Wilmington, Illinois. Four of the sons, Thomas, Joseph, William and Septimus, came to the United States. Thomas married Elizabeth White and they had nine children, of whom three daughters are now living; Selina, the wife of Peter Brodie of Wilmington; Emma, the widow of Felix Keeley, who died in 1902, leaving five sons and a daughter, living with their mother in Wilmington; Ann, the wife of John Hennings of Wilmington.

Mr. Burton of this review came to the United States in 1849 and in November of that year settled in Wilmington. He was employed for several years in the White Cloud flour mill, having learned the milling business in the old country when a boy. Later he engaged in the meat business, in which he continued for several years, selling out, however, in 1867. He then returned to his native land on a visit to relatives and after spending three months in that country returned to the new world with his wife. He had been married ere he left England the first time, the lady of his choice being Miss Emma Buliflint, whom he wedded in September, 1847. She went back to England and had made quite an extended visit there, when her husband returned to his native land in 1867. As stated, they again came to the United States after he had visited among friends and relatives for three months, and he engaged in the brokerage and real-estate business in Wilmington, in which connection he became well known, his real-estate operations proving an element in the substantial development of Wilmington as well as a source of individual profit.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton had no children of their own, but adopted George W. Buliflint when he was two years of age. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Buliflint, who came to the United States on the same vessel with Mr. and Mrs. Burton in 1849. Mrs. Buliflint, however, died on shipboard and was buried at sea. The father died soon after his arrival in this country and Mr. and Mrs. Burton adopted the little son, who was thus left an orphan. They reared and educated him and at the age of sixteen years he enlisted for service as a member of Company E, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil war. He

was made a corporal July 18, 1862, in recognition of the bravery which he had displayed at Harrison Landing. Later he was promoted to sergeant and was wounded in battle. He was then granted a furlough, which he spent at home, after which he returned to his regiment, but he lost his life at Fort Craig, April 2, 1865. The color bearer having been shot down, a volunteer was called for, and the young man took the place of his dead comrade. While thus defending the colors he gave up his life, having seven bullet holes in his body.

After losing his first wife Mr. Burton was married on the 21st of September, 1893, to Miss Harriet Myers, the wedding ceremony being performed in Chicago by the Rev. Noble, of the Union Park Congregational church. Mrs. Burton was born in Ruswarp, Yorkshire, England, October 20, 1863, and was a daughter of John and Katurah (Kirby) Myers, natives of England. Mr. Burton continued in business in Wilmington for many years and was a resident of the city for more than half a century. The old homestead has ever been noted for its hospitality and Mr. Burton was a man of genial nature and kindly disposition, who enjoyed the companionship of friends and neighbors. He was strictly honest in all of his dealings and his word could always be depended upon. He reached the age of eighty-two years and at his death Wilmington lost one of its representative and valued citizens.

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#### JOHN BELL.

John Bell, a representative of the farming interests of Will county, owning and conducting a tract of two hundred and fifty-three acres in Florence township, is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred on the farm in which he still makes his home, December 3, 1861.

His father, David Bell, was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, March 16, 1812, and was there reared and educated. He learned the carpenter's trade in his native land, and when a young man of twenty-one years, having heard favorable reports concerning the new world, decided to try his fortune in America, accordingly, in 1833, taking passage on a sailing vessel, which was six weeks in

crossing the Atlantic. Landing at New York, he there remained for a time and worked at his trade. Later he spent some time in Canada and Michigan, continuing his work as a carpenter and joiner, and in 1837 he made his way to Illinois, locating at Wilmington, where he resided for many years, being there engaged in business as a carpenter and contractor. He finally located on a farm on section 30, Florence township. This was all wild and unimproved when it came into his possession but he developed and cultivated his fields and built a home thereon, this being constructed of black walnut, which cost him ten dollars per thousand. When he located here few settlements had as yet been made and there were many inconveniences to be endured in this frontier region. No wells had been dug, the water was bad, and consequently there was much sickness in the neighborhood. He had to drive to Chicago, which was their nearest market, for supplies, while the products of the farm were likewise hauled to that city. Deer and wild game were numerous, so that the family table was always well supplied with wild meats. Mr. Bell was a very prominent and influential man in his community, taking an active part in the development and improvement of this section of the state. He served as school director for many years, while he held membership with the Presbyterian church and helped to build the first church of that denomination in Wilmington in 1840. He gave his political allegiance to the whig party.

David Bell was twice married. His first marriage was celebrated at Wilmington, January 12, 1843, when Miss Sarah Cook became his wife. She was a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, and by her marriage became the mother of three children, of whom two are now living: May, who was born September 8, 1843, and is now the wife of E. E. Hazzard, a resident of Paw Paw, Michigan; and William, who was born March 1, 1847, and resides in Manteno, Illinois. The wife and mother passed away July 6, 1855, and Mr. Bell then wedded Jeannette McIntosh. She was born in Perth, New York, November 8, 1829, and on the 20th of February, 1861, at Wilmington, gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Bell. This union was blessed with a son and daughter: John, of this review; and Elizabeth, who was born February 23, 1864, and is now the wife of Clarence

E. White, a resident of Florence township. Mr. Bell passed away February 10, 1901, at the venerable age of eighty-nine years, while his wife survived for only a brief period, her death occurring April 20, 1902, when she was seventy-three years of age. They were prominent pioneer people of Will county and had aided in securing for it the conveniences and comforts which are enjoyed by its present citizens.

John Bell, the only son of the father's second marriage, was reared to farm life, receiving practical instruction from his father in the care and cultivation of the crops. During the winter months he pursued his studies in the common schools and thus acquired the knowledge which now enables him to successfully conduct his business interests. He remained at home until he attained his majority, giving his father the benefit of his services until that time. He then started out in life for himself by engaging in the occupation to which he had been reared. He is now operating a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-three acres in Florence township, and in addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, likewise raises stock. He formerly fed and shipped some cattle but now makes a specialty of Poland China hogs, raising from forty to eighty head annually. In 1904 he erected a modern country residence, this constituting one of the fine homes of this part of the state.

Mr. Bell was married in Wilmington, October 5, 1898, to Miss Mary A. Shipley, who was born in Glenville, New York, September 4, 1868, a daughter of James S. and Catharine F. (Schuyler) Shipley, the former born in the Empire state, January 1, 1826, and the latter in Minerville, New York, August 28, 1846. They were married near the latter city, February 28, 1866, and the father followed farming in the east until 1880, when he took up his abode in Will county, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres in Florence township. Later he purchased a second farm, comprising one hundred and eighty-four acres, but in 1895 disposed of both tracts and removed to Wilmington, where he owns a nice home, in which he is now living retired. He has, however, since purchased a farm of sixty-four acres south of the village, which is operated by his son, William S. He likewise owns a fruit farm near South Haven, Michigan, and from his

property derives a good rental, which supplies himself and family with all the comforts of life. His family numbers two daughters and one son: Sarah; Mary A., now Mrs. Bell; and William S., who wedded Susie Millard and is now operating his father's farm. Mr. Shipley gives his political support to the republican party.

Mr. Bell has served as school director for the past six years, and, like his father, gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church and is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to River camp, No. 124. Both he and his wife are prominent in the community where they reside, and their own beautiful home is a favorite resort for their many friends.

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#### AMBROSE J. REARDON.

Ambrose J. Reardon, one of the leading citizens and representative farmers of Troy township, has spent his entire life in Will county, being born on the farm where he now resides, on the 2d of April, 1863. His father, Patrick Reardon, was a native of Ireland, born near Queenstown, County Cork, March 28, 1814, and was seven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to New Brunswick, Canada, where he grew to manhood. When a young man he went to Worcester, Massachusetts, and there followed farming until coming to Will county, Illinois, in 1842, being one of the early settlers of Troy township. When he located there there was only one house between his place and Joliet. As an agriculturist he met with excellent success and became the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of four hundred and forty acres on section 23, Troy township, where he made his home until his death, which occurred on the 10th of October, 1893. In 1850 he wedded Miss Mary Murphy, also a native of Ireland, and to them were born nine children, but five of the number died in infancy. Those still living are Thomas E., a resident of Denison, Texas; John and Francis B., both farmers of Troy township; and Ambrose J., of this review. The parents were both earnest and consistent members of the Catholic church.

Ambrose J. Reardon was reared in the usual manner of farmer boys and acquired his education mainly in the district school near his home, though for four months he was a student in the Russell Business College at Joliet. He never left the parental roof and continues to reside on the old home farm, where he now owns two hundred acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings.

On the 28th of April, 1897, Mr. Reardon was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Frances Boughan, daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Brenock) Boughan, also natives of the Emerald isle. Her father came to America in the '50s and for several years resided in Vermont, where he was married. He then lived for a time in Auburn, New York, and in the '60s removed to Chicago, where he still makes his home. Four children bless this union, namely: Victor A., born January 29, 1898; Paul J., born November 8, 1899; Virginia A., born March 14, 1902; and Arthur, born August 12, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Reardon are communicants of the Catholic church and are highly esteemed in the community where they reside. Mr. Reardon takes quite an active interest in local affairs and has efficiently served as commissioner, supervisor and collector of his township.

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#### T. J. HOLKE, M. D.

Although Dr. T. J. Holke is numbered among the more recent acquisitions to the medical profession of Peotone, where he is engaged in the general practice of medicine, he has already won a large and growing patronage, for he is thoroughly conversant with the most modern methods known to the members of his profession, and the results which have followed his labors have gained for him the trust and confidence of the public at large.

Dr. Holke was born in Waterloo, Monroe county, Illinois, April 16, 1876, a son of F. W. Holke, a minister of the German Evangelical church. He was born in Missouri and is now located at Freeport, Illinois. The son received his literary education in the public schools of Washington, Missouri, where his father was engaged in pastoral work. Having decided upon a professional ca-



reer for his life work he entered Washington University, at St. Louis, Missouri, being graduated from the medical department in the class of 1899. He then located for the practice of his profession in Freeport, but in February, 1904, came to Peotone, where he has built up a large practice, which is constantly increasing in volume and importance. He has a well equipped office in the M. Collins Bank building and has every modern appliance and accessory for successful practice.

In 1902 Dr. Holke was happily married to Miss Flora Hermsmeir, of Freeport. His fraternal relations are with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias of Peotone. Both he and his estimable wife are prominent in the social circles of this city, where they have already gained a host of warm friends.

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#### DANIEL HAYDEN.

The gentleman whose name introduces this review is one of the largest land owners of this great agricultural state, being the possessor of seven hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in Florence township, this supplying him with an annual rental which has enabled him since 1904 to live in honorable retirement. He was in former years one of the most extensive farmers and stock dealers of Will county, but since 1904 has abandoned all active business pursuits and now merely gives his attention to his invested interests, although he still retains his residence on the farm, which is the old Hayden homestead, his sister, Annie E., residing with him. His paternal grandfather, who also bore the name of Daniel Hayden, was born in Ireland and was one of the active participants in the rebellion of 1798. He was married there to Miss Catherine Donahue, also a native of the Emerald isle, and her death occurred in Ireland during her early womanhood. In 1845, when advanced in years, the grandfather emigrated to this country and died a few months later at the home of his son John, the father of our subject.

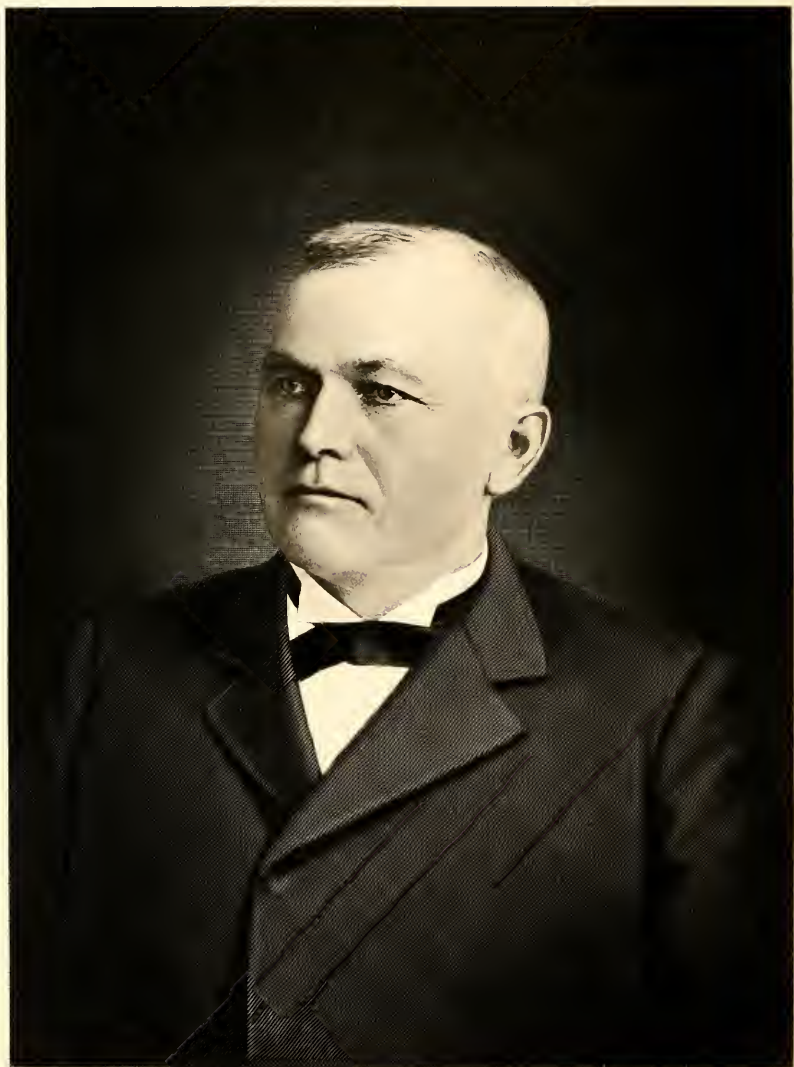
John Hayden, likewise a native of Ireland, born in 1815, emigrated to the United States when a young man of twenty years, having been attracted to the new world by the favorable re-

ports which he had heard concerning the opportunities here afforded to young men of ambition and determination. He made his way to Maine, purchasing land in Lincoln county, where he followed farming for several years. He was married in Ireland to Miss Hannah Kinsilla. She was born in Ireland, a daughter of Patrick and Bridget (Burns) Kinsilla. The former died in that country, after which the mother and two daughters came to America, the year of their arrival being 1850, and the mother made her home with a son until her death. The Kinsilla family at one time was a very wealthy one, its members owning valuable landed possessions, but on account of not affiliating with the established church of the seventeenth century their property was confiscated.

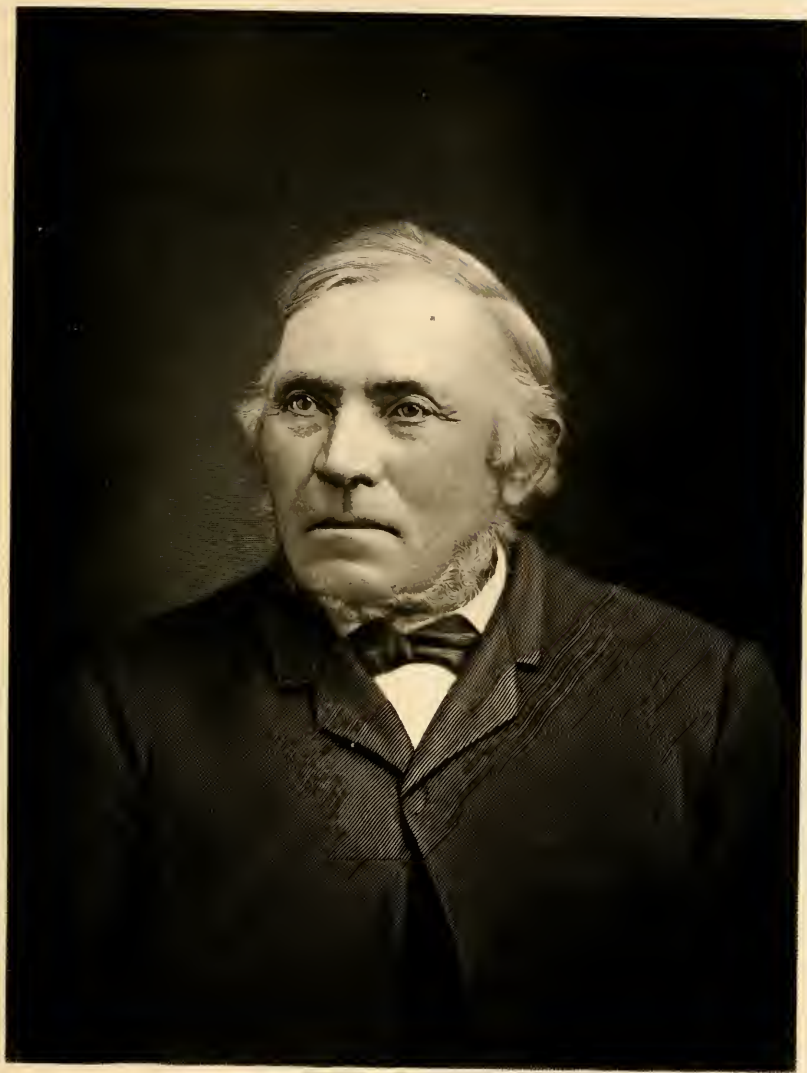
In 1851 John Hayden, with his family, came to Illinois. He settled in Joliet, where he bought teams, hired men and engaged in teaming to the quarries and railroads. After five years in that business he removed to Florence township, where he purchased a farm of fifty-three acres on section 12, and there carried on general agricultural pursuits. He possessed the industry, thrift and economy so characteristic of the people of his race, so that as time passed and he prospered in his undertakings he added to his original holdings until he became the owner of thirteen hundred acres, constituting him one of the wealthiest citizens of Will county. He spent his remaining days on his farm, his death there occurring April 5, 1889, while his widow survived for only about a year, passing away February 28, 1890. There were nine children born of this marriage, namely: Mary, who is married and resides on a farm in the Pine Tree state; Daniel, of this review; Catherine; Bridget; Thomas; John; Hannah; Burnett and Anna S. The father gave his political support to the democratic party, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Catholic church.

Daniel Hayden was born in Kennebec county, Maine, August 13, 1839, and acquired his education in Whitefield, that state, and in the country schools subsequent to the removal of the family to Will county. He was a lad of eleven years when he accompanied his parents to this state, and here worked with his father on the farm, aiding in the development and cultivation





*Daniel Hayden*



*John Hayden*





of new land. He later worked on the construction of the Rock Island Railroad, and in November, 1852, in company with Governor Matteson, rode on the first train which ran over the road. In 1853 he also worked on the building of the Joliet & Alton Railroad, constructing that portion which is now known as the branch of the Michigan Central line. Resuming farming operations, he was thus engaged until the winter of 1863-4, when he secured employment on a commissary boat, which delivered supplies to the soldiers at Vicksburg. He again returned to Florence township, where he was engaged continuously in farming and stock-raising pursuits until 1904, since which time he has lived retired. He formerly raised Percheron and Norman horses and fed from fifty to one hundred head of cattle and hogs each year. At the death of the father, the widow inherited a large estate, which, upon the death of the latter, was left to the children, so that Mr. Hayden is now in possession of a valuable farm of seven hundred and twenty acres.

Following in the political footsteps of his father, Mr. Hayden has always supported the democratic party, and is a communicant of the Catholic church. He has never cared for public office and, aside from serving as school director for four or five years and filling the office of pathmaster for three years, has never held public office. He is a man of pleasing appearance, of genial disposition and cordial manner, so that he has won many warm personal friends during the long years of his residence in Will county, which covers more than a half century.

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#### FREDERICK GATTER.

Frederick Gatter, whose home is in the outskirts of Frankfort, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 27, 1835. His father, Casper Gatter, was also a native of Wurtemberg, born in 1792, and passed away in 1844. He came to America in 1841. In Europe he was a master mechanic and on crossing the Atlantic to the new world he secured a position in the mills at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. Two years later he started with

several other families to Wisconsin. They remained for a few days at Kiles Tavern in Chicago and were afterward persuaded to locate in Frankfort township, Will county, where Mr. Gatter purchased sixty acres of land from the government at one and one-half dollars per acre. He was driving a span of gray horses at the time and he was offered eight acres of land where Chicago now stands for the two horses. Refusing this offer he located two and a half miles northeast of Frankfort and for several years carried on general agricultural pursuits there, passing away, however, in 1844. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. He married Rosina Colp, who was born in Germany in 1807 and was a member of the German Lutheran church.

Frederick Gatter had one step-brother and three step-sisters but was the only child born of his father's second marriage. He was a little lad of six years when brought to the United States and his education was acquired in the schools of Pennsylvania and of Chicago. After his father died he went to that city and was employed as a salesman in a hardware store for about a year and a half. He then returned to the farm in Frankfort township, where he lived for a number of years. He is now the owner of one hundred and eight and seven-eighths acres in the home place and fifteen acres at the north edge of Frankfort, where he is now living. His farming interests return to him a good income, so that he is comfortably situated in life. His political allegiance is given to the republican party but his time and energies are devoted mostly to his business affairs, which have been capably conducted and have thus brought him a goodly measure of success.

On the 21st of January, 1862, Mr. Gatter was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Maue, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 23, 1843, a daughter of Francis Maue, now deceased, who was a farmer of Frankfort township, living near Mokena. Mrs. Gatter holds membership in the German Reform church. By her marriage she has become the mother of four children. Charlotte, who was born May 11, 1863, died September 3, 1867. Albertena, who was born August 4, 1863, died December 6, 1871. One child, born November 26, 1868, died in infancy. Freddie, born July 13, 1873, married Philip Stellwatgen and they lived upon Mr. Gatter's farm in Frankfort

township. They have one child, Frederick, named in honor of the grandfather.

Mr. Gatter has led a life of industry and perseverance, devoting the greater part of his time and attention to agricultural pursuits and as the years have gone by he has displayed that persistency of purpose which is a strong element in prosperity and which enables many a man to overcome difficulties and obstacles.

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### JOHN SCHEIWE.

John Scheiwe, a farmer and breeder of short-horn cattle, residing on section 26, Crete township, which farm was his birth place, has spent his entire life in Will county. His natal day was June 17, 1860. His father, John Scheiwe, was born in Helsinghausen, in the province of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, February 7, 1822. In 1847 he and his brother emigrated to America, landing at Quebec, Canada. Thence they made their way to Chicago, where Mr. Scheiwe engaged in farm work and later was employed on a canal. He was a poor boy and had learned no trade, so that he worked at whatever he could get to do that would yield him an honest living. In 1851, he came to Will county, and settled on a farm in Crete, there developing what is known as the old family homestead. He and his brother purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which they afterward divided equally. When it came into their possession it was raw prairie with no improvements upon it. John Scheiwe, Sr., first built a little shanty in which he lived until he was able to erect a better house. Throughout his entire life he followed farming and by hard work, good management and careful economy he became wealthy. Adding to his possessions as time passed, he left an estate of nearly seven hundred acres, including what was given to his children. Not only did he prosper in his business, but in community affairs he always took an active and helpful part. He was one of the organizers of the Crete Mutual Insurance Company, and was one of the thirteen original members of the Lutheran church in which he held office for many years. In politics he was a stalwart republican and served for a long period as road commissioner. He aided in many movements for the material, political and moral progress of his com-

munity and became well known as a prominent, influential and honored citizen of Crete township. After coming to America he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Wehmhoefer, who was also born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, January 18, 1818, and came to the United States on the same ship as her husband. He died on the old homestead farm, July 24, 1891, and her death occurred at the same place on the 15th of February, 1899. In their family were four children who yet survive; Henry, a resident farmer of Washington township; Sophia, the wife of John Meier, of Woodworth township, Iroquois county, Illinois; William H., a retired farmer living in Crete; and John, of this review.

The last named was reared upon the home farm and was educated in the parochial and public schools. He remained at home after completing his education and carried on the cultivation of his father's farm. He now owns two hundred and fourteen acres of land, which was part of his father's estate. Since coming into possession of this tract, he has made many improvements thereon and has one of the best farms in the township. Upon the place are good buildings and the farm is a model in every respect. Aside from the work of raising the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, Mr. Scheiwe carries on stock-raising and for five years has made a specialty of raising and breeding thoroughbred shorthorn cattle. That he has fine stock is indicated by the fact that he has won many blue ribbons where his stock has been placed on exhibition at the county and state fairs. At the head of his herd he now has a fine bull, Grand Duke Indianola. He also raises pure bred Poland China swine.

On the 12th of April, 1885, Mr. Scheiwe was married to Miss Emma Ohlendorf, who was born in Crete township, January 1, 1864, a daughter of William Ohlendorf, an early settler of the county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Scheiwe has been born a daughter, Marie, who is now a young lady of twenty-one years. The family are active and faithful members of the Lutheran church, in which Mr. Scheiwe has served as an elder. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the republican party, and has served for one term as justice of the peace, but has never been an aspirant for office. In addition to his farm interests he also owns a residence property in the village of Crete.

He is justly classed among the leading agriculturists of this part of the state conducting business interests of importance and winning the reputation of being one of the leading cattle raisers and breeders of the county.

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#### GEORGE A. REHKOPF.

George A. Rehkopf is one of the prominent, influential and valued residents of Peotone, his position in public regard being indicated by the fact that he has been president of the village, and to him may be attributed the excellent sidewalk system of the town. He is, moreover, active in commercial circles as proprietor of the Peotone Steam Laundry. He was born in Monee, April 30, 1867, and like many of the residents of this section of the county, is of German lineage.

His father, Henry Rehkopf, was born in Germany and came to the United States in the latter part of 1865. He began farming on a tract of land in Monee township, Will county, and throughout his entire life was connected with agricultural pursuits. For three years he remained in Monee, after which he purchased a farm in Peotone township, living thereon until 1870, when he sold that property and came to Peotone, where he opened a hotel known as the New York House. This he conducted up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1881, when he was fifty-two years of age. He came to this country without a dollar, and owing to his life of industry, frugality and perseverance he was enabled at his death to leave his family in very comfortable circumstances, and, moreover, left to them the priceless heritage of an untarnished name. He was a member of the Lutheran church and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Amelia Ippenjer, was born in Germany in 1823 and died in 1896. She was first married in New York city to William Ahlborn, and they became the parents of three children, of whom two are now living: Henry, a resident of Will township; and Amelia, the wife of John Caine, of the same township.

George A. Rehkopf of this review is the only child born of his mother's second marriage. He pursued his education in the schools of Peotone, and after his father's death he assisted his mother

in the conduct of the hotel until 1894, when Mrs. Rehkopf retired from business and her son purchased a half interest in a general store in Peotone, thus entering commercial circles as a member of the firm of Croxen & Rehkopf. The partnership was maintained for five years, on the expiration of which period Mr. Rehkopf sold out and established the Peotone Steam Laundry, which he is now conducting.

On the 27th of November, 1897, occurred the marriage of Mr. Rehkopf and Miss Ida Gross, who was born in Peotone, March 19, 1880, and is a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Gross. The young couple are members of the Evangelical church and take an active and helpful interest in its work. Mr. Rehkopf is a Mason, and in his political views is a stalwart democrat. He was a member of the village board from 1892 until 1896, and during the succeeding four years was its president. He may well feel a just pride in the fact that he was the father of the sidewalk ordinance while occupying the presidency of the village. Moreover, he instituted many other movements for its improvement and upbuilding and he has always been a stalwart champion of the interests of the town and has done much for their furtherance.

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#### LOUIS S. MADISON.

A well improved farm of two hundred and twenty-seven acres, lying on section 4, Jackson township, Will county, is the home of Louis S. Madison, and that industry and perseverance are numbered among his most salient characteristics is indicated by the fact that this land has been acquired entirely through his own well directed efforts, for when he arrived in Illinois his cash capital consisted of but two dollars and a half.

Mr. Madison was born in Denmark, January 4, 1847, and is the fourth member of a family of six children born unto John and Mary Madison, of whom five are still living, the others being: Mrs. John Hansen, Mrs. George Thomsen and Martin Madison, all of whom still reside in their native country; and Mrs. Henry Johnson, a resident of Chicago. Louis S. Madison pursued his education in the common schools of Denmark and was a young man of twenty-two years when, in De-



ember, 1869, he decided to try his fortune in the new world. Accordingly he set sail for America, although he had no plans as to his destination or his pursuits, nor had he friends or relatives in this country. While crossing the Atlantic he formed the acquaintance of a lady of his own nationality. Her husband had previously come to this country and had located in Elwood, Illinois, and it was to this place that she was coming to join him. She induced Mr. Madison to come to Elwood, which he did, and when he arrived here he had but two dollars and a half in money, this necessitating immediate employment.

During the succeeding winter he worked for his board, and in the following spring he engaged in agricultural pursuits, operating a farm on the shares for four years. He then sold out and worked as a farm hand by the month for a time, after which he once more engaged in business on his own account, this time renting a tract of land, which he operated for five years, or until the property was sold, which necessitated his removal. He then operated another tract of leased land for one year, when, feeling that he was justified in purchasing a farm, he bought seventy-three acres, and during the years which have since come and gone he has increased his holding from time to time as his financial resources have permitted, until he is today the owner of two hundred and twenty-seven acres of well improved land on section 4, Jackson township. He has placed his land under a high state of cultivation, has improved it with a good residence and substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, and now has one of the best farms in Will county. He is practical and progressive in his system of farm labor and each year is rewarded with good crops, thus adding materially to his financial resources.

On the 3d day of February, 1881, Mr. Madison chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Christina Jorgensen, likewise a native of Denmark.

She landed in America about six months before the arrival of Mr. Madison. Her natal day was March 11, 1859, and her parents, Peter and Annie (Miller) Jorgensen. She was the fourth in order of birth in a family of ten, of whom only three now survive, her two brothers being George Jorgensen, who resides in Spencer, Illinois, and Peter Jorgensen, who is also a resident of Jack-

son township. The father died in Denmark, after which the mother came to the new world, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Madison, until her death, which occurred December 1, 1891. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Madison have been born three sons and one daughter, namely: Neil H., who was born November 18, 1881; Anna M., born May 6, 1883; Arthur, August 8, 1885; and Peter M., November 6, 1887.

Mr. Madison has always supported the principles of the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, although he has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to give his time and attention to his private business affairs, in which he has met with a very gratifying measure of success. He is highly respected in the community where he resides, being numbered among the valued and well-to-do citizens of foreign birth in Will county.

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#### FREDERICK W. WOODRUFF.

The name of Woodruff is inseparably connected with the history of Will county, especially in financial circles. One of the oldest banking institutions of the city owes its existence to George Woodruff, father of Frederick, who was for many years president of this bank. The son was born September 10, 1841, at Plainfield, Illinois, his parents being George and Dorothy Woodruff, pioneer residents of Will county, who are mentioned elsewhere in this work. His education completed, he entered business life at the age of twenty-three years, as cashier of the First National Bank of Joliet, filling that position until the death of his father in October, 1882, when he was elected president and remained at the head of the institution until his own demise on December 24, 1906. The name of Woodruff has ever been synonymous with honesty and uprightness in business and like his father before him, Frederick Woodruff was accorded a prominent position in the regard of his contemporaries in business circles in Joliet. He was prompt in meeting all engagements, never incurred an obligation he did not fill and wrought along lines of business integrity as well as activity.

On the 30th of September, 1880, was celebrated the marriage of Frederick W. Woodruff and Miss



*J. M. Woodcock*





Nellie Davis, of Rockford, Illinois, who still survives him. They have four children: George, Florence; Frederick W.; and Gertrude. The family are well known socially in Joliet and the oldest son is his father's successor in the bank.

#### CLIFTON WING JORDAN.

Clifton Wing Jordan, the subject of this sketch, is one of the best known life insurance men in northern Illinois. In 1894 he became the general agent of the Union Central Life Insurance Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, having charge of the territory embraced in Will and Grundy counties. He has made a marked success of his business and has built up a large clientele among the heavy insurers in his district.

Mr. Jordan was born on his father's farm at White Willow, Kendall county, August 24, 1860. He received his education from his mother and in the schools of Morris, Illinois. He started in business with his father, who was a large dealer in agricultural implements with headquarters at Morris and branch stores in Joliet and eighteen other towns in this vicinity, and later he went on the road representing the Avery Corn Planter Company of Peoria. This business took him extensively over the western states.

On December 12, 1888, he married Miss Julia E. Ray, only child of Lieutenant Governor Lyman B. Ray, of Morris, and granddaughter of Judge J. N. Reading, prominent at the Morris bar for many years. In the spring of 1889 Mr. Jordan came to Joliet to live. He was for several years in the state grain inspector's office in Chicago and resigned to take his present position with the Union Central Life Insurance Company. He is a member of several clubs and is one of the founders of the Commercial Club of Joliet. Mr. Jordan has two children: Celia Reading, born July 29, 1892; and Lyman Ray, born December 10, 1893.

Mr. Jordan is the oldest son of William A. Jordan who came to Kendall county in 1847 when the prairie was unsettled. He was among the first to realize that the open prairie and not the timber along the streams was the choicest land of northern Illinois. He located a farm, called it White Willow after trees of that name planted by him-

self. The government made his house a postoffice and him the first postmaster. In 1867 he moved to Minooka and established the agricultural implement business above mentioned. In 1870 he moved to Morris, the county seat, where he had located one of his implement houses. He was very active in business and in the public affairs of his city and was postmaster at Morris for four years. In 1886 failing health caused him to retire and he went to Daytona, Florida, where he lived until 1897, when he returned north and died at his son's home in Joliet, October 13, 1897.

On November 1, 1853, William A. Jordan married Annie Eliza Spooner Wing at Ottawa, Illinois. They had seven children four of whom lived to man and womanhood. Kate Dayton, born April 25, 1858, married Dr. Myron H. Hewett; Clifton Wing, born August 24, 1860, married Julia E. Ray; Anna Maria Freeman, born March 25, 1867, married Dr. E. D. Chapman; and Frank Ross, born July 9, 1869, is unmarried.

The Jordan family has been in America many years. The first known of them, a native of Ireland, came to New York, early in the eighteenth century. He had a son, William Jordan, who was born September 2, 1751, at North Castle, Westchester county, New York. He married Ruth Ferris, who was born January 29, 1755. He was in the American revolutionary army and held the rank of major. He died June 10, 1833. He had eleven children, of whom Allen Jordan, grandfather of our subject, born February 3, 1799, was the youngest. Allen Jordan was a lawyer of unusual talents, practiced twenty-one years at Hudson, New York, but a paralytic stroke compelled him to give up active practice and he came west with his son William A. and settled in Kendall county, Illinois, moved to Plainfield in 1866, where he lived until a short time before his death in his ninetieth year. He was, while in New York, a great friend of William H. Seward and when Kendall county was organized into townships, he caused his town to be named after his distinguished friend.

The mother of our subject was Annie Maria Spooner Wing, who came from her native town, Sandwich, Massachusetts, with her widowed mother and family to Ottawa Illinois, in 1850. She was a descendant of Deborah, who was the first known Wing to settle in America. Deborah was

the widow of Rev. John Wing, a famous non-conformist minister, who had lived in Holland and England. In June, 1632, she came with her four sons, John, Daniel, Stephen and Matthew, and after staying some five years in Saugus (now Lynn), they moved to Sandwich, on Cape Cod, and were among the first settlers of the cape. Indeed, it is claimed that Deborah gave the name of their home in England to the new settlement, Sandwich. So far as known, every Wing or Wing descendant of English descent now in America, who settled here prior to the Revolution, are descendants of the Rev. John and Deborah, and it is estimated that they numbered over thirty thousand.

From both his father's and his mother's side of the family, Mr. Jordan inherits the best American traditions. He is fond of out-door life and has taken great interest in natural history, particularly flowers and birds native to this section. Largely as a source of amusement, he began a few years ago to collect at his home many species of wild native plants and to watch for the various birds which visited his garden. The result is he has a list and description of more than one hundred varieties of birds and an unusually large collection of indigenous plants.

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#### LEO H. LEISING.

Leo H. Leising is one of the wide-awake, ambitious and resolute young business men of Will county, living in Goodenow, where he is engaged in the coal, lumber and grain trade and also in the live-stock business. He was here born in 1881. His father, James F. Leising, a native of Germany, came to the United States about 1872 and settled in Crete, this county, where he clerked in a store for a time and also became bookkeeper for the Crete Manufacturing Company. Carefully husbanding his earnings, he removed to Goodenow in 1876 and built an elevator, after which he engaged in the grain trade in addition to conducting a coal and lumber yard and carrying on operations in live stock. There he remained until 1903, when he went to Chicago Heights, where he had established a similar enterprise in 1901, and where he has since made his home. He has been a very successful business man, carrying forward

to prosperous completion whatever he has undertaken, and now, at the age of sixty-two years, he is most comfortably situated in life, his former labors relieving him of all business anxiety for the future. He is a well educated man, having studied for the priesthood in his native country, and has marked literary taste, manifest in the refinement and culture which such a taste always engenders. He has filled some local offices but is independent in his political views, nevertheless keeping well informed on the political situation of the country and the issues which divide the parties. He married Elizabeth Swindeman, who was born in Buffalo, New York. Her father was a native of Germany and a machinist by trade. He died leaving a widow of five children who came to Illinois and settled near Crete. Mrs. Leising was a member of the Lutheran church and died in that faith at Goodenow, in 1899, when forty-six years of age. By her marriage she had become the mother of six children: Henrietta, who died in infancy; Ida, the wife of William Graham, a farmer of Beecher; Ella, the wife of Warren W. Smith, a member of the firm of J. F. Leising & Company, of Chicago Heights; Leo H.; Augusta, the wife of Lee Graham, with the firm of Leising & Company at Chicago Heights; and Adeline, who is with her father. Mr. Leising has married again, having in 1902 wedded Mrs. John Rohe, a widow.

Leo H. Leising was reared in Goodenow. He attended the country schools and continued his studies in Chicago Heights, in the Metropolitan Business College at Chicago and in the Cook County Normal School at Englewood. He qualified for the business in which his father was engaged and at the age of nineteen years entered his father's office in Goodenow, acquiring practical experience in the trade in all its departments. In 1903, upon his father's removal to Chicago Heights, he took charge of the branch here and has since remained as manager, conducting the trade in coal, grain, lumber and live stock. He possesses the spirit of laudable ambition without which effort would cease, and gradually he is working his way upward.

Mr. Leising is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and of the Mystic Workers lodge at Crete. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he has served as school director, but his energies are concentrated upon

his business affairs, in which he is meeting with signal success. He is a director in the Crete State Bank, and in Goodenow is controlling an enterprise of large proportions and is showing himself thoroughly acquainted with progressive business methods.

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#### WILLIAM C. TROWBRIDGE.

William C. Trowbridge, serving as village clerk and postmaster of Crete, is also a representative of its newspaper interests, being editor and proprietor of the *Crete Citizen*. He was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1856, and was the third in order of birth in a family of nine children whose parents were William S. and Henrietta (Kuhn) Trowbridge. The father, a native of the state of New York, was of English descent. He worked in the steel mills at Freedom, Pennsylvania, being in charge of the cupola, and in 1869 he removed to Grand Rapids, Michigan, after which he was connected with an agricultural implement manufactory. He had previously served as a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in a Pennsylvania regiment in 1863. He participated in important engagements and remained at the front until honorably discharged at the close of hostilities. His political views accorded with the principles of the republican party and he was a faithful member of the Episcopal church. He died in 1889 at the age of sixty-two years, while his wife passed away in 1875 at the age of forty-eight years. She was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was of German lineage and was also a communicant of the Episcopal church.

William C. Trowbridge was educated in the schools of Lewiston, Pennsylvania, after which he learned and followed the printer's trade in that state until 1871. He then made his way westward to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he worked at his trade until 1881, when he removed to Beecher, Illinois, and for seven years thereafter was foreman of a large stock journal. In 1888 he came to Crete, where he took charge of the *Crete Journal*, and in connection with M. J. Tillotson became its proprietor. In 1891 he bought the interest of his partner and conducted the paper alone until 1894, when he moved the

plant to Chicago Heights and established a paper called the *Chicago Heights Signal*, which he published until 1898. He then sold out there and in the fall of the same year returned to Crete, purchasing a half interest in the *Crete Citizen*. In 1899 he became sole owner and has since been editor and proprietor of this paper, which is a five column quarto, republican in politics. It has a good circulation and a fair advertising patronage.

In 1875 Mr. Trowbridge was married to Miss Lelia M. Wilkins, who was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 31, 1856, a daughter of Hiram Wilkins, who was a bridge builder. Mr. and Mrs. Trowbridge have four children: Winona, the wife of Charles A. Wilder, a piano finisher, living in Crete; William Roy, who has charge of the *Crete Citizen*; Myron E., a student in Morgan Park Academy; and Charles, in school. The parents are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Trowbridge is a Mason and Woodman. He gives his political support to the republican party and for several years has occupied the position of village clerk, while in 1903 he was appointed postmaster and is still acting in that position. His public service has been characterized by an unflinching devotion to the duties of the office and in the publication of his paper he has been a stalwart champion of progressive movements for the benefit of the village.

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#### BENJAMIN B. SAMSON.

Benjamin B. Samson, who since 1880 has been in the service of the Illinois Steel Company and still connected with that corporation in spite of the fact that he has passed the sixty-ninth milestone on life's journey, was born in Chicago, Illinois, February 24, 1837, near the site of the present courthouse. This was the year in which the city was incorporated. When only about six weeks old he was brought to Joliet by his parents, Benjamin B. and Amanda (Brown) Samson. The father was born at Batavia, New York, and came west in 1829. He was descended from ancestors who crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower and established a home in Vermont. Mrs. Samson was born in the state of Michigan.



In the public schools of Joliet the subject of this review acquired his education, which was somewhat limited, for at the early age of twelve years he began to earn his living by work upon a farm. He was thus employed for six years at farm labor and at other work, and on the expiration of that period became connected with the coal business, in which he continued for twelve years. He was then appointed a keeper in the Illinois state penitentiary, serving in that capacity until 1880, when he entered the employ of the Illinois Steel Company, at the mills in Joliet. Here he has continued up to the present time, being accounted one of the most reliable and trustworthy representatives connected with the business at this place.

On the 31st of December, 1857, Mr. Samson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Miller and unto them have been born a son and daughter, Ella and Frank. The daughter's birth occurred August 3, 1860, and she is now the wife of James Putnam, of Chicago, in which city they reside. Frank, who was born February 20, 1864, married Minnie McGinnis, of Joliet, and they reside here.

Mr. Samson has never sought or desired political preferment. He always votes the straight republican ticket and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. Both he and his wife attend the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a great lover of home and when not occupied with business duties and cares prefers to spend his time at his own fireside.

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#### CHRISTIAN SCHRIER.

Christian Schrier is a retired farmer living in Peotone, where he owns a nice home. He was born in Baden, Germany, July 17, 1832. His grandfather on the paternal side was a ship-carpenter and was employed by the German government to build a pontoon bridge across the Rhine, near Strassburg. The father, who also bore the name of Christian Schrier and was a ship-carpenter by trade, died in the fatherland when the son was a lad of only fourteen years. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Francisco Leonard, was a French woman, and her death also occurred in Germany.

Christian Schrier, Jr., acquired his education in Germany, and at the age of fourteen years became a sailor, following the Rhine for eleven years. He then emigrated to America in 1857, and after a voyage of twenty-eight days on the Atlantic landed in New York city, whence he went to Long Island, where he was employed from the 5th of July of that year until the following April. In the east he formed the acquaintance of a man by the name of Schmidt, who induced him to come to Will county, Illinois, where lived his two sons. Accordingly Mr. Schrier continued his journey westward, locating in this county, where he found employment at farm labor. He was later engaged in the same line by Tobias Fahs, whose daughter afterward became the wife of our subject. Arnold Fahs, a brother of Tobias, lived in Chicago but owned a tract of four hundred and forty acres in Will county and Mr. Schrier was employed to manage this land. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings so that he was at length enabled to purchase a tract of ninety-one acres, this being all wild prairie. He built a house thereon and was engaged in farming through a long period. For twenty years he was also engaged in feeding cattle in addition to carrying on general agricultural pursuits. He prospered in his undertakings and eventually made his farm one of the rich and valuable tracts of this part of the state. He made his home on the farm until six years ago, when he took up his abode in the city of Peotone, where he owns a nice home, but he still retains possession of his farming property, which returns to him a good annual income.

On the 31st of October, 1861, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schrier and Miss Harriet Fahs, who was born in Maryland, a daughter of Tobias and Armita (Willard) Fahs, both of whom were natives of that state. The father removed with his family to Will county in 1857 and was here engaged in farming pursuits. His death occurred in 1900, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-eight years, while his wife passed away in 1901, having also reached the age of eighty-eight. Mrs. Schrier is one of a family of ten children, of whom seven are now living but she is the only one who resides in Will county besides her brother Cornelius Fahs. One brother, David Fahs, has been a minister of the Presby-



terian church for the past twenty years and is now located at Independence, Iowa.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born five daughters: Minnie and Hattie J., who are at home; Mamie, the wife of L. Ragle, a resident of Colorado; Gertrude, who is still under the parental roof; and Katie, the wife of Walter Porter, a resident of Chicago. Mr. Schrier and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he has been an officer for many years. In his political views he is a republican and for several years served as road commissioner and school director.

When Mr. Schrier first arrived in Will county, Peotone was unknown and he has lived to see the place grow into a prosperous and enterprising little city. Wild game was still plentiful, while deer and other wild animals were seen roaming over the prairies. The homes of the settlers were widely scattered, often being five and ten miles apart. In those early days Mr. Schrier husked corn for fifty cents per day and worked for one man twelve days, taking his pay in hogs at one dollar and half per head. He worked energetically and diligently in former years so that he is now able to live in honorable retirement. He and his estimable wife are highly esteemed in the community where they reside and are active workers in the church.

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#### WILLIAM GEORGE JACKSON.

William George Jackson, who is engaged in farming about two miles from Lockport, was born in the city of Utica, New York, on the 27th of October, 1851. He is descended from English ancestry. His parents were William S. and Frances M. (Hagbin) Jackson, who were married in Utica, New York. They had a family of three sons and one daughter, whom they reared in the Empire state. The father was a butcher by trade and conducted an extensive market business. He remained a resident of the east from the time of his arrival in the new world until his death, which occurred in the city of Buffalo, New York, on the 8th of November, 1903, when he was eighty-six years of age.

William George Jackson supplemented his public school course by study in a commercial col-

lege. Putting aside his text-books when twenty-two years of age, he planned to engage in the market business, which has been the regular pursuit of the family through five generations. Thinking that he would find better business opportunities in the middle west, he made his way to this section of the country in 1878 and after visiting various localities located in Joliet. He here entered the employ of J. J. Culver, proprietor of a meat market, with whom he continued until the latter part of August, 1879, when he established a similar business on his own account. As the years passed by he prospered, although his business career was not free from the difficulties and obstacles which continually confront any man who enters mercantile life, where competition is rife. In 1884 Mr. Jackson sold his market business to engage in the furniture business. He secured a large and complete stock of goods and opened a store, which he conducted until December, 1896. He prospered in the new undertaking, many of his old patrons giving to him their support in this field, and for twenty years he was accounted one of the leading and representative merchants of the city. In the month of December, 1897, however, he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the township of Lockport and on the 1st of March, 1898, took up his abode thereon.

On the 20th of April, 1876, Mr. Jackson was united in marriage in New Hartford, New York, to Miss Maggie E. Craig, a daughter of James Craig. She is a lady of culture and refinement, her many excellent traits of character endearing her to those with whom she has been associated and fitting her to grace the social circles in which she moves. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were born three children: George Elliott, whose birth occurred September 18, 1878; Clarence Mason, who was born October 20, 1880; and Cleora W., born February 4, 1884. Clarence M. was married June 28, 1905, to Miss Lottie Wertzaugher, the only daughter of Wallace L. Wertzaugher, of Lockport, Illinois, and they reside on a farm five and a half miles northwest of Lockport. The daughter, Cleora, was married on the 15th of January, 1907, to Leonard Bolton Hutchins, the youngest son of the late Thomas H. Hutchins and a member of an old Will county family. In 1906 Mr. Jackson was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who after a short illness passed away on

the 8th of June and was laid to rest in Plainfield cemetery at Plainfield, Illinois, her death being deeply regretted by many friends.

Mr. Jackson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a staunch advocate of its principles and its policy. He held the office of township school trustee from the spring of 1902 until the spring of 1905 and was most loyal to the trust reposed in him. In 1881 he became a member of the Masonic fraternity and he also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and to several other insurance societies. When fifteen years of age he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his life has been shaped by his religious belief. In all relations he has been ever honorable and upright, never taking advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen in any business transactions, while in social circles he has displayed those qualities which have endeared him to many friends.

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#### DR. FRANK E. HYATT.

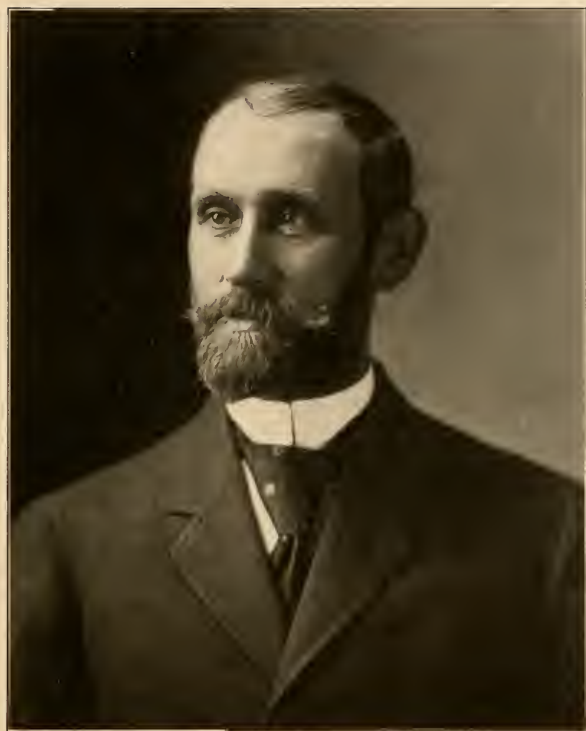
Dr. Frank E. Hyatt, who located in Joliet in January, 1904, since which time he has engaged in the practice of osteopathy, but has been a resident of the county since 1890, was born in Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois, on the 11th of September, 1867. His father, Theodore Hyatt, was born July 3, 1830, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents were Frederick and Betsy (Phillips) Hyatt, the former born December 15, 1798, in Pennsylvania. He was married in January, 1818, to Miss Betsy Phillips, whose birth occurred July 6, 1799. They remained residents of Philadelphia for a number of years. The father was a cabinet-maker by trade and followed that pursuit in the east until 1846, when he removed to Illinois, where the town of Gardner now stands. There he followed his trade and also engaged in farming in that district. In 1853 he removed to Red Wing, Minnesota, where he remained for a time. He then made his way to Prescott, Wisconsin, where he died in 1895, at the age of ninety-six years. He received the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded one of advanced age whose life has been worthily and honorably passed. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist

church. Mrs. Hyatt died in Prescott, Wisconsin, in August, 1857.

Theodore Hyatt was a youth of sixteen years when he came with the family to Illinois. He remained with his parents upon the home farm, having previously acquired a fair English education in the public schools of Philadelphia. In 1848 he entered school at Galesburg, Illinois, where he was graduated, and about 1858 he went to Missouri, where he engaged in teaching school until 1862. He then returned to his old home at Gardner, Illinois, and at that place enlisted as a soldier of Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He joined the army as a private and was soon promoted to the rank of first sergeant. He saw active service, participating in the siege of Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, Missionary Ridge, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain and other engagements until wounded at Atlanta, in August, 1864, by a gunshot in the left foot, which crippled that member. He received a medal for bravery exhibited at the second assault on Vicksburg, May 22, 1863.

Following the close of the war Theodore Hyatt became a student, in the fall of 1867, in the Chicago University, graduating from there and the Theological Seminary, and he subsequently was graduated from Bryant & Stratton Business College. He later entered the ministry of the Baptist church and had charge at Cordova, Rock Island and several other points in Illinois between the years 1870 and 1874. In the latter year he went to Texas and in 1875 was sent as a missionary to the Indian Territory. There he continued until 1880, when he returned to Dwight, Illinois. Retiring from the active work of the ministry, he remained a resident of Illinois until 1883, when he went to Missouri and in 1885 to Galveston, Texas, with a brother, acting as bookkeeper in that state. Again coming to Illinois, he located at Lockport, where he made his home until 1892. He afterward became a resident of Joliet, where he died on the 7th of May, 1900. He was a man of many excellent traits of character. He did signal service for his country as a soldier of the Civil war and his labors in the church were of value, his influence being widely felt in the different localities where he filled pulpits.

Rev. Theodore Hyatt was united in marriage to Miss Melvena Cairns, who was born in New York



DR. FRANK E. HYATT.



city, April 29, 1825, the wedding being celebrated at Gardner, Illinois, on the 11th of September, 1853. Mrs. Hyatt was a daughter of John and Deborah (Ferman) Cairns, the former born August 25, 1790, and the latter in New York city, January 6, 1799. Her father was a military officer and trained soldiers for the war of 1812. He came of Scotch ancestry and displayed in his life many of the strong and sterling characteristics of the Scotch race. He and his wife and daughters were among the nineteen charter members that organized the Bloomingdale church at the corner of Eighth avenue and Forty-third street in New York city, on the 1st of March, 1843. In 1847 he removed with his family to Illinois, where his death occurred on the 30th of January, 1859, while his wife passed away at Sandwich, this state, on the 2d of July, 1891. Both were members of the Baptist church. Their daughter, Mrs. Hyatt, was reared and educated in the Empire state and proved a devoted wife and mother. She, too, possessed a most earnest Christian spirit and held membership in the Baptist church. Her death occurred on the 25th of June, 1898. The family of Rev. and Mrs. Hyatt numbered six children, of whom two died in infancy. The others were: Herbert H., who was a marine engineer on the gulf of Mexico for five years, but for the past ten years has been engineer at Rockdale with the Steel & Wire Company, while his home is on Morgan street in Joliet; Ida M., the wife of John Lyle, living at No. 337 Hunter avenue, Joliet; Estelle L., living at 304 Washington street, Joliet; and Frank E.

Dr. Hyatt of this review acquired his education largely at Avalon College, Livingston county, Missouri, and at Dwight, Illinois, where at one time he was in the employ of Dr. Keeley, the head of the Dwight Gold Cure. Dr. Hyatt, being a total abstainer all his life, was a good example for Dr. Keeley's patients. He lived there for eleven years and after determining to engage in the practice of osteopathy as a life work he attended the American College of Osteopathy at Chicago in 1902 and was graduated in 1904. In the meantime he lived in Lockport and was in the employ of the trust company there.

Dr. Hyatt was married to Miss Nettie E. Lanfear, a daughter of W. H. Lanfear, her parents being among the oldest settlers of Will county. Her

mother died July 1, 1906. Dr. and Mrs. Hyatt have one child, Clarence E., who is six years of age and who was born in Lockport, December 16, 1900. In his political views the Doctor is a republican and he belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and also to the Baptist church. He lives at No. 304 Washington street in Joliet and has a pleasantly appointed office in the Young building at Nos. 403-409 Jefferson street. Having gained a thorough knowledge of the science which he is now practicing, he has won a goodly measure of success in carrying on the work and has a liberal clientage, while the confidence of the public in his ability and the efficacy of his labors is constantly increasing.

#### MRS. MARGARET CONROY.

Mrs. Margaret Conroy, who died at her home in Channahon township, February 22, 1907, was born in Quebec, Canada, about 1832 and was the eldest of the six children of Barney and Mary (McGee) Feeney, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Mrs. Conroy left a brother and sister still living: John Feeney, a resident of Chicago; and Mrs. Mary Handlon, who resides in Joliet. The parents became residents of Canada on crossing the Atlantic to the new world and some time later removed to Lockport, Illinois, where they remained for a time. Then they established their home in Channahon township, where the father engaged in farming, there carrying on agricultural pursuits until his death. He died April 3, 1876, while the mother passed away on the 16th of July, 1877.

Mrs. Conroy spent her girlhood days in her parents' home and assisted in the duties of the household, gaining an intimate knowledge of all the housework, so that she was well qualified to take charge of a home of her own at her marriage. In 1849, when seventeen years of age, she became the wife of James Hayes, who arrived in Channahon township at the age of seven years with his parents. Three children were born of that marriage: Mrs. Edward Collins, who is living in Wilmington township; Mrs. Mary Tierney, a resident of the same township; and Robert Hayes, who is also living in Wilmington township. In 1860 Mrs. Hayes became the wife of Patrick Conroy. There



were seven children of this marriage, six of whom are living: Mrs. William Larkin, a resident of Will county; John Conroy, whose home is in Parsons, Kansas; Mrs. John Dempsey, of Joliet; James, who is living in Channahon township; and Bridgie and Helen, at home.

Mr. Conroy came from Ireland with his mother at the age of twenty years, becoming a resident of Channahon township in 1850. He followed farming and was a successful business man, carefully conducting the work of the fields and managing his farm so that he acquired a comfortable competence. He passed away June 7, 1900, at the age of about seventy-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Conroy, by earnest and persistent efforts accumulated a considerable tract of land and established a valuable estate in Channahon township. Mrs. Conroy was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Minooka and was well known in the locality where she resided, making her home here from her girlhood days to the time of her demise.

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#### HENRY AMMANN.

Henry Ammann, displaying a spirit of business enterprise and perseverance which enables him to overcome difficulties and obstacles, is now a prosperous merchant of Peotone. He was born in Germany in 1850 and when only about four years of age was brought to the United States by his parents, John and Frederika (Langude) Ammann, both of whom were natives of Germany, in which country they were reared and married. As stated, they crossed the Atlantic in 1854 and settled upon a farm in Cook county, Illinois, where they lived for six years, the place being located about fourteen miles west of Chicago.

On his arrival in the new world John Ammann had a capital of only three hundred dollars. Acting on the advice of a friend, Adam Glass, he purchased eighty acres of prairie in Kankakee county, his home being twelve miles from any other habitation. The countryside was overrun with deer and there was also many other kinds of wild animals. All the evidences of pioneer existence were here to be seen and the unsettled condition of the district is indicated by the fact that he only had to pay two dollars and a half per acre for his land.

He brought with him to America a family of eight children, and though it was with difficulty he provided for them in the earlier years of his residence here, he nevertheless lived frugally and industriously and in the course of time became prosperous. He was an ideal pioneer settler, bravely meeting the hardships and dangers of pioneer life and aiding in making the county what it is today. In 1860 he removed to a farm of eighty acres in Kankakee county, about three miles from Peotone, which he had rented. He lived thereon for two years and then removed to his own farm of eighty acres, which he improved, breaking the wild prairie and transforming the tract into richly cultivated fields. There he continued his residence, and as the years passed by he met with success, so that he was enabled to spend his last days in comfort. He held membership in the German Lutheran church and his life was characterized by an honest, Christian purpose and by unfaltering fidelity to principle. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. He passed away in 1891, at the age of eighty years, having for some time survived his wife, who died in 1887 at the age of seventy-four years. She was also a member of the German Lutheran church. In their family were seven children, as follows: Kate, the deceased wife of Will Snyder, a pioneer blacksmith of Peotone; Margaret, the wife of Jacob Triem, a retired farmer living in Monee; Charlotte, the wife of Frank Votler, a retired farmer, of Sherburne, Minnesota; John, a retired farmer, of Triumph, Minnesota; Henry, of this review; Phoebe, deceased; and Ellen, the wife of Lewis Snyder, a farmer of Kankakee county.

Henry Ammann was reared to agricultural life. His educational privileges were meager, for there were no public schools at that early day on the prairie. He, however, had the privilege of attending the schools of Peotone for two years and in the school of experience he has learned many valuable and practical lessons. He worked upon the home farm until 1880, carrying on the place on his own account for three years. He then came to Peotone and established a hardware business in connection with Frederick Wahls, under the firm style of Wahls & Ammann. This relation was continued for six months, when the store was destroyed by fire. Mr. Wahls then sold his interest in the building site to Fred Hasenmeyer, with

whom Mr. Ammann again rebuilt and secured a stock of hardware. The store was opened and that firm continued for a year and a half, when Mr. Ammann purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business alone until January, 1906, when he admitted his two sons, Albert and Harry, to a partnership. He has been very successful and now has a large and well appointed store, in which a liberal patronage has been accorded him. He also owns good real estate in Peotone, together with one hundred and sixty acres of valuable farming land in Will county and two hundred and forty acres in Kankakee county, from which farms he derives a good income.

In 1876 Mr. Ammann was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Smith, who was born in Maywood, Cook county, Illinois, in 1859, a daughter of John and Dorothy (Conrad) Smith, the latter a sister of John Conrad. The parents came from Germany in 1854, settling in Cook county, and Mr. Smith was employed at railroading. Unto him and his wife were born ten children, of whom the following reached adult age, namely: Lizzie, the wife of Fred Hasenmeyer, who is engaged in painting at Kensington, Illinois; Mrs. Ammann; John, now deceased; Will, who is connected with the American Steel & Wire Nail Company, at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Harry, who is engaged in merchandising in Whiteside county; Albert, who is with his mother in Whiteside county, his father having died in 1901, at the age of seventy-three years, while the mother is now seventy-five years of age; and Tillie, the wife of Clarence Haviland, station agent at North Aurora, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Ammann have become the parents of a daughter and two sons: Alice, the wife of Chester Melville, who is in the office of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, at Chicago; and Albert and Harry, who are in partnership with their father. The former married Agnes McMann, a daughter of James and Anna (Thurston) McMann.

In his political views Henry Ammann has always been a stalwart republican and has served as trustee of the village but has preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs rather than upon political activity. He and his family are attendants at the German Lutheran church, to the support of which he contributes. For more than half a century he has lived in

Illinois and the greater part of his life has been passed in Will county, so that he has been a witness of its growth and development, and in Peotone has taken an active part in those interests which have led to the upbuilding and improvement of the village. He manifests in his life many of the sterling characteristics of his German ancestry, being a worthy representative of that portion of the Teutonic race who have taken so active and helpful a part in the colonization of Illinois and the promotion of its material prosperity.

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#### J. D. LELAND.

J. D. Leland, who is steward at the Illinois penitentiary, at Joliet, has been a resident of Will county since 1866. He is a native of Niagara county, New York, but has spent the greater part of his life in Joliet. Thirty-five years ago he was appointed by the state as purchasing agent for the prison, a position he still holds.

Mr. Leland was married in New York, in 1853, to Miss Helen Fuller, a native of Orleans county, New York. They have become the parents of four children: Homer, who is a banker of Iowa; Clara, now Mrs. Goodhue, of California; Frank, a lawyer practicing in Ohio; and May, the wife of Frank Whitgrove. The family occupy a fine residence of ten rooms on Cass street, which was built by Mr. Leland. His business and social connections have brought to him a wide acquaintance and he has the favorable regard of the great majority of those with whom he has come in contact.

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#### DUANE DIBBLE.

With the farming interests of Troy township Duane Dibble has been identified since reaching man's estate and is today the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and thirty acres on section 23. He was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, June 5, 1861, his parents being Edmond and Celia (Sammons) Dibble, who were natives of Michigan and New York respectively. The father came to this state about 1859 and first located in Kankakee.

where he followed farming for two years. At the outbreak of the Civil war he joined the boys in blue and served for three years as a member of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At the close of the war he removed to Will county and located in Troy township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life, dying February 19, 1904. As a loyal and patriotic citizen, he took an active interest in public affairs and served as assessor of his township for one year. In religious faith he was a Universalist, to which church his widow also belongs. She now makes her home in Joliet. They had two children: Duane, of this review; and Helen, wife of Edwin Fargo, a resident of Gilmore City, Iowa.

During his boyhood and youth Duane Dibble attended the district schools and early became familiar with the work of the farm in its various departments. He has followed farming with good success and now has a well improved and nicely cultivated place, the buildings being neat and substantial. Mr. Dibble was married on the 8th of February, 1888, to Miss Florence Pinneo, a daughter of John B. and Katharine (Conklin) Pinneo, the former a native of Nova Scotia and the latter of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Dibble have the following children, namely: Lottie E., born November 2, 1888; Eugene, June 8, 1890; Ethel G., February 20, 1892; Ruth M., June 5, 1897; and Duane, April 23, 1900. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside and Mrs. Dibble is an earnest member of the Methodist church. Mr. Dibble takes an active interest in the community affairs and is serving his fifth year as township trustee. He is widely and favorably known throughout the locality in which he makes his home, having resided here for over forty years.

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#### JOHN B. MECHAM, D. C. L.

Mr. Mecham, an able lawyer of Joliet, came to this city in the autumn of 1888 and was later associated with Judge Benjamin Olin. In October, 1889, he formed a partnership with Edward B. Crawford, which connection continued until 1891, when Mr. Crawford retired from the

practice of law to enter the ministry. Since then Mr. Mecham has been alone, with offices at No. 203 Cutting building. He has been accorded a foremost place among the legal representatives of this part of the state.

The Mecham family was first represented in America by Scotch and English ancestry who settled in New Hampshire in an early day. Caleb Mecham, a native of Vermont, migrated to Mercer county, Pennsylvania. In 1850 he brought his family to Grundy county, Illinois, and became a pioneer of Mazon township, where he died in 1855. His son, John C., was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and was the eldest child in the family. At the time of coming to Illinois he was eighteen years of age. He made farming his principal occupation and was very successful. He was a member of the Union League in the early days of its organization. He is a man highly esteemed for honesty and integrity, and in politics always votes with the republican party. In religion he is a Methodist. In 1904 he moved to Kenesaw, Nebraska, where he makes his home. The lady whom he married bore the maiden name of Eliza Ann Hartford and was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, daughter of John and Jane Hartford, the father being a native of New York state and the mother of Virginia. After the death of her father she, together with her mother and family, in 1814 came to Illinois and settled in Kendall county, where two of her uncles, George and Clarke Hollenback, had settled in 1829, and who were pioneers of that county. She was twice married and by her first union three children were born, of whom a daughter, Mrs. J. C. Keltner of Mazon, alone survives. Of the second union, three sons were born, namely: Marion, of Moorhead, Minnesota; John B.; and Elmer E., who graduated from the Illinois Wesleyan University and is now a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church of Central Illinois conference.

In Mazon, on the old homestead, in Grundy county, Illinois, the subject of this sketch was born. As is the common lot of American youths born on a farm, he was early taught to work. Passing from the district school, he prepared for college at the Morris Normal and Scientific School, and afterward taught for a year prior to entering the Illinois Wesleyan University at



Yours Truly  
John Barton Mechem





Bloomington. After completing his university course he again took up the profession of teaching. For one year he was principal of the Mazon high school and for a similar period held the principalship of the Ashton (Iowa) schools. In 1888 he graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan. While in that school he also pursued a course in political science. He was one of the charter members of Michigan Alpha fraternity of Phi Delta Theta and has always been a loyal frat.

A constant student of his profession and imbued with the firm belief that to be learned in the law one must know the history of the real civilization of nations, he pursued a thorough course in the civil law and the German classics and completed a course of graduate work in jurisprudence at the Chicago Law School, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Civil Law. Mr. Mecham is classed as a student of the School of Philosophical Jurists. He became a member of the faculty of the Chicago Law School, which position he held for four years. As a teacher of law and kindred sciences he is thoroughly informed, and his lectures are clear and forceful, enlisting the deepest interest of students and making a lasting impression upon their minds.

His keen discrimination and excellent memory enable him to deal skillfully with questions of fact and apply them to disputed points of law. In argument, where an accurate acquaintance with the principles of law is absolutely necessary, he has been signally successful. He is a member of the alumni association of the University of Michigan; a member of the Hamilton Club of Chicago and of the Joliet Commercial Club; was a delegate to the rivers and harbors congress, which convened in the city of Washington, December 6 and 7, 1906. Fraternally he is identified with Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; is a staunch republican of the Roosevelt type, who believes in a square deal and common honesty with all mankind. The county committee and conventions of the republican party have always received his support. In 1899 he was elected on the republican ticket to represent the fifth ward in the city council, his election being especially noteworthy from the fact that the ward usually gives a democratic majority. In the council he served ably as chairman of the judiciary committee and member of other com-

mittees. Reared in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, he has given his earnest support to this denomination, but always broad-minded and liberal toward other church denominations, believing in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The position held by Mr. Mecham among the professional men of Joliet is that of a successful business lawyer, a man of scholarship, high moral character, sound judgment and unswerving integrity. In business Mr. Mecham has been eminently successful. For more than three years he was one of the chief factors in financing a large mining company, which is highly successful, and at present is president and general manager of the Sultana-Arizona Copper Company, a corporation with a most promising future before it. He is prominent in both business and social circles and stands deservedly high in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

The marriage of Mr. Mecham, which took place in Joliet in June, 1892, united him with Maude Frances, daughter of Samuel and Helena Hill, prominent pioneers of this city. Mrs. Mecham is a lady of brilliant mind and highly esteemed for her noble Christian character. She received an excellent education in Joliet and is a graduate of the high school. With an especial talent for music, she has devoted much time to this art and is known among her many friends as a fine pianist. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Mecham are Samuel Marion, Althea Ruth and Louise Hill.

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#### THOMAS CONNOR.

Thomas Connor, now living retired in Braidwood, was for many years extensively and successfully engaged in commercial pursuits and was widely known as a dealer in live stock. He was born in Roscommon county, Ireland, May 8, 1837, and his parents, Thomas and Bridget (Wauldorn) Connor, were also natives of the Emerald isle. The father died in that country during the early boyhood of his son Thomas and the mother departed this life in Braidwood, Illinois, May 14, 1885. They were the parents of six children but only two are now living, the brother of our subject being William Connor, who is living retired

in Morris, Illinois. After losing her first husband the mother became the wife of Patrick Carroll and they had six children but all have passed away. The father of our subject was a farmer and cattle-buyer in Ireland and the family were communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Connor was reared in the land of his nativity to the age of ten years, when, in 1847, he came to the United States on a sailing ship which was six weeks and three days in making the voyage. He crossed the Atlantic with his mother, stepfather, two sisters and one brother, landing at Quebec, whence they made their way to Montreal, Canada, and afterward to Lebanon, New Hampshire, where they spent six months. They then removed to Hanover, Vermont, where a year was passed, after which the family started by wagon to Whitehall and thence proceeded by canal to Troy, New York, and over the Erie canal to Buffalo. At the last named place they boarded a steamer bound for Chicago and after reaching that port proceeded over the Illinois and Michigan canal to Joliet.

From early boyhood Thomas Connor has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood. He worked as a coal miner for about twelve years, during which period he saved his earnings, so that in 1870 he had capital sufficient to enable him to engage in the meat market business at Braidwood in partnership with his brother William under the firm style of Connor Brothers. They also engaged in buying cattle and hogs for their market for about thirty-five years and as he prospered in his undertakings Mr. Connor made judicious investment in land, becoming the owner of a half section in Reed and two farms, one of eighty acres, the other of one hundred and sixty acres in Custer township. He also owns a half interest with his brother in one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. He has two hundred and forty acres of land in Kankakee county, together with three quarters of a section of coal lands on which the Drue coal mine is located. It is now being operated by the Joliet & Wilmington Coal Company. In the spring of 1906 Mr. Connor took a trip into the gulf section of Texas and bought four hundred acres of fine land well adapted to the raising of fruit, cotton and rice. In 1904 he erected a fine residence in Braidwood, where he is now living retired, his

extensive property interests bringing to him a very desirable annual income.

On the 14th of May, 1865, Mr. Connor was married to Miss Susan McCann, who was born in Tyrone, Ireland, January 1, 1836, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (McCarney) McCann, both of whom were natives of the Emerald isle and were married there. The father came to the United States in 1849 on a sailing vessel, landing at New York city. He thence made his way to Joliet, where he was first employed on public works. In 1858 he sent for his wife and five children and they came to the new world on a sailing vessel, which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York, whence they proceeded westward by rail to Joliet. In the meantime Mr. McCann had carefully saved his earnings and purchased a farm in Will county, near Joliet, whereon he spent his remaining days engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He was a school director for many years and was interested in the growth and upbuilding of the community. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and he was a member of the Roman Catholic church. He died in 1885, at the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife survived until 1891, passing away at the age of eighty-two. Three of their children are now living: Bridget, the wife of Felix McCann, of Minnesota; Mary, the widow of James Riley and a resident of Joliet; and Mrs. Connor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Connor have been born eleven children: Mary, the widow of James Dunn; Catherine, the wife of John Moffit; Nellie, who became the wife of Thomas Kasher and died at the age of thirty-three years; Susan, the wife of Patrick Linskey; Thomas, who died at the age of eight years; Henry, who died when six years of age; Annie, the wife of Michael Vickers; Agnes, Lucy, Ada and Blanche, all at home.

The family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church. In politics Mr. Connor is independent, voting for the best man regardless of party affiliation. He has served as highway commissioner in Reed township and has been school director for four or five years. He has made an excellent record in the business world and his life shows what may be accomplished by firm and earnest purpose guided by sound business judgment and keen discrimination. Starting out in

life when but a boy as an employe in the coal mines, he has made steady and substantial advancement until he is today one of the prosperous residents of Will county with extensive invested interests which bring him a gratifying annual income and enable him to enjoy life in comfort and ease.

#### THE BARRETT HARDWARE COMPANY.

The Barrett Hardware Company from small beginning has developed into one of the most prominent commercial enterprises of Joliet. The business was established by W. F. Barrett, who in 1851 opened a hardware store. In 1872 he was joined by his son, John O. Barrett, in a partnership under the firm style of W. F. Barrett & Son, which relation was continued until the senior's death in 1879. In the meantime a disastrous fire had occurred, in which the store was burned out. Immediately on the erection of the Akin block the business was installed therein and both father and son bent every energy toward the development of the business, but at the death of the senior partner there were left many debts which the young man discharged. When this was done little remained. The necessities of the business proved a stimulus for even greater effort than he had previously put forth and he closely studied every means for the development of the business and the promotion of its growth along substantial lines. That his policy and systematic methods were effective is shown by the fact that at the end of the first year the profits were four thousand dollars. The trade continued to grow as the result of the honorable methods of the firm and the reasonable prices which were offered the public. On the 11th of March, 1883, the store was removed to its present commodious quarters and the firm of Barrett & Sons was organized December 19, 1891. The personnel of the firm at the present time stands: John O. Barrett, president; Edwin M. Moore, vice president; and Edward C. Barrett, secretary and treasurer. In addition to the extensive salesrooms, there are commodious offices for the proprietors, managers, stenographers and bookkeepers, and a department for the plumbers and gas fitters and

builders hardware sample room. Another room contains the contractors' and garden tools and gas stoves, while the entire basement of the Munroe block, together with nearly all of the second floor and the entire third story are occupied for storage or shops. The men who are the head of this institution have wrought along modern business lines, keeping in advance of the trade sufficiently to make the object of patronage a desirable one to the public, and today theirs is the foremost house of this character in Joliet. Employment is furnished to seventy-two people and the weekly pay roll is over ten hundred dollars. The Barrett store would do credit to a city of much greater size than Joliet, and the Barrett Hardware Company wherever known is honored for its unassailable business methods and straightforward dealing.

John O. Barrett, the president of the company, whose intense and well directed activity has resulted in the upbuilding of one of the largest commercial enterprises of the city, has made a record such as any man might be proud to possess. It excites the admiration of his fellow townsmen and the respect of those who have in any way been connected with him in business transactions. Never incurring obligations that he has not met nor making engagements that he has not filled, he has won the unqualified trust of the business public and his name has become a synonym for commercial integrity and enterprise.

John O. Barrett was born in this city, March 16, 1851, and is a son of W. F. and Clamana Barrett, the former a native of Lenox, Massachusetts and the latter of Holley, New York. Removing to the middle west, the father was for many years connected with the business life of Joliet as a hardware merchant. His son, John O. Barrett, acquired his education in the public schools and at the age of sixteen years entered his father's store, in which he received thorough training in business methods, particularly those bearing upon the hardware trade. He closely applied himself to the mastery of the business in both principle and detail, and in 1872 was admitted to a partnership under the firm style of W. F. Barrett & Son. From the beginning of his connection with the house he worked earnestly and persistently, formed his plans readily and was determined in their execution. As stated,

when he took charge of the business after his father's death, serious commercial and financial conditions confronted him, but with renewed purpose and energy he took up the task of building up the business and won large profits the first year. Any merchant recognizes the fact that this must have demanded close and unremitting attention to the business in every detail, but the result justified the effort that was put forth. Mr. Barrett has long been classed as one of the most prominent and representative business men of the city and is now a member of the board of directors of the Merchants' Association of Joliet. In 1891 he assisted in the organization of the Joliet National Bank, of which he has since continuously been a director. He is a man of keen discernment, who readily solves intricate business problems and recognizes and utilizes opportunities.

In 1872 occurred the marriage of John O. Barrett and Mary C. Warren, who died December 19, 1904. On the 7th of July, 1906, he wedded Mrs. Cora Clarke. His social relations are with the Union Club and the Commercial Club. Endowed by nature with sound judgment and an accurate, discriminating mind, he has feared not that laborious attention to the details of business so necessary to achieve success, and this essential quality has ever been guided by a sense of moral right which tolerates the employment only of those means that will bear the most rigid examination by a fairness of intention that neither seeks nor requires disguise. It is just and merited praise to say that as a business man he ranks with the ablest, as a citizen he is honorable, prompt and true to every engagement, and as a man he holds the esteem of all classes of people.

Edwin M. Moore, vice president of the company, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, February 16, 1862, and is a son of the Rev. E. G. and Sarah A. Moore. He entered the services of W. F. Barrett & Son in August, 1879, at the age of seventeen years, with a salary of three dollars per week. He started in with such duties as filling nail bins, taking care of the lamps, which were then used to light the store, driving their one-horse delivery wagon, and continued with the house as clerk in various positions such as shipping clerk, bookkeeper, etc., until January, 1886, when he accepted a position as head clerk with the firm of Holmes & Cady. In June, 1890, he

returned to the employ of the Barrett Hardware Company as salesman. John O. Barrett was at that time greatly overworked and found that Mr. Moore was capable of doing considerable work that he had been compelled to do. In recognition of this Mr. Moore has been gradually promoted as buyer and store manager, and in January, 1901, he was honored by election to the office of vice president of the company. His long experience in the establishment well qualified him for the duties which devolve upon him in this official connection. He is thoroughly conversant with the trade and, moreover, possesses considerable executive force and discernment. On the 26th of October, 1887, he married Miss Harriet H. Hinman, who died February 14, 1906, leaving four children.

Edward C. Barrett, secretary and treasurer of the company, and a brother of John O. Barrett, was born in Joliet, February 16, 1864. He entered the store in 1885 and his connection therewith has been continuous to the present time. He was specially trained in the shop work, having served as an apprentice, and he now has supervision of the shops. This department of the business has been constantly increased in its scope. Edward C. Barrett was married in January, 1895, to Miss Antoinette Hobbs.

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#### MICHAEL KAHN.

Michael Kahn, president of the Joliet Citizens Brewing Company, was born in Baden, Germany, September 28, 1862, a son of Jonas Kahn. Emigrating to America in 1880, the father settled at Joliet and for twenty years was the leading wholesale butcher and cattle dealer of this city. He died in March, 1898, after a most successful business career.

Michael Kahn was educated in the schools of Germany and came to this country when eighteen years of age, since which time he has been a resident of Joliet. For nineteen years he was engaged in the cattle business, operating extensively along that line, and in 1903 he became one of the organizers and promoters of the Joliet Citizens Brewing Company, of which he has been the president since its establishment. The building





MICHAEL KAHN.





of the company was completed in 1905 at a cost of about two hundred thousand dollars, including equipment, and has a capacity of fifty thousand barrels annually. The equipments are all the latest, modern and up-to-date machinery and the quality of the beer manufactured unsurpassed. The brewer in charge has had all the advantage of instruction from the best brewmasters of Germany and of brewing schools in the United States. The product is shipped throughout Illinois and the business has been very satisfactory from the beginning, the patronage constantly increasing.

Mr. Kahn is a member of the Elks lodge and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He was married April 21, 1885, to Miss Emma Zipf, of Joliet, and they have one child, Earl. Since becoming a factor in the business life of this city, Mr. Kahn has made substantial progress through the judicious utilization of his opportunities, through careful investment and indefatigable energy.

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#### WILLIAM BRANDT & COMPANY.

The firm of William Brandt & Company is well known in Peotone and throughout the surrounding district as buyers and shippers of grain and live stock. The partners are William Brandt and his father, F. J. Brandt. The latter was born in Holstein, Germany, March 21, 1850, and his father, F. J. Brandt, Sr., was also a native of Germany, where he worked as a laborer. He came to America in 1880 and died at the home of a son in McLean county, Illinois, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife bore the maiden name of Anna Diers, and was also a native of Germany, where her death occurred when she was sixty-five years of age. In their family were ten children, all of whom came to America, and nine of the number are yet living, but F. J. Brandt is the only one residing in Will county.

It was in the year 1870 that F. J. Brandt of this review came to the United States. He was then a young man of twenty years, and, thinking to have better advantages in the new world, he bade adieu to friends and fatherland and crossed the Atlantic to the United States. For four years he worked at farm labor and in 1874 he came to Will county, settling in Peotone township,

where he rented land. There he followed farming until about two years ago, when he removed to the village of Peotone. He made his first purchase of land in 1898, becoming the owner of eighty acres, which constituted an improved farm in Peotone township. He now owns four hundred acres of valuable land, from which he derives a good income. He landed in America one hundred and twenty dollars in debt, for his passage to the new world, but he possessed a resolute will and determined spirit and as the years passed by he overcame the difficulties and obstacles in his path and achieved success by reason of stalwart and honorable purpose and unflagging industry.

In 1872 F. J. Brandt was united in marriage to Anna Yuhl, a native of Germany, and they became the parents of nine children, of whom six are yet living: William; Peter, who resides on one of his father's farms; Henry, who is also living on one of his father's farms; Mary, the wife of Fred Yunker; Emma, the wife of Christ Palow; and Minnie, at home.

The eldest son, William Brandt, was born in this country, reared to farm life and educated in the public schools. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Minnie Kennedy, and they have two children, Margaret and Lydia. Two years ago William Brandt purchased an interest in the elevator now owned by the firm of William Brandt & Company. At that time the business was conducted under the firm style of Yung & Brandt. About a year ago F. J. Brandt, the father, purchased Mr. Yung's interest and the firm of William Brandt & Company was then organized. They do a good business, controlling a large trade in grain and live stock, and make extensive shipments. The father is a member of the German Lutheran church and belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp, No. 1405, while in politics both he and his son William are republicans, who staunchly endorse the party and its principles. They are wide-awake, enterprising business men and have gained a goodly measure of success in their operations in the grain and live stock trade in Peotone. F. J. Brandt may well be termed a self-made man, for he was not only empty-handed when he came to the new world, but was hampered by an indebtedness which he found necessary to incur in order to pay his way to the new

world. Recognizing that this is a land of limitless opportunities, he eagerly sought employment and as the years passed utilized the advantages in the best possible way and in the course of years became one of the substantial residents of his adopted county.

### WILLIAM OHLENDORF.

William Ohlendorf has been very successful in his farming operations and is now one of the extensive landowners of the county, his possessions aggregating six hundred and forty-two acres. Though past seventy years of age, he is still enjoying good health and in spirit and interests seems yet to be in his prime. A native of Germany, he was born in Hesse-Homburg, December 14, 1836. His father, Henry Ohlendorf, was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States in 1852, being seven weeks on the water before reaching New York. It required two weeks to make the journey from the eastern metropolis to Will county. He left his family in Chicago for a week, while he came to Will county looking for an old friend and fellow countryman named Tatge. After selecting a location, he settled on a farm on section 34, Crete township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land. He had owned a farm in his native country and brought with him to America about seven thousand dollars. He purchased much land in this part of the state, adding to his possessions from time to time, and at his death left a large farm to each of his children. He passed away about twenty years ago, when seventy-four years of age. He held membership in the German Lutheran church and voted with the republican party. His business success, his enterprising spirit and his devotion to the public good made him a valued citizen of the community. He married Sophia Senna, also a native of Hesse-Homburg, and her death occurred when she was seventy-two years of age. In their family were seven children: Henry, who married Miss Arkenburg and lived on the old homestead, but both are now deceased; Conrad, who wedded Dorothea Meier, who survives him and lives upon their farm

on section 34, Crete township; Christaf, who is living in Crete township; William, of this review; August, who was a farmer of Crete township, but has passed away; Sophia, who is the widow of Henry Behrens, and who is now living with her son William; and Christine, the deceased wife of Conrad Oldendorf, who resides on a farm in Crete township.

William Ohlendorf of this review spent the first fifteen years of his life in the fatherland. He well remembers the ocean voyage to the new world, and the pioneer experience in this part of the state. He remained at home until he was twenty-six years of age, when he married and began farming on his own account on one hundred and twenty acres of land given him by his father. He built the first dwelling on the place and has made it his home continuously since. In his business affairs he has been very successful and has added to his possessions until he is now the owner of six hundred and forty-two acres of valuable land. His life has been one of activity and industry and he has always been noted for his good management. Though past seventy years of age, he still enjoys good health, save that he is suffering from a dislocated hip sustained in a runaway some time ago. He is, however, able to get about and help in the farm work.

In 1862 Mr. Ohlendorf was married to Miss Louise Arkenburg, who was born in Germany, September 21, 1845, the daughter of William Arkenburg, an early settler in this township. Mrs. Ohlendorf still attends to her own household, doing all the work herself. In the family are seven children: Emma, who was born January 1, 1864, and is now the wife of John Scheiwe, a farmer of Crete township, mentioned elsewhere in this work; Augusta, who was born September 28, 1866, and died at the age of one year; Sophia, who was born June 15, 1868, and is the wife of John Meier, also a farmer of Crete township; Gustaf, who was born August 25, 1872, and is a graduate of Concordia College of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, now farming in Crete township; Rose, who was born January 22, 1876, and is the wife of Gustaf Scheiwe, a farmer of the same township; William, who was born May 4, 1879, and is still at home; and John, who was born July 27, 1889, and died at the age of eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ohlendorf are members of the Lutheran church and he is a republican in politics, having always voted the party ticket, but has never sought or desired office. He has from the outset of his career concentrated his energies upon his farming interests with the result that he is now one of the prosperous agriculturists of Crete township, having substantial and valuable landed possessions. He is, moreover, one of the early settlers of the county and his memory goes back to the pioneer days when many evidences of frontier life were to be seen in the little cabin homes with their primitive furnishings and in the fields where crude farming machinery was used.

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#### MICHAEL F. HENNEBRY.

Michael F. Hennebry, engaged in the practice of law at Wilmington, where for six years he has served as city attorney, while his specialty in private practice has been in probate work, was born in Felix township, Grundy county, Illinois, on the 14th of March, 1872. His parents were William and Johannah (Cooper) Hennebry, who were pioneer residents of Will county, locating within its borders in 1848. They took up their abode at Aitens, now Lemont, and the father followed the occupation of farming. They were both natives of County Tipperary, Ireland, and the father, who was born in Glen Arlagh, died in Wesley township, Will county, Illinois, on the 12th of April, 1893. The mother still survives, being a resident of Wilmington, in her seventy-fourth year. They were married in Wilmington in 1854 and remained residents of that place until the early '60s, when they removed to Grundy county, Illinois, settling on what was known as the old Shoemaker farm. In 1879 Mr. Hennebry made his first purchase of land, becoming owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres about three miles east of the village of Mazon, Grundy county. They removed to Will county in 1888 and purchased what is known as the old Elnathan Jones farm in Wesley township, for which they paid twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Hennebry started on his business career without capital and became one of the leading agriculturists of Will county, owning valuable property interests, from

which he annually derived a good income. He never cared for public office, although he was a staunch advocate of democratic principles. In his family were eleven children, of whom eight are now living: Thomas, Mary, Margaret, William, Patrick, Hannah, Michael and John. The first named is a resident of California.

Michael F. Hennebry spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof and, having acquired his preliminary education, continued his studies in Notre Dame University in Indiana, pursuing commercial, English and law courses. He was graduated from the law department in the class of 1897. He had lived and worked upon the home farm until he reached the age of twenty years and in his youth his time was largely occupied with the duties of the fields, his opportunity of attending school being limited to the winter term. He early developed a strong desire for a professional career and when his father's financial resources permitted he was sent to more advanced schools, thus preparing for the walk of life upon which he entered following his graduation.

He opened a law office in Wilmington and in his practice has largely made a specialty of probate work. He is also interested with his brothers in the farm in Wesley township, to which his parents removed in 1890. He has been city attorney of Wilmington for six years, proving a capable and efficient officer, and in the trial of causes entrusted to his care by reason of his office he has displayed a comprehensive knowledge of the law and unflinching fidelity to duty. Mr. Hennebry is greatly interested in the political situation and the questions which divide the two great parties. He votes with the democracy and was elected a member of the house of representatives, serving in the general assembly in the session of 1899. He was defeated for a second term through a mistake in the counting of the ballots under the old cumulative system of voting.

Mr. Hennebry is a member of the Joliet council of the Knights of Columbus, which he joined in 1899, and he also belongs to River camp, No. 124, M. W. A., with which he has affiliated since 1896. In 1901 he became a member of Wilmington district court, No. 196, of the Court of Honor. He is a Catholic in religious faith, being a communicant of St. Rose of Lima at Wilmington. The predilection which he manifested at an early

age for a professional career seems to have had a good basis in his natural tendencies and abilities, for in the profession which he has chosen as a life work he has won substantial success, being regarded as one of the strong and able members of the Will county bar.

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### J. C. OWENS, M. D.

Dr. J. C. Owens has been engaged in the practice of medicine in Plainfield for the past twenty-four years, removing to this village after a brief residence in Joliet. He was fresh from college and some hundreds of dollars in debt, but by strict attention to business he has accumulated a comfortable competence and has become recognized as one of the able members of the medical fraternity in his part of the county.

Dr. Owens was born in Oneida county, New York, January 3, 1857, and is a son of Henry and Nancy (Kees) Owens, who resided in Oneida county until called to their final rest a number of years ago. The Doctor has one brother and one sister residing at Rome, New York, James A. Owens being a druggist of that place, while the sister is Mrs. Fannie Mowers.

J. C. Owens was reared in the county of his nativity and after acquiring his literary education he determined upon the practice of medicine as a life work and began studying in Syracuse Medical College, from which he was graduated in the class of 1881. He supplemented his theoretical knowledge by broad and practical training of a year's hospital experience as interne in the Rochester City Hospital, Rochester, New York, and thus well equipped for his profession he came to Will county, Illinois, where for a short time he engaged in practice in Joliet, having an office with Dr. Nash. He then removed to Plainfield, where he has resided for almost a quarter of a century. He soon demonstrated his ability to successfully cope with the intricate problems of the profession and as the years have gone by he has kept abreast with the best thinking men of the medical fraternity and by reading, study and experience has constantly broadened his knowledge and promoted his efficiency. In 1888 he established a drug store and three or four years later

he added a jewelry department. He also opened a harness shop and all three business enterprises are prospering. As his financial resources have increased he has likewise invested in real estate and is now the owner of six hundred and eighty acres of finely improved land in Kendall county. This is divided into three farms, which he leases, and from his real estate he derives an excellent income. His present financial condition is in marked contrast to that of his earlier years. Coming to the county in limited financial circumstances, he has gradually worked his way upward until his name is today an honored one on commercial paper.

Dr. Owens was married in Grundy county to Miss Mary H. Hitchcock, of Morris, Illinois, who for a year was in the county treasurer's office under George Munroe. Dr. and Mrs. Owens became parents of three children, but Robert H., their first born, died in infancy. The others are Kenneth H., who is a junior in the high school at the age of sixteen years; and Jay C., aged four-teen years, a grammar school student.

In his political views Dr. Owens is a stalwart republican, but without aspiration for office. Socially he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and he attends the Congregational church with his family. In professional lines he is connected with the Will County Medical Society. In a calling where advancement depends entirely upon individual merit, intellectual force and correct application of scientific principles to the practical needs of the sick room he has made steady progress, and by his close conformity to a high standard of professional ethics, combined with his ability, has won the unqualified respect and admiration of his fellow practitioners as well as of the general public.

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### WILLIAM EDWIN IMHOLZ.

William Edwin Imholz has been engaged in contracting and building in Peotone since 1884 and most of the modern residences here have been erected by him. Born in Winnebago county, Illinois, in 1861, he was one of the ten children of Joseph and Mary Ann (Mink) Imholz. The father, a native of Germany, is now living in Peotone,



at the advanced age of seventy-six years. He came to the United States in 1858 and located at Peconia, Winnebago county, Illinois. He was a carpenter by trade and remained at his first location until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when, in August, 1861, he enlisted for service in the Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a member of Company B. He thus served until wounded in the skirmish at Missionary Ridge, after which he was sent to the hospital. After his return to the north he located at Peotone. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, in which he is an active worker, and fraternally he is connected with the Masons and with William Webb post, G. A. R., through which he maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. Politically he is a democrat and for a number of years he acceptably and faithfully served as a member of the board of supervisors of Peotone township. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania, died in 1888, at the age of fifty-six years. Of their ten children only three are now living: Frank, a resident of British Columbia; Mamie, who is the wife of Sidney Ranworth, a farmer residing at Rockville, Kankakee county; and William Edwin.

The last named was a student in the public schools of Peotone, and afterward learned the carpenter's trade under the direction of his father, becoming an expert workman, thoroughly conversant with the business in all of its departments. He began contracting on his own account in 1884 and for twenty-three years has continued in this line, having a large share of the public patronage. He has built most of the modern residences in Peotone and his excellent workmanship and fidelity to the terms of a contract insure him a continuance of the public support.

Mr. Imholz was married in 1884 to Miss Ida M. Sollitt, who was born in Will township, in 1862, and is a daughter of John B. and Hannah (Dodds) Sollitt. Her father was a pioneer farmer of Will county, who came from England and was head butcher in one of the Chicago packing houses. For years he acted as supervisor from Peotone township and after leaving the farm was engaged in the drug business in the village of Peotone, becoming a prosperous merchant. He and his wife were devoted members of the Baptist church and he was also a thirty-second degree Ma-

son, a member of Oriental Consistory of Chicago. In their family were eleven children, of whom Ida M. was the tenth. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Imholz have been born five children, Theron, Lois, Gilbert, Rudyard and Hilma. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Imholz is connected with the Masonic lodge and the Modern Woodmen camp. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and has been tax collector of Peotone township.

### JAMES NOONAN.

James Noonan, a resident farmer of Channahon township, was born January 15, 1841, in County Limerick, Ireland, and is a worthy representative of the Irish-American citizens who have largely settled this part of the county and have promoted its substantial growth and development. He was the eldest of six children whose parents were Dennis and Mary (Slattery) Noonan. Five of the number are still living, namely: Mrs. C. Cull, a resident of Joliet; Mrs. Henry Mullett, living in Lockport, New York; Catherine, who is keeping house for her brother James; and Michael D., who is a resident of Channahon township.

James Noonan spent the first six years of his life in the land of his birth and in 1847 came with his parents to the United States, landing at Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a cooper by trade and secured employment in that line in Boston, where he remained for about four years, when he removed with the family to Weymouth, Massachusetts. He was employed at coopering in that place for six years, on the expiration of which period the family came to Will county, Illinois, in May, 1855, settling in Channahon township, where Mr. Noonan followed the occupation of farming until his death. He passed away February 28, 1887, having for several years survived his wife, who died May 14, 1882.

James Noonan remained with his parents until they were called from this life. He was early trained to habits of industry upon the home farm and he worked in the fields from the time of early spring planting until crops were harvested in the late autumn. In 1860 he sold corn in Channahon

at a shilling per bushel, but in 1862, when there was frost during every month in the year, corn steadily arose in price until it reached one dollar per bushel during the latter part of the Civil war. At his father's death Mr. Noonan received one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he has since owned and cultivated. He has also added to the property and is today the owner of two hundred acres lying on sections 22 and 23, Channahon township. He raises much stock, being well known as a stock farmer, for he keeps on his place high grades of cattle, horses and hogs, and the sale of these brings him a good annual income. He is an energetic and reliable business man and has been somewhat active in community affairs, serving as school trustee for nine years and as highway commissioner for a similar period.

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#### GEORGE L. VANCE.

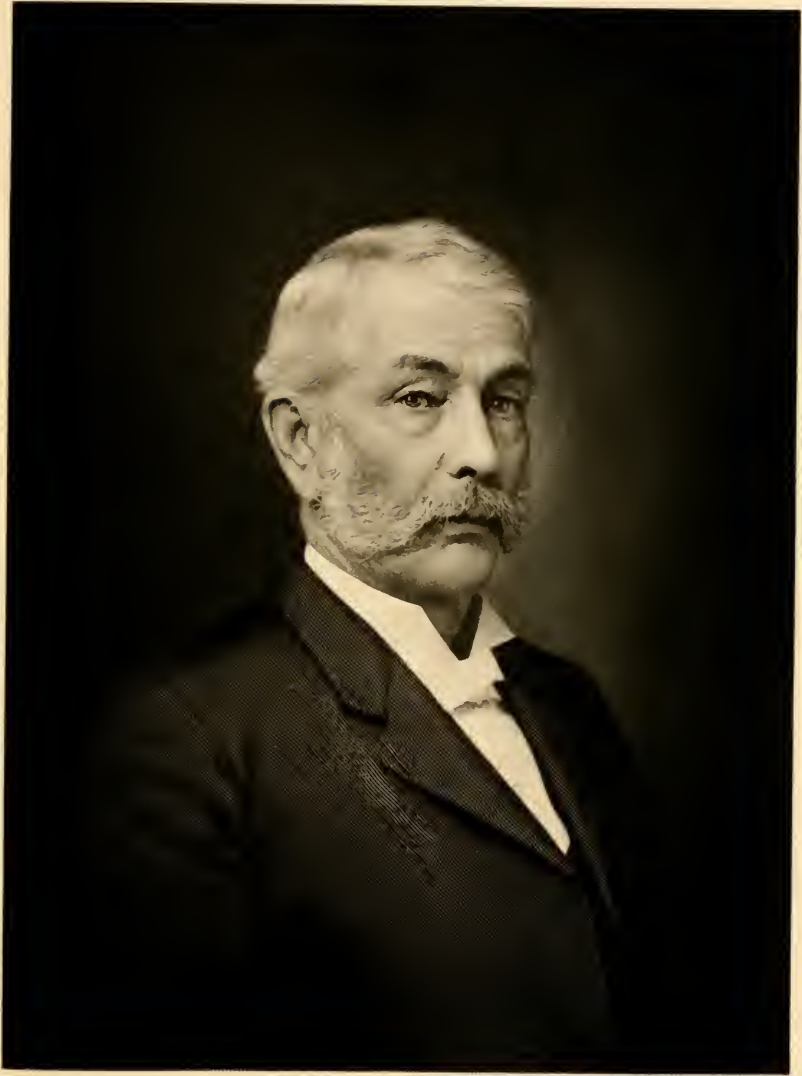
George L. Vance, who was long identified with commercial interests in Joliet, though now passed from earth yet lives in the hearts and memories of his friends and neighbors. His character as a man is well known, but a recital of the incidents of his life may still more firmly establish the record of his honorable and useful career. Nature and culture vied in making him an interesting and honorable gentleman, education made him a scholar, and his kindly spirit won for him the warm esteem of all with whom he came in contact. He was justly classed with the prominent citizens of Joliet, not only by reason of the extent and importance of his commercial interests, but also by reason of the sterling traits of his character.

Mr. Vance, a native of Groton, Vermont, was born March 13, 1839. He belonged to one of the old New England families, for in the year 1700 representatives of the name sailed from the north of Ireland and established homes in Connecticut. John Vance removed from Connecticut to Caledonia county, Vermont, and became a pioneer farmer there. His son, David Vance, who was born in Connecticut in 1778, served for many years as a captain in the Vermont militia and also left the impress of his individuality upon the political his-

tory of the state, representing his district for fourteen consecutive years in the general assembly. He did much to mold public thought and action and his name was honored wherever known. He died in Caledonia county at the age of seventy-five years.

Aaron Vance, son of Captain David Vance, was born in Groton, Caledonia county, Vermont, in 1812. He devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and became the founder of the family in the middle west, removing to Money Creek, Houston county, Minnesota, in 1866, where he purchased a farm. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Lucinda Tucker, was born in Newbury, Vermont, and was a daughter of Jonas Tucker, who was a farmer, justice of the peace and prominent business man of his community, and who married Miss Ann Johnston, a daughter of General Joseph Johnston, of Revolutionary fame.

In the family of Aaron and Lucinda Vance were two daughters and six sons. Two of the sons, George Livermore and Aaron Vance, became closely identified with the interests of Joliet and figured prominently in the business life of the city for many years. The former was twelve years of age when he started out to make his own way in the world, being employed through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he continued his education in the public schools. When eighteen years of age he began teaching school and followed that profession for four years, when at the age of twenty-two he entered Newbury Seminary. He was ever a man of scholarly attainments, whose reading was broad and liberal and who kept in touch with the best thinking men of the age. In 1862 he went to Rutland, Vermont, where for two years he conducted a boot and shoe store. In the spring of 1864 he secured a clerkship in the war department at Washington, D. C., being in the capital at the time when General Early made his raid into the north. In 1867 he was made corresponding clerk in the law department of internal revenue and while filling that position devoted his leisure hours to the study of law in Columbia College Law School, from which he was graduated. Admitted to the bar, he resigned his government position in 1870 and came to the west with a view of practicing law, but changed his plans and for two years was engaged in business with an uncle at Money Creek, Minnesota.



*G. D. Vance*



Mr. Vance became a resident of Joliet in 1872 in which year he entered the furniture business as a member of the firm of Woods & Vance, but the country becoming involved in a financial panic he lost all that he had invested. Undeterred by the obstacles that he had met and regarding his difficulties only as an impetus for renewed effort, he bought his partner's interest and again started in business and this time was eminently successful, his trade constantly growing in extent and importance year after year until it made him one of the substantial and prosperous merchants of Joliet. In 1895 he sold out to Mr. Hess in order to enjoy a well earned vacation and went abroad, visiting various points of interest in Europe, Asia and Africa, making the trip up the Nile and through the Holy Land, and seeing many interesting places in Europe. He often spoke of the three months' sojourn abroad, with its freedom from all business cares, as one of the happiest periods of his life. He gained thereby, too, that knowledge and culture which only travel can bring.

Upon returning to Joliet he purchased his former business and continued in active connection therewith up to the time of his demise. In 1903 the business was reorganized under the firm name of the Vance-Fitzgibbons Furniture Company, J. W. Fitzgibbons becoming his partner. The business was expanded until it occupied not only the three-story stone building which Mr. Vance had erected in 1891, but also included the commodious store rooms in the Gorman building, Mr. Vance being president of the company, the largest enterprise of this character in Joliet. He did not confine his efforts alone to this line of business, for through many years he was vice president and one of the directors of the Will County Bank, in which he held considerable stock. He made it his aim to attain the highest degree of perfection possible in many lines of business activity, was alert and enterprising and had a genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time. Moreover he maintained a policy in harmony with the old and time-tried maxim concerning honesty and labor, and his business record might be summed up in the phrase "through struggles to success."

Mr. Vance was married twice. He first wedded Elizabeth K. Fowler, of Washington, D. C., who

died in Joliet in 1873, leaving two children, George A. and Grace F. The son was for a number of years with the Will County National Bank. He died in 1904. On the 19th of July, 1877, Mr. Vance wedded Miss Jennie Lewis, a daughter of William and Keziah Lewis, who were natives of Wales, both being representatives of old and notable families of that country. Their daughter, Mrs. Vance, was born in England and was brought by her parents to America, the family settling in Chicago, where Mr. Lewis engaged in the leather business for several years he afterward removed to Ottawa, Illinois, and continued in business there for a short time, subsequently removing to Joliet, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-five years. Mrs. Lewis had previously passed away in this city. Mr. and Mr. Vance had one daughter, Beulah, now the wife of R. C. Cummins, who is a proof reader by profession. Mr. and Mrs. Cummins reside with Mrs. Vance at the family home on Herkimer street.

In politics Mr. Vance was a staunch republican, in sympathy with the principles of the party until 1896, when he espoused the cause of free silver and became known as a free silver republican. So pronounced were his views that he accepted the nomination for congress on the democratic-populist ticket, running against Hon. Joseph Cannon, and although failing of election he polled more votes than the majority of men on his ticket. For a number of years he was a worthy and efficient school inspector and for several terms served as a vice president of the school board. All matters of civic virtue and civic pride were of interest to him and his co-operation was given to many measures which were directly beneficial to the city in the line of its material, intellectual and moral progress. He attained high rank in Masonry, belonging to Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M., also the chapter and council at Joliet and Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T., and to Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine, Chicago. He was regarded as a most valued and prominent representative of the craft in Joliet.

From the year 1865 Mr. Vance was actively connected with the Baptist church in some official capacity, as clerk, as deacon or as trustee, and



for many years was superintendent of the Sunday-school. He was a member of the Baptist Social Union of Chicago and of the board of managers of the Baptist Young Peoples Union of America. He also served as president and vice president of the Will County Sunday School Association and his efforts were untiring in behalf of the Sunday-school and the church. He was long a teacher in the Sunday-school of the First Baptist church and afterward of the Eastern Avenue Baptist church, of which he was a prominent member at the time of his death. He likewise taught in missions and assisted for more than twenty years in Sunday-school work among the inmates of the penitentiary, in which work he was regarded as most successful. An ardent believer in the good accomplished by various church organizations, he gave liberally of his time and means in their behalf and for a number of years was a leader in the work of the Young Men's Christian Association in Joliet.

Mr. Vance died August 19, 1905, at the family home, his death occurring unexpectedly, he having retired in seeming perfect health the night previous. The funeral was conducted under the auspices of the Joliet commandery, K. T., and was one of the largest funerals ever witnessed in Will county. The interment was in Oakwood cemetery, his last resting place being marked by a beautiful monument.

The career of George Livermore Vance clearly illustrates the possibilities that are open in this country to earnest, persevering young men who have the courage of their convictions and are determined to be the architects of their own fortunes. When judged by what he accomplished in the business world and for the benefit of his fellowmen his right to a first place among the representative citizens of Joliet can not be questioned. His name was honored wherever known and most of all where he was best known.

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#### C. F. OTTO MIESSLER, M. D.

Dr. C. F. Otto Miessler, who in the practice of his profession has shown intimate and accurate knowledge of the principles of medicine and surgery, making continued advancement through his broad study and research, was born in Gratiot

county, Michigan, in 1858. His father, E. G. H. Miessler, a native of Germany, is a retired physician now living in Batavia, Illinois, at the age of eighty-one years. He came to the United States about 1848, locating near Saginaw, Michigan. He was a graduate of the Heidelberg College of Germany and having studied for the ministry was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran church, subsequent to which time he was sent to the United States by the church to do missionary work among the Chippewa Indians. He spent about twelve years with that tribe, doing effective labor toward civilization as well as moral development. Determining to enter the medical profession, he was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago and entered upon the practice of his profession in that city in 1873, there remaining until 1898, when he retired. He was a successful physician of wide and varied learning and his life has been one of signal usefulness to his fellowmen. He holds membership in the Evangelical Lutheran church. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Caroline Hunning, was born in Germany and died in 1871 at the age of forty-three years. They were the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Dr. Miessler, of this review; Herman, a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Columbus, Nebraska; and Frederick, a minister of the same denomination at Batavia, Illinois.

Dr. Miessler attended the common schools of his native town, also Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he pursued a classical course and was graduated in 1876. In the fall of the following year he entered Hahnemann Medical College and completed a course in 1880. In the autumn of that year he entered upon the active practice of his profession in connection with his father in Chicago, where he remained until the spring of 1883, since which time he has been located in Crete. He has achieved a more than ordinary measure of success, due in large measure to the fact that he keeps in touch with the progress of the profession through broad reading and study, thus continually promoting his skill and ability. In 1895 he pursued the course of official surgery under Dr. E. H. Pratt, of Chicago.

In 1888 Dr. Miessler was married to Miss Caroline Wilkening, who was born in Crete township in 1861, a daughter of John and Mary Wilkening, who came from Germany at an early day and set-

tled on a farm in Crete township. He died December 24, 1906, at the age of eighty-six years and six months, after a residence of fifty-five years in that township. He was a prosperous man with splendid business qualifications, and during the five and a half decades in which the farm was in his possession there was never a mortgage upon it. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Miessler have been born three children: Minna, Herbert T. and Erich C. The parents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and in politics the Doctor is an earnest republican. He is also a member of the Clinical Society of Hahnemann College, of the Illinois Homeopathic Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy. His home is a handsome residence, which he owns and which is an indication of his life of usefulness and of success.

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#### WINFIELD SCOTT GREEN.

Winfield Scott Green, superintendent of the reed and rattan shops for the state at the Illinois penitentiary in Joliet, was born in Ottawa, La Salle county, October 12, 1868. His parents were pioneer residents of that part of the state and were among the most respected people of the community. There they reared and educated their family of three sons and one daughter.

Winfield S. Green acquired his education in the public schools of Ottawa, passing through the successive grades until he was graduated from the high school of that city. He came to Joliet in 1897, when he was appointed receiving and discharging officer at the Illinois state penitentiary, the appointment coming from Governor Tanner. He was afterward parole officer, in both positions giving entire satisfaction by the faithful and intelligent performance of his duties. He resigned the latter position to become superintendent of the shops of the Illinois Rattan Company, with which company he remained until it lost control of the works, when the state took hold of the work. Mr. Green remained superintendent, thus once more becoming an employe of the state at the penitentiary. He has made a study of the business and is well qualified for the duties which devolve upon him in this connection. Under his guidance the shop is conducted with careful re-

gard to expenditure and good workmanship, and the output in reed and rattan work is of such a nature as to secure excellent prices.

It is considered a creditable feature of Joliet's importance, that men elected or appointed to public positions in that city, form associations and friendships that invariably create a desire in them to become permanent residents. Such has been the case with Mr. Green and it is clearly evident that the people of Joliet consider him a desirable citizen in their midst. It was not long after his arrival here that he married Miss Caroline Barnes of Ottawa, whose parents were also old settlers of that place. The close acquaintance of the young couple may be best understood from the fact that they were graduated from the same class in the Ottawa high school. Theirs has been a most congenial and happy married life though deep sorrow came to them in the loss of their two sons. The life and light of the household at the present time is their little two year old daughter, Margaret Barnes. Mr. Green recently purchased their present home at No. 108 Grand avenue, the decorations and furnishings of which, as well as the exterior, indicate the cultured taste of Mr. Green and his wife, and his household is noted for its warm-hearted hospitality.

Mr. Green is a good judge and lover of thoroughbred driving horses and owns a fine specimen of the noble steed from Kentucky. In this way he finds his chief source of rest and recreation. His political support is given the republican party. He is also at the front in every progressive movement for the general good and welfare of the district. In social circles Mr. and Mrs. Green occupy an enviable position by reason of their estimable qualities of mind and heart and also because of their co-operation in every good work and beneficial movement in which the community is interested.

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#### THOMAS P. BRANKIN, M. D. V.

Dr. Thomas P. Brankin, who for the past fifteen years has made his home in Joliet, is proprietor of a veterinary hospital at Nos. 108 and 110 Desplaines street, where he has been located for two years. He came to this city to reside in

1892 and has practiced his profession for the past six years. He was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in 1863 and came to this country alone in 1880 when a youth of seventeen years, locating first at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a year. He had only five dollars when he landed at New York and he began work for thirteen dollars per month in Pittsburg. A year later he made his way westward to Chicago and for several years was employed as a salesman in that city. He then turned his attention to contracting, sprinkling and teaming and is still interested in the contracting business in the metropolis. Preparing for the practice of veterinary surgery, he is a graduate of McKillip College of Chicago, one of the leading veterinary institutions of the country, and is therefore well qualified for the performance of the professional duties that devolve upon him. His excellent success in his practice has secured him a liberal patronage and he is recognized as one of the foremost veterinarians of Will county.

Dr. Brankin was married to Miss Alila Currey, a daughter of Colonel John Currey, who conducted the first dry-goods store in Joliet. They now have five sons, all at home, namely: John, Thomas, James, Francis J. and Edmund B. The first three were born in Chicago and the last two in Joliet. The parents are communicants of the Catholic church and Dr. Brankin belongs to the Western Catholic Union and the Knights of Columbus. Politically he is a democrat, with independent tendencies, for he does not consider himself bound by party ties and often casts an independent ballot at local elections.

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#### BENJAMIN SHAFFNER.

A residence of nearly sixty years and a life characterized by business activity and honor, well-entitled Benjamin Shaffner to mention in this volume as an honored representative citizen of Will county. He was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1825, a son of John and Susanna (Bowers) Shaffner, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state, making their home upon a farm there until 1826, when they removed with their family to Summit county, Ohio. For twenty years

the father was engaged in general farming there, and in 1846 brought his family to the middle west, settling in Will county, Illinois. For a brief period he resided in Joliet, and then established his home in New Lenox township, where he purchased a large tract of land and carried on general farming throughout his remaining days. He reached the venerable age of eighty-one years, while his wife lived to the advanced age of eighty-two years. In their family were seven children but nearly all have now passed to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." Of the sons, Benjamin and Levi became prominent business men of Joliet. The latter, who was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1822, died April 12, 1906. In early manhood he wedded Christine Sowers, who had been a near neighbor of the family in Summit county, Ohio, where she was born. After his marriage he purchased a farm in New Lenox township, where he resided for nine years, and then, putting aside agricultural interests, he removed to Joliet in 1895 and invested in town property. Here he dealt in real estate and in loaning money, becoming a wealthy citizen through his judicious management of his business interests. He was thus connected with the real-estate and loan business throughout his remaining days and became recognized as one of the foremost representatives of business life in this city. His widow now resides at the old home at No. 300 Sherman street, but spends the winter months in the south.

Benjamin Shaffner, like the other members of the father's family, pursued his education in the public schools of Summit county, Ohio, and through the periods of vacation assisted in the work of the home farm. After coming to Will county he remained with his parents until his marriage, which important event in his life was celebrated on the 20th of January, 1852, the lady of his choice being Miss Caroline Larkin, a native of Cranbrook, Kent county, England, who was born May 18, 1832. She is a daughter of Jesse and Sophia (Swan) Larkin, both of whom were natives of England and came to America at an early day, being among the pioneer settlers of Joliet, where they established their home in 1847. but the father was soon afterward called to his final rest, passing away when he had been a resident of the county for only three months.



*Benjamin Shaffner*





and his wife died shortly afterward. Several members of the Larkin family are still residing in Joliet, including Eliza, now the wife of Daniel Brokaw, who resides at No. 120 Grover street, Mr. Brokaw looking after the property of Mrs. Shaffner. At the time the Larkin family arrived in this city there was only one meat market in Joliet and other business and commercial enterprises were few in number and of no great importance. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffner became the parents of two children. Ephraim L. married Amanda Stanley, and after her death he wedded Martha George. He was engaged in the coal trade in this city for many years, but has recently retired and now lives at No. 114 Sherman street. Eldon P., the younger son, wedded Eliza Brown and resides at No. 504 Exchange street. He is a molder by trade and occupies a good position in the mills here, having thus served for many years.

Following his marriage Mr. Shaffner purchased a farm in Jackson township, this county, and carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1862, when he removed to the city and became connected with carpentering. He also engaged in the carriage and wagon making business for a few years, subsequent to which time he established a grocery store and coalyard. He soon sold the farm, concentrating his attention upon the coal trade, which he carried on in partnership with his son under the firm style of B. Shaffner & Son. Their yards were located on Washington street near the tracks of the Chicago & Alton, Santa Fe and Illinois Central Railroad, so that good shipping facilities were afforded. An extensive business was built up and gratifying profits accrued. Mr. Shaffner continued in the coal trade for fourteen years and on selling out he retired from active business life. He has also been interested in real estate in the city and is now partial owner in the Shaffner block on Washington street. He also owns many nice residences here and from the rental receives a very gratifying income. His home is a pleasant residence at No. 110 Sherman street, where he and his wife now reside.

In politics Mr. Shaffner is a republican but without aspiration for office. For many years he has been a devoted and exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, being in hearty sympathy with the tenets of the craft. His success has been by no means the result of financial circumstances.

It has come to him through energy, labor and perseverance, directed by an evenly balanced mind and by honorable business principles. In manner he is quiet and straightforward, saying exactly what he means, and his word has become a synonym for business integrity. He finds his greatest social enjoyment at his own fireside, where his wife and intimate friends know him to be a delightful companion. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and the rest which he is enjoying is well merited. His residence in the county covers nearly sixty years and therefore few men have more intimate knowledge of its history or of events which have left their impress upon its annals.

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#### JOHN H. BAHLMANN.

John H. Bahlmann, proprietor of a general store at Goodenow, was born in Washington township, Will county, December 12, 1866. His paternal grandfather, Henry Bahlmann, Sr., was one of the oldest settlers of the county at the time of his death, which occurred in December, 1893. His wife had died earlier in the same year. They came to America in 1854, when their son Henry, the father of our subject, was a young man of eighteen years. He was born in Germany, engaged in farming on the old homestead after the emigration to the new world, and in the course of years became the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres of valuable land as the result of judicious investment, careful management and unfaltering energy. He married Dorothea Harste, a native of the province of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and they became the parents of six children: Henry, who is living on the old home farm and is supervisor of Washington township; William, a barber of Chicago; Charles, whose home is in Beecher, Illinois; John H., of this review; Mary, the wife of John Herman, of Cissna Park, Illinois; and Lena, who is living with her sister Mary. The father died September 10, 1886, at the age of forty-eight years, and the mother passed away a few years ago.

No event out of the ordinary occurred to vary the routine of farm life for John H. Bahlmann in his boyhood days. The early spring found him at

work in the fields and the late autumn saw him at work gathering the corn. In the winter months he attended the public schools, but his attention was largely given to the farm labor until he was twenty years of age when he came to Goodenow and began clerking in a store. Two years later, in 1890, he engaged in business for himself, building a store, equipping it with a stock of goods and then opening the doors to the general public. He has since ranked among the leading merchants of the town and his trade has steadily grown. For four years he has also owned a store at Eagle Lake and is conducting a good business at both places. His close application, his study of the trade and the public demands and his unabating diligence constitute the salient elements which have led him forth from a comparatively humble financial position to the plane of affluence.

In 1890 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bahlmann and Miss Anna Wehrman, a native of Washington township. Her father, Frederick Wehrman, formerly a farmer of that township, is now deceased. Her mother is still living on a farm just east of Beecher. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bahlmann have been born four children: Harry, Ruby, William and Helen. Mr. Bahlmann and his family are members of the Lutheran church and are deeply interested in its various activities and the extension of its influence. In his political views Mr. Bahlmann was formerly a democrat and served as postmaster of Goodenow during President Cleveland's second term. He was also justice of the peace for one term, notary public for one term and school director for fourteen years. He is always found on the side of progress, whether in business, community or social interests, and is accounted one of the leading and representative citizens of the village in which he makes his home.

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#### JOHN MEIER.

John Meier, who owns and operates one hundred and fifty-three acres of land on section 34, Crete township, was born in Washington township, this county, June 24, 1860. His father, John P. Meier, was born in Germany, January 1, 1827, and in 1848 crossed the Atlantic to the

new world. He had no capital and worked by the month at farm labor near Chicago for a time, and later was employed in the woods of Michigan. He went as far west as the Mississippi river and for some time worked on a vessel plying north from St. Louis. Later he came to Will county and in the early '50s purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land on section 2, Washington township. Settling on this farm he built the first dwelling there and began the cultivation of the fields. He afterward bought two hundred acres more in Crete township, a part of which is now in the possession of his son John. He was killed by being thrown from a load of baled hay and being run over by the wagon, on his way to Goodenow. This accident occurred on a steep hill just west of the home of our subject. The father lived for two days after the accident and passed away June 12, 1899. He had been a hard worker and was a prosperous farmer and though seventy-two years of age at the time of his demise, he had continued in active work on the farm up to the last. A believer in the Christian religion, he was one of the organizers of the St. John's Lutheran church, in which he held office for twenty-five years. He voted with the republican party. In early manhood he wedded Mary Hasenjager, a native of Germany, who is still living upon the old home farm in Washington township, and who is now seventy-three years of age. Her father, Christ Hasenjager, was an early settler of Washington township.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Meier were twelve children as follows: Mary, the wife of John F. Meyer, who is living in Crete; Fred, who lives in the town of Crete; Sophie, the wife of F. H. Wilkie, a merchant at Beecher, Illinois; John, of this review; Carrie, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Ellen, the wife of Fred Jacksish of Chicago; Henry, who is living on a farm in Washington township; Christ, who is on the home farm; Emma, who died in infancy; Annie, who is at home; Lizzie, who died in childhood; and Diedrick, who died at the age of ten years.

John Meier has always remained upon the old homestead farm with the exception of one year when he was employed at farm labor elsewhere. At the age of thirty-three years, he began the cultivation of his father's tract of land of eighty acres

in Crete township and later bought eighty acres adjoining, from his brother. He now owns one hundred and fifty-three acres of land, having sold seven acres to J. R. Walsh for the Southern Indiana Railroad. Upon his place he has a good dwelling and substantial barns and carries on dairying and general farming.

When thirty-three years of age he was married to Miss Sophia Ohlendorf, who was born in Crete township, June 15, 1868, and is the daughter of William Ohlendorf, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Meier have four children, all of whom are living at home: Hilda, William, Walter and John. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and contribute liberally to its support and take a very active and helpful part in its work, having considerable influence in molding its course and in the promotion of different church activities. Mr. Meier has always been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, but has never aspired to public office. He has, however, served as school director for two terms and as clerk of the board of directors for one year. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend. While he has many of the strong, stalwart traits of his German ancestry, he is thoroughly loyal to American principles and institutions and manifests a public-spirited and progressive citizenship.

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#### JOHN PAPE.

John Pape, one of the oldest and most prominent residents of Monee township, where he owns three hundred and forty-three acres of land, divided into three well improved farms, from which he derives a good annual rental, is now living retired in a comfortable home in the village of Monee. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 13, 1837.

His father, Henry Pape, a blacksmith by trade, emigrated with his family to America in 1846, taking passage at Bremen, and after a voyage of sixty-three days on the ocean landed at New Orleans, from which city they made their way up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, thence up the Illinois river as far as Meredosia, whence they

made their way to Springfield, where they lived for one year. In 1847 he made his way by wagon to Du Page county, locating at Addison, the trip covering a distance of two hundred miles. He worked at his trade of blacksmithing in that town for three years, subsequent to which time, in 1850, he removed to a farm in Monee township, Will county, the township at that time being called Carey. In the meantime he had purchased Mexican war land grants for three hundred and twenty acres, which was all wild and unimproved. Taking up his abode thereon, he erected a little log shanty, in which the family lived in true pioneer style for many years. This pioneer home was later replaced by a more substantial frame residence and here the father lived until he put aside his business cares, when he went to Mattison, where his last days were passed, his death occurring at the home of a daughter in 1892, when he had reached the very venerable age of eighty-four years. His wife, Mrs. Rica Pape, was likewise born in Germany and her death occurred in Monee township, at the age of fifty years. Both the parents were identified with the Reformed Lutheran church, and the father was one of the organizers and the builders of the church of that denomination in Monee. They were worthy pioneer people, highly respected in the community where they so long made their home.

Their family numbered eight children, namely: Barney, who at the age of seventy-nine years makes his home in East Portland, Oregon; Henry, whose death occurred in Portland, Oregon; Rica, deceased; Frederick, who died in 1861; John, of this review; Ernest, who lives in Iowa; Mrs. Henry Gross, a resident of Mattison, Illinois; and Mrs. George Van Horst, who lives in British Columbia.

John Pape, the fifth in order of birth in his father's family, was a youth of nine years when he accompanied his parents on their emigration from Germany to the new world, and he has vivid recollection of many incidents during the long and tedious trip across the ocean. He was given good educational advantages in his native country but after coming to America only attended school for about three months, having to walk about four miles, for at that early period the schoolhouses were widely scattered. He was reared to the duties of farm life, assisting his father in

the operation of the home place until 1862, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres and started out upon an independent business venture. This farm was situated in Monee township and was wild prairie when it came into his possession. He developed the fields and in course of time had a good tract of land, from which he annually harvested good crops as the result of the care and labor which he bestowed upon the fields. All of the improvements which are here seen at the present time have been placed by Mr. Pape, who in his farm work was ever progressive and practical. He made his home thereon for many years, or until two years ago when he rented the land and removed to the village of Monee, where he owns a comfortable residence. He likewise owns two other well improved farms, having altogether three hundred and forty-three acres of land in Monee township, and this supplies him with all the comforts of life, so that he is now able to spend the evening of his days in honorable retirement.

The year in which he purchased his farm, 1862, Mr. Pape was also married, the lady of his choice being Miss Sophia Bartels, the date of their marriage being January 13. Mrs. Pape was born in Hanover, Germany, March 28, 1842, a daughter of Fred Bartels, who, upon his emigration to America, settled in Du Page county, where he engaged in farming. He met his death in a runaway accident when on his way home from Chicago. His widow survived and died in 1900, at the home of a son in Cook county, when she had reached the venerable age of ninety years. Eight children also survived the father's death.

Of the twelve children born unto our subject and his wife, six are living, namely: Emma, the wife of Fred Buchmeier, a resident of Joliet; Lena, the wife of Henry Buchmeier, who operates her father's farm; Dena, a young lady at home; Mary, the wife of William Paulding, a resident farmer of Green Garden township; Anna, the wife of Fred Godervest, who operates one of the father's farms; and Annelia, who is engaged in teaching in Monee township. Mr. Pape and his family are members of the Reformed Lutheran church, of which he has been a trustee for the past ten years. He has always given his political allegiance to the democratic party, and for one term served as justice of the peace.

Mr. Pape is one of the oldest residents of Monee township. When he came to Will county much of the land was still unclaimed, the homes of the settlers were widely scattered, the nearest mill was at Joliet, and one could go for a long distance without coming to a habitation. Wolves were still numerous in this section of the state and worked great havoc among the sheep. Many of the farm products were marketed in Chicago and Mr. Pape and his wife have frequently started to that city at nine o'clock at night with a load of potatoes. Few men of Will county are more familiar with its early history than is Mr. Pape, for he has spent the greater part of his life within its borders, covering a period of six decades, and during the years which have since come and gone he has seen many wonderful changes as the work of progress and advancement has been carried forward along various lines, and in this work he has not only been an interested witness but has been an active participant, so that he deserves prominent mention in a history of this character.

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#### GEORGE S. GREENWOOD.

George S. Greenwood, engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 19, New Lenox township, was born in the state of New York in 1838, his parents being John and Mary Ann (Brown) Greenwood. The father was born in England and his life span covered seventy-four years. He came to America in 1833 and after residing in the east for several years removed with his family to Will county, Illinois, in the fall of 1841. The voyage to the new world was made on a sailing vessel and after six weeks spent upon the water he landed at New York. For about five years he continued to reside in the Empire state and thence came to Will county, settling in New Lenox township, where he resided for three years, and then removed to Joliet township. He followed the occupation of farming, thus providing a comfortable living for his family. His early political allegiance was given to the whig party and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new republican party. He was also a member of the United Brethren church. About two years prior to his death he removed to the city of Joliet, where his remaining





MR. AND MRS. GEORGE S. GREENWOOD.





days were spent in retirement from labor. His wife, who was born in the state of New York, died upon the old home farm in Joliet township when sixty-four years of age. She was a worthy Christian woman and also held membership in the United Brethren church. George S. Greenwood is the only surviving member of a family of twelve children. His father was married twice, the second union being with Sarah Huston, who removed to Ohio after her husband's death. The twelfth member of the family was a son of the second marriage. The brothers and sisters of our subject were Mary Ann, John, William, Jane, Harvey, Llewellyn, Benjamin, Sarah, Alfred and Aaron, twins, and Charles.

George S. Greenwood was only three years of age when brought by his parents to Illinois, so that he was reared in Will county, spending his boyhood days upon the home farm in Joliet township, while in the district schools near by he mastered those branches of English learning which usually constitute the curriculum of a public school. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age and then began farming on his own account by renting land in New Lenox township. From his father he inherited the farm upon which he now resides. His time and energies are given to the further cultivation and improvement of his place and everything about the farm is kept in good condition.

Mr. Greenwood was married in 1860 to Miss Matilda King, who was born in Will county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Sarah King, who died when Mrs. Greenwood was only three years of age. Unto our subject and his wife were born six children, but three died a short time after birth, while George K. died at the age of one year and eleven months, and John when eleven months old. The only one now living is Jane, the wife of Charles Myers, a resident of Fullerton, North Dakota, and they have five children.

After losing his first wife in 1901, Mr. Greenwood was again married, in 1903, his second union being with Mrs. Hannah J. Holden, who was born in Will county in 1846 and is a daughter of George and Lucinda (King) Campbell, old and honored residents of this county. Her father was a native of New York and from that state removed to Ohio. In 1842 he came to Illinois and settled in Joliet township, Will county, where he spent the most

of his life, though he died in Missouri in 1896. His wife was born in Ohio and came with her parents to this county in the '30s, making her home here until called to her final rest in 1873.

The present Mrs. Greenwood first married Benjamin Squires, who died in 1886, and by that union had nine children: Arthur, now a resident of St. Louis, Missouri; Joseph, of Joliet, Illinois; Eva, who married William Gillespie, of New Lenox, and died in 1893, at the age of twenty-two years; Annie, wife of Frank Long, of New Lenox; Sadie, wife of Lewis Walter, of St. Louis; Bessie, who died in 1892, at the age of thirteen years; Mabel, wife of Herman W. Tohtz, of St. Louis; and Benjamin and Oscar, who also make their home in St. Louis. For her second husband Mrs. Greenwood married Thomas Irvin, who was killed in the cyclone at St. Louis in 1897, and her third husband was Richard Holden, who died in 1904. She has eighteen grandchildren.

Mr. Greenwood votes the republican ticket and his position upon public questions of moment is never an equivocal one. He has served as road commissioner and is now a township school trustee. He has been a resident of Will county since the fall of 1841, covering a period of two-thirds of a century, and few residents of this part of the state have longer resided within its borders. He became familiar with its history as an eye witness of the events which have left their impress upon its annals, and well deserves mention among the early settlers.

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#### FREDERICK RUESCH.

Frederick Ruesch is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to Will county, his birth having occurred in Mecklenburg. Schwerin, Germany, April 27, 1854. His parents, John and Anna (Sass) Ruesch, were likewise natives of the fatherland, whence in 1872 they emigrated to the new world, taking passage on the steamer Germania, which sank on a subsequent trip to this country. The father was not long permitted to make his home in the new world, for his death occurred six months after his arrival, he being fifty-seven years of age. His widow was left in very limited financial circumstances and the care of her

family in a strange land. She survived for a long period, her death occurring in 1905, when she had reached the extreme old age of ninety-three years, for her birth occurred in 1812. Previous to her marriage to Mr. Rusch, she had wedded a Mr. Bleverecht, by whom she had a son and daughter, Rudolph and Dora, both of whom reside in this country. By her second marriage she became the mother of two sons and three daughters: John; Frederick, of this review; Sophia, deceased; and two daughters, who died in infancy. Mrs. Ruesch was a devoted member of the German Lutheran church.

Frederick Ruesch, the second son of his father's family and the younger of the two surviving members, was educated in the schools of Germany, where he was reared to the age of eighteen years, when, in 1872, he accompanied the family on their emigration to the United States. Landing at New York, he made his way from that city to Mokena, Illinois, where he remained for four months, and from there made his way to Joliet and secured employment in the rolling mills. He entered the mills March 1, 1873, and, his ability being recognized, he received successive promotions until at the time he severed his connection, March 1, 1902, he had worked his way up to a responsible and remunerative position, receiving as high as two hundred and eighty dollars per month.

During the time of his employment at the mills he carefully husbanded his earnings, which he invested in two hundred and forty acres of land, this constituting a valuable and well improved farm. After a continuous connection of twenty-nine years in the mills, he removed to his farm, for the close confinement had somewhat impaired his health. He then engaged in general agricultural pursuits, in which he is meeting with very gratifying success, being accounted one of the leading farmers of New Lenox township. He is systematic and methodical in carrying on his work, using only the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and following the most progressive and modern methods in his work, so that his labors are rewarded by rich and abundant harvests each year, thus adding greatly to his financial resources.

Mr. Ruesch was married to Miss Minnie Duvel, who was born in Mecklenburg, July 23, 1855, a daughter of John Duvel. Her parents are both

now deceased, having passed away in this country. They were devoted members of the German Lutheran church. Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight daughters and three sons, namely: Annie, the wife of Conrad Smisser, who is engaged in the plumbing business at Evanston, and by whom she has one child; Carrie, the wife of Paul G. Thurm, the present assistant postmaster of Joliet, and by whom she has one child; Minnie, deceased; Geneva, who is acting as bookkeeper for a leading firm of Evanston; Fred and Sophia, who are at home; William, who is pursuing a course in pharmacy at the University of Illinois; Henry, who is attending school; Bertha and Augusta, twins, born October 20, 1894; and Ethel, who completes the family.

Reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church, Mr. Ruesch is still identified with that denomination, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He came to this country when a young man and, losing his father soon after, he was dependent upon his own resources from his early manhood. He possessed the determination and enterprise so characteristic of the German race and with a courageous spirit began life in the new world. Owing to his ability and close application his worth was soon recognized so that he won rapid advancement, which placed him in a responsible and remunerative position, so that he was enabled to invest in valuable farming property, which now supplies him with a good living and many of the comforts of life, and also permits him to give to his children good educational advantages. He is a public-spirited man, loyal to the best interests of his adopted country, and is today numbered among the leading citizens of his locality.

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#### JOSHUA PIPER.

Joshua Piper, now living retired in Peotone, where he owns a nice home, is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Will county, from which he derives a good annual rental. He was born in Cornwell, England, March 22, 1848, a son of James Piper, who was born in Devonshire, England, March 30, 1820. He was married to Miss Grace Found, who was a native

of Cornwall. In 1851 the father emigrated with his family to Canada, where he was engaged in farming near Fort Hope, eighty miles east of the city of Toronto. In 1866 he made his way to Illinois, settling first in Kankakee county but after a residence of two years there he made his way to Peotone township, Will county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land and forty-seven and one-half acres in Kankakee county, continuing agricultural pursuits until a few years prior to his death when he retired and spent his remaining days with his children, dying at the home of a daughter in Chicago. He lies buried in the cemetery at Peotone. His wife preceded him to the home beyond two years, and she was two years his junior. The father was numbered among the pioneers of Will county and he gave his political support to the republican party, while both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Joshua Piper is the third in a family of nine children, the other members of the family being: Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, a resident of Kankakee; Mrs. Sarah J. Hall, who lives in Goodland, Indiana; Ellen, the wife of Henry Day, a resident of Chicago; Richard, who died in Chicago, June 17, 1889; Mrs. Emma Ridabock, a resident of that city; Fannie, the wife of George Godell, who makes her home in Kankakee; Mrs. Mary Wilson, who also lives in Kankakee county; and William Piper, living on the old homestead farm in Will county.

Mr. Piper was a little lad of only three years when he accompanied the family on their emigration to the new world. He was reared to farm life, while in the common schools he acquired his education. He gave his father the benefit of his services on the farm until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life upon an independent venture. He had a capital of two hundred dollars, with which he made a payment on eighty acres of land at forty dollars per acre, going in debt for the remainder. He prospered in his undertakings and at length was enabled to liquidate his financial obligations and add to his landed possessions until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, from which he derives a good income. Four years ago he retired and removed to Peotone, where he resides in a comfortable home.

On the 11th of September, 1870, occurred the marriage of Mr. Piper and Miss Mary Jane Day, who was born in England, a daughter of George and Fannie (Jenkins) Day, who emigrated to America when the daughter was but three years of age. The father located first in Ohio but after a few years took up his abode in Kankakee county, Illinois, on a farm, where he and his wife spent their remaining days. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Piper have been born seven children, namely: James Henry, who wedded Laura Gilkerson and resides on a farm in Peotone township; George, who wedded Jennie Simpson and now operates the old homestead farm; Rose, who died January 14, 1907; William, who died when fourteen months old; Roy, who wedded Miss Elsie Jackson and lives on a farm belonging to his father; Arthur, at home; and Alvin, who died at the age of four and a half years.

Mr. Piper gives his political support to the republican party and for six years served as road commissioner, while for twenty-one years he acted as school director. Mrs. Piper is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and although Mr. Piper is not a member he attends and supports that church, of which he has been a trustee for several years. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp, No. 1405, at Peotone. Mr. Piper has ever led an upright life and bears an excellent reputation for honesty and honorable conduct. In former years he worked hard and thereby obtained the property and competence that now enables him to rest in honorable retirement. He and his estimable wife have many friends both in Peotone and Will county and are numbered among its best citizens.

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#### WILLIS A. HAZELTON.

The name of Hazelton has long been an honored one in agricultural circles in Will county, the family having resided here since 1854, covering a period of more than a half century, and since that time its representatives have been numbered among the leading and influential residents of this section of the state. Willis A. Hazelton, whose name introduces this record, is a native son of this county, his birth having occurred

on his father's farm in Wesley township, November 10, 1860.

His father, Norman Hazelton, was born in Bennington, Bennington county, Vermont, November 22, 1819, and died in Will county, November 31, 1902. He was first married in Elmira, New York, November 21, 1840, to Miss Lydia Fuller, who was born January 1, 1824. She survived her marriage for only a brief period, passing away April 29, 1842. The only child of this union, a son, died in infancy. For his second wife Mr. Hazelton chose Almira Frost, who was born at Catherine, Schuyler county, New York, December 7, 1821, and their marriage was celebrated at that place, March 20, 1845. In 1852 the parents removed from the east to Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, where they lived until 1854, in which year the family removed to Will county, settling on a farm in Wesley township. At the age of fifteen years the father went to Steuben county, New York, where he learned the wagon-maker's trade but he never followed that pursuit after his removal to the west, his occupation here being in the line of agricultural interests, which he followed until the time of his death. He was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church when a youth of seventeen and ever after lived a consistent Christian life, being identified with church work for sixty-seven years. The family of this worthy couple numbered eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom one daughter, Minerva, died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are: Charles N., who was born in Catherine, New York, July 2, 1847, was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago and is now practicing his profession at Morrison, Whiteside county, Illinois. Mrs. Mary A. Richardson, who was born at Painted Post, New York, November 19, 1849, is now a resident of Burch, South Dakota. Martha G. who was born August 3, 1852, at Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, is now the wife of William Johnston, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Sevelon A., who was born in Wesley township, Will county, May 8, 1855, is a farmer of that township and his sketch also appears on another page of this volume. Willis A. is the next in order of birth. LeGrand F., who was born March 21, 1864, also graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, at Chicago, and is now engaged in the

practice of medicine at Baraboo, Wisconsin. Walter A., who was born April 20, 1868, is likewise a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College and is now engaged in farming at Girvin, Canada, where in connection with his brother Willis A., he owns a section of land in the wheat belt. The mother of these children passed away on the home farm in Wesley township, on the 21st of August, 1896, at the age of seventy-four years, eight months and fourteen days. Like her husband, she was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, having been identified with that denomination for sixty years. She was a patient sufferer, having been ill for about eight months prior to her demise, but she bore her affliction with great fortitude. She was a woman of more than ordinary ability, was untiring in her devotion to her family and was a kind neighbor and faithful friend. Her funeral services were held at Wesley chapel, after which the remains were interred in Wesley cemetery.

Willis A. Hazelton, like the other members of the family, was reared on the old homestead farm, assisting his father in its operation during the period of his boyhood and youth, while in the public schools he acquired his early education, which was later supplemented by a course in the Evangelical College, at Naperville, Illinois. He remained with his father until the time of his marriage, after which he began farming on his own account, operating one hundred and forty acres of the old homestead farm, whereon he has since made his home. In addition to this property, Mr. Hazelton also owns landed interests in the wheat belt of Canada, where, in connection with his brother Walter he purchased a section of land in Saskatchewan county, while in 1905 he purchased an additional half section, their crop in the year of 1906 being one thousand bushels of wheat. Mr. Hazelton has always followed the occupation to which he was reared and is likewise engaged to some extent in the raising of stock. He is prospering in his undertakings and each year harvests good crops, for he follows the most modern methods in his farm work and uses the latest improved machinery in the cultivation of his land.

Mr. Hazelton was happily married, February 6, 1884, to Miss Elizabeth J. Johnston, who was born near Joliet October 5, 1861, a daughter of



Joseph and Mary C. (Miller) Johnston. The father was born in Leadhills, Wigtonshire, Scotland, July 1, 1833, and acquired his education at Muirkirk, Scotland. The mother's birth occurred in Pennsylvania, January 11, 1834, and their marriage was celebrated November 10, 1859. Mr. Johnston emigrated to the new world in the spring of 1833, taking passage at Liverpool on the sailing ship *Columbia* on the 2d of June of that year, and after a voyage of six weeks and three days reached the harbor of New York. From that city he made his way at once to Joliet, Will county, reaching his destination on the 30th of July. He made his home in that city until 1859, when he removed to Jackson township, where he farmed for one year, subsequent to which time he removed to Manhattan township, where he purchased a farm, on which he made many improvements, and thereon made his home until 1876, when he disposed of his property and bought a farm of seventy-two acres in Wesley township, which he improved and added to until he owned one hundred and twelve acres. He continued farming operations until 1893, when he retired and removed to Wilmington, where he has since made his home. While living in Wesley township he served as road commissioner for six years and has served for three terms as justice of the peace in Wilmington, his last election being on the 27th of April, 1905, and he is the present incumbent in that office. In politics he is a republican and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Johnston was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, whose death occurred November 8, 1893, leaving to mourn her loss **two** daughters and one son, of whom Mrs. Hazelton is the eldest, her sister being Esther A., who is now the wife of Thomas Carns, a resident of Chicago, while her brother is Martin Johnston, who resides in Joliet and is superintendent of the Joliet & Chicago Electric Railroad. After losing his first wife Mr. Johnston was married a second time, December 10, 1895, to Miss Annie Gall, who was born in Bridgeworth, Shropshire, England, March 3, 1864, and there is one daughter by this marriage.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born a daughter and two sons: Florence E., who was born October 2, 1887; Ernest N., who was born July 21, 1891; and Lester J., who was born Janu-

ary 21, 1896, and died at the age of three years. Mr. Hazelton served for six years as school director and the cause of education has ever found in him a warm and helpful friend. He also served as road commissioner for nine years, and his political support is given to the men and measures of the republican party.

Mr. Hazelton has spent his entire life in Will county, covering a period of forty-six years, so that he has become widely and favorably known. He is public-spirited in a marked degree, is loyal in citizenship and faithful in friendship, and both he and his wife are hospitable people, highly respected in the community where they reside.

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#### GEORGE W. ADAMS.

George W. Adams is a retired farmer and a veteran of the Civil war living in Peotone. He was born in Vermont, in 1841, and is a representative of old New England families. His father, Horace Adams, was born in Massachusetts, in 1801, and departed this life September 5, 1877, when in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He came to Illinois in 1837, casting in his lot with the pioneer residents of the county. He entered land in Crete township, and after working on his claim for a time he returned to Vermont. In 1845 he brought his family to the new home which he had prepared in the west, remaining upon that farm until 1865, when he sold the property and bought another farm in the same township. Eventually he sold the second place and removed to the village of Crete, where he lived for about two years prior to his death. He was a good farmer and business man, who prospered in his undertakings. He kept a large number of cattle and brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, keeping in touch with the advanced methods of farming, as experiment, scientific knowledge and invention improved upon the system formerly in effect. In politics he was at one time a whig and after the dissolution of the party became a staunch republican. His wife, Mrs. Katherine Adams, was born in Massachusetts, December 6, 1806, and died March 4, 1893, in her eighty-seventh year. She was a member of the Congregational church and was a worthy Christian woman.

In the family were ten children, nine of whom reached adult age, namely: Roxanna and William L., both now deceased; Edwin H., who was a soldier of the Civil war, and is also deceased; Roxanna J., who married James Mills and after his death became the wife of Alfred Mower; Emily Susan, the wife of Dow Manson, of Maine; George W.; Frank J., a resident of Peotone; Martha Ann, the widow of Horatio Gaines, a resident of Crete; Freeman A., deceased; and Julian, a retired farmer living in Steger, Illinois. Edwin H. Adams enlisted in the Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry as a member of Company F, in 1862, and was taken prisoner on the 11th of June, 1864. He was incarcerated at Andersonville and thence sent to Florence, where he died February 19, 1865, owing to the rigors and hardships of army prison life. He was then in his thirtieth year and was serving with the rank of corporal. His remains were interred at Florence. Frank J. Adams, born April 1, 1843, was also one of the boys in blue. He enlisted on the 31st of July, 1862, in Company G, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and first went to Louisville, Kentucky, thence marching to Nashville, Tennessee, and on to Chattanooga. At the last named place he was wounded and remained there from September until the latter part of November unable to engage in active service. He was honorably discharged at Quincy, Illinois, June 22, 1865.

George W. Adams was reared to farm life and in his boyhood days attended the district schools. The occupation to which he became familiar in his youth was that which occupied his manhood years until his retirement. He lived in Will township from 1870 until 1892 and during that period successfully carried on farming until his labors had brought him capital sufficient to enable him to put aside business cares and live in honorable retirement, surrounded by the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. The only interruption to his active work on the farm was during his service in the Civil war. On the 13th of September, 1861, when twenty years of age, he enlisted at Crete in Company F of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and was mustered out December 29, 1862, at Newark, New Jersey, by reason of disability.

In 1870 Mr. Adams was married to Miss Mary Jane Lotz, who was born in Lockport, Will county, in 1844, and is a daughter of David and Corrina

(Farley) Lotz. Her father came to Will county from Pennsylvania, settling at Lockport in 1838. He was a carpenter and carbinet-maker and died in Lockport in 1846, at the age of thirty-four years. His wife came from the state of New York with her parents, Benjamin and Polly Farley, the journey being made in a wagon across the country in 1838. They settled first in Illinois and subsequently removed to Indiana. Mrs. Adams' parents had two children, her brother being David Lotz, who died at the age of six years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Adams has been born but one child, William Horace, who is now employed as a salesman in Chicago. He wedded Mabel Mellen, a native of that city, and they have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

Mrs. Adams is a faithful and devoted member of the Presbyterian church and he belongs to William Webb post, G. A. R. In politics he is a republican and has served as school director. In matters of citizenship he is always loyal and progressive and is interested in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of his village and county. For almost two-thirds of a century he has lived in Will county and is thus largely familiar with its history and development from the days of its early pioneer settlement down to the present. His life has been quietly passed, yet he has displayed those sterling traits of character which in every land and clime awaken good will and confidence.

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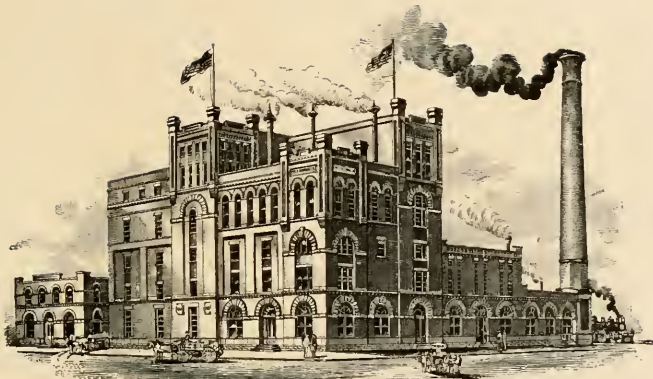
#### FRED SEHRING.

Fred Sehring, deceased, who attained distinction by a most successful business career, and who was accorded public honors in recognition of his patriotic and public-spirited citizenship, resided for many years at Joliet, where he established one of its leading industrial enterprises. His success was so marked that his methods are of interest to the commercial world and investigation into his life history shows that his work was characterized by unflinching diligence, unabating energy and the perseverance that never flags. A native of Germany, he was born in Langen, in the dukedom of Hesse-Darmstadt, December 19, 1834, and began his education in the schools of that country, but when thirteen years





*Fred. Schring*



*Fred Sehring Brewing Co.*  
JOLIET, ILL.





of age accompanied his parents, Weigand and Margaretha (Keim) Sehring, on their emigration to the new world in 1847. The Sehring family is one of prominence in the German-American citizenship of Will county. The parents settled in Frankfort township and the father turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed until 1854, when he removed with his family to Joliet and established and conducted a hotel. He had served as a soldier in the war of 1813 in Germany.

In spite of the fact that Fred Sehring had only eight months' instruction in the schools of America, by diligent application he acquired a good English education and in early life laid the foundation of the broad knowledge that proved so helpful to him in later years. He was a young man of twenty years when the family home was established in Joliet. Six years later, in 1860, he was appointed deputy clerk in the recorder's office, filling the position with marked capability, insomuch that he won public recognition and in 1863 was elected county treasurer. Two years later he was re-elected and continued the incumbent in the office until 1867, when he retired from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. He then entered commercial life by purchasing an interest in the brewing firm of Joseph Braun & Company, which founded what is today one of the finest plants in the northwest. Upon the death of Mr. Braun in 1870 a change was made in the business, Mr. Sehring securing the active control and changing the name to the Columbia brewery. The success already gained continued during the ensuing years and Mr. Sehring concentrated all of his energy and attention upon the further development and upbuilding of the business, basing his actions upon such old and time-tried maxims as "Honesty is the best policy," and "There is no excellence without labor." In January, 1883, owing to the success which he had already attained, he was enabled to incorporate the Fred Sehring Brewing Company, of which he became president, with his son Henry as vice president, his son-in-law, Henry F. Piepenbrink, secretary and treasurer, and his son, Louis J. Sehring, as superintendent. The new corporation was capitalized for fifty thousand dollars and at this time also purchased the brewery opposite their own establish-

ment, owned by Henry Eder, which was established in 1862 by Anthony Scheidt and Joseph Stephans. Mr. Sehring remained at the head of the concern until his death. He was also a director of the Will County National Bank and his business ability was widely recognized by those who knew aught of his career and witnessed his progress from a humble financial position to one of affluence.

On the 16th of January, 1855, Fred Sehring was married to Miss Louise Bez, a daughter of Jacob and Barbara Bez, who came from Würtemberg, Germany, to America in 1853, settling at Joliet. Mrs. Sehring was ever a most faithful companion and helpmate to her husband and her assistance and encouragement was often his inspiration and proved an important element in his business progress. Possessing a most kindly and benevolent spirit, she has become widely known in charitable circles, not because of any display that she was made, for she is entirely free from ostentation, but because her benefactions have been many and her kindly deeds almost without number. No one has ever left her presence discouraged and her charitable spirit is so broad that it knows no distinction of creed or nationality.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sehring were born the following named: Maggie, the wife of Henry F. Piepenbrink; Henry, of the Sehring Brewing Company; Anna C., the wife of Dr. A. A. Poehner, of San Francisco, California; George F., cashier of the Fred Sehring Brewing Company, who was married in 1896 to Lonisa Kramer of this city; and Susan E. and Louis J., who reside with their mother at the family homestead.

The family circle was broken by the death of the husband and father on the 2d of July, 1892. In the meantime he had figured prominently in public life, serving for eight years in the city council of Joliet, to which he was elected in 1874. He was at one time democratic candidate for the state senate against A. O. Marshall, republican, and C. Frazier, the Granger candidate. The returns showed Mr. Marshall elected by a majority of twelve. Mr. Sehring contested the election. The matter was taken into the legislature, where one hundred and forty illegal votes were proved to have been cast against him and which were placed to his credit by the report of a majority of

the committee on the contest. But the republicans and Grangers in the house combined against him, casting twenty-six votes for Marshall and twenty-three for Mr. Sehring. He was always a stalwart champion of those interests and measures which were of benefit to the city and county and gave hearty co-operation to many movements for the general good. Fraternally he was a prominent Odd Fellow and a frequent representative of the local organization in the grand lodge. In Masonry he attained the Knight Templar degree in Joliet commandery, No. 4. He was a man of generous nature and kindly impulses, whose life was in many respects helpful to those with whom he came in contact, while his business record in its success should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others.

At the time of his demise the business which he had established was continued by his sons and son-in-law and the Sehring Brewing Company is yet a strong combination in business circles in Joliet. The eldest son, Louis J. Sehring, who succeeded to the presidency and is still general manager of the business, was born in Joliet, April 12, 1858, and received his early business training under his father's direction. He afterward became an apprentice in the brewing house of Bernheimer & Schmidt of New York city and of the Peter Schoenhofen Brewing Company of Chicago. Returning to Joliet in October, 1877, he was at once appointed superintendent of the brewery and has since been manager. His business record is unassailable, being characterized by probity, fairness and progressiveness. He is also interested in community affairs and from 1885 until 1887 represented the third ward in the city council. His time, however, is given to business matters rather than to politics or recreation, although he does not neglect the latter.

Henry Sehring was born in Joliet in 1861, and having acquired his education in the public schools, entered the brewery at the age of seventeen years and has since been connected therewith, serving as vice president since 1883. In 1889 he married Miss Katie Arnold, a native of Matteson, Illinois, and they have one son, Arnold Sehring.

The secretary and treasurer, Henry F. Piepenbrink, is a son-in-law of the founder of the company and was born in Crete, Will county, in 1850. He has been prominent in county politics, serv-

ing as sheriff two terms previous to assuming his present position in 1883.

The name of Sehring has ever stood as a synonym for business activity and integrity in Joliet since the arrival of Weigand Sehring in 1847, and the present business has been developed along modern lines and is a prominent enterprise of this character in northern Illinois. The very satisfactory and steady growth of the business since the Sehrrings became connected with it is well illustrated by the output of the plant at different periods, namely: In 1868, starting with a capital of five thousand dollars and employing only five men, it was fifteen hundred barrels; in 1875 steam power was substituted for horse power and one of the first enclosed copper steam beer kettles was installed and sales were then three thousand barrels; in 1880, eight thousand barrels; in 1890, twenty thousand barrels; and in 1900, thirty thousand barrels. Then the constantly increased demand for their product proved to them that the old plant, located at Bridge and Summit streets, was entirely too small, and in 1903 the company erected an entirely new and modern up-to-date brewing and bottling plant at the corner of Scott and Clay streets, covering an entire block, with an annual capacity of eighty thousand barrels. Their motto, "Not how cheap, but how good," is in keeping with their sales in the increase every year and their special brewings of bottled beers. Standard Pale and Home Trade, are known all over the county for their qualities—age, strength and purity.

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#### W. B. CURTIS.

W. B. Curtis is a representative of the stone industry of Joliet, which is one of the most important business enterprises of the city. He was born in Huntsburg, Ohio, in 1863, and is a son of Charles Curtis, who came from Ohio to Illinois in 1867, settling in Lockport. He bought a farm north of the town and built upon it and carried forward the work of cultivating and developing the fields until his life's labors were ended in death in 1873. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Barnard, was born in New York and died January 30, 1907, at the age of

seventy-four years and five months. They had two children, W. B. and Irma.

W. B. Curtis attended the district schools and was graduated from the Lockport high school. He started out in life for himself at the age of eighteen years. In 1881 he came to Joliet and for four years was clerk in a drug store. For fourteen years he was then connected with the Illinois Steel Company, becoming foreman of the rod mill. Gradually he worked his way upward and when his labors had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to engage in business on his own account, he formed a partnership with W. W. Ross in the stone business. They bought a quarry two and one-half miles southwest of the city and for three years were engaged in quarrying fluxing. They now quarry much stone for building and other purposes and employ about thirty men. Their trade has grown to large proportions and they are now conducting a successful enterprise.

Mr. Curtis was married in Joliet in 1892 to Miss Emma Patterson, a daughter of J. G. and Mary (Harris) Patterson, who were natives of the north of Ireland and were of Scotch descent. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis have one child, Willard, four years of age. Mr. Curtis is a Knight Templar Mason and is in thorough sympathy with the teachings and purposes of the order. He maintains an unassailable reputation in business circles and his energy and enterprise constitute the salient features of the success which has come to him.

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### JOHN LUECKE.

John Luecke, who since 1867 has been a resident of Crete, has for the past twelve years been engaged in business as a contractor and builder and is now occupying a foremost position in this connection in the village where he resides. His birth occurred in Monce township in 1857, being the second in order of birth in a family of thirteen children, whose parents were Henry and Gustina (Huckemeyer) Luecke, both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in 1848 and took up his abode in Chicago, being employed on a canal. He had made the trip to the new world with his parents in 1854, when

his father, Ernest Luecke, purchasing eighty acres of land, Henry Luecke began working on the farm, where he remained for several years. Following his marriage he engaged in farming on his own account and eventually purchased and cultivated one hundred and sixty acres of land in Monce township. He was an enterprising agriculturist, capable and successful in the management of his business interests, was a good neighbor and faithful friend and was warmly regarded by all who knew him. He held membership in the German Lutheran church, was active and earnest in its work and for twelve years served as one of its elders. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. Some time prior to his death he removed to Crete, where he lived retired throughout his remaining days, passing away in 1896, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife is now living in Chicago at the age of sixty-seven years and she, too, is a member of the German Lutheran church. Their children were Henry, John, William, Fred, Edward, Carl, Gustaf, Martin, Sophia, Mary, Emma, and others who died in infancy.

John Luecke was reared on the old home farm and attended the country schools. He assisted in the cultivation of the fields until eighteen years of age, when he left home and began learning the carpenter's trade. He has resided continuously in Crete since 1867 and after working in the employ of others for some time began contracting and building on his own account, thus carrying on business for the past twelve years. In 1904 he formed a partnership with Henry Niemeyer under the firm style of Luecke & Niemeyer, which continued until March 1, 1907, and was then dissolved, Mr. Luecke continuing the business. He has built the principal business blocks of the village, including the state bank building. He is also agent for the American Insurance Company and the Crete Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

In 1886 occurred the marriage of Mr. Luecke and Miss Louisa Wiebrock, now deceased, and their only child has also passed away. Two years after the death of his first wife Mr. Luecke married Sophia Ruhe, a daughter of William and Sophia (Koeller) Ruhe. Mrs. Luecke was born in Crete in 1865 and by her marriage has become the mother of six children: Adelia, Arthur,

Helen, Selma, Walter and Norbert. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Luecke is in sympathy with the principles and purposes of the republican party, which he supports by his ballot, and for eight years he has served as village trustee and was also village treasurer. Few residents of Crete have so long been connected with its interests, and during the forty years in which he has made his home in the village he has always stood for its upbuilding and progress along substantial lines and co-operated in many movements for the public welfare.

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### JOHN C. COWING.

John C. Cowing, deceased, made his home in Will county for half a century, being the oldest permanent resident of Peotone township, and he was largely familiar with the history of the county in that detail of life and experience with which none but actual participants are familiar. The more important events become a matter of record but the daily life of a community constitutes the real foundation of its history and with this Mr. Cowing was long conversant.

He was born at Lisbon, New Hampshire, June 6, 1833, his parents being David and Polly (Jessemen) Cowing. The father, also a native of Lisbon, was born February 6, 1795, and became a minister of the Free Will Baptist church. He was married at Sugar Hill, Grafton county, New Hampshire, in 1814, to Miss Polly Jessemen, whose birth occurred June 24, 1795. They remained residents of the east until 1844, when they came with their family to Illinois, reaching Chicago on the 9th of November of that year. After a brief residence at Half Day, on the Desplaines river in Lake county, Illinois, they removed to Chicago and both died at Elk Grove, Cook county, Illinois, the father on the 17th of September, 1848, and the mother on the 3d of March, 1850.

John C. Cowing was seventeen years of age at the time of his mother's demise, after which he made his home in Richmond, McHenry county, Illinois, for a short time. In the same year, however, he removed to Twelve Mile Grove, Will

county, and in 1852 went to Rockford, Illinois. He was married in Beloit, Wisconsin, December 29, 1853, to Miss Elizabeth Bradshaw, of Rockford, Illinois, who was born in Derry township, Columbia county, Pennsylvania, January 31, 1834, and died on their farm at West Peotone, Will county, September 22, 1896. She was a lineal descendant of Judge Bradshaw, who was one of the members of the court that tried King Charles II of England. Her father, George Bradshaw, was a teacher by profession in early life but afterward turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and on removing westward established his home at Rockford, Illinois. Some time later he removed to Lee county, this state, where his last years were passed. One of his sons, B. H. Bradshaw, was a prominent representative of the republican party, whose opinions carried weight in party councils and whose influence was an effective and far reaching factor in its success. He filled a number of positions of public honor and trust and several times represented his district in the state legislature.

In 1854 Mr. Cowing settled in the township of Wilton, Will county, but on selling his property there removed to section 19, Peotone township, in February, 1855. His first investment in real estate made him owner of eighty acres of land, to which he added from time to time as his financial resources permitted until he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres. He afterward disposed of much of this, but still retained possession of one hundred and twenty acres. For a long period he continued active in the management of the farm but for some years practically lived retired. He spent the last three years of his life in the village of Peotone, where he died on the 14th of March, 1904.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cowing were born the following named: Mary Luella, who was born in Wilton township, September 29, 1854, and died in Peotone, July 16, 1885; Albert H., who was born in Peotone, May 29, 1857, and is the oldest surviving male child a native of that place; George J., who was born in Peotone township, March 25, 1859, and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; John F., who was born in the same township, February 12, 1862, and died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 5, 1884, while a student in the law department of the state university; Addie M., who





JOHN C. COWING.



was born in Peotone township, April 4, 1866, and is now residing in Joliet; Herbert H., who was born in the same township, January 9, 1869, and died on the 21st of September following; Arthur B., who was born January 10, 1871, and is now engaged in the practice of law; and James R., who was born May 25, 1873, and now has charge of the home farm.

In his political views Mr. Cowing was a stalwart champion of the republican party and was called upon to serve in various local offices, acting at different times as constable, commissioner of highways and school director. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as steward and as trustee and he was the organizer of the first Sunday-school in his district. During his long residence in Will county he made a host of warm friends and was honored and respected wherever known.

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#### AARON GREENWOOD.

Aaron Greenwood, one of the prominent and honored pioneer residents of Will county, may truly be called a self-made as well as a self-educated man, for all that he today possesses has been acquired through his own diligence and persistency of purpose, while his knowledge has been acquired entirely through reading, investigation and experience, for he had no school advantages whatever. He is today, however, the owner of large landed interests in Will county, while he is living retired in a beautiful home, surrounded by several acres of land just outside the corporation limits of Manhattan.

Mr. Greenwood was born in Herefordshire, England, February 25, 1835, a son of John and Martha (Pritchard) Greenwood, who were likewise natives of that country, where the mother died when the son was a little lad of five years. The father died in Will county in 1854, when he had reached the age of sixty-four years. He had previously been married and had a family of six children by his first union, of whom one son, John, came to this country at an early day and for many years followed farming near Joliet, but he is now deceased. Mr. Greenwood also had six children by his second marriage, and after losing his wife

he came to America, bringing with him two sons, Aaron and his younger brother. They crossed the Atlantic in 1847, being forty-seven days in making the voyage. Aaron Greenwood was then a lad of twelve years, and he did the cooking for the family during their trip across the ocean. The sea was very rough at times and on account of the rolling of the ship the son experienced many difficulties in performing his duties as a cook. Upon his arrival in Will county, the father made his home with his son John until his demise.

As above stated, Aaron Greenwood was a little lad of but five years at the time of his mother's death, after which he lived with an uncle in England until he was brought to the United States by his father in 1847. He had no school advantages during his youth, for he had to provide for his own support from a very early age, and in fact, although he was a youth of twelve years at the time of his arrival in the new world, he had not yet learned the alphabet. Reaching New York city, he made his way to Buffalo by the Erie canal, and to Chicago by way of the Great Lakes. He walked from the latter city to Joliet, for this was prior to the building of the railroads or the completion of the Michigan and Illinois canal. After arriving in Will county Mr. Greenwood was bound out to a man by the name of Brown, with whom he was to remain until eighteen years of age, but in the spring following the seventeenth anniversary of his birth, he started out to make his own way in the world. He began to learn the carpenter's trade but abandoned that pursuit before he completed the trade. He was then employed on a farm by the month, the work all being done by hand. He planted corn when the sod had to be cut with an ax, and broke wild prairie, driving five yoke of oxen to the breaking plow when a mere boy.

On the 21st of March, 1861, Mr. Greenwood established a home of his own by his marriage on that date to Miss Sarah Harriet Noakes, who was likewise a native of England, born in Kent county, August 9, 1840. She was brought to America when only two years old by her parents, Thomas and Mary (Woollett) Noakes. On arriving in New York they there spent one year, after which they lived for a few months in Chicago, from which city they came to Will county, and located on a farm in Homer township. The father died

when the daughter was but nine years of age, while the mother survived and passed away about thirty years ago, when she had reached the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. Greenwood is one of a family of twelve children but she and a sister Mrs. Mary Brown, who resides at Morris, Illinois, are the only surviving members.

Following his marriage Mr. Greenwood located on a rented farm, which he operated for three years, during which time he prospered in his undertakings, so that he was enabled to purchase a tract of ninety-two acres, situated on section 12, Manhattan township. The farm was partially improved when it came into his possession, but after taking up his abode thereon Mr. Greenwood added many modern and substantial improvements and placed his fields under a high state of cultivation. As the years passed and his financial resources increased he added to his original holdings from time to time until his tract now embraces two hundred and sixty-six acres, in addition to which he owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, of the same township. He made his home for twenty years on the farm which he first purchased, during which time he was engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, and owing to the gratifying success which attended his efforts he was at length permitted to retire from the more arduous duties of life and purchasing a tract of thirty-nine acres adjoining the village of Manhattan, built a home thereon, in which he has lived for twenty-two years. He has, however, disposed of some of this property, having sold some of it in town lots. His landed possessions are extensive and bring to him a good annual rental, which supplies himself and family with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Of the two daughters born unto Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood, the eldest, Martha, died when seventeen months old, while the younger daughter, Alice, is now the wife of Edwin Cole, who resides on a farm east of Manhattan. They also reared an adopted son, Robert Greenwood, who is now a prosperous farmer of Bates county, Missouri.

For the past forty-one years Mr. Greenwood has been identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years served as one of its stewards, while at the present writing he is acting as treasurer of the church. He has also for many

years past served as a trustee and is filling that office at the present time. For many years he gave his political support to the republican party, but for the past eight years has voted the prohibition ticket, on which he was once a candidate for sheriff. For nine years he acted as school director, and for three years was a school trustee, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm and interested friend.

Mr. Greenwood has always lived frugally and economically yet is public-spirited in a marked degree, giving his co-operation and financial aid to many movements and measures for the public good. His life illustrates very clearly what may be accomplished if one has a strong will and a determination to succeed, for he started out when a young lad to face the responsibilities of life, having neither capital nor education, but through the years that have come and gone he has profited by every opportunity that has presented itself and has worked his way gradually upward until he is today numbered among the large landowners of Will county. Coming to this state during its pioneer epoch he can relate in interesting manner the conditions which here existed at that early period, for he has been a witness of the wonderful changes that have taken place as the work of improvement and progress has been carried on along all lines. He and his wife are an honorable and honored couple, and have a large number of friends both in Manhattan and in Will county.

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#### HENRY BERTHLING.

Among the substantial and influential citizens who were formerly actively engaged in farming pursuits but who are now spending the evening of their days in well merited rest in Peotone, is numbered Henry Berthling. He is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to Illinois, his birth having occurred in Mecklenburg, July 5, 1837. His parents, August and Sophia (Apzel) Berthling, were likewise natives of the fatherland, and in 1860 came with our subject to this country. The father died at the home of the latter in 1864, when he had reached the age of sixty-three years, while the mother survived until 1880, when she, too, was called to her final rest.

having reached the age of seventy-four years. The father was a laborer in Germany and while there engaged in building a bridge received injuries from which he never fully recovered, so that he was thereafter unable to do hard work.

Henry Berthling is one of a family of eight children, of whom three died in Germany, while one sister preceded the family to this country four years, and four of the number came to America with our subject, but he has now only one living sister, Mrs. Christ Peul, who resides in Beecher, Will county.

The boyhood and youth of Mr. Berthling was spent in the fatherland, where he acquired his education in the public schools. He learned the miller's trade and was holding a good position in Germany when he decided to come to America. He accordingly, with the other members of the family, took passage on a sailing vessel, and after a voyage covering seven weeks and four days they landed at Castle Garden, New York, whence they made their way to DuPage county, Illinois, where lived a sister of Mr. Berthling. The family were in very limited circumstances at the time of their arrival in this state, but with the aid of friends they gathered together enough furniture to establish a home. Mr. Berthling found employment in a store, where he worked for a few months at two shillings per day and his dinner and supper, and with this meager wage he provided for his own support and also cared for his parents. Later he was employed at farm labor for one year, receiving for his services only eighty dollars per year. Through the assistance of others he then rented a tract of land and began farming on his own account. He worked from early morning until late at night in his efforts to gain a start in life and his labors were rewarded with excellent success. In addition to carrying on general farming he was also for five years engaged in the dairy business and in this met with gratifying success. He lived frugally and economically, so that in 1880 he was justified in making purchase of eighty acres of land in Peotone township, this tract being located a mile south of the village. The following year he took up his abode on the property, having in the meantime made many improvements which greatly enhanced the value of his farm. He made his home thereon for eleven years, when he purchased eleven acres of land in

the village of Peotone, and resided there for eight years, subsequent to which time he purchased another place in this village, where he is now living retired. His rest is well merited, for all that he possesses and enjoys today has been won through his own labor and good business management.

Mr. Berthling has been married three times. He was first married in Germany, in 1858, to Miss Louise Orintz, whose death occurred in 1861. His second union was with Mrs. Charlotte Wollenbach, whose death occurred December 11, 1901. Their union was blessed with six children, of whom three died in childhood, while the living members are: Sophia, the wife of Fred Griffel, who resides in Iowa; Ida, the wife of C. D. Hendricks, a blacksmith of Peotone; and Mary, the wife of William Koehneke, a resident farmer of Will township. The present wife of Mr. Berthling was Mrs. Mary Janssen, of Monee, their marriage being celebrated three years ago.

Mr. Berthling gives his support to the republican party where national issues are involved, but at local elections he votes independently, casting his ballot for the men whom he deems best qualified for office, regardless of party affiliation. He served as school director for eight years. He holds membership with the German Lutheran church, in which he has held office for the past twenty-one years. The first few years of his residence in Illinois were very hard and trying ones for Mr. Berthling, but he noted the advantages that were here to be enjoyed, and utilized his opportunities so that he gradually worked his way upward toward the goal of success and is now able to spend the evening of his days in rest from further toil. He can now review his past record with just pride for the position to which he has attained has been worthily and honorably won.

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#### FRED ERNEST RUPPRECHT.

Fred Ernest Rupprecht, superintendent for the E. Porter Brewing Company, at Joliet for the past five years, was born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1871. He spent the first fifteen years of his life in his native country and then, thinking to enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, he crossed the Atlantic to America in



1886. He had previously learned the trade of a brewmaster and he followed that pursuit in the east and in Chicago before coming to Joliet. He has a brother who is superintendent of a brewery in Baltimore, Maryland. For five years Mr. Rupprecht has been connected with the plant at Joliet as superintendent and brewmaster. Here is manufactured keg and premium bottled beer, which is furnished to the local trade and for shipment as well. The capacity is forty-five thousand barrels. Mr. Rupprecht devotes his entire attention to the business and the enterprise under his management has become a profitable one. He came to Joliet to work for the E. Porter Brewing Company under Mr. Leser, and succeeded him as superintendent.

Mr. Rupprecht was married in Chicago to Miss Lizzie Schafer, who was born in Germany and was taken to Chicago during her infancy. They now have two children, Josephine and August. Mr. Rupprecht is a Mason, having taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter, council and commandery at Joliet and he also belongs to Medinah Temple Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Chicago. He holds membership with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Joliet and with the Brew Masters Association at Chicago. Since coming to Joliet he has made a creditable record as a business man. He has installed considerable new machinery, which he is now operating and has developed the business along modern progressive lines.

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#### JEROME T. SMITH.

Jerome T. Smith has resided at Plainfield for the past nineteen years, at which time he retired from his farm in Kendall county. He came to Illinois on the 4th of July, 1844, with his father, mother and the other members of the family. He was born in the town of Hanover in Grafton county, New Hampshire, April 22, 1831, and is a son of David and Sarah (Jacobs) Smith, both of whom were natives of the Granite state. Upon coming to Illinois they located on a farm in Na Au Say township, Kendall county, where the parents resided until called to their final rest, the death of the father occurring in 1875, when he was seventy-eight years of age, while his wife

passed away at the age of sixty-five years. While living upon the farm Mr. Smith received his mail and did his trading at Plainfield. He served as assessor, collector and in other local offices and was always active in democratic circles. He was widely recognized as a prominent and prosperous farmer and both he and his wife were faithful members of the Universalist church. In their family were ten children, of whom three daughters are deceased. The record is as follows: Arvilla was married in New Hampshire to a Mr. Kenison and both died in Kendall county, Illinois, several years ago. Ann Eliza became the wife of Mr. Starkweather and after his death wedded William Hughes, now deceased. She passed away ten or twelve years ago in Kendall county, Illinois. Minerva married a Mr. Pierce, of New Hampshire, and both died in Vermont. Lucena is the widow of John Van Dyke, of Kendall county, Illinois, and now resides in Joliet. Helen became the wife of Horace Johnson, of Kendall county, now deceased, and resides with her sister in Joliet. Jerome T. is the sixth of the family. Nelson is living in Santa Barbara, California. Milton died in California about ten years ago. Solon is a farmer residing in Santa Barbara, California, where he is serving also as justice of the peace. Frank, living in Santa Barbara, is assessor there and is engaged in the wharf business.

Jerome T. Smith spent the first thirteen years of his life in the east and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Kendall county, Illinois, in 1844. In early life he worked by the month as a farm hand for nine years, after which he invested his earnings in forty acres of land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. Success attended him and as his financial resources increased he added to his property until he owned a finely improved farm of two hundred acres, which is now being cultivated by his son, W. T. Smith. The father remained in active life until about nineteen years ago, when he removed to Plainfield, where he now owns and occupies a comfortable home.

Mr. Smith was married in Kendall county, Illinois, on the 29th of April, 1856, to Miss Elizabeth Bronk, who was born in New York and was brought to Illinois by her parents, when four years of age, the family locating in Kendall county.



JEROME T. SMITH AND FAMILY.



She was born in the town of Queens on the Hudson, and her parents, Ephraim and Charlotte (Van Dolson) Bronk, were farming people. They continued residents of Kendall county until called to their final rest. Their family numbered five children: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Smith; Peter A., a farmer residing in Will county; Mrs. Mary Brown, a widow living in Will county; John, whose home is in Kendall county; and Amelia, the wife of Solon Smith, a brother of our subject and a resident of Santa Barbara, California.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Smith have been born five children. Helena H. became the wife of Frank Wenell and died February 23, 1899, while Mr. Wenell died in May, 1902. They left three children, Frank, Sarah and Myrtle, who are residents of Chicago. Sarah Smith became the wife of Willard T. Brown, of Will county, and they have two children, Ruby and Lee. Willard T. married a daughter of Samuel Spangler and resides on the old homestead farm in Kendall county, which he purchased from his father several years ago. Lottie A. is the wife of Frank Spangler, who is residing near Plainfield, and they have two children, Alvina and Ida. Josie married Howard Geist, a mail carrier of Joliet.

In former years Mr Smith gave his political allegiance to the democracy but is now a staunch supporter of republican principles. He served for eight years as alderman of Plainfield and has exercised his official prerogatives in support of many progressive public measures. In his religious views he favors the Universalist church. His life has been marked by sturdy devotion to duty and in his business interests he has displayed energy as well as honesty and thus acquired the handsome competence that now enables him to live retired.

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#### JOHN HAYDEN.

Among the prominent residents of Florence township is John Hayden, who is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Will county, for, although only about four years of age when brought to Illinois, he has lived in this part of the state for more than a half century. He has

therefore been a witness of much of its growth and development and as the years have passed by he has so directed his labors that success has resulted, and his methods are of interest to the business world. He has always based his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity and indefatigable energy.

Mr. Hayden is a native of Whitefield township, Lincoln county, Maine, and a son of John and Hannah (Kinsilla) Hayden. His father was born in County Carlow, Ireland, and after reaching adult age was married there to Miss Kinsilla, whose birthplace was in the same locality. They remained residents of the Emerald isle until 1836, when they came to America, setting out on Easter morning from Key Ross and after a safe voyage landing in Quebec, Canada. A short time later they made their way to New York state and thence to Gardiner, Maine, while subsequently they removed to Lincoln county, that state, where they resided until 1850. Believing that he might improve his financial condition by removing to the middle west, John Hayden came to Illinois in 1850, and for several years thereafter remained in Joliet. He then lived at Spencer for a time, and in 1860 settled upon the farm in Florence township, which is now occupied by his son Daniel. His industry and persistency of purpose made him a prosperous farmer and he eventually became the owner of an entire section of land in addition to what he gave to his sons. He likewise owned property in Chicago and his life record stood as a splendid example of that of the self-made man, for he came to the new world empty-handed and his capital was very limited when he arrived in Illinois. He possessed a strong purpose and unflinching enterprise, however, and here he gradually worked his way upward until he became one of the prosperous residents of the county. He was himself a well educated man and knew the value of mental discipline and training so that he looked carefully after the training of his children, both in school and at home. He never sought public honors or office but gave his political support to the democracy. His religious faith was that of the Catholic church, and he died as one of its devout communicants, April 5, 1889, at the age of seventy-seven years, while his wife passed away Feb-

ruary 28, 1890, when seventy-five years of age. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Mary, Daniel, Catherine, Bridget, Thomas, John, Hannah, Burnett and Anna S.

John Hayden, brought to Illinois in early boyhood, became familiar with farm life in this section of the state and as soon as age and strength permitted he became a factor in the development and improvement of his father's land, and throughout his entire life has followed agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Hayden was married in early manhood, on the 24th of February, 1876, to Miss Bridget Bergan, a daughter of Martin and Hester (Welch) Bergan. Her father, who was born in 1803, in County Kilkenny, Ireland, came to the United States in November, 1847, crossing the Atlantic to New Orleans, whence he started northward with his family. The river froze, however, so that he was not able to reach Joliet, Illinois, until April, 1848. He purchased eighty acres of raw land in what was then Trenton township, but has since been divided into Green Garden and Manhattan townships. He improved and operated a farm for some years, being very successful, and he added to his original holdings until he had three hundred and twenty acres of land. At different times he was called to public offices, filling a number of township positions. He put up the first schoolhouse in his district and aided in the building of various churches of the locality. He always voted the democratic ticket and was a devout member of the Catholic church, in the faith of which he died February 3, 1892. His wife, who was born November 3, 1805, in County Kilkenny, Ireland, departed this life July 29, 1895. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are now living: Michael, who resides upon the old homestead farm in Manhattan township; John, who has become quite wealthy and spends much of his time in travel; Nicholas, who is living in Nebraska; Mrs. Hayden; Daniel, who is engaged in the hardware business with his brother Martin at Manhattan; Martin, who is a member of the firm just referred to, and who married Catherine Cunningham, by whom he has three children; and Annie, the widow of Thomas Kelly. She has one daughter and resides with her brothers, John and Michael, on the old homestead.

Mr. Hayden took his bride to his farm, and for many years he continued actively in the work of tilling the soil and developing the fields. He also raised some fine blooded horses of Norman and trotting stock and was able to exhibit some of the choicest animals in this part of the state. He became well known as a breeder and as a most excellent judge of horses, and this branch of his business as well as the cultivation of the fields proved very profitable to him. He is now largely leaving the management and operation of the farm to his sons, while he is enjoying a well merited rest. He owns six hundred and forty acres in the home place.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hayden were born six children, five sons and a daughter, and four of the sons are graduates of St. Viators College, at Bourbonnais, Illinois. John, the eldest of the family, was graduated from the engineering department in the class of 1895. He has built an elevator for handling corn on the home farm, it being operated by a steam engine, the only one in the county. He also put in the first steam plow in the county and installed the steam heating plant in his father's home, the first put in any residence in Will county outside of Joliet. Dr. Daniel B. Hayden, the second member of the family, was a student in St. Viators College for ten years, winning the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. He also spent four years as a student in Georgetown Medical School, at Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in the class of 1904. He also did six months' post-graduate work in the Chicago Post Graduate School and is now successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Chicago. William S. Hayden, the third son, was graduated from St. Viators College in the class of 1902, having completed the English literary course, and is now farming on the old homestead. Martin G., a graduate of St. Viators College of the class of 1905, afterward devoted a year to the study of theology and is now in Rome, Italy, fitting himself for the priesthood. Anna, a young lady, eighteen years of age, is now attending the academy of Our Lady at Longwood, at Chicago, where she has spent four years as a student. Edmund is at present attending the public schools near his father's home. The sons, John and William, are operating the home farm. In 1905



they fed eight hundred sheep and they feed from one hundred and fifty to two hundred head of cattle each year, shipping their stock to the Chicago market. They are young men of good business ability and energy and are worthy successors of their father in the agricultural and stock-raising interests of Will county.

Mr. Hayden gives his political allegiance to the democracy. For twenty years he served as commissioner and for twelve years has been supervisor of his township, in which position he is still the incumbent, having been re-elected in the spring of 1904. He is the vice president of the Will County Old Settlers Society and belongs to the Roman Catholic church. Few men have more intimate knowledge of the history of the county, for during fifty-six years he has been a witness of its growth and progress, noting the leading events which have left their impress upon its annals. His name has ever stood for business enterprise and business integrity, and as a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of the county as well as one of the valued pioneer citizens who well deserves mention in this volume.

#### MRS. HATTIE E. GIFFORD.

Mrs. Hattie E. Gifford, widow of the late Edson Gifford and one of the highly esteemed residents of Elwood, was born on the 1st of December, 1834, in Kendall county, Illinois, and is the only survivor in a family of four children, whose parents were Dr. Gillman and Lucy (Manning) Kendall. Her father was a pioneer physician of Illinois, having removed from Massachusetts to this state in 1831 and located in Greenville, Bond county, where he practiced his profession for three years. In 1834 he took up his residence in Kendall county, where he continued to engage in the practice of medicine up to the time of his death.

On the 1st of March, 1854, Miss Hattie E. Kendall gave her hand in marriage to Edson Gifford, who was conducting a general store in Elwood and continued to engage in business here until called to his final rest January 21, 1894. He was twice married and by the first union had two sons. Charlie Gifford, the elder of these, lives in Elwood and now carries on the store, having

taken charge of the business at the time of his father's death. He married Miss Minnie Linebarger. Willard Gifford, who is holding a position in the county treasurer's office at Joliet and makes his home in that city, married Lydia Bryan and they have four children. Stella, Kate, Grace and Edson. By the second marriage there was one child, Earl H., who died in infancy. Mrs. Gifford has an adopted daughter, however, Fannie A., who is the daughter of a cousin and makes her home with her foster-mother in Elwood, where she is now acting as operator for the Chicago Telephone Company.

Mrs. Gifford is an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and also belongs to the Ladies Aid Society and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, taking an active part in the work of each. During her long residence in Elwood she has made a host of warm friends and is highly respected wherever known.

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#### WALTER E. WHEELER.

The retail trade interests of Joliet find a well known and worthy representative in Walter E. Wheeler, who is conducting a grocery business at No. 609 South Chicago street. He was born in Frankfort, this county, May 31, 1861, and is descended from old New England families, his parents, David N. and Lydia (Stanley) Wheeler, both being natives of Rutland, Vermont. The father was born in 1812 and was a farmer by occupation. He came to this part of the country at an early day and settled on a farm in Frankfort township, Will county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1880. He then rented his land and went to live with his daughter in Norwood, Kansas, there residing until his death, which occurred January 7, 1903, when he was eighty-eight years of age. His wife died in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 4, 1886, at the age of seventy-seven years. She was a member of the Christian church and he was a supporter of the republican party.

Walter E. Wheeler spent his early youth on the homestead farm and became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, but not wishing to engage in farming

as a life work he turned his attention to other pursuits and for some years was employed in various grocery houses of this city. For ten years he has conducted business on his own account at No. 609 South Chicago street, where he carries a good line of staple and fancy groceries and has a liberal patronage.

On the 5th of November, 1884, Mr. Wheeler was united in marriage to Miss Josephine B. Sanders, of Green Garden, Will county, Illinois, a daughter of Michael F. and Sarah (Davis) Sanders, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this work. Three children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler: Francis E., who is with the American Steel & Wire Company and lives in Joliet; Mortimer S., who is engaged with his father in the grocery business; and Walter D., who is attending school. The family residence is at No. 657 South Chicago street.

Mr. Wheeler is a member of the Modern Woodmen wheel and has a favorable acquaintance in fraternal and social circles as well as in business life. He has always lived in this county and has made a creditable record in trade circles by reason of his enterprise, progressive spirit and honorable methods.

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#### LOUIS MARTIN ARNOLD.

From humble clerkship have come some of the successful merchants of the country. In America the road to prosperity is that of usefulness and activity, supplemented by laudable ambition, and it is these qualities which have made Mr. Arnold one of the successful business men of Peotone. Today he is a leading merchant of the town and is also the owner of much property, having invested largely in real estate.

He was born on a farm near Mattison, Cook county, Illinois, August 29, 1854. His father, Michael Arnold, was born in Germany and came to the United States when fifteen years of age. He settled in Pennsylvania and was married there. In 1831 he made his way westward to Chicago, where he worked at the locksmith's trade. On leaving that city, he settled on a farm near Mattison in Cook county. This was about 1834. He bought land and in the course of years became

prosperous, owning three hundred and sixty acres at one time. He also engaged in raising a large number of cattle and this became an important branch of his business, bringing to him good success. He was an ardent republican and held the office of supervisor for nine years. A broad-minded, liberal man, whose life was characterized by high principles and honorable conduct, he was esteemed by his friends and neighbors and respected wherever he was known. His wife, Mrs. Fredrika Arnold, was born in Germany and died June 25, 1885, and at the age of seventy-three years. She came to this country when fourteen years of age and settled first in Pennsylvania, where she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Arnold. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom five are now living. Elizabeth became the wife of August Harken and died in 1875; William served in the Civil war and died in 1901; Philip is a retired farmer living in Monee; Kate is the wife of William Bockay, a barber of Chicago; Michael is deceased; Helen is the deceased wife of John Wolf; Teresa is the wife of George Touzalin, a Chicago salesman; Louis is the eighth of the family; George is a retired merchant of Peotone; two died in youth.

Louis Martin Arnold was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools until thirteen years of age, after which he spent three years as a student in the high school at Blue Island. When sixteen years of age he began to earn his own living by clerking in a store at Blue Island. On the 25th of November, 1872, he became an employe of Rathje Brothers & Harken, general merchants, with whom he remained as a clerk until August, 1874, when his father bought a third interest in the business and the firm style was changed to Rathje, Harken & Arnold. This was continued until 1878, when the senior Rathje gave his interest in the store to his son and the latter sold it to Mr. Arnold in 1880, at which time the firm name became Harken & Arnold. In 1887 George Arnold purchased one-half of our subject's interest in the business and the firm became Harken & Arnold Brothers. In 1902, Clyde F. Arnold, son of L. M. Arnold, purchased the interest of George Arnold and the firm name was changed to Arnold, Harken & Company, which continues today. Our subject has been buyer for the firm since 1878.

Mr. Arnold has other business property in Peotone and is likewise the owner of one hundred and sixty years of land two and a half miles from Peotone and nine hundred and sixty acres in Manitoba. From his property he derives a good income, and his success is well merited because of his close application, unfaltering diligence and honorable business methods.

On the 8th of November, 1876, Mr. Arnold was married to Hannah Jones, who was born in Kane county, Illinois, January 5, 1854, and is a daughter of Robert and Eleanor Jones, who were natives of Yorkshire, England, and settled in Kane county about 1852, the father being one of the pioneer farmers of that county. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a republican in his political views. In the Jones family there were eight children: John C., who is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church at Leaf River, Illinois; Mrs. Arnold; Elizabeth, the wife of Lordus Brannon, a practicing physician of Joliet; Mary, the wife of John C. Baker, a farmer and dealer in blooded stock at Manhattan; Frank, who is engaged in the banking business in Manhattan; Benjamin, a dealer in grain and coal in Manhattan; one who died in infancy, and one at the age of nine years.

Mrs. and Mrs. Arnold have four children: Laura, at home; Clyde F., who married Elsie Hartwig of Chicago, and is in partnership with his father; Marshall, who is with the Bell Telephone Company of New York city, and is a graduate of the Wisconsin University at Madison of the class of 1906; and Stanley, who is a student in Culver (Indiana) Military Academy. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active and helpful interest. Mr. Arnold is serving as steward and trustee of the church and is a member of the building committee, which is in charge of the erection of a new church edifice at a cost of eleven thousand dollars. He gives liberally to the support of the church and both he and his wife do all in their power to promote the growth of the church and extend its influence. In his political views he is an earnest republican and does not seek or desire office. On the contrary, he prefers to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he is meeting with signal success. His record has always been hon-

orable, and throughout his entire business career he has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of his fellowmen.

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#### ROBERT NORMAN.

Robert Norman, who is engaged in general agricultural pursuits in Will township, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1854, a son of George and Louisa Norman, who were natives of England. The father was a landowner there, and a Knight Templar Mason. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Dr. George Norman, was a surgeon in the British army.

Robert Norman is the second in a family of six children. He came to the United States in 1874, when twenty years of age, with his brother Fred, and soon afterward bought and settled upon the farm on which he now lives, on section 9, Will township. He has here four hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land and also owns three hundred and twenty acres in Burleigh county, North Dakota. He was educated in the schools of his native country and throughout his entire life has followed agricultural pursuits, except two years spent in a bank in England, being now accounted one of the extensive and leading farmers and enterprising business men of his adopted county. He possesses sound judgment concerning agricultural interests and has displayed excellent business discernment.

In 1880 Mr. Norman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Woodward, who was born in Canada, in 1858, and is a daughter of William and Annie (Christian) Woodward, who came to Monee township in 1865. There he lived for a short time, after which he purchased a farm upon which he resided until 1896. He then retired to the village of Monee, where he is still living, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years. His wife, however, passed away in 1905, at the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of three children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Norman have been born six children: George, who wedded Emma Westfall, of Will township, and a daughter of Charles Westfall, and has one child, Eunice Bonita, who is now eight months old; Edith, who is engaged as a teacher in the Crete schools; Lulu, a teacher of

Will township; Lloyd, Hope and Frank, who are at home, the latter being engaged in teaching.

The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Norman holds membership relations with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. He now votes with the republican party and is interested in its growth and success, having given it his unfaltering support since the issue of "Free Silver," but was formerly a democrat, serving as committeeman, etc. He served as township clerk ten years and has also filled the office of justice of the peace.

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#### WARNER P. STRONG.

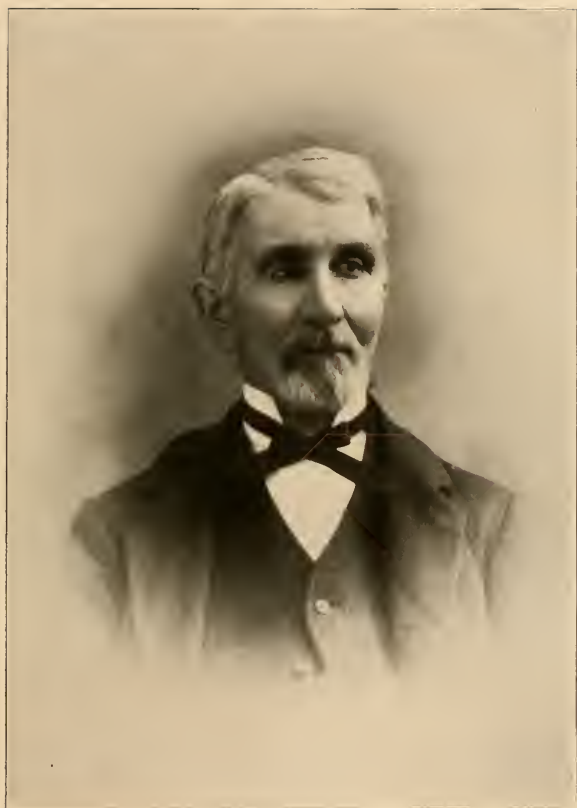
Warner P. Strong, long identified with the agricultural interests of Will county, where he has resided continuously for sixty years, was born in Elk county, Pennsylvania, November 3, 1845, his parents being Erwin and Lucy (Warner) Strong. The father, who was born near Ithaca, New York, March 10, 1819, died June 11, 1897, and his wife, whose birth occurred in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1823, departed this life August 11, 1900. They were married in her native county, September 11, 1844, and both spent their last days in Florence township, Will county, Illinois. In early life Erwin Strong entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, and after studying there for a time matriculated in Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated. On the completion of his course he located for the practice of medicine in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, where he remained for three years, and in 1847 came to Wilmington. For three or four years he resided in the village and then removed to Florence township, where he made his home for a half century. He was a close student of his profession, keeping abreast with the advanced thought of the day and was recognized as one of the ablest as well as one of the earliest physicians of Wilmington and his portion of the county. He did great good as a pioneer practitioner and indeed his entire life was of signal service and usefulness to his fellowmen. He held membership in Wilmington lodge, No. 208, A. F. & A. M.; Wilmington chapter, No. 142, R. A. M.; and Joliet command-

ery, No. 4, K. T., while his political allegiance was given to the whig party and later to the republican party. Unto him and his wife were born five children, of whom four are now living: Warner P.; Caroline; Sarah E., the wife of John Lardner, a resident of Wilmington; and Mary, who is with her sister Caroline on the old homestead.

Warner P. Strong was but thirteen months old when brought by his parents to Illinois. He was educated in the public schools and being the only son of the family took charge of the home farm and throughout his entire life has carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. In 1900 he purchased a residence near the old homestead in Florence township. He has lived a life of thrift and industry characterized by honesty in business and devotion to the daily duties which have devolved upon him and by all who know him he is highly esteemed and respected.

On the 17th of June, 1875, Mr. Strong was united in marriage to Miss Anna E. Alkire, who was born in Brookston, Indiana, October 30, 1853. Her parents were Jackson and Mary (Lucas) Alkire, who were married in Brookston, Indiana, August 15, 1852. The father was born at Mount Sterling, Madison county, then a part of Pickaway county, Ohio, February 5, 1815, and died May 14, 1899, while his wife, whose birth occurred at Brookston, Indiana, May 5, 1824, passed away at her home in Petaluma, California, in 1906, at the age of seventy-two years. Jackson Alkire was first married to Belinda Shearer, December 25, 1848, at Battleground, Indiana. She died August 5, 1850, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. Mary D. Hunt, of Chicago. By the second marriage there were nine children, of whom five are living, namely: Mrs. Strong; Florence F., who married Harry Parker and resides in Petaluma, California; Taylor H., Edward C. and Ella C., all in Petaluma. It was in 1866 that Jackson Alkire came with his family to Wilmington, where he engaged in the grocery business until 1873. He then took up his abode in Florence township, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and seventy acres and thereon built a home. He devoted his time and energies to general farming and stock-raising until 1881, when he sold his property and removed to Petaluma, California, where he remained for about eight months. He next went to San Bernardino, California, where he lived for four years,





DR. ERWIN STRONG.





when he returned to Petaluma in 1885 and there spent his last days. He was esteemed by all as an honest, upright man and good citizen. For a number of years while living in this county he served as school director and all who knew him entertained for him high regard. His wife survived him and also passed away in Petaluma. She was a highly esteemed woman, a devout Christian and a loving wife and mother. All who knew her loved her and her death caused genuine sorrow.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Strong have been born four children, two sons and two daughters: Edna B., who died March 22, 1881, at the age of five years and three months; Erwin J.; Marcus A.; and Bernice F. The family is well known in Will county, where Mr. and Mrs. Strong have spent almost their entire lives, enjoying in large measure the kindly regard and friendship of those with whom they have come in contact. Mr. Strong served as township supervisor in 1886 and 1887, was township clerk for ten years and has been assessor for one term. He was also school treasurer for more than a decade, school trustee for two terms and highway commissioner. In all of these positions he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity and a sense of conscientious obligation. In politics he is a republican, recognized as one of the leaders of his party in Florence township. In business life he has displayed industry, enterprise and keen discernment and is accounted one of the leading agriculturists of the county.

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#### JOHN NACKE.

John Nacke, living on section 18, Crete township, owns and cultivates one hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land in that township and also has twenty-five acres of timber land on section 12, Monce township. He was born in this township July 25, 1855, his parents being Christof and Sophia (Luecke) Scheiwe. When he was two and a half years of age he was adopted by Frederick and Charlotte (Luecke) Nacke, who never had any children of their own. Mr. Nacke was a native of Hanover, Germany, born December 29,

1819, and in 1847 he came to the United States hoping to better his financial condition in the new world, where labor is not handicapped by caste or class. For three years he worked in Chicago on the railroad and the canal and in a brickyard, and in 1852 he came to Crete township, Will county, where he invested his hard-earned savings in eighty acres of raw prairie land, upon which our subject now resides. This was entirely uncultivated at the time, but he made substantial improvements upon it and converted it into a fine farm, continuing its cultivation until 1882, when he retired to the village of Crete, spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He died in December, 1903, and the community thereby lost a worthy and valued citizen, whose well spent life entitled him to the regard and good will of his fellowmen. He was long a devoted and faithful member of the German Lutheran church and for thirty years was one of its trustees. Throughout the community he was spoken of as a good man and a prosperous farmer and his life record proved that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously.

His wife, who bore the maiden name of Charlotte Luecke, was a daughter of Ernest and Sophie Luecke, who were farming people of Washington township, but both are now deceased. Mrs. Nacke was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, in January 29, 1829, and is now living on the farm with her adopted son, in the seventy-eighth year of her age.

John Nacke was educated in the public schools and was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the task of planting in the early spring and of gathering the crops in the late autumn. When Mr. Nacke retired to Crete he took charge of the home farm, which he has since carried on, keeping the fields under a high state of cultivation and adding many modern improvements and equipments. He now owns one hundred and eighty acres of well improved land on which are good buildings, and he is successfully engaged in general farming.

On the 12th of June, 1879, Mr. Nacke was married to Miss Sophia Ohlendorf, a native of Crete township and a daughter of Conrad and Dorothea (Meyer) Ohlendorf, early settlers of Crete township. Mrs. Nacke died September 17, 1903, after a lingering illness of about three years. She left

one son, Fred, who has married Clara Halfelt and they reside with his father.

Mr. Nacke is a member of the Lutheran church and for ten years was one of its trustees. His political views are in harmony with the principles of the republican party, but he has never sought or desired office as a reward for party fealty. On the contrary he has concentrated his energies upon the further development and improvement of the home farm, which he has made a valuable property.

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### EDO R. FREESE.

The name of Edo R. Freese is an honored one in commercial circles in Monee, where he is engaged in general merchandising. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1845. Among those who left the fatherland to identify themselves with American life and institutions, who have pushed their way to the front and are a credit alike to the land of their birth and of their adoption is Edo R. Freese. His father, R. E. Freese, also a native of Oldenburg, was a farmer by occupation. He came to the United States in 1854, settling near Manhattan, Illinois, upon a farm, where he remained until 1867, when he came to Monee and embarked in business, remaining here until his death, which occurred on the 28th of October, 1866, when he was forty-six years of age. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church and was a democrat in his political views. He came to the new world empty-handed and at the time of his demise had acquired a comfortable competence. His wife, Helena Freese, was born in Germany and died February 23, 1883, in her seventy-ninth year. She was also a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. They were married at the place of their nativity and had two children, the younger being Frederika, the wife of Herman E. Harms, of Green Garden township, this county. By her former marriage to Christ Clausen, the mother had four children, of whom two are living: Catherine, the widow of Claus Hayen, who is living with Mrs. C. H. Harms in Green Garden township; and Mary, the wife of Charles Plagge, of Harvey, Illinois.

Edo R. Freese spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon a farm until he accompanied his parents on their removal to Monee. He was a youth of nine years when the family crossed the Atlantic to the new world. After taking up his abode in the village he engaged in clerking in the store of F. H. Leuhr for two years, subsequent to which time he spent two years in a Chicago commission house. He was afterward baggage man for the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Monee for eleven years, and in 1877 he formed a partnership with George Sonneborn, opening a small store. This firm had a continuous existence of thirteen years, and in 1890 Mr. Freese sold out to his partner and began business alone as a general merchant. He has continued the enterprise with success, enlarging his stock to meet the growing demands of his trade, and he now has a well equipped store in which he is accorded a liberal patronage. He has been agent for the American Express Company since 1877 and his identification with the company dates from 1869. Mr. Freese is accorded a place of honor and trust in the regard of his fellowmen. At all times he has been a loyal and progressive citizen and in many ways has contributed to general progress and improvement. For many years he has been notary public and his advice is often sought by his neighbors on legal questions. He is frequently called upon to draw up legal papers and administer estates. He was appointed administrator of a large estate in Chicago, in which he gave a bond of eighty thousand dollars, and on another occasion he was made executor and gave a bond of fifty thousand dollars. Many estates in Will county have been settled by him and always without the loss of a single dollar. He owns a tract of land in Monee township in addition to his business in the village and is regarded as one of the most reliable and enterprising citizens of this part of the county.

On the 18th of December, 1870, Mr. Freese was united in marriage to Miss Helena Fechtmann, who was born in Germany in 1847, and was brought to the United States by her parents, John and Magdalena Fechtmann, in 1850, the family home being established in Green Garden township, this county, whence they removed to Monee. Her father was a cooper by trade and followed that pursuit in Monee. In his family

were four children: Elmina; Christiana, deceased; Mrs. Freese; and Henrietta, the widow of Frank Kerskey, of Chicago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Freese have been born four children, as follows: John H., who is with his parents; Rheinhart M., a carrier on the rural mail route; and Anna and Frederika, both deceased.

The parents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and for many years Mr. Freese has been president of its board of trustees and in its work takes a most active and helpful part. He belongs to Peotone lodge, No. 636, A. F. & A. M.; to Monce lodge, No. 60, I. O. O. F.; and to Coon Grove camp, No. 1556, M. W. A. In politics he is a democrat, recognized as one of the stalwart champions of the party in his locality. He has served as school director for many years, has been town clerk seventeen years, village clerk for twenty-six years, justice of the peace for eight years, and was postmaster of Monce during President Cleveland's second administration. He was first elected supervisor of Monce township in the spring of 1902 and is now serving for the third term in that office. His public duties have ever been discharged in a most capable, prompt and efficient manner, and his value as a citizen is widely acknowledged, while in business circles he has made a most creditable and enviable record, winning an honorable name and a large measure of success.

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#### FRED D. MATEER.

Fred D. Mateer, president of the Joliet Steel Construction Company, is in this connection known as one of the representative business men of the city, displaying those qualities which are essential to success and in fact constitute the basis of all development and prosperity in the commercial world. He is a son of Samuel A. and Mary A. (Butler) Mateer, the latter a daughter of John Butler, who is now eighty-four years of age. He was one of the early settlers of Will county and is a veteran of the Civil war. He removed to the middle west from Lockport, New York, and has since lived in this part of the state. Samuel Mateer and his wife were married in Will county, the family having come to Illinois

from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. At Joliet he first engaged in the shoe business, devoting several years to that trade on Jefferson street. Later he was for several years with the Hobbs grocery house. He, too, is a veteran of the Civil war, having served with a Pennsylvania regiment and he is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also connected with the Masonic fraternity and has reached the age of sixty-four years.

Fred D. Mateer is one of a family of nine children, eight of whom are yet living. He and his brothers attended the Joliet schools and have educated themselves in their line of business. The Joliet Steel Construction Company was organized in January, 1904, by four of the brothers, and the present officers are: F. D. Mateer, president; Frank Mateer, vice president; Don L. Mateer, secretary; and Charles B. Mateer, engineer. Three of the brothers are practical engineers. Fred D. Mateer was for ten years with the Joliet Bridge & Iron Company, thus securing a broad and practical experience. The company is prepared to erect steel buildings, also steel bridges and all kinds of concrete work and is qualified to make designs for these. Notably among the local construction work which they have executed are steel auditoriums at Electric Park and at Delwood Park. They designed and have the twenty-one thousand dollar contract for the building of a bridge for the Joliet & South Traction Company at River street. They also built the bridge at Channahon across the DuPage river, which includes two concrete spans each eighty feet long. They employ eight gangs of men and the brothers all give their personal attention to handling the affairs of the company. The main offices are located in the Braun-Kiep Building, in Joliet, and the business of the company is continually increasing in volume and importance until the firm is one of the most prominent in concrete and steel construction in this part of the state and carries on contracts in all parts of the United States.

Fred D. Mateer was married in September, 1902, to Miss Blanche Ridenour, a native of Iowa, and they have two children, Marjorie and Dorothy. The father is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree. He and his brother, Don, have

built fine homes on Whitney avenue, and the families are well known socially. The name of Mater has become a synonym for business integrity and enterprise in Joliet, Will county, and other parts of the state, and the brothers have made themselves a creditable place in industrial circles through their mastery of a business with which they were unacquainted a few years ago, and by the straightforward methods which they have always followed in the execution of their contracts.

#### CAPTAIN ROBERT J. MORRISON.

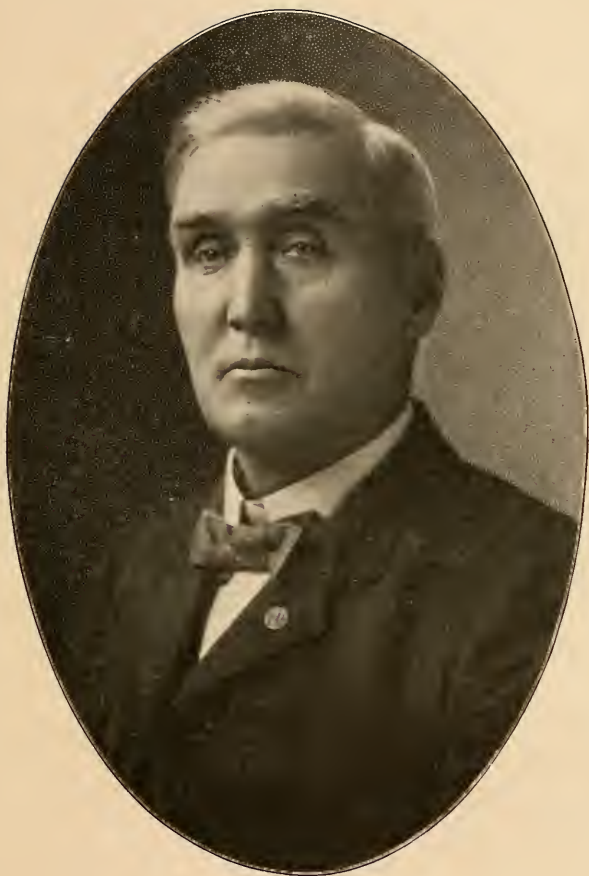
One by one the soldiers of the Civil war are responding to the last roll call and the ranks are fast becoming decimated. It behooves us, then, while they are yet among us, to pay our tribute of respect and honor to those who fought for the Union and maintained its integrity in the dark hours of the Civil war. More and more we realize our debt of gratitude to them and even at the time of the Civil war the country's obligation to her warriors found recognition in a banner which swung across Pennsylvania avenue at the time of the grand review and which bore the words, "The only debt which the nation can not pay is the debt which she owes to her soldiers." Captain Morrison, who enlisted when the smoke from Fort Sumter's guns had scarcely cleared away, and who for four years served with the army, winning promotion from the ranks to the command of his company, is now a respected and valued resident of Joliet.

He was born in Toronto, Canada, May 1, 1840, and is of Scotch descent, tracing his ancestry back to William Morrison, a Scotchman who removed to Manchester, England, and subsequently settled on a farm near Belfast, Ireland, where his last years were passed. His grandson, Robert Morrison, was born in Manchester, England, but was reared on the Emerald Isle, where he learned the painter's trade. In 1830 he wedded Elizabeth Bell, a native of Belfast, Ireland, whose father, David Bell, had removed from his native place near Glasgow, Scotland, to Belfast in order to establish a shoe factory there. In 1833, attracted by the broader business opportunities of the new

world, Robert Morrison came with his bride to the United States and for some time followed the painter's trade in New York City. He was a resident of Toronto, Canada, between 1842 and 1845, after which he lived successively in Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York City. In 1847 he again went to Toronto and afterward to Baltimore. On the 26th of October, 1856, he removed with his family to Carter county, Tennessee, where he carried on farming and also engaged in business as a contracting painter. A man of strong Union sympathies, his home was a station on the famous underground railroad and one of his sons, William, was a conductor on that line, thus assisting many a negro refugee on his way to freedom in the north. Mr. Morrison was several times taken prisoner by the Confederates, but his fine business and personal qualifications, his genial manner, and his work as a local minister of the Methodist Episcopal church caused his life to be spared, but not so fortunate was his brother-in-law, James Bell, who, falling into the hands of the rebels, was shot twenty-six times and his brains beaten out. Two of his sons, William and David, slept outdoors every night during the four years of the war. When hostilities finally ceased the family removed to Carroll county, Missouri, where Robert Morrison passed away at the age of sixty-two years, his death being caused by an attack of pneumonia brought on by fording a stream in order that he might keep a preaching appointment. His widow afterward returned to Canada, where she died. They had four sons and four daughters, of whom the following are still living: John, who was a prisoner for eighteen months during the Civil war, while serving as orderly sergeant of Company B, Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry, and who is now living in Joliet, Illinois; David, a resident of Wood River, Nebraska; Robert J., whose name introduces this sketch; and Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, of Kansas City, Missouri. The deceased are: William, a resident of Johnson City, Tennessee, who died in 1904; Mrs. Mary McDevitt, who died in Linton, Canada, April 25, 1898; Mrs. Anna Hill, who died in Missouri in June, 1905; and Mrs. Sarah McKey, who died at Pinkerton, Canada, in September, 1906.

Robert J. Morrison of this review largely acquired his education in the schools of Canada. He





R. J. MORRISON.



learned the painter's trade under the direction of an older brother and afterward spent two years with an uncle, Dr. David Bell. He then returned to assist his brother and was thus engaged until after the inauguration of the Civil war. Several years had been spent with his father's family in the midst of a slave-holding state and he had noted the disquiet of the south and its threatening attitude. Thoroughly loyal in every fibre of his being, he at once responded to his country's call when hostilities began, enlisting on the 15th of April, 1861, as a member of Company F, Second Tennessee Infantry. He was mustered in as a private at Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky, and after the battles of Wild Cat, Mills Springs and Cumberland Gap he returned through the rebel lines to Tennessee in order of recruit for the Union army. Securing eighty-nine men, he started back to the Union army in the fall of 1861. During the following winter he camped in the mountains of Tennessee, hiding from the Confederates, who were in search of him and his recruits. Their food was brought to them by his sister, who would put a note in a biscuit telling where the next installment of provisions would be hid. Sometimes it would be impossible to get food to the men, who would then be reduced to the necessity of eating crow or such game as could be found. In 1862 they started to go through the rebel lines, traveling at night, wading rivers and enduring hardships of every kind. When within one mile of the Kentucky line they were attacked by Confederates and eleven escaped out of eighty-nine. Afterward these eleven were in hiding for four days and nights without anything to eat. Growing desperate with hunger, several of the men swam across Powell's river, then crossed the Cumberland mountains, where their hunger was partially appeased by some huckleberries they fortunately found. About six o'clock one evening they came within sight of a man chopping wood and drew lots as to which of the men should speak to him. The lot fell on our subject, who went forward, scarcely knowing what fate might befall him. However, the mountaineer was a Union man and called to him, "Come on." The meal they had of mush and milk and honey seemed to them the best they had ever eaten. They had been for four days and nights without food and water, and were almost starved. A little later they found

five of their comrades, which made their company number eleven, and two others got through three weeks later, but the other seventy-six were killed or lost.

Returning to his old regiment, our subject fought at Deep Creek Gap. From Kentucky he went to Ohio and took part in several battles against General John H. Morgan; later marched into West Virginia. After the battle of Murfreesboro he assisted in the taking of Rogersville, where afterward all of his regiment but seventy-five men were captured. He was one of the number that escaped. At the end of three years he was mustered out and came to Illinois, spending a short time at Canton, Fulton county, and then returning to Tennessee, where he helped to mount Gilham's brigade of cavalry, the Eighth, Ninth and Thirteenth Tennessee. Next he went to Knoxville and organized Company C, Third North Carolina Mounted Infantry, of which he was commissioned first lieutenant in September, 1864, and which engaged in scouting. He led his men three hundred miles into North Carolina, where he captured three hundred and twenty-five prisoners. In February, 1865, he organized Company I, of the same regiment, and was commissioned its captain, serving under General George Stoneman, being detached to command twenty-five scouts. He took part in many desperate cavalry dashes, where death seemed imminent at any moment, but he seemed to bear a charmed life; and in all his service was only wounded once, and that was a mere flesh wound. He was constantly on the move. At one time he was in the saddle for eighteen days and nights, never making a stop longer than three hours. More than once his friends were in doubt as to his fate, and once his family were told that he was dead. Nor did they know the report was false until he appeared before them in person, when a scene of rejoicing followed that could be imagined, but not described. During an engagement at Morristown, Tennessee, he was ordered with his company to take a piece of artillery on the rebel right. He had to cross a deep ravine through a thicket and come out into the open. The rebels fired upon him and his men with grape and canister and many saddles were emptied, but on they went. Captain Morrison was riding the horse that General Longstreet once owned. This

horse ran away with the captain and made its way right into the rebel ranks. Captain Morrison and his company killed or captured all of the rebel company with their artillery. Among the prisoners was their commander, Captain Reeves, who had been an old schoolmate of Captain Morrison, and who threw his arms around Captain Morrison's neck and cried like a child. After the brigade made the charge on General Forest's command Captain Morrison took a piece of artillery to General Gilham and reported that his orders had been executed. The general complimented Captain Morrison on the gallant charge he had made and lamented the loss of so many of his brave boys, but the captain replied that he was complimenting the wrong party, saying: "This old horse that I am riding ran away with me and took me into the rebel ranks, whether I wanted to go or not." When the war had ended Captain Morrison was mustered out at Knoxville, Tennessee, August 6, 1865, and returned to his old home in that state, but a month later came to Illinois and has since been a resident of Will county.

In the meantime he had been married in Elizabethtown, Carter county, Tennessee, on the 22d of January, 1862, to Miss Hester Snider, whose father, William Snider, a native of Sullivan county, that state, was a farmer and blacksmith and was several times taken prisoner during the war. In February, 1865, he removed to Troy township, Will county, Illinois, where he died at the age of seventy-eight years. His father, William Snider, Sr., was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, served in the war of 1812 and afterward became the owner of large tracts of land in Tennessee. The mother of Mrs. Morrison was Mary, daughter of William Jones, an early settler of Tennessee and a soldier in the war of 1812. She died in 1874. Of her eleven children eight attained mature years. A half-brother of Mrs. Morrison, Joseph Snider, was with our subject and made his way through the lines to Cumberland Gap; her own brother was taken a prisoner at one time during the war. Captain and Mrs. Morrison became the parents of five children, namely: Lizzie, who has charge of the millinery department of Calmar & Co.; Mary, who died in 1888; Minnie H., deceased; William R., a graduate of the University of Illinois and now superintendent at Wichita, Kansas, of the city street railroad; and John H.,

who graduated from the medical department of the Northwestern University in 1898 and is now engaged in practice at Plainfield, this county. He married Catherine E. Downey and they have four children: Martha Hester, Robert, William and Newton.

When Captain Morrison removed from Tennessee to Illinois, in September, 1865, he brought with him a wagon and two horses that he had had in the army. He then engaged in the cultivation of a rented farm in Kendall county, but later purchased a tract of land in Plainfield township, Will county, and subsequently bought and sold other property. He continued his farming operations until 1880, when he removed to Joliet and engaged in the lumber business. He was also, from 1880 until 1883, call man in the fire department and from the latter year until 1888 was driver of steamer No. 1, being transferred in 1888 to East Side No. 3. In 1891 he resigned and concentrated his energies upon the development of a real estate business, having previously become interested in that line of trade. He continued as a real estate agent until 1895. In 1893 he was elected assistant supervisor, serving two years, and for ten consecutive years filled the office of assessor.

In his political views Captain Morrison has been a stalwart republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he has filled a number of public offices with ability and fidelity. In 1894 he was appointed deputy city and township assessor and the following year was selected city and township assessor on the republican ticket by a flattering majority. In 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899 he was again chosen for that position, the last time without opposition, and he retired from the office as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned. His fraternal relations are in Bartleson Post, No. 6, G. A. R., the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 532, Mount Joliet Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has attained the thirty-second degree in Masonry and is a member of the Mystic Shrine. With his wife, he belongs to the Eastern Star, the Rathbone Sisters and the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal church. Those who know Captain Morrison—and his acquaintance is a wide one—esteem him for his kindly nature, his public-spirited

citizenship and the many good qualities that he has manifested in his official, business and private life, and with pleasure we present to our readers the record of this honored veteran of the Civil war.

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### HENRY HACK.

Henry Hack, proprietor of the Bielfeldt Hotel of Beecher and also of a well equipped livery barn, was born at Mecklenburg, Germany, July 29, 1855. His father, John Hack, was a native of Mecklenburg, born in 1825. By trade he was a shoemaker and thinking to enjoy better business advantages in the new world he emigrated to the United States in 1864. Here he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, locating on a farm of eighty acres in Washington township, Will county, Illinois. For about twelve years he followed farming and in 1876 removed to the village of Beecher, where he engaged in general merchandising in partnership with William Peck. Three years later he sold out and two and a half years conducted a store at Eagle Lake, where he was postmaster for two years. He then returned to Beecher and again engaged in general merchandising, also conducting a market until a few years prior to his death, when he retired. His last days were spent in the enjoyment of a rest which he had truly earned and richly merited. He sustained injuries in a runaway accident in 1879, from which he was a sufferer for many years, but the immediate cause of his death was paralysis and he passed away in Beecher, February 1, 1898.

His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sophia Luth, was also born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and is still living in Beecher at the age of seventy-eight years. She holds membership in the German Evangelical church, to which Mr. Hack also belonged. When they came to the United States they were in very limited financial circumstances and knew well what hard times were. They lived on the prairie in a little board shanty, the wind blowing a gale across the country with nothing to break its force and often sifting the snow through the cracks of the pioneer home. As the years passed, however, all this changed owing to the industry and enterprise of the father and the

able assistance which he received from his wife and children. The family numbered eight children, of whom three died in infancy, while five are yet living: Herman, who resides upon the old homestead in Washington township; Henry; Charles J., who is living retired in Beecher; Frank, who succeeded his father in business and is now conducting a general store; and Emma, the wife of Sherman Loitz of Peotone.

Henry Hack was a youth of nine years when the family came to the United States. He was reared to farm life, being connected with the work of field and meadow until 1885, when he engaged in the hotel and livery business. He has since given his time and energies to these lines with the exception of an interval of sixteen months. He owns forty acres of land adjoining the village, which he farms. He also owns a hotel property, livery barn and a residence in the village, together with residence property in Chicago. The Bielfeldt Hotel is the best in Beecher and Mrs. Hack personally superintends the kitchen, being an excellent cook. Everything possible is done for the comfort and convenience of their guests and the hotel is well patronized. Mr. Hack is also a partner in the undertaking business conducted under the firm name of Fred Hunte & Company.

On the 1st of May, 1883, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hack and Miss Mary Bielfeldt, who was born in Schleswig-Holstein and is the daughter of Henning Bielfeldt, whose birth also occurred in the same place, August 12, 1817. In 1866 he emigrated to America and for a year he followed the trade of wagonmaking at Thornton, Illinois. He then engaged in farming in Washington township. When the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad was built in 1870 and the village of Beecher sprang up his farm lay partly within the corporation limits. He built one of the first houses in the village and conducted the hotel for many years. He was one of Beecher's most prominent business men and engaged in various enterprises which constituted an important element in the development and growth of the little village. He died in 1890, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Dethlefs and was born in Germany, September 21, 1821, survived until the 30th of May, 1906. They were the parents of six children: Annie, the wife of



Fred Bielfeldt, a resident of South Dakota; Mrs. Hack; Minnie, the wife of M. J. Tillotson, a merchant of Crete; Simon, who died about ten years ago; Henry, who died two years ago; and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Hack have two children, Edmund and Albert, both at home.

In politics Mr. Hack has always been an earnest and unfaltering republican and was a trustee of the village when it was incorporated. He served in that capacity for seven consecutive years and later was again elected and acted as trustee for six years. He was also deputy sheriff of the county for eight years and is now filling the office of constable. He and his wife attend the Congregational church. He is one of the representative business men of Beecher, prominently connected with various business and public interests, and his labors have been a direct and beneficial influence in promoting the growth and development of the town.

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#### C. D. HINRICHS.

C. D. Hinrichs, whose life has been characterized by enterprise, thrift and industry, is now numbered among the substantial German-American citizens of Peotone, where he owns a blacksmith shop and is also engaged in the dairy business on quite an extensive scale. He was born in Holstein, Germany, April 10, 1850. His parents were John and Christina Hinrichs, who lived and died in the fatherland. The father was a carpenter by trade and died when our subject was but ten years of age. The mother was married a second time and her death occurred six years ago.

Mr. Hinrichs, is the only member of the family who ever came to this country, his sisters Anna and Wipke, both being widows, make their home in their native country, while the brother, John, resides on the old homestead farm there. C. D. Hinrichs is the second in order of birth, and received a good education in the common schools of Germany. At the age of fifteen he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed until 1871, when, believing that he might enjoy better business advantages in the new country, bade adieu to home and friends, and taking passage on a sailing vessel bound for the United States, ar-

rived in New York after a voyage of four weeks on the water. He made his way direct to Mokena, Illinois. His cash capital consisted of fifty dollars and he set to work to find employment but he could not speak a word of English and when he applied for work in the different blacksmith shops he was refused employment. He eventually secured employment on a farm, where he drove an ox team to the breaking plow. He also worked for a short time for the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad Company, doing construction work. In 1872 he arrived in Peotone, where he was employed at his trade. He was industrious and economical and at length saved the capital which enabled him to engage in business on his own account. He then purchased the blacksmith business of Peter Schlander, and worked at his trade until 1890, and he still owns the shop, which is now being conducted by hired help. In the latter year Mr. Hinrichs engaged in the dairy business. For a few years he shipped the products of his dairy to the Chicago markets, but he now has a milk route in Peotone, delivering milk and cream to the residents throughout the village, keeping sixteen cows for this purpose. His business has now reached extensive and profitable proportions and returns to him a very gratifying income. He is likewise engaged in farming, having seventy acres of land within the corporation limits of Peotone, and in addition to operating this tract he also leases one hundred and sixty acres, employing four men to assist him in the conduct of his varied business interests. Mr. Hinrichs is a very busy man, often working twenty hours a day, and through his well directed efforts he has acquired a comfortable competence and a good property.

Mr. Hinrichs has been twice married. His first union was with Miss Minnie Schroeder, their marriage being celebrated in 1873. She was a daughter of Fred Schroeder, a resident of Mattoon, Illinois, and her death occurred in 1878. There were two children of that marriage but both are now deceased. For his second wife Mr. Hinrichs chose Ida Berthling, a daughter of Henry Berthling, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Hinrichs gives his political support to the republican party and for two terms served on the village board. He is a member of the German Lutheran church, while his fraternal rela-

tions are with Modern Woodmen camp, No. 1405, at Peotone.

Mr. Hinrichs has never regretted his emigration to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought, and, having utilized the means at hand, has gradually worked his way upward from a humble financial position until he is now numbered among the influential and enterprising business men of Peotone.

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#### ROBERT T. WELSCH.

Robert T. Welsch is a general contractor with shop at No. 410 Linden avenue, in Joliet. He has been closely connected with building interests in this city and has been the architect of his own fortunes as well. He came to Will county with a capital of only twenty-seven dollars and is today one of the substantial residents. He was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1860, and is a son of Karl and Paulena (Henchel) Welsch, who were likewise German people. The father is a cabinet maker by trade.

In early life Robert T. Welsch served an apprenticeship with a carpenter and learned the trade. The business opportunities in the new world attracted him and in 1882 he came to America, making his way at once to Joliet. He built a whole row of houses on Mississippi avenue, extending from Second to Third street, and in one summer erected fourteen residences and took the contract for the erection of the Schring brick block and also built the lower story and otherwise improved the First Lutheran church. He erected the residence of James Cushing on Rainer avenue, drawing plans for the structure. In the winter time he engages in making frames and throughout the year he employs three men, while in the summer season, while building operations are in progress, he has a much larger force of workmen. He has also bought and sold property on his own account, building seven houses on Richard street and twelve houses on Gonesy avenue, and built up Sherman court, ninety by two hundred and sixty-four feet, and as the years have gone by, has made for himself a place among the successful contractors of the city. He also erected the residences of John Brooks and John Kline,

and thus many of the substantial structures of Joliet stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise.

Mr. Welsch was married in Joliet to Miss Hulda Gierich, who was born in Saxony, Germany, and came to America in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Welsch have four children: Arno, Selma, Roland and Walter, all attending school. The daughter has finished the high-school course and has also attended business college.

Mr. Welsch spent two years in school after coming to Joliet and thus mastered the English language. In politics he is a republican but has never sought or desired office. He is, however, interested in the success of his party and belongs to the German Republican Club and also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen and with the White Cross and for twenty-four years has been a principal officer in the German Lutheran church. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in the United States. He is a self-made man, owing his prosperity entirely to his earnest labor, his perseverance and his diligence. These are qualities which any one may cultivate and which always lead to success.

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#### MRS. HENRIETTE SASSE.

For almost a half century Mrs. Henriette Sasse has made her home in Will county and during that time she has become widely and favorably known. Her childhood and youth were passed in Germany, for she was born in Bentheim in the province of Hanover, April 13, 1824, a daughter of Dr. Frederick William and Dorothy (Loffes) Mosel. She is the second in order of birth in their family of eight children and the only one of the number now living. Three of her brothers and one sister came to America but one of the former afterward went to Africa, where he practiced medicine until his death. Mrs. Sasse had the advantage of a good education in her native country. After completing the common-school course she attended a young ladies seminary where she was graduated. She has always kept well informed and is today a remarkably well read, bright and active old lady despite her eighty-three years.

On the 15th of April, 1857, Miss Henriette Mosel gave her hand in marriage to Frederick Sasse, who was also a native of Germany, born in Breisin Bruch, Hanover, February 21, 1823, and there grew to manhood. In June after their marriage they came to America and first settled in Wilmington, Illinois, where they spent one year. At the end of that time they removed to Jackson township and during the following seven years Mr. Sasse was engaged in farming there, after which he purchased a farm in Chaunahon township, making his home thereon for thirty years, his time and attention being devoted to the work of the farm. On selling that place he removed to Elwood, where he purchased a nice home, and there passed the remaining years of his life, dying on the 9th of October, 1902. Upright and honorable in all that he did, he had the confidence and esteem of the entire community and his death was deeply deplored. Mrs. Sasse was a member of the Reformed church of Holland in Germany and after coming to America united with the Presbyterian church, in the work of which she has ever taken an active part. Her earnest Christian life has gained her many friends and she is highly respected wherever known.

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#### MERRITT O. CAGWIN.

The name of Cagwin has been associated with the history of Joliet from the earliest epoch in its development. Merritt O. Cagwin, then a lad of eight years, coming with his father's family to Will county in 1836. He was born in Brockport, New York, May 14, 1828, and comes of Scotch ancestry, the family being established in America, however, prior to the Revolutionary war, in which the great-grandfather of our subject was a soldier. His son, Thomas Cagwin, a native of Massachusetts, rendered military aid to his country in the war of 1812. He married Eunice Joslyn, who was also of Scotch lineage, and from Massachusetts they removed to Oneida county, New York, subsequently establishing their home near Brockport in Monroe county, where Thomas Cagwin purchased a farm of four hundred acres lying partly within the corporation limits of the

village. From this land he platted a portion of the town and he continued to reside there until his death, which occurred when he was sixty years of age.

Abijah Cagwin, father of Merritt O. Cagwin, was born in Oneida county, New York, May 19, 1807, and spent his youth in that and in Monroe county, where he learned the trades of tanning and shoemaking. After reaching man's estate he conducted a tannery at Brockport but suffered a severe loss in the destruction of his plant by fire in 1834. He then determined to try his fortunes in the new but rapidly developing west and in 1835 came to Illinois, the following year bringing his family. At the land sale in Chicago he purchased a tract of land lying just east of Joliet on Hickory street and then again making his way eastward he bought the necessary equipments for a sawmill, which he shipped to Chicago and thence conveyed by wagon to Joliet. Soon afterward he began the manufacture of hardwood lumber and on the 4th of July, 1836, surrounded by a crowd of patriotic citizens who came for more than twenty miles, he sawed the first board used in the building of one of the first frame houses in Joliet. There were few sawmills in this part of the country, so that his new enterprise received a very liberal patronage, and he continued successfully in the manufacture of lumber for fifteen years. His worth and ability being recognized by his fellow citizens, he was called to public office and for eight years served as justice of the peace, during which period he also engaged in the purchase, improvement and sale of real estate in Joliet. On retiring from the office of justice of the peace he was elected county judge and sat upon the bench for a long period, receiving the endorsement of both parties at the elections. His decisions were strictly fair and impartial, being based upon the law and the equity in the case, and he was widely recognized as one of the able county judges of Illinois at an early day. Later he engaged in the grain trade and in merchandising on what is now North Chicago street near Cass, his being the first business place in that section of the city. For many years he was a grain merchant of Joliet and his business proved an excellent market for local producers. At the same time he improved lands and carried on farming and thus the extent and importance of his busi-



MERRITT O. CAGWIN.



ABIJAH CAGWIN.





ness interests classed him with the representative men of this part of the state. He laid out and named Cagwin and Scribner streets, the latter being so called in honor of his wife, and the property still constitutes a portion of the family homestead. Moreover, he figured prominently in financial circles as one of the organizers of the Will County Bank, continuing as its president until he disposed of his stock, while Henry D. Higinbotham was vice-president and Benjamin Richardson, cashier. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and in fraternal circles he attained the Knight Templar degree in Masonry. He was one of the prominent members of the Universalist church, aiding in its organization and continuing one of its liberal supporters until his death, which occurred October 2, 1890, when he was eighty-four years of age.

Ere his removal from the east, Abijah Cagwin was united in marriage to Hannah Scribner, who was born in Poultney, Vermont, and was a daughter of Deacon Peter Scribner, of English birth, who on coming to America, established his home in New Hampshire, but afterward removed to Vermont, where he carried on farming and sheep-raising. He was accidentally killed by a fall from a tree when ninety-four years of age. His brother Samuel, who on coming to America settled in New York city, was the founder of Scribner's Magazine, long one of the standard periodicals of the country. Mrs. Cagwin died March 30, 1892, when eighty-four years of age. Mr. Cagwin had spent his last years in honorable retirement from business cares in this city and was widely known as a pioneer settler whose labors were of the utmost value in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which has since been builded the superstructure of the present progress and prosperity of the county.

Merritt O. Cagwin was a young lad of eight years when the family traveled westward by team and wagon through Canada and Michigan to Illinois, reaching Joliet on the 8th of May, 1836, after one month spent upon the way. His educational privileges were somewhat meager owing to the crude conditions of the schools in the west and to the fact that his services were needed by his father upon the farm and in the mill. He became his father's active assistant when ten years of age, and between the ages of fifteen and eigh-

teen years, was a clerk in the store which his father established. Later, he went to Chicago, where he entered the employ of his uncle, as auctioneer, and subsequently he traveled for two years. In the meantime he had improved his opportunity for judicious investment by purchase of eighty acres of state land at a canal sale and upon this tract he began dealing in live stock. As his financial resources increased, he added to his original holdings, until he owned about four hundred acres lying east of Joliet, and in the development of his property he experienced the hard conditions incident to opening up a farm on the frontier. Attracted to California by the discovery of gold, he journeyed to the Pacific coast by way of New York and the Nicaragua route, landing at San Francisco in 1853, and thence making his way up the American river to the mines. Not meeting with the success that he anticipated, he returned home by way of Panama and New York, after a year spent in the Golden state. On again reaching Will county, he became connected with the grain trade, which he conducted for four years, when he exchanged his business for twelve hundred acres of land in Wilton township, whereon he engaged in raising high grade cattle, finding this a very profitable venture. During the period of the Civil war he served as town supervisor. Intensely patriotic and loyal to the Union, he greatly desired to join the army but could not pass the required medical examination. He did everything in his power while at home, however, to uphold the Lincoln administration and promote the interests of the boys in the field and he donated ten dollars to each member of the first company that was organized in his vicinity.

In the meantime, in January, 1852, Mr. Cagwin was united in marriage to Miss Ambrosia Higinbotham, who was born in this county, October 1, 1834, and is a daughter of Henry D. Higinbotham. The Higinbotham family is of English lineage and during an early period in the settlement of America, representatives of the name removed to the Barbadoes. Later generations were actively identified with the progress of New England, where they prospered in the pursuit of such occupations as were then in vogue. Charles Higinbotham, who was the son of a captain of a whaling vessel, was born in Rhode Island, November 14, 1779, and in youth accompanied his parents to

Otsego, New York, where he married Gertrude Dumont, of Westford, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. Sometime afterward, he went to Allegan county, Michigan, and died August 18, 1844, while his wife passed away July 17, 1858.

Henry D. Higinbotham was the second of the four sons of Charles Higinbotham and was born in Worcester, New York, January 10, 1806. Reared on a farm, he early acquired a thorough knowledge of agriculture and also of blacksmithing. In 1831 he married Rebecca Wheeler, of Westford, New York, who was a native daughter of Canaan, Columbia county, that state. Soon after their marriage they settled in Oneida, New York, where Mr. Higinbotham followed blacksmithing, but attracted by opportunities of the west he settled on Hickory Creek in Will county, Illinois, when it was still a part of Cook county, arriving in June, 1834. He entered from the government, one hundred and sixty acres of land, two and a half miles east of Joliet, and as the years passed, he added to his property, which constantly increased in value. He soon became recognized as one of the foremost agriculturists of the county, thoroughly demonstrated the superiority of diversified farming and through his varied interests gained what was in those days a large fortune, placing most of his land—three hundred and twenty acres—under cultivation. He also owned and successfully operated a gristmill and not only won prosperity, but also an honored name in his business life. Socially he became a Knight Templar Mason, and religiously was a Universalist. In 1854 he sold his farm and mill and took up his abode in Joliet at what is known as the Higinbotham homestead at No. 1009 Cass street. He became a director of the Will County National Bank, but was not active in business life following his removal to the city, where he passed away March 13, 1865.

Henry D. Higinbotham was married to a daughter of Samuel B. Wheeler, a native of New England and a sister of Mansfield Wheeler, who settled in Will county in 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Higinbotham became the parents of the following sons and daughters: Harlow Niles, millionaire merchant and business man of Chicago; Albert, who served in Scott's Chicago regiment during the entire Civil war and died in Joliet; Mrs. Cagwin; Mrs. Ann Eliza Demmond, of this city; Mrs.

Gertrude Leddy and Mrs. Ellen Darwin, both of whom died in Joliet; and Charles, of Elgin.

After his marriage, Mr. Cagwin became one of the most extensive grain shippers of this part of the state. He purchased a grain elevator on the canal, which he conducted in connection with his father and subsequently he devoted three years to the grain trade at Wilmington, after which he built the White Cloud mill and manufactured flour. He also spent nine years in the grain business in Elwood and when he again located in Joliet, he bought the "Jesse" elevator on the west side. This he operated for some time and on selling out, he invested in a farm on Spring creek in Lockport township, three miles from Joliet, and gave his time to the superintendence and management of its one hundred and five acres, until 1891. He then again took up his abode in this city, leaving his extensive farming interests in the care of his son Harlow. On returning to Joliet, Mr. and Mrs. Cagwin took up their abode in the old Higinbotham homestead on Cass street. While living in Elwood in 1867, Mr. Cagwin lost his elevator through fire. He was, however, for many years one of the most prominent grain merchants of this part of the state, conducting his operations in Joliet and other cities and handling grain on an extensive scale.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cagwin were born five children. Albert E., who married Helen Stephens, resides in Kelso, Washington, where he is now mayor of the town. He is also engaged in the lumber business there, is editor of the *Kelsonian*, a successful newspaper, and is very prominent and influential in business circles. Almada is the wife of Winfield Pritz, a farmer, residing at LaJunta, Colorado. Helen R., makes her home in Joliet with her mother. Fred, who married Miss L. Burton and has been connected with the railway company at Michigan City, Indiana, until a recent date, has now purchased a farm in that locality and intends devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits. Harlow T. married D'Etta Lamphere and is engaged in farming four miles east of Joliet.

Mr. Cagwin gave his early political allegiance to the democracy, but in 1860 joined the ranks of the new republican party, of which he remained a stalwart advocate until his death. He served as highway commissioner at an early day and laid

out Cass street as a road and also opened up Washington street. He likewise served as collector of Joliet township and as supervisor of Wilton township. During his term as highway commissioner he made twelve miles of hard gravel road in the township. He was ever deeply interested in political questions and issues, as every true American citizen should be, and was most loyal in his advocacy of the principles of his party. His fraternal relations were with the Odd Fellows, and in his religious faith he was a Universalist. Whatever tended to advance the city in its material, intellectual, social, political and moral progress awakened his attention and received his co-operation. For seventy years he remained a resident of Will county, during which period it emerged from pioneer conditions and took on all the evidences of an advanced civilization. Mr. Cagwin in his various business relations did much to promote public progress and to establish that commercial and industrial activity whereon the growth and development of a community always depend. He displayed excellent ability as a manager, together with keen business discernment and unfaltering energy, and whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion, while his methods were such as would bear the closest scrutiny and most rigid examination. Thus when he was called from this life, March 30, 1906, at the age of seventy-eight years, he left behind him an honorable name and a handsome competence—the result of years of active and upright life.

Mrs. Cagwin now resides at the old Higinbotham home in Joliet, at No. 1009 Cass street. The residence was one of the first built in the city and is, therefore, one of the old landmarks. Mrs. Cagwin, as a representative of the life of Joliet from pioneer times to the present, is deserving of prominent mention in this volume, while in cultured social circles she has always been accorded a place of prominence.

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#### FREDERICK SCHEIWE.

Frederick Scheiwe is now living retired in the village of Crete but for many years was closely and actively connected with farming interests, to which is due the measure of prosperity that he is

now enjoying. His birth occurred in Crete township in 1858 and he comes of worthy German ancestry.

His father, Christof Scheiwe, was born in Germany and died in the year 1903 at the age of seventy-five. He crossed the briny deep to the United States in 1847 with his brother, John Scheiwe, who located in Crete township. For some time Christof Scheiwe worked on a farm for five dollars per month, being thus employed for about three years. He then invested his earnings in eighty acres of land in Crete township and as opportunity offered he extended the boundaries of his place until he had added to it one hundred and thirty acres. He also owned eighty acres in Washington township and his holdings likewise embraced more than four hundred acres in Iroquois county. He was practically penniless when he came to America and through his industry and frugality he became a prosperous agriculturist. He was held in high esteem by his neighbors and friends and bore an unquestioned reputation for business honor and integrity. Of the Evangelical Lutheran church he served as treasurer of Eagle Lake church for thirty years and did all in his power to promote the growth and insure the development of that organization. In politics he was always an ardent republican and filled the offices of collector and justice of the peace. In addition to his farming interests he engaged extensively in feeding stock for the market and that proved an important element in his success. He married Sophie Luecke, a native of Germany, who died in 1894 at the age of sixty years. She came to the new world with her parents, who located in Monee township, and she too was a worthy Christian, holding membership in the Evangelical church. The eight children of the family were as follows: William, a resident farmer of Minnesota; John, of Crete township; Frederick, of this review; Christ, a farmer of Iroquois county; Henry, farming in the same county; Gust, of Crete township; Sophie, the wife of John Tatge, of Washington township; and Lena, the wife of Louis Kuhlman, of Crete township.

Mr. Scheiwe was reared upon a farm and attended the district schools. He began farming on his own account about 1885 on his father's land in Iroquois county, where he remained for twelve years, purchasing and improving there one

hundred and fifty acres of good land. He then located on the old homestead farm at Crete, where he remained for several years, and in 1903 he retired from active business life, taking up his abode in the village of Crete, where he occupies a comfortable and commodious home, being surrounded there with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. He is a director in the Crete State Bank.

In 1885 Mr. Scheiwe was married to Miss Sophia Harst, who was born in Washington township in 1861, a daughter of Fred and Mary Harst, both of whom came from Germany in early life, settling in Washington township. Mr. and Mrs. Scheiwe have a daughter and son, Lydia and Alfred, the latter a college student. The family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and occupy an enviable position in social circles in which they move. Mr. Scheiwe is a republican who has served as a member of the village board of trustees, and his co-operation in movements for the general good has made him a valued citizen, while his carefully directed business affairs have gained for him a substantial place among the citizens of affluence.

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#### JOHN P. KING.

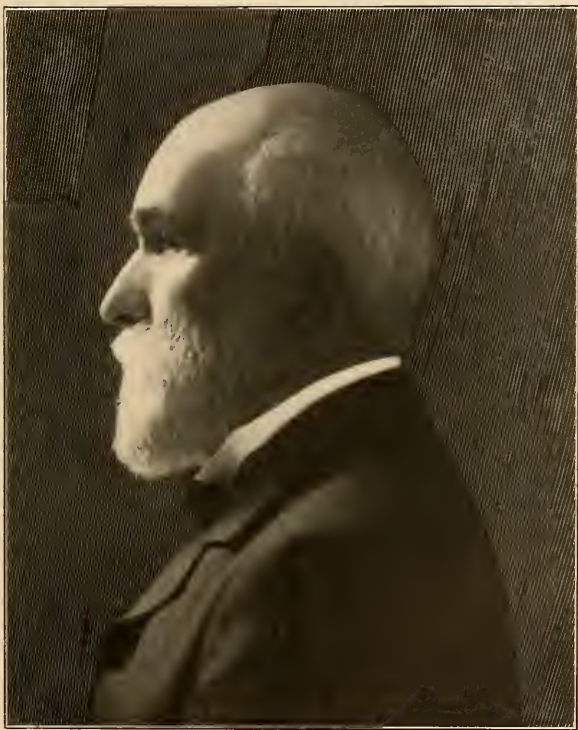
John P. King, extensively engaged in the lumber business in Joliet, owning and conducting two large yards, was born upon a farm near Terre Haute, Indiana, December 18, 1832. His father, Andrew King, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, was born in 1804 and died in 1849, while his wife, Margaret Bailey King, was born in Pennsylvania in 1807 and departed this life in 1877. After a residence of some years in Indiana the parents removed to Troy, Will county, Illinois, in 1834 and Andrew King here began farming. He had served as a soldier in the Black Hawk war in 1832 and he was an honored pioneer settler who bore a substantial part in the work of early development and improvement here. In the family were five sons and six daughters, of whom three sons are now living: Andrew J., a resident of Fairbury, Nebraska; Joseph, who is living at Sumas City, Washington; and John P. The sisters are Mrs.

Julia A. Bishop, of Newark, New Jersey; and Mrs. Barbara A. Evans of Chicago.

John P. King was not yet two years of age when brought by his parents to Will county and few indeed are the residents who have so long remained within its borders. He was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of pioneer life, sharing with the family in all the hardships and privations incident to settlement upon the frontier. He remained with his parents until nineteen years of age and attended school in Troy township. He then went to California, attracted by the discovery of gold, and made his way to the mining region of Trinity county. He engaged in mining for a time and for three years operated a stage line between Yreka and Red Bluffs. He also spent some time in Oregon and after a residence of twelve years upon the Pacific coast he again came to Will county, Illinois, settling in Joliet in 1864. For two years he did not engage in active business but in 1866 established a lumberyard on the west side below the site of the Porter Brewery, where he continued for six years, when he removed the business to the present site at No. 214 North Desplaines street. This is the main office, although the company now operates another large lumberyard just east of the Citizens Brewery on the Michigan Central Railroad. The business has constantly grown in volume and importance since John P. King began operations in the lumber trade and has now reached such proportions that it is accounted one of the foremost commercial enterprises of the city. It is the oldest established continuous lumber business in Will county.

Mr. King was married in 1867, in Joliet, to Miss Hannah Leonard, a daughter of Charles and Mary L. Leonard. Her father was one of Joliet's old settlers and a retired farmer. His death occurred in August, 1901, while his wife, Mary L. Leonard, died in August, 1896. Unto Mr. and Mrs. King were born four children who are yet living and they lost one child, Laura, who died at two years. Those who still survive are as follows: Mrs. Lulu B. Puffer is a widow, her husband having died July 15, 1892, and lives with her parents. For the past three years she has served as secretary and treasurer of her father's lumber company, while he has practically retired from active business. Mrs. Gertrude Leonard resides at No. 501 Union street in Joliet.





JOHN P. KING.





Harless W. is general manager of his father's business. John W. resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

The family are members of the Universalist church and Mr. King belongs to Mount Joliet lodge, No. 42, A. F. & A. M. He is a democrat, though liberal and served two terms as alderman from the seventh ward, being elected in a ward that is strongly republican. He also served six terms as supervisor of Joliet. He is a man of excellent business ability, whose well directed labors have brought him a measure of success whereby he is now numbered among the substantial residents of the county.

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#### PAUL HUGH MUNROE.

Paul Hugh Munroe is a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Will county, owning and operating a tract of land of one hundred acres which is known as the Lilly Page farm, situated at the junction of the Lilly Cache creek and the Du Page river, this tract of land having been developed and improved by him, for it was all covered with timber when it came into his possession.

Mr. Munroe was born in Bennington, Vermont, in 1839, a son of J. W. and Susan D. (Spencer) Munroe. The father was a farmer and miller in the Green Mountain state and was a very wealthy man. His death, however, occurred in 1849, at the comparatively early age of thirty-seven years. His widow remained in the east until 1872, when she came to Will county and here passed away in February, 1881, when she had reached the age of sixty-seven years.

Paul Hugh Munroe is the only surviving member of a family of three children, his brother, S. W., having died in Vermont about ten years ago, while his sister, Mary Wales, who became the wife of John L. Gates, who is connected with the National Express Company, died in 1872. Mr. Munroe was reared in his native state, and his early education, acquired in the common schools, was later supplemented by a course of study in Burr Seminary. He was a youth of only eighteen years, however, when he lost his father, after which he took charge of the homestead farm until 1863, when he took up his abode in this state. He purchased a farm of one hundred acres, this

having been his home continuously since that time, covering a period of forty-three years. The land was all covered with timber when it came into his possession, but he chopped down the trees, grubbed out the stumps, and in due time had his land prepared for the plow, after which he planted his seeds and cultivated his crops, each year gathering rich harvests as a result of the care and labor which he had bestowed upon the fields. He has added many improvements to his property by the erection of a nice home and substantial outbuildings, and his place presents a neat and attractive appearance, indicating the thrift and careful management of the owner.

Mr. Munroe was married in Vermont to Miss Mary J. Elwell, a daughter of James W. Elwell. Their marriage has been blessed with two daughters and one son, all of whom are married. Agnes Irene, the eldest, is now the wife of Ernest Billings, by whom she has one son, Harold. They are residing with her father. Miriam Kate is the wife of Carl Pilcher, a resident of Wheatland. They have two daughters, Genevieve and Frances. J. Wales wedded Miss Carolyn Sennett, a daughter of the late John Sennett, of Plainfield, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. They have one daughter, Myrtle.

In his political views and affiliations Mr. Munroe is a republican and has served as highway commissioner. He likewise takes a deep and helpful interest in the cause of education. He served for four years as deputy county treasurer under Andrew Fries and in the discharge of his duties in this connection gave entire satisfaction to the general public. In addition to his connection with public interests in Will county, Mr. Munroe also opened the first set of abstract books in Spink county, South Dakota, where he conducted business for a time, but later disposed of his interests in that regard. He went to that state in 1881, and in Spink county entered three quarter sections of land from the government, which he improved and operated for four years, but he has since disposed of one of these farms, while the remaining two are now rented.

Mr. Munroe has long been identified with the Masonic fraternity, joining the order in Bennington, Vermont, when twenty-one years of age. He was reared in the faith of the Episcopal church, but Mrs. Munroe holds membership with the Meth-

odist church, while the children are Congregationalists. Mr. Munroe has been very successful in his business ventures, so that he is today numbered among the well-to-do and prosperous citizens of his home locality and he and his family are highly respected wherever known.

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#### ALLISON FLETCHER.

Allison Fletcher, connected with mercantile interests in Peotone, was born in Peotone township in 1868, representing one of the old families of the county. His father, Allison Fletcher, Sr., was a native of Virginia and in early manhood came to Illinois, having lost his parents when a child. He was one of the early settlers of the county and aided in its pioneer development and progress. He first engaged in the operation of a thresher, but afterward turned his attention to general farming. At the time of the Civil war, true to his loved southland, he served in the Confederate army and was wounded in battle in the hand by the bursting of a shell. He afterward engaged in farming in Peotone township and his sons succeeded him on the farm. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and was a republican in his political views. In early manhood he wedded Margaret Barnhart, who was born in Pennsylvania and who died in 1898, when about sixty years of age. She, too, was a member of the Methodist church. Their family numbered seven children: Allison, of this review; James, who is proprietor of a book and stationery store at Peotone; Clayton, a farmer residing at Manteno; Theodore, a resident of Peotone township; Eugene, who lives at Manteno; and Mabel and Leonard, both at home. The mother was twice married, her first husband being James Cowing, by whom she had four children: Eva, who married Frank Giekerson and resides in Manteno; Herman, a resident of Peotone; Beatrice, who is the wife of Harry Brett, a member of the fire department of Joliet; and Maud, who married John Mungur, a resident farmer of Peotone.

Allison Fletcher, whose name introduces this record, was reared upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He worked in

the fields through the summer months and in the winter seasons attended the district schools. After putting aside his text-books his entire time and attention were devoted to farming, and he remained upon the old homestead until 1903, when he put aside agricultural pursuits and formed a partnership with Herman Frahm in a general mercantile business, in which he has since continued with success. They carry a well selected line of goods and enjoy a liberal patronage, their business constantly increasing in volume and importance.

Mr. Fletcher holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church and is deeply interested in its various activities and in its substantial development. He is serving on the official board and is treasurer of the Sunday-school. He is likewise an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and in politics is a republican. The only office he has ever held is that of constable, but as a private citizen he has loyally supported the measures and movements that are best calculated to promote the general welfare.

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#### JAMES H. FLETCHER.

In all communities there are found men of enterprise, perseverance and business discrimination, who are the leaders in commercial circles and whose labors are an important element in the substantial upbuilding and growth of the community. To this class belongs James H. Fletcher, of Peotone. He was born in Peotone township, November 25, 1869, and was educated in the common schools, after which he spent a year in the State Normal School, at Normal, Illinois. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for eight years in the district schools, mostly in Peotone township. He is a painter and paper-hanger by trade and follows that pursuit to some extent in season. He also has a threshing outfit which he operates. In 1902 he purchased the business of his uncle James Barnhart and is now engaged in dealing in books, stationery, pictures, wall paper and novelties. In this connection he is enjoying a good trade because of his earnest desire to please his patrons and his straightforward business methods.

James Fletcher was married to Miss Lizzie Morrison, who was born in Peotone township, September

ber 11, 1870, a daughter of David and Matilda Morrison, who were pioneer farming people of Will county. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher have two children: Margaret, four years of age, and Alta Marie, in her second year. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Fletcher is serving as secretary of the official board and also as secretary of the building committee, and he did the painting on the new church edifice. He has served as township school treasurer and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp. The Fletcher family has long been represented in Will county and its members have been recognized as men of honorable purpose, faithful in friendship and loyal and progressive in citizenship, while in business circles the name stands as a synonym for integrity and industry.

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#### WILLIAM H. H. REED.

William H. H. Reed, a veteran of the Civil war, now owning and operating a fine farm of eighty acres in Florence township, is one of the highly respected citizens of Will county. He was born June 18, 1840, a son of Edward T. and Eliza (Robson) Reed, the former born in Ohio, May 11, 1817, while the latter was born May 10, 1822, in Indiana. The Reed family was established in Illinois at an early day, when, in 1833, the paternal grandparents of our subject, Charles and Chloe Reed, located in Will county. The father was but sixteen years of age at the time of his marriage, and when twenty-one years of age became a pioneer farmer of Jackson township, and it was in his honor that the town of Reed's Grove was named. In 1842 he removed with his family to Washington county, Iowa, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, remaining on that claim during the succeeding four years, when, in 1846, he again returned to Jackson township, Will county, and here remained for a long period. However, in 1872, he removed to Sumner county, Kansas, where he purchased a quarter section of land, and he likewise made application for a government claim in the Indian Territory and fortunately

drew one hundred acres, thus becoming owner of considerable farming land in the west. Later he and his wife made a trip to Los Angeles, California, where they spent some time, subsequent to which period they returned to Will county, where their children resided. The father then lived retired until his death, which occurred in Custer township, this county, when he had reached the very advanced age of seventy-eight years. He was a whig until the formation of the new republican party, when he became a supporter of its principles. He was identified with the United Brethren church. After his death his widow returned to Los Angeles, where her death occurred July 9, 1900. Their family numbered three sons and two daughters: Mary O., the wife of J. J. Smilie, a resident of Custer township, Will county; William H. H., whose name introduces this record; Charles, who is married and resides in Los Angeles, California; Franklin P., who wedded Harriet Wilson and resides in Peoria, Illinois; and Chloe, the wife of Scott Odell and also a resident of Los Angeles.

William H. H. Reed was reared under the parental roof, accompanying his parents on their various removals, and in the public schools acquired his education. He assisted his father in his farm work until he attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself, following the occupation to which he had been reared. Loyal to the best interests of his country in 1861, he enlisted on the 15th of August of that year for service in Company A, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteers. The company was organized at Wilmington, whence they proceeded to Camp Mathews, Chicago, where he mustered in for service on the 11th of October following. The company then went to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, making their way from that city to Williamsport. They went into winter quarters at Cumberland, Maryland. Mr. Reed participated in the battles at Alpine Station and at Winchester, after which he was taken ill and sent to Mount Pleasant Hospital at Washington, D. C., and later to a Philadelphia hospital. At the time of the battle at Bull Run he did guard duty at Elkton, Maryland, and there spent the winter of 1862. He participated in the siege of Charleston, and at the battle of Petersburg, June 2, 1864, and was taken prisoner, being both in Charleston and Andersonville pris-

ons, and later was sent to Savannah, Georgia. While in the prison at Andersonville, he made his escape at two different times, but on each occasion was captured and returned. After the close of the war he was released from prison and was honorably discharged August 16, 1865, at Springfield, Illinois, having served his country for four years and one day.

Returning home from the war he there remained until the following year, when he went to Ford county and engaged in farming there for three years, subsequent to which time he came to Florence township, Will county, having here an excellent farm property, embracing eighty acres. His farm is well improved with good buildings, and he uses only the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields, so that in his work he is meeting with very gratifying success.

On the 8th of March, 1866, occurred the marriage of Mr. Reed and Mrs. Lorena Shoemaker, nee Eversoll. She was born in Ohio, November 14, 1839, a daughter of William and Susan (Conrad) Eversoll, both being natives of Virginia. Her father conducted a flourmill, having learned his trade in Ohio, after which he removed to Peru, Indiana, where he lived for nine years, and in 1846 came to Illinois, establishing his home in Shelby county. After a time he removed with his family to Wilmington, the year of his arrival there being 1854. He was there engaged in the milling business until his demise, which occurred, however, in Elwood, Illinois, when he was sixty-six years of age. His widow survived for a few years and passed away at the age of seventy. Mr. Eversoll became identified with the Masonic order at Chemung, but later transferred his membership to the lodge at Morris. In the early days he gave his political support to the whig party, but later became an advocate of democracy. In the family of this worthy couple were but two children, who are living, the sister of Mrs. Reed being Polina, the widow of Eli Medell and now residing in Chicago.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born four children, of whom three survive, namely: Eva E.; Viola, the wife of Warren Corbin, and George E., who wedded Mattie Whitmore. Mr. Reed usually votes the republican ticket, but is a firm believer in prohibition principles. In citizenship he is as loyal to the best interest of his

community and his country as he was when he followed the stars and stripes upon southern battle fields. Every movement or measure tended to advance local interests elicits his attention, and he is accounted one of the progressive and representative citizens of Will county.

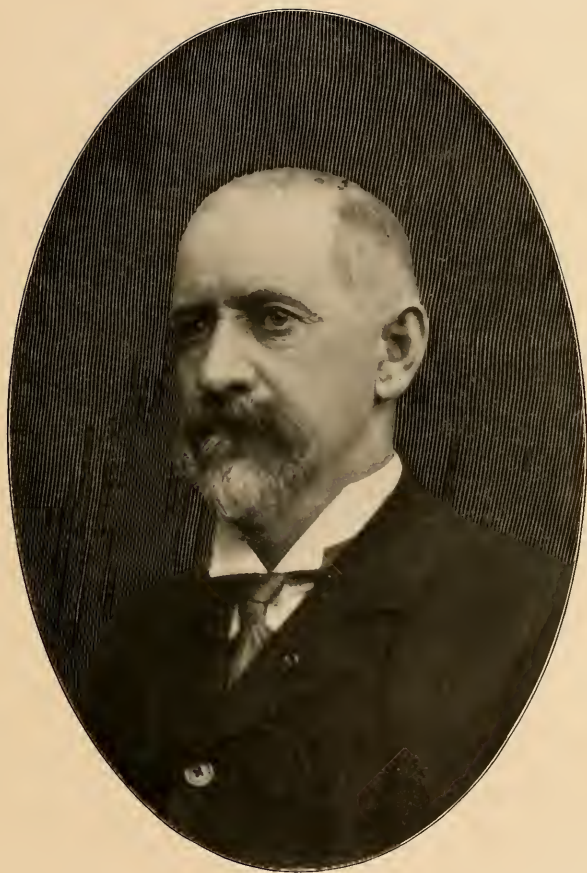
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#### UZIAH MACK.

Uziah Mack, who for many years was well known in mercantile circles in Joliet as a shoe merchant and since 1900 has been engaged in the real estate business, was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1835. His parents were farming people of that state, and while spending his boyhood days under the parental roof he pursued his education in the Milton Academy. In 1858 he removed from Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, to Joliet where he joined his uncle, F. Mack, in the conduct of a shoe store. His business career was interrupted, however, by his service in the Civil war, for when the country became involved in hostilities he could no longer content himself to remain at home but with patriotic spirit offered his aid to the Union, enlisting on the 8th of August, 1862, as a member of the One Hundredth Illinois regiment, serving with that command until honorably discharged at the close of the war in 1865. In the meantime, valor and meritorious service had won him appointment to the position of first lieutenant. When the war was ended he at once returned to Joliet and resumed business in connection with his uncle, this partnership being maintained until the uncle's death in 1872. Mr. Mack then carried on the store alone until 1900, when he sold out to his son. He had enjoyed a large and lucrative business and was well known as one of the old-time merchants of the city. Since retiring from that field of labor he has engaged in the real estate business with an office in the Cutting block, handling city property, and during the seven years which have since elapsed he has negotiated a number of important realty transfers.

Mr. Mack was married in 1865, at Conover, Iowa, to Miss Jane Flemming, who died a few years later. Of their three children, Robert L. is





UZIAH MACK.



deceased; Mary F. wedded Harless King and resides in Joliet; and William F. succeeded his father in the shoe business in Joliet. In 1883 Mr. Mack was married to Miss Carrie M. Cagwin, and they have two children: Josephine E., who is now attending school at Lake Forest, Illinois; and Francis C., a student in Joliet.

The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Mack belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. He is one of Joliet's oldest and most substantial business men, having for almost a half century been identified with its commercial progress and development and the regard in which he is uniformly held is indicative of his mode of life and his method of procedure in the business world.

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#### GEORGE H. WILDER.

George H. Wilder, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who for three years valiantly followed the stars and stripes on southern battle-fields, is now engaged in general farming on section 4, Crete township, where he has a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. This is the old homestead property, having long been in possession of the Wilder family.

A native of Bloom township, Cook county, George H. Wilder was born June 1, 1842. His father, Almon Wilder, was born in Onondaga county, New York, May 21, 1806, and in his boyhood days removed with his parents to Ashtabula county, Ohio. At the age of twenty-two years he married Miss Anna Snow and removed to Lake county, Indiana, where his wife died in 1840. The following year he wedded Mrs. Louisa Wilson Raymond, a daughter of John C. Wilson, an early settler of Bloom township, Cook county, Illinois, who owned a farm where the village of Steger now stands. Mr. Wilder lived on the Wilson farm until 1844, when he settled upon the farm which he ever afterward made his home and which is now the home of George H. Wilder. It was government land, entirely raw and uncultivated and he performed the arduous task of breaking prairie and cultivating the land until it became arable fields. He died on this place, March 26, 1891, while his wife passed away August 6,

1890. In early life he was converted, joined the Methodist Episcopal church and for many years was one of the most consistent and valuable members of the church of that denomination in Crete. He voted with the republican party from its organization and was recognized as one of its leaders in the community. His fellow townsmen frequently called him to public office and he served repeatedly as supervisor, assessor, collector and in other local positions, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. Because of his business integrity and good judgment in business matters he was often called upon to administer estates and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree. Earnest and zealous in educational matters, he served as trustee of the schools for many years and was school director for a long time.

To the first marriage of Mr. Wilder there were born nine children, only four of whom are now living: Mrs. John Dodge, of Crete township; Mrs. Maria Modruff, of Englewood; Miss Malissa Wilder, of Chicago; and A. E. Wilder, of California. By the second marriage there were six children, the living being: Mrs. Charles Howard, of Denver, Colorado, and George H.

George H. Wilder was reared on the home farm and attended the common schools. In early manhood he espoused the cause of the Union and in 1862 joined the boys in blue of Company F, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, as a private. With his command he went to the front and was mustered out at St. Louis, Missouri, at the close of the war, after serving for over three years, during which time he was promoted to corporal. He took part in a number of the most hotly contested engagements of the south and was ever found at his post of duty, faithfully defending the old flag and the cause it represented. When hostilities had ceased he returned to the farm and has since been engaged in its cultivation, now owning the old homestead of one hundred and sixty acres.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Wilder chose Miss Augusta Brown, to whom he was married in 1869. She was born in Cook county, in 1844, a daughter of Adam and Phoebe (Meyers) Brown. Her father was a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, and when a child removed to Preble county, Ohio, where he was married in 1830. In 1833 he removed to Cook

county, Illinois, being one of the earliest settlers of this part of the state. For many years his home was the stopping place for people traveling to and from Chicago, which at that time was a small village giving little promise of its present greatness. He and his wife lived together for sixty-two years in a most happy union. She died upon the home farm in 1892, and Mr. Brown passed away at the very venerable age of ninety years. Two of their sons, William, now deceased, and George, a resident of Kansas, were soldiers of the Union Army in the Civil war.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilder have been born a daughter and two sons. Jessie, an accomplished young lady, who was a graduate of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and was engaged in teaching, died in 1900 and her death was most deeply regretted by a very large circle of friends, for she was very popular. Frank, at home, is a graduate of Bryant & Stratton Business College and is now serving as township tax collector. Charles married a daughter of W. C. Trowbridge of Crete, lives in that place and is employed in the piano factory at Steger.

Mr. Wilder votes with the republican party and while keeping well informed on the political questions and issues of the day as every true American citizen should do, he has never sought nor desired office. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and he and his two sons are members of the Masonic fraternity. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilder are well informed people, interested in good literature and they have a library well filled with choice books, with the contents of which they are largely familiar. Their social standing is irreproachable and the consensus of public opinion places them in the front rank among the representative citizens of Crete township.

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#### JESSE W. BROCKWAY.

Jesse W. Brockway is now filling the responsible position of general foreman of the machine shops of the Illinois Steel Company, at Joliet. His connection with this company covers a period of seventeen years, during which time he has made rapid and substantial advancement, having won

promotion until he now fills a prominent place in the industrial interests of this city.

Mr. Brockway was born in Lee county, Iowa, in 1859, a son of James and Catherine (Flint) Brockway, both of whom were born in Ohio. The father followed general agricultural pursuits in Iowa until 1886, when he removed to South Dakota, where he purchased considerable land and lived for a decade, subsequent to which time he went to Florida, where he died in 1903 at the age of sixty-six years. The son was reared to farming pursuits, assisting his father in the various tasks of the fields, and in the common schools he acquired his education. He then learned the blacksmith trade at Kingston, Iowa, where he served a two years' apprenticeship after which he was employed in the Murray Iron Works, Burlington, Iowa, serving a three years' apprenticeship as a machinist. Later he worked in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy shops, where he was employed as machinist for two years subsequent to learning the trade. Coming to Joliet, he worked as a journeyman in the machine shops of the Illinois Steel Company for fourteen years, during which time he was promoted from one position to another, while eleven years ago he was made night foreman of the machine shop. He has charge of the entire department, which employs about one hundred and forty men, many of whom are among the most expert machinists of the country. The plant is equipped with most modern machinery for the manufacture of tools for the splice mill, merchant mill, etc., and in addition a general repair work is done in connection with the machinery of the shops. The building is eighty by one hundred and forty feet and is equipped with two electric cranes running the entire length of the building. The long experience of Mr. Brockway in connection with the machinist's trade well qualifies him for the arduous and responsible duties which devolve upon him and he is discharging his duties with entire satisfaction to the company.

Mr. Brockway was married in Chicago, in 1892, to Miss Katy Jenkins, who was born in Quincy, Illinois, and they have become the parents of five children: Edna, Ruth, Esther, Elmer and Mildred. Mr. Brockway is a republican in his political views and affiliations and is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the

Masonic fraternity, belonging to the lodge, chapter and council, and in these connections commands the good will and esteem of his fraternal brethren.

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#### ROBERT H. JOHNSON.

Robert H. Johnson, residing in the village of Channahon, has always devoted his time and energies to farming. He was born in Joliet, January 8, 1842, his parents being Adam and Mary (Hamilton) Johnson. The father was a native of Ireland, born in the year 1808, and, leaving the Emerald isle, he crossed the Atlantic to Canada, whence he afterward made his way to Lockport, Illinois, where he remained for a year. He then went to Joliet, where he spent some time, after which he took up his abode upon a farm in Troy township. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits for a period and later settled on a farm in Channahon township in 1850. He afterward tilled the soil there and continued the further improvement of the property until 1866, when he gave up general farming and removed to the village of Wilmington, where he spent his remaining days, being called from this life on the 6th of February, 1874. His family numbered six children, of whom Robert H. was the fourth in order of birth, and three of the number are now living, the sisters being Mrs. Isaac Drew, who resides in Joliet; and Mrs. Mary Noble, living in Lincoln, Kansas.

Robert H. Johnson has spent his entire life in Will county. No event of special importance varied the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood days, during which period he worked in the fields through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he was engaged in wrestling with the tasks of the schoolroom. After he had put aside his text-books he gave his undivided attention to farm work until he entered military life, joining the Union army on the 6th of August, 1862. He enlisted as a member of Company A, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, under Captain Stewart, went to the front and did active duty on the field, making a creditable record for valor and fidelity. He participated in practically all of the twenty-one engagements in which the regiment took part and served with distinction.

When the country no longer needed his aid he returned home and resumed agricultural pursuits.

On the 3d of September, 1870, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Julia Douglas and unto them have been born two children: Mrs. Lillian Calis, of Troy township; and Mrs. Emma Tabler, who is living in Grundy county. Mrs. Johnson's parents came to Illinois from the state of New York in 1856 and settled in Kankakee county. She is one of twelve children, six of whom are yet living, namely: John, a resident of Lexington, Illinois; William, who makes his home in Wilmington; Mrs. Susan Dixon, of Chicago; Mrs. Belle Page, who resides in Wichita, Kansas; and Mrs. Mary Corey, of St. Louis, Missouri.

Following his marriage Mr. Johnson took up farm work with renewed energy and continued actively in that line of business until 1901, when he removed to the village of Channahon. He now owns ten acres of land within the corporation limits and has a pleasant home there. By his former toil and activity he accumulated a comfortable competence that now supplies him with all of the necessities and some of the luxuries of life. In politics he is an earnest republican, thoroughly in sympathy with the principles of the party. He is now serving his second term as village mayor and has also been highway commissioner for two terms. As chief executive officer of the town he is exercising his official prerogatives for an economical yet progressive administration, and his course has been one of benefit and of progress to the village.

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#### HENRY MONK.

Henry Monk, a prosperous farmer, owning and operating the old homestead on section 1, Peotone township, the tract embracing one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, is a native son of Will county, his birth having occurred in Monee township, February 4, 1862, and comes of German parentage. His father, Henry Monk, Sr., was born in Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany, and died on the farm which is now the property of his son, in 1891, when he had reached



the age of seventy years. He came to America in 1858 but after a brief residence here returned to his native land, where he was married to Miss Catherine Charnburg, who was also a native of Mecklenburg. She died in 1904, having reached the venerable age of eighty-one years. Upon his second arrival in the new world the father settled at Monee, Will county, where he worked as a laborer, being employed mainly as a well digger. He afterward operated rented land near Monee for five years, subsequent to which time he purchased eighty acres of land in Kankakee county, making his home thereon for three years. In 1868 he disposed of that property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Peotone township, Will county, this farm constituting the present home of our subject. He here engaged in general agricultural pursuits for many years, or until the time of his death. Although he was in limited financial circumstances when he took up his abode in the new world, he was a man of good business judgment and practical ideas so that in his farm work he prospered and at the time of his death was in very comfortable circumstances. His family numbered five children, namely: John, who follows farming near Welcome, Minnesota; Fred, who died at the age of forty-one years; Minnie, the deceased wife of Peter Rathmond, a resident of Kankakee county; Mary, the wife of Jacob Geminder, a resident of Jolley, Iowa; and Henry, of this review.

Henry Monk, Jr., was reared to farm life, assisting his father in the operation of the home farm during the period of his boyhood and youth, while in the common schools he acquired his early education, this being supplemented by two years' study in the public schools of Chicago. At the age of twenty-two years he assumed the management of his father's farm, which afterward came into his possession. In addition to his farming interests he was formerly engaged in dealing in real-estate to considerable extent, and this business brought to him very gratifying returns. At the present time he is engaged in loaning money, doing quite an extensive business in this line. In his farm work he has likewise met with gratifying success and has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, while the farm in all its equipments presents a neat and attractive appearance, for he keeps everything in good con-

dition and carries on his work with the latest improved farm machinery.

In 1884 occurred the marriage of Mr. Monk and Miss Amelia Bentien, who was born in Monee, a daughter of William Bentien, a retired farmer of Peotone. After a happy married life of two decades Mrs. Monk was called to her final rest, her death occurring November 30, 1904, at the comparatively early age of thirty-nine years. She was a devoted and constant member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and by her marriage had become the mother of ten children, all of whom are still under the parental roof, these being Ada, Elmer, Jennie, Ella, Amos, Nettie, Arthur, Wallace, Beula and Traverse. The eldest daughter graduated from the Peotone high school, after which she engaged in teaching for two terms but is not acting as her father's housekeeper.

Mr. Monk holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church and gives his political support to the republican party, taking an active interest in local political circles. He has several times been a candidate for public office and for three years served as road commissioner. He has frequently been a delegate to county conventions, and at the last convention acted as assistant secretary. He is identified with the Grange and for many years has been its business manager and purchasing agent. He is a man of excellent business ability and sound judgment and is public-spirited in a marked degree. He and his family are prominent socially, having many warm personal friends in their home locality.

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#### ELIAL S. BRUNSON.

Elial S. Brunson, now practically living retired on the southwest corner of section 23, Du Page township, has spent his entire life in Will county, being the first white child born in West Lockport. His natal day was April 22, 1835, and his parents were Cyrus and Harriett E. (Scudder) Brunson, honored pioneers of this county. The father was born in Roxbury, Connecticut, September 8, 1789, and died on the 16th of September, 1857. He was twice married, his first wife being Susan Maxwell, who was born in New Jer-



MR. AND MRS. E. S. BRUNSON.



sey, October 19, 1788, and died September 2, 1825. By that union there were five children, all born in Barrington, New York, namely: Montraville, who was born July 16, 1817, and died March 3, 1899, in Downers Grove, Illinois; Phoebe L., born April 1, 1819; Cyrus M., April 12, 1821; David H., December 25, 1822; and Susan E., August 16, 1825. For his second wife Cyrus Brunson married Harriett E. Scudder, who was born in New Jersey, January 30, 1810, and died in Du Page township, this county, on the 19th of November, 1892. Four children blessed this union: Elial S., of this review; Marshall N., born April 18, 1838; Clarissa, November 23, 1840; and Harriett A., July 25, 1845. They were all born in Lockport, Illinois.

The father of this family was a soldier of the war of 1812 and at the close of the war held a captain's commission. He also served in the state troops as colonel and finally reached the rank of brigadier general. His father, Thomas Brunson, the grandfather of our subject, fought for the independence of his country in the Revolutionary war, as did also his six brothers, while the maternal grandfather of our subject was a soldier of the war of 1812.

Amid pioneer scenes Elial S. Brunson grew to manhood and throughout his active business career followed farming, meeting with excellent success in his undertakings, so that he is now enabled to lay aside the arduous labors of the farm and enjoy the rest and competence which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He is the owner of two hundred and ten acres of rich and arable land on section 23, Du Page township, where he makes his home, but he now rents his farm, deriving a good income from his share of the products raised.

On the 28th of December, 1859, Mr. Brunson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Alden, who was born in New York state, March 15, 1835, and is the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children, of whom four are still living. She is a direct descendant of John Alden, of Puritan fame. Her father, Simeon Alden, was born in Stafford, Connecticut, July 18, 1800, and died in Du Page county, Illinois, August 30, 1889, while her mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary Campbell, was born in Rome, New York, on the 12th of October, 1807, and died in Du Page county,

on the 25th of July, 1885. In 1846 they brought their family to Illinois and became residents of Chicago, where Mr. Alden worked at his trade of a mechanic until 1853, when he removed to Du Page county. There he bought a quarter section of land and he and his wife continued to reside in that county throughout the remainder of their lives.

From pioneer days down to the present time the Brunson family have been identified with the up-building and development of Will county. On the removal of our subject's parents to this locality they passed only three houses between Chicago and Lockport, so sparsely was the country settled at that time. As an influential and prominent citizen of the community, Mr. Brunson has been called upon to serve in a number of official positions, being justice of the peace for twelve years, school treasurer for eight years and school director for a number of years. He has also been a member of the board of auditors and in 1900 was elected township supervisors, in which capacity he served for two years. The duties of these offices he most capably discharged and no trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order.

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#### BERNARD TIERNEY.

Bernard Tierney, who follows farming on section 19, Troy township, was born on the 5th of December, 1849, in Franklin county, New York, and is a son of Patrick and Ann (McPhillips) Tierney, both of whom were natives of Ireland. In 1850 the father brought his family to Will county, Illinois, and located in Troy township, where he followed farming for many years. He was one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community and acceptably served as justice of the peace in Troy township for five years. He died on the 23d of June, 1904, at the age of eighty-six years and four months, having survived his wife many years, as her death occurred September 6, 1883, when she was fifty-one years of age. Both held membership in St. Mary's Catholic church of Minooka.

In the family of this worthy couple were seven children, of whom Bernard is the eldest. Eugene

died at the age of thirty-five years, and his widow passed away fourteen years later, leaving two children, James and Henry. Rosie Ann is the wife of William O'Brien, of Seneca, Illinois. Elizabeth is the widow of Patrick Murphy. Charles is a resident of Ransom, Illinois. John died at the age of thirty-six years, and Edward died at the age of twenty-one years.

During his boyhood and youth Bernard Tierney pursued his studies in the district schools and early became familiar with the work of the farm, devoting his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits since attaining his majority. He now owns a good farm of seventy-four acres, upon which he has made many useful and valuable improvements, which stand as monuments to his thrift and industry.

On the 13th of June, 1889, Mr. Tierney was united in marriage to Miss Mary Becker, whose parents were John and Katharine (Outt) Becker, natives of Germany. They now have two children: Charles, born January 6, 1892, and Eveline, born August 14, 1898. The family are communicants of St. Mary's Catholic church of Minooka, and politically Mr. Tierney is identified with the democratic party. He has served one term as assessor of Troy township and three years as highway commissioner, and is one of the respected citizens of his community.

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#### WILLIAM E. DEAN.

William E. Dean is proprietor of a music house at Joliet, which bears an excellent reputation throughout the county and this part of the state. Mr. Dean has become widely recognized as a leading merchant of the city and as one whose success is well merited because it has been attained through honorable, straightforward methods and untiring industry.

A native of New York, he was born in Amsterdam, Montgomery county, on January 11, 1855. His parents were Jehiel and Elizabeth A. Dean, who resided on a farm during the early boyhood of their son William. They afterward removed to Illinois and he completed his education, which was begun in the schools of New York state, at Marengo and Union, Illinois. He en-

tered business life as a book agent and followed that pursuit with considerable success for six months, when on the 2d of August, 1876, he started a piano business at Belvidere, Illinois, and a year later established a similar business at Marengo, Illinois. There he remained for about five years, and in 1882 went to Freeport, Illinois, where he conducted a music house until October, 1885. He then became general agent for Estey & Camp, filling that position until October, 1889, when he was appointed special agent for Kimball & Company, with whom he remained for more than a year. He next took the general agency for the Manufacturers Piano Company, filling that position from October, 1890, until April, 1895. He was next general agent for Hallett & Davis, from March, 1895, until July, 1896.

At this period Mr. Dean decided on opening a music house in Joliet on his own account, believing that such a venture would prove profitable, for he had thoroughly investigated the trade conditions of that district. Time has proven the wisdom of his judgment in this regard. The Dean music house has established a reputation that makes it well known not only throughout Will county, but in adjoining counties as well. Mr. Dean carries an excellent line of musical goods of all descriptions and in his store may be purchased anything from a piano or organ to a jew's harp or a sheet of music. His methods are very reliable and he carries only first class goods. It is known that he never misrepresents anything which he has on sale and his long connection with the music trade well qualifies him to supply the public demand.

On the 27th of May, 1879, Mr. Dean was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Lucas and unto them have been born a daughter and two sons. The daughter, Mabel A., is now completing her education in Olivet College in Michigan, while the sons, Louis and Francis, are assisting their father in business. Mr. Dean is a deacon of the Eastern Avenue Baptist church and for six years has been superintendent of the Rockdale Sunday-school. He is deeply and actively interested in church work and his labors have been an element in the growth of the church and the extension of its influence. He votes with the republican party where national issues and questions are involved, but at local elections casts an independent ballot.



He has never sought or desired political preferment, but is widely recognized as a man of generous public spirit and as a co-operant factor in many measures for the public good.

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### JOHN KOLSTEDT.

No history of the business and financial development of Monee would be complete without mention of John Kolstedt, president of the Eastern Will County State Bank and a dealer in lumber and coal. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, May 22, 1836. His father, Henry Kolstedt, was also a native of that locality. He came to the United States with his wife and five sons, the boys locating at Bloomingdale, Du Page county, and the parents making their home with their sons, who followed the occupation of farming. The death of the father occurred when he had reached the age of eighty-four years. His family numbered five sons: George W., who is now a retired farmer of Cook county, Illinois; Charles, a retired farmer of Monee; John; Henry, of Monee township; and William, who lives near Storm Lake in Buena Vista county, Iowa.

John Kolstedt was one who came with his parents to the United States and lived in Du Page county until 1869, when he and his brothers removed to Monee township, Will county, bringing their parents with them. They purchased land of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and Mr. Kolstedt of this review continued to engage actively in farming until 1874, when he came to Monee. For four years thereafter he continued to engage in farming but in 1874 withdrew entirely from agricultural life and established a lumber and coal business, in which he is still engaged. From the beginning this enterprise has proved profitable and the patronage is now extensive. In 1903, in connection with others, Mr. Kolstedt organized the Eastern Will County State Bank and from the beginning has been its president. It was capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars and now has a surplus of five thousand dollars. It has proven a valuable institution in the commercial circles of Monee and Mr. Kolstedt is recognized as one of the leading business men here.

In 1861 occurred the marriage of John Kolstedt and Miss Helen Ress, who was born in Germany in 1840 and came to the United States in 1856 with her sister, locating at Bloomingdale, where she was married. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kolstedt have been born ten children.

The parents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and for many years Mr. Kolstedt has taken a very active part in the work of the church and was one of the organizers of St. Paul's church in Monee. He has contributed most liberally to its support and done all in his power for its growth and development. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He is a charter member of the local organization of the latter at Monee and has filled all the chairs in both fraternities. In politics he is a republican, recognized as one of the strong and stalwart leaders of the party in Will county. He was, with the exception of one or two brief periods, supervisor of Monee township for sixteen years, was school director for many years and has been a member of the lower house of the state legislature for two terms. While in the general assembly he gave careful consideration to each question which came up for settlement bearing upon the welfare of the state at large or his constituents and in his legislative career manifested a spirit of devotion to the public good most commendable. When he came to the county he had but little capital. Today he is one of the most prosperous and wealthy residents of Monee township and, moreover, is held in the highest esteem because his life has ever been characterized by sterling principles of manhood, by business activity and integrity and by public-spirited citizenship.

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### SAMUEL ROSE.

Samuel Rose, engaged in the practice of law and in the conduct of a real-estate and insurance business at Crete, was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in October, 1845, and is the second in a family of four children whose parents are John and Mary (Ormsby) Rose, both natives of County Carlow. The father was a man of education and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. Coming

to the United States in 1850, he located in Washington township, where he bought a soldier's warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land, locating the same on section 3, Washington township. There he spent his remaining days and prospered in his business undertakings. He held membership in the Episcopal church and gave his political allegiance to the republican party, which organization elected him to the position of highway commissioner. He died, however, in 1858 at the comparatively early age of thirty-eight years, while his wife survived until 1877 and passed away at the age of sixty-five. She, too, held membership in the Episcopal church. Their four children were Beecham, now deceased; Samuel; Charlotte M., who has passed away; and John A., of Chicago, who is general attorney for the Chicago Union Traction Company.

Samuel Rose, brought to the United States when a youth of five years, acquired a district-school education and through the periods of vacation and after putting aside his text-books assisted upon the home farm until 1874. Thinking to find commercial pursuits more congenial, he then removed to Beecher, where he conducted a general mercantile store and also engaged in dealing in baled hay for six years. He then returned to the old homestead, where he remained until the fall of 1893, when he took up his residence in Crete. In 1876 he began reading law and by diligent study became proficient as a representative of the bar, although never having been admitted to the bar. Locating in Crete, he established an office and has since engaged in practice in connection with the conduct of a real-estate and loan business, meeting with more than ordinary success in these lines.

Mr. Rose has been twice married. On the 8th of January, 1877, he wedded Abbie White, who was born in Champaign county, Illinois, and died July 14, 1896, at the age of forty-six years. They had two children: Everil E., now deceased; and Blanche E. For his second wife Mr. Rose chose Annette J. Hewes, the widow of Benjamin F. Hewes and a daughter of Zebediah Dewey, cousin of Admiral George Dewey. She was born in June, 1845, and in 1857 accompanied her parents on their removal from the state of New York to Will county, Illinois, the family home being established in Washington township. She is a member of

the Methodist Episcopal church and on the 8th of September, 1891, she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Rose.

Of the Masonic fraternity Mr. Rose is an exemplary representative and both he and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star. He is unfaltering in his advocacy of the republican party and upon its ticket has been elected to various local offices, capably serving as justice of the peace for eight years, as trustee of the schools for thirty years and as a member of the village board of health. His aid has been an essential factor in the conduct of various interests which have been beneficial to the village and he is widely known as a public-spirited citizen. His friends, too, are many, owing to a social, genial nature which prompts on his part a kindly interest in his fellowmen and thus his life is an exemplification of the utterance of Emerson that "the way to win a friend is to be one."

#### JUDGE GEORGE J. COWING.

George J. Cowing, recently elected county judge of Will county, has been successfully engaged in the practice of law in Joliet for over twenty years. He was born on the 25th of March, 1859, in Peotone township, this county, and is a son of the late John C. Cowing, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. The judge acquired his early education in the public schools and continued his studies under private instruction for a time. Between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one years he engaged in teaching in the district schools and with the money thus earned he began a course of study in the Northwestern University in 1880, but his incessant labor had impaired his health and he was obliged to temporarily discontinue his collegiate work. He went to Colorado in the spring of 1881 and spent fifteen months in that state, returning in time to enter the law department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor in the summer of 1882. He there pursued the regular course and was graduated in 1884, one of his classmates being Hon. Richard Yates, afterward republican governor of Illinois.



GEORGE J. COWING.



Again Judge Cowing found it necessary to spend several months in recuperating his health, which had once more become impaired by reason of his close and unrelaxing attention to his studies. He finally entered into practice at Joliet in connection with the firm of Olin & Phelps, but a year and a half later he opened an office of his own at No. 317 Jefferson street. It was not long afterward that he formed a partnership with Colonel J. B. Fithian, under the firm name of Fithian & Cowing, and they were soon at the head of a large and growing practice, both being men of recognized ability in their chosen profession. This partnership was dissolved in 1889 and Judge Cowing became connected with the Hon. Benjamin Olin, the partnership being maintained until the latter's election to the office of county judge. Judge Cowing next formed a partnership with George W. Young in 1892 and continued in active practice until his election to the bench, on the 6th of November, 1906. He was the candidate of the republican party and received a large majority. In the practice of law Judge Cowing demonstrated his ability to successfully cope with intricate and complex legal problems. He has trained his mind in a severe school of reasoning and analysis, is logical in his deductions and clear and accurate in his conclusions. With precision he marshals all of the forces bearing upon his case and yet never fails to recognize and give due prominence to the most important points in his case—that upon which the decision finally turns.

In 1890 was celebrated the marriage of Judge Cowing and Miss Stella Titsworth, a daughter of H. M. Titsworth, of Aurora, Illinois. Unto them have been born four children: Luella A., Glenn L., John C. and G. Jessemen. The parents are members of the Richards Street Methodist Episcopal church, of which the Judge is a trustee. He belongs to Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Paul Revere lodge, No. 371, K. P.; and Mound City camp, M. W. A. In all of these organizations he is popular because of his devotion to their principles and his exemplification of their purposes in life. The profession which he has chosen as a life work finds in him a devoted follower and one who takes deep interest in the science of the law as well as in its practice as applied to litigated interests of the day. He is

constantly broadening his mind by reading and investigating and he is well qualified to fill the office to which he has been chosen.

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#### WILLIAM C. GRANT.

William C. Grant, who makes his home in Elwood, has spent his entire life in Will county, being born at Reed's Grove, December 5, 1839. His father, John Grant, was a native of Scotland, born March 12, 1816, and came to America in early life. In 1838 he married Miss Rosannah Lamping, whose birth occurred in New York state on the 18th of February, 1821, and the same year of their marriage they located in Will county, Illinois, where Mrs. Grant died April 16, 1843. Our subject is one of two children born of this union. His sister, Isabella, died November 26, 1842. The father was again married in March, 1844, his second wife being Mrs. Adeline Kelley, by whom he had four children: John A. and James M., both residents of Joliet; Mrs. Margaret Bush, of Elwood; and Mary, who died in September, 1854. The father died on the 12th of September, 1854.

William C. Grant was reared and educated in this county and remained on the home farm until the spring of 1866, when he entered mercantile business in Elwood and followed that occupation for a number of years. At the present time he is a salesman for the Yorkville Drug Company, of Yorkville, Will county, and also acts as a substitute mail carrier on the rural service.

On the 18th of April, 1861, Mr. Grant married Miss Rhoda Bridges, of Steuben county, New York, who died January 21, 1904, and he was again married July 27, 1905, his second union being with Harriet A. Bridge, who was also born in Steuben county, New York, in October, 1842. There are no children by either marriage.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Grant affiliated with the republican party and continued to vote that ticket until ten years ago, since which time he has supported the prohibition party, being a strong temperance man. Religiously he is an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Since 1877 he has filled the office of justice of the peace and his decisions



have always been fair and impartial. For forty years he has made his home continuously in Elwood and no man in the community is more widely or favorably known.

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#### JAMES MILTON THOMPSON.

Professor J. M. Thompson, who has been a successful director of music in the city of Joliet for fifteen years and whose labors in this art have done much to establish a high standard in musical taste in that city, received his training under some of the ablest musical artists of the country. He was born in Townsend, Ontario, Canada. His father, Henry Thompson, was a native of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and came to America in his twenty-first year, engaging in the occupation of farming as his life work. Five years later Ursula Sinclair, a native of Shetland, became his wife. They were blessed with prosperity and were ranked among the foremost agriculturists of the province. Their beautiful old home, a splendid stone building, is among the best to be found in the township in which it is located. As has been intimated, the family is of Scotch lineage. The grandfather of Professor Thompson was a sturdy Scotchman who for years was manager on the estates of Lord Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire. The maternal grandfather was a notable character and served as an officer and ship captain.

Professor Thompson acquired his early education in the common schools of Townsend, Canada, and afterward pursued a preparatory and business course at Woodstock College in Ontario, Canada, in 1884-5. In the year 1886 he entered Hillsdale College in southern Michigan, giving his attention largely to the study of music and literature. He was a prominent member of the literary society of the college, and his chalk talks in rhyme were among its most interesting features, given from time to time on its programmes. In the Theadelpic Manuel of the college, Mr. Thompson is recorded as a prize winner in an oratorical contest. While music claimed the greater part of his time and attention, his literary work enabled him to become a most successful teacher and business manager. It is said that a successful musician is never an able business man, but the life record of

Professor Thompson disproves this statement. While in college he made rapid advancement in his art and was one of the foremost choir leaders in the college city. He was also assistant to local teachers in the conservatory during 1890-1. For five years he was untiringly devoted to his work and was graduated in June, 1901, from the conservatory of music.

Immediately after leaving college, Professor Thompson began the study of methods of teaching music in the public schools, as a student in the National Music School under Dr. Luther Whiting Mason, a distinguished instructor whom the empire of Japan engaged from Boston at an enormous salary for a term of five years to vitalize the musical interests of the empire, less than twenty years ago. Dr. Mason took his staff of teachers from Boston to Detroit for the summer seasons, and thus Professor Thompson had the benefit of instruction from that distinguished teacher. In the autumn of 1891 he went to Chicago and continued the study of voice and singing with J. Harry Wheeler at the Auditorium. School music was fast finding its way into the middle west and while in Chicago Professor Thompson thoughtfully considered the matter of locating in Keokuk, Iowa, or in Joliet, Illinois, hoping to become musical instructor in the public schools of those cities. At length he determined upon Joliet. While music did not become a department in the Joliet schools until September, 1892, Mr. Thompson was encouraged to locate in that city in the beginning of the year and do studio work. Accordingly he established his studio in January and the outlook was most promising and gratifying. Since that time he has figured prominently in musical circles in Will county. There are no institutions in Joliet in which the citizens take so deep an interest or feel so just a pride as they do in their public schools, and especially in the music department under Professor Thompson, in which most excellent results have been attained. His methods of procedure are along definite educational lines. Through the constant changes in the teaching forces of the public schools, he has kept the music department on a high plane and the fundamental conception of mental and vocal bearing of Joliet voices can be traced to the school work. His eminent qualifications recognized by the highest authorities, are

not more appreciated than his intelligent and conscientious zeal in the performance of his duties and which is manifested by the esteem and respect entertained for him by both teachers and pupils, not only in the public schools but in the Joliet Conservatory of Music as well.

Soon after locating in Joliet Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Annie M. Clouse, who was also reared in the province of Ontario, Canada, and belonged to a well known family there. She was a student in the college which her husband attended, and with him shares in the great love of music which is always one of the attractive features of their home. Four sons and two daughters have come to bless their union: Cyril C., Milo M., Harold H., Jennie Marie, Vera Darling and William Leslie. Professor Thompson's home and its surroundings are not only evidence of good taste, but of wise judgment and foresight in providing for his family. There is no more beautiful location in Will county than Hillsdale Place, which stands on an eminence on Washington street, commanding a most excellent view of Higginbotham's and East Side parks, Oakwood and Mt. Olivet cemeteries, as well as the beautiful valley and woods that border Hickory creek.

In addition to his accomplishments in art lines, Professor Thompson is an expert farmer and landscape gardener and his leisure hours are preferably employed in cultivating and beautifying the nine acres of excellent land which he purchased and in the midst of which stands his comfortable and modern residence. In this he has the co-operation of his sons, who are benefiting by the training thus received. In public regard Professor Thompson occupies an enviable position and his circle of friends is almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

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#### REV. FATHER PETER O'DWYER.

Rev. Father Peter O'Dwyer, in charge of the Catholic church at Wilmington since October, 1905, was born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland, June 29, 1863, his parents being Thomas and Catherine (Doyle) O'Dwyer, both of whom were natives of County Tipperary. Father O'Dwyer of this review was the fifth son of the

family and attended Mount Melleray Seminary, in Waterford county, Ireland. He afterward became a student in All Hallows College, from which he was graduated in 1888, and then came to the United States to enter upon the active work of the priesthood, being appointed to St. Mary's parish in Chicago. In 1894 he was appointed to St. Rose of Lima parish, where he remained until 1898, when he was transferred to the Sacred Heart church in Joliet, continuing there until 1900. He afterward became pastor of St. Patrick's church at Lemont, where he continued for five years, and in October, 1905, was assigned to his present charge by the Most Rev. James Quigley, archbishop of the Chicago diocese. Liberal education, conscientious purpose and consecrated zeal well qualified him for the holy calling and under his guidance the different churches with which he has been connected have made steady and substantial progress.

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#### GEORGE HENRY EICHENLAUB.

George Henry Eichenlaub, traveling agent for the Continental Bridge Company, his home being in Peotone, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, in 1851. His father, Michael Eichenlaub, was also a native of that province, where he spent his entire life, following the occupation of farming. He married Elizabeth Werner and died in Germany in March, 1904, at the age of seventy-three years, while his wife is still living there at the age of seventy-six. They were members of the Confirmed Lutheran church.

George H. Eichenlaub was reared in his native village to the age of fourteen years and attended the public schools from the age of six. The favorable reports which he heard concerning America and its business advantages awakened in him the desire to try his fortune in the new world, and accordingly, when fourteen years of age, he started out in life on his own account, crossing the Atlantic to America. He made his way to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and for six months lived with an uncle. He then came to Peotone township, Will county, Illinois, and worked on a farm for his uncle, George Eichenlaub, being employed by the month for three years, but desiring that

his labors should more directly benefit himself he rented a farm. Subsequently he did contract road work, at the same time managing his farming operations. In 1868 he came to the village of Peotone, where he has since lived. In 1905 he built a beautiful concrete residence of the nibble stone order. He is now traveling agent for the Continental Bridge Company, having works at Peotone, with main offices at Chicago.

Mr. Eichenlaub was married in 1878 to Miss Nettie Morrison, a daughter of Alton Morrison. She died in 1893 at the age of forty-five years, and Mr. Eichenlaub has since wedded Laura Washburn, who was born in Union county, Ohio, in 1860, and is a daughter of Oliver and Hannah (Danforth) Washburn, the former a farmer by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Eichenlaub have three daughters. The parents attend the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Eichenlaub is also identified with the Masons and the Odd Fellows, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. His life has been characterized by unflinching diligence and perseverance, by laudable ambition and firm determination, and although he came to the new world empty-handed he has made steady progress and is now comfortably situated in life.

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#### ALBERT T. RANDALL.

Business circles of Channahon find a worthy representative in Albert T. Randall, a well known merchant who is dealing in dry goods and groceries, and his methods are such as insure him a liberal patronage. June 7, 1837, was the date of his birth and the place of his nativity was Brecksville, Ohio. In the paternal line he is descended from English ancestors who crossed the Atlantic about 1640, while the Russell family, from which he is descended in the maternal line, was established in America about 1660. The Randall family was represented in the Revolutionary war and also in the war of 1812, while Albert T. Randall and two of his brothers were valiant soldiers of the Civil war. Thus the family has an excellent military record.

John T. Randall, father of our subject, was a native of New England. He lived with his par-

ents in Vermont until ten years of age, when the family removed to the state of New York, where he resided until 1835. In that year he went to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Beulah S. Russell, continuing a resident of Ohio until 1839, when he returned to his old home in New York. There he resided until 1849, which year witnessed his arrival in Will county, Illinois. He was one of its early settlers and took up his abode in Troy township, where he lived for five years, when he removed to Channahon township, where he continued to reside until called to his final rest on the 30th of November, 1882. He was born in Orleans county, Vermont, August 2, 1815, and was therefore sixty-seven years of age at the time of his demise. His wife, who was born in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, April 24, 1815, and whom he wedded in Ohio, September 4, 1836, survived him for about nine years, passing away September 16, 1891. They were the parents of six children, of whom Albert T. is the eldest. The others are: Oscar Randall, now deceased; Gresham A. Randall, who is living in Elkhart, Indiana; Laura A., who has passed away; Mrs. Mary A. Warren, who resides at No. 6347 Drexel boulevard, Chicago; and Joseph R., also deceased.

Albert T. Randall was educated in the public schools. He accompanied his parents on their various removals through the period of his minority and when twenty-one years of age went to Wisconsin, where he lived with an uncle for two years. He then returned to his father's home, but continued there for only two months, for at the outbreak of the gold fever in Colorado he made his way to Pike's Peak, hoping to rapidly realize a fortune in the mines of that district. He remained there for seven years and it was while in Colorado that he espoused the Union cause and joined the army, enlisting on the 9th of September, 1861. He was assigned to duty with Company H, First Colorado Infantry, and served until after the close of the war, when he was mustered out and honorably discharged December 14, 1865.

Mr. Randall was married April 30, 1863, to Miss Annie Tollard, who was the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children, her parents being Henry and Rachel Tollard. Three of this number are yet living, two brothers, Thomas and William Tollard, being residents of St. Joseph,

Missouri. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Randall have been born three children: Mrs. Maud Weese, whose birth occurred August 22, 1866, and who is now living in Joliet; John T., who was born December 18, 1870, and is living in Mannsville, Indian Territory; and Mrs. Laura A. Chase, who was born September 16, 1872, and is now living in Quincy, Illinois.

After the close of the war Mr. Randall returned to Channahon township and was engaged in farming until 1890, when he turned his attention to merchandising, establishing a dry-goods and grocery store in the village of Channahon. He has since conducted this enterprise, with the exception of one year spent in St. Joseph, Missouri, and with the exception of that period has continuously been a resident of Channahon township since the close of the war. He owns eighty acres of rich and productive land on sections 17 and 18 and he has in the village a well stocked store, carrying a carefully selected line of goods which brings to him a liberal patronage. He supports the republican party and has been supervisor, collector, assessor and justice of the peace, remaining almost continuously in public office for a number of years. In the discharge of his duties he is ever prompt and faithful and is a most public-spirited citizen. Local progress and national advancement are causes both dear to his heart and in days of peace he is as true and loyal to his country as when he followed the nation's starry banner on the battle-fields of the south.

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#### CHARLES DE MERITT.

Charles De Meritt is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated near the village of Plainfield, on section 9, Plainfield township. He now rents his land, while he is practically living retired, merely giving supervision to his farming operations, although he still retains his residence on his farm property. He is a native son of Will county, born in Channahon township, in January, 1840. His parents were Harry and Emily S. (Knapp) De Meritt, the latter a sister of Dr. Knapp, of Channahon township and a representative of one of the pioneer families of Will county, for the Knapps located

here as early as 1834. Harry De Meritt located in Will county about 1835, at which time he settled in Channahon township, where he purchased land from the government. Some years later he removed to Wisconsin, where his death occurred many years ago. His widow afterward married Myron Pierson, while for her third husband she married Lyman Foster, who was likewise one of the earliest settlers of Plainfield. The mother has also passed away, her death occurring about five years ago, when she had reached the age of eighty-four years.

Charles De Meritt is one of a family of four children born of his father's marriage and is the only one now living, but he has a half-sister, Mrs. C. D. Daly, who resides in Aurora, Illinois. Mr. De Meritt was brought to Plainfield by his mother when a little lad of seven years. He was here reared and educated, and at the age of twenty-four years engaged in farming pursuits, in which he met with very gratifying success. He is today the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres lying near the village of Plainfield, so that while enjoying the quiet and comforts of a rural existence he also has the advantages and conveniences afforded by the village. He is now leasing his land, but he still retains his residence on the farm, giving personal supervision to his business interests.

Mr. De Meritt was married at Plainfield to Miss Elizabeth Mottinger, who was brought from Ohio, her native state, to Will county when a little maiden of three years, so that she was practically reared in this state. She is an estimable lady, possessing a kindly disposition and cordial manner, and celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of her birth in January, 1907. Her father, George Mottinger, passed away some twenty years ago. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. De Meritt has been blessed with three sons: Charles, Jr., a resident farmer of Plainfield township, who is married and has three children: William A., who is married and resides with his father; and Ralph H., a farmer of Plainfield township, who is married and has two sons.

Mr. De Meritt is independent in his political views, but leans toward democracy. He, however, supports men and measures rather than party. His second son votes with the democratic party, while the eldest and the youngest sons



adhere to republican principles. Mr. De Meritt was through a long period identified with agricultural interests and the rest which he is now enjoying is well merited, for it has come to him as the direct result of his own labors, his close application and his careful business management.

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### HERBERT A. GODFREY.

Herbert A. Godfrey is one of the extensive land-owners of the county, now living retired from business cares save for the supervision which he gives to his invested interests. He is a man of excellent business ability, of genuine personal worth and of strong and admirable traits of character, and well deserves mention in this volume as one of the leading residents of Will county.

A native son of the county, he was born in DuPage township in 1859. His father, Austin Godfrey, who for a long period was a leading farmer and dairyman of Lockport and DuPage townships, was born in Erie county, New York, August 31, 1822. His father, Henry Godfrey, was a native of Vermont and when only three years of age was left an orphan. His advantages in youth were few but he nevertheless became a man of fine character and excellent standing. Settling in Erie county, New York, he took up a tract of timber land about twenty-five miles from Buffalo and brought it under a high state of cultivation. He was in Buffalo at the time the city was burned during the war of 1812, serving as a quartermaster in the army. While living in New York he married Candace Warren and unto them were born four sons and two daughters, of whom Austin was the youngest. Mrs. Godfrey was a daughter of Jabez and Hannah (Sumner) Warren, the latter of an old family prominent in the Revolutionary war. Jabez Warren's mother married a second time and her husband, who was an Englishman and a loyalist, prayed daily for the success of King George. This was more than the patriotic spirit of young Jabez could brook and at the age of sixteen he ran away from home, enlisting in the colonial army and participating in many of the hotly contested battles of the war. He finally settled in Vermont,

where he reared his family, and afterward removed to Aurora, Erie county, New York.

On the 1st of October, 1833, Henry Godfrey removed with his family to Will county, Illinois, Austin Godfrey being then a lad of eleven years. The father and his eldest son each secured one hundred and sixty acres of land in what is now DuPage township. When Austin was fourteen the land was divided and he and his brother next in age conducted what was known as the Godfrey farm on the stage line between Chicago and Ottawa. They also had charge of the tavern and stage horses, and they continued in business together until the property was divided when Austin Godfrey was twenty-five years of age. He continued upon the old homestead and there carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1874, when he removed to Joliet for the purpose of providing his children with better educational advantages. After two years, however, he resumed the management of the farm and in 1886 he bought two hundred and forty-seven acres comprising the old Hawley farm. At different times he purchased other farm lands, which he rented. In his later years his attention was given more especially to the dairy business, in which he was very successful. On his home place he kept many head of cows of the Holstein breed and his business grew and developed, winning him a goodly measure of prosperity.

In politics Austin Godfrey was always a stalwart republican and was recognized as a local leader in his party. He served as supervisor, highway commissioner, school director and trustee, filling each office with the intelligence and energy noticeable in the conduct of his private affairs. By his first wife, Lavinia Warren, Mr. Godfrey had two children, of whom one is living: Emma A., now the wife of George W. Potter of Joliet. After losing his first wife Mr. Godfrey married Miss Lucy Denton, who was born in Henryville, Canada, December 3, 1837, a daughter of Captain John and Sylvia (Harrington) Denton. The latter's mother was a sister of Rev. Hosea Ballou, the noted Universalist divine, who was of French-Huguenot descent. Her grandfather was state surveyor in Vermont and belonged to a noted family, in which were many professional men. Captain John Denton, who was a son of William Denton, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Massachusetts and became an exhorter and local preacher in the







AUSTIN GODFREY.



MRS. AUSTIN GODFREY.



Methodist church. He spent many years in Canada, during which time he took part in the Canadian war of 1837 as a captain in the British army. From Canada he removed to DuPage county, Illinois, in 1847 and settled on a farm near Naperville, where he died two years afterward at the age of sixty. His wife, a native of Vermont, and a member of an old and influential family of that state, died in Lockport when almost eighty-two years of age. When Mrs. Austin Godfrey was nine years of age she accompanied her parents on their removal to DuPage county, Illinois, in 1847, and has since spent much of her time in Will county. In early life she taught school for three years. In religious faith she is a Congregationist. Mr. Godfrey, who was a most respected and worthy citizen, passed away July 26, 1900, and his widow is now living in Lockport. Their children were: Herbert A., of this review; Howard, deceased; Daisy C., the wife of Arthur Jones, a resident of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Carrie, the wife of William Monroe, also of Fort Smith; Arthur M., who resides in Lockport township; and Guy R. and Roy S., who are also residents of Lockport township.

Herbert A. Godfrey, spending his boyhood days in his parents' home, acquired his early education in the public schools, was afterward a student in Joliet for two years and later continued his education at Normal, Illinois. He was early trained to the work of the home farm and continued to assist in its development until twenty-eight years of age and eventually became the owner of a part of this property. Following his marriage he began farming the home place on his own account, being busily engaged in improving the farm, which comprises seven hundred acres of valuable land. In 1891 he left the old homestead and engaged in the dairy business for two years at Joliet, but later moved to his present home just south of Lockport on the electric car line from Joliet. Here he has a beautiful residence and thirty-four acres of ground. He likewise has one house and lot in Joliet and two hundred and forty acres of land in Iroquois county in addition to his interest in the old home place.

In 1886 Mr. Godfrey was married to Miss Henrietta L. Lang, who was born in La Salle county in 1862, a daughter of Webster and Phiania Lang. The father was a native of New Jersey. His first wife was Paulina Halsted and his second wife

Phoebe Mosher, while the mother of Mrs. Godfrey was the third wife. They were married in New York state and came to Illinois in 1853. By each of his three wives Mr. Lang had first a son and then a daughter and all six of these children are now living, but one daughter by his last wife died in infancy. On removing to the west he located in La Salle county, where he followed farming for many years and then lived retired until his death, which occurred in Marseilles, Illinois, in 1876, his widow surviving him until 1884. They were members of the Society of Friends and in political faith Mr. Lang was a republican. Their three children were: Lucinda, deceased; Charles W., who was born in the state of New York in 1852 and owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Benton county, Indiana; and Mrs. Godfrey. Unto our subject and his wife have been born a daughter and son: Charles Herbert, who was born in December, 1886, and died in 1887; and Irene, who was born May 24, 1892.

Mr. Godfrey is a republican with independent tendencies. He has displayed in his life work unfaltering energy and perseverance and for a long period was classed with the most prominent and representative farmers of the county. He is well meriting the rest which he now enjoys, for he displayed excellent business qualifications and in all of his dealings was strictly reliable. He is today numbered among the wealthy residents of Lockport township and is most pleasantly situated in a beautiful home in the midst of a fine park upon a hill overlooking the canal and commanding a splendid view of the surrounding country.

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#### PATRICK M. RIELLY.

Patrick M. Rielly, foreman of the pattern and carpenter shops and foundry of the Illinois Steel Company, at Joliet, was born in Reed township, Will county, in 1863. His father was a native of Ireland and came to America in 1846, crossing the Atlantic to New York, whence he made his way to Will county, where the Chicago & Alton railroad was then being built. He took a contract to furnish wood for the road and settled in Reed township, where he spent his remaining days, his death there occurring in 1876. His



wife, who bore the maiden name of Nora Mahar, was born in Ireland.

Patrick M. Rielly acquired his education in the common schools and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. For seven years he engaged in farming in Kankakee county, but, thinking to find other pursuits more congenial, he afterward worked at the carpenter's trade in Streator, Illinois, and subsequently became patternmaker with the Santa Fe Railroad Company. There he won promotion in recognition of his ability and was foreman for the coach and carpenter shop at Fort Madison, Iowa, for six years. From that place he came to Joliet to accept a position as journeyman patternmaker with the Illinois Steel Company and has since been a representative of this corporation. Gradually he worked his way upward and has been foreman of the pattern and carpenter shops and foundry for five years. They make all patterns and machinery and furnace castings of iron, steel and brass, employing one hundred and twenty-three men in the foundry and forty-six men in the carpenter shop, in connection with which the employees of this department do all kinds of rough outside work and finishing work for all the buildings. From practical experience Mr. Rielly is well qualified to direct the labors of those who serve under him and is giving excellent satisfaction in his present position.

Mr. Rielly was married in Streator, in 1891, to Miss Anna G. Radigan, who was born in La Salle. They now have two sons, Arthur P. and Arnold D. Mr. Rielly and the family are communicants of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Modern Woodmen camp. As the years have gone by he has continuously promoted his efficiency in a business way and is a most trusted and capable employe of the corporation which he now represents.

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#### LAFAYETTE MARTIN.

Lafayette Martin was a retired farmer and stock-raiser living in Wilmington at the time of his death, which occurred December 18, 1906. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York,

November 19, 1824, and was a son of Nathaniel and Rhoda (Perry) Martin. The father was born in Hampton, Connecticut, in 1790, and died at the age of eighty-seven years in Hampton, Minnesota, while his wife, whose birth occurred in Putney, Vermont, in 1792, passed away in Hampton, Minnesota, at the age of eighty years. They were married in her native city and in 1844 came to the middle west with their family, traveling by wagon and later by canal to Buffalo and by boat to Chicago. Mr. Martin located at Schaumburg, Cook county, near where Palatine now stands and purchased eighty acres of government land. Later he bought forty acres more and upon his farm erected a frame dwelling, in which he lived for about eight years. He then sold the farm and removed to Waukegan, Illinois, where he lived for about ten years, when he removed to Minnesota, where he spent his remaining days. He was justice of the peace in New York state for a number of years and also held several township offices in Schaumburg. Both he and his wife were members of the Congregational church in the Empire state and in early life Mr. Martin gave his political allegiance to the democratic party, being an adherent of Jeffersonian principles, but in later life he became a republican. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Martin were born eight children, five sons and three daughters, of whom three are now livings: Albert P., a resident of Hampton, Minnesota; Porter, who resides at Farmington, Minnesota; and Rhoda, the wife of Oliver Gibbs of Prescott, Minnesota.

Lafayette Martin spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the Empire state and when twenty years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to the middle west. He engaged in farming in Wesley township, Will county, Illinois, for two or three years, after which he purchased government land in Rockville township, Kankakee county, securing one hundred and sixty acres with a soldier's land warrant. In 1859 he took up his abode upon that place and subsequently he purchased land from time to time until he had two hundred and eighty acres. At different times he bought and sold farms and in 1888 he removed to Plainfield, where he resided for a year, after which he went to Wilmington, where he resided until his death. While living on the farm he bred Poland China hogs and Hereford cattle. He kept

from twenty to thirty cows and did a good dairy business. He also carried on general farming and stock-raising and his business interests were so carefully managed and his investments so judiciously made that as the years passed he acquired a handsome competence that enabled him to live retired.

On the 30th of April, 1856, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Frazer, who was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, December 5, 1834, and died in 1906. She was a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Kelley) Frazer, natives of Virginia. Her father came to Illinois in 1834 and cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Vermilion county, while later he removed to Will county, taking up his abode in Wesley township, where he lived until the death of his wife. He then took up his abode in the village of Wilmington, where he passed away in 1872. In their family were four daughters: Mrs. Martin, Sarah, Elizabeth and Martha. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Martin were born four children, of whom two are now living: Ralph, a resident of Joliet; and Mrs. Clara B. Armstrong, of Chicago.

Mr. Martin served as school trustee for a number of years while living in Kankakee county and was also a newspaper correspondent there, writing considerably for different papers. The greater part of his life, however, was devoted to general agricultural pursuits and at length he was able to enjoy a well earned rest. He passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey, and his activity in former years brought to him a handsome competence that enabled him to spend the evening of his days in comfort and ease.

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#### ROBERT HOLMES.

Robert Holmes, one of the well known citizens of Joliet, is treasurer of the board of highway commissioners of Joliet township and the city suburbs. He has been a member of the board since April, 1904, in which connection he has done capable service. He is also proprietor of a restaurant at No. 1814 Collins street and, wide-awake, alert and energetic, is making steady advancement in the world. A native of Ireland, he was born near Belfast in 1865 and in 1884, when about nineteen

years of age, crossed the Atlantic to America. He spent two years in New York and thence came to Joliet, locating at No. 503 Elwood street, which property he still owns. He is a son of Samuel and Sarah (White) Holmes. The parents were of Scotch descent and representatives of old families of Presbyterian faith. They removed from Scotland to Ireland, however, before the birth of our subject. The father was a farmer by occupation and for many years followed that pursuit on the Emerald isle but is now living retired in Belfast at about the age of seventy years. His wife has also attained about the same age. Their family numbered eight children: Robert, William and Samuel, who are residents of Joliet; Sarah J., the wife of John Swenson, of Joliet; Mrs. Anna Edberg, of this city; Mrs. Elizabeth McCarthur Mrs. Esther Rowe, deceased; and John, who is living near Belfast, Ireland.

After coming to the new world Robert Holmes was for sixteen years employed as engineer at the Illinois Steel Works in Joliet but resigned that position when elected to his present office as treasurer of the board of highway commissioners. The other commissioners on the board are James S. Boyd, president; George Haywood, commissioner; and John Overholzer, town clerk. Mr. Holmes also established a restaurant at No. 1814 Collins street and is conducting it successfully, having a good patronage.

In this city occurred the marriage of Robert Holmes and Miss Catherine Munn, who was reared in Joliet and is a daughter of Robert and Ann (McVety) Munn, who came to this city about thirty-eight years ago from the vicinity of Belfast, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes now have three children, all born in Joliet: Sadie, whose birth occurred June 14, 1889; Anna, born November 10, 1892; and William, October 29, 1901.

In his political views Mr. Holmes is a stalwart republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of the party and its principles, and is a member of the German Republican Club. He is prominent in fraternal circles, being a member of the Foresters of America, in which he served for fourteen consecutive years as financial secretary at Joliet. He then resigned and in 1905 was appointed deputy grand chief ranger of the state of Illinois by the County Caledonian Club, of which he is secretary and both he and his wife are members of the

grand lodge. He is also a member of the Will Presbyterian church. Mr. Holmes has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he has found here favorable business opportunities which he has improved and has won many warm friends.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY VANDER BOGART.

On the roll of Will county's honored dead appears the name of William Henry Vander Bogart, who for many years was identified with the commercial interests of Wilmington, having, with the exception of a brief period spent in the Civil war, conducted a meat market in this village continuously for forty years, although for three years prior to his death, which occurred October 6, 1903, he lived retired.

Mr. Vander Bogart was born in Brownville, New York, September 27, 1834, a son of William J. and Helen (Monteith) Vander Bogart, both of whom were likewise natives of the Empire state, the former of Scotch and the latter of German parentage. The parents removed from the east to Will county in 1841, establishing their home in Florence township, being numbered among the pioneer settlers of this section of the state.

Mr. Vander Bogart was a little lad of seven years when he accompanied his parents to Will county. He was educated in the schools of this county and remained with his parents on the farm until 1860, or until he was a young man of nineteen years, when he established a meat market in the village of Wilmington, which he conducted almost continuously for forty years, the only interruption being at the time of the Civil war, when he enlisted in Company E, Twentieth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, serving as a musician. On account of disability he was honorably discharged after a brief period, subsequent to which time he returned to his home and resumed his business interests. He conducted his market until 1900, when he retired to enjoy a well merited rest until his death. He was everywhere known for his honesty and integrity in business circles, and owing to his straightforward methods he won a large patronage, his market constituting one of the foremost commercial enterprises of Wilmington. He

was a courteous, genial and affable gentleman, winning friends among those with whom he came in contact, so that his death was the occasion of deep sorrow not only to his immediate family but to the business and social circles of Wilmington as well.

Mr. Vander Bogart was married February 1, 1865, to Miss Laura Jane Stow, their marriage being celebrated in Wilmington. She was born in Brownville, New York, May 19, 1841, a daughter of Cyrus and Jane (Vander Bogart) Stow, the former a native of Vermont. The parents were married in the state of New York, whence they removed to Michigan in 1842, where the father was engaged in farming until 1855, in which year he located in Wilmington, Illinois. He here engaged in the meat business, which he continued successfully for a number of years. He took an active interest in many public movements and measures in this village and organized the first brass band in Wilmington. He was a charter member of Wilmington lodge No. 208, A. F. & A. M., and of Wilmington chapter, No. 142, R. A. M. His death occurred in this place in 1874, when he had reached the age of fifty-four years, but his widow still survives and is now in her eighty-sixth year. To them were born but two children, the sister of Mrs. Vander Bogart being Emma, the wife of Robert Vander Bogart, who follows carpentering in Wilmington.

Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Vander Bogart, eight still survive, namely: Mark E., who is engaged in the jewelry business at Ventura, California; Frank S., a resident of Rockford, Illinois; Fannie, the wife of Ralph Martin, a resident of Joliet; Cyrus W., a resident of Wilmington; Florence, the wife of Stanley Wheeler, a resident of Nebraska; Laura H., who married Sherman Kahler and lives in Joliet; Harry E., who makes his home in Rockford; and Walter A., who resides in Wilmington. The third member of the family, George, died at the age of thirty-five years.

Mr. Vander Bogart was an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Wilmington lodge, No. 208, A. F. & A. M., and to Wilmington chapter, No. 142, R. A. M., while he was buried with the honors of the order. He likewise maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership with Bowen



W. H. VANDER BOGART.





post, G. A. R. He was a man whom to know was to respect and honor. He was very successful in business owing to his excellent executive ability and careful management of his affairs, and at his death he left his family in comfortable circumstances. His widow resides in a nice home, surrounded by the comforts of life as well as by a host of warm friends. She is prominent in social circles and is a lady of cordial and kindly disposition.

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#### ARTHUR STRUVE.

Arthur Struve, whose name is an honored one on commercial paper throughout Will county, and who is now a worthy representative of financial interests, being president of the First National Bank at Beecher, is a native of the county, having been born in Monee, June 11, 1870. His father, William Struve, was a native of Brunswick, Germany, born December 15, 1832. He acquired a good education in his native country and early displayed business qualities which later made him a successful man. His father was engaged in the manufacture of linseed oil and it is said that after the workmen were gone for the day that William Struve would gather up the scatterings, manufacture oil therefrom and make a little money for himself. His mother was in poor health, so that in 1848 the family decided to emigrate to the United States, hoping that the change would prove beneficial to her. It was their plan to go west to the Mississippi river, where the father might get work as an architect and builder, for he had carried on business as an architect in his native country as well as a linseed oil manufacturer. On the ocean, however, the father died and the mother was thus left with six children. They proceeded on their way to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where they had friends. The mother then invested the money which she had in one hundred and sixty acres of land for each of her four boys and put a similar amount in the bank for her two daughters. In less than a year her death occurred. The six children and two hired men, who came with them from Germany, lived together for one year. An older brother died a year after the mother's death and

another brother still older was married and was drowned while trying to save the life of a comrade. Thus in course of time the family became broken up.

When eighteen years of age William Struve went west to the Mississippi river and for two or three years engaged in buying wood and selling it to steamboats. He found this to be quite profitable and when twenty-one years of age he returned to Sheboygan and sold his land, after which he bought lumber which he shipped by vessel to Chicago and thence over the Illinois Central, which had just been completed, to Monee. In that place he established the first lumberyard and engaged in business there for fourteen years. He likewise bought lots in the village and also bought and sold farms, and in his real estate manipulations as well as in his commercial interests met with success. In July, 1862, he answered the call for volunteers to aid in suppressing the rebellion, enlisting in Company D, Eighty-second Illinois Volunteer infantry, known as Hecker's regiment. He participated in the memorable march to the sea and was a faithful and valorous soldier. He was mustered out and honorably discharged at the close of the war in June, 1865. About 1869 or 1870 he removed to Beecher, which had just been established following the building of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad. Here he established a lumberyard and conducted it for twenty-five years, when he turned the business over to his son. While not a member of any church, he attended the services of the Congregational church and contributed liberally to its support. In politics he was a republican and he took an active interest in advancing the welfare and growth of the party, but never sought or desired office for himself. He was a good business man and one well educated. While in Wisconsin he worked for his board and the privilege of attending school. He was anxious to learn the English language and he not only mastered the text books, but read much beside. He also taught school in that state after returning from the west. In his business life he eagerly improved his opportunities, making steady advancement along well directed lines of labor, and as the years passed he became a prosperous citizen. He died December 1, 1894, and is still survived by his widow.

Mrs. Struve bore the maiden name of Rosamond Van Jordens and was born near Desseldorf, Germany, January 25, 1837. When twelve years of age she accompanied her parents on their emigration to America, the family settling at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Her father, Peter Van Jordens, became a farmer and lived at Manitowoc until his death. On the 4th of June, 1857, the daughter gave her hand in marriage to William Struve and went to Monce with her husband, who had been in business there for some time. She is still living in a comfortable cottage in Beecher and is a member of the Roman Catholic church, in the faith of which she was reared. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Struve were born five children. Rose, a sister older than our subject, died at the age of twenty-four years, while three younger children died in infancy.

Arthur Struve was only a year old when he came to Beecher and here he was reared, attending the public schools. At the age of eighteen years he took charge of his father's business and on attaining his majority became the owner of the lumberyard which he conducted with success until 1895, when he disposed of that enterprise and turned his attention to banking, establishing a private bank, which he conducted from 1896 until the 11th of May, 1905. At that time the First National Bank of Beecher was organized and Mr. Struve became its president. It is capitalized at fifty thousand dollars, with Hon. Fred Wilke as vice president and Carl Ehrhardt as cashier. Mr. Struve is half owner of the brick block where the bank is located and which was built by him in 1906 in association with Thomas Clark. He is also treasurer of the Eastern Illinois Brick Company of Beecher and his business enterprise and activity have contributed in substantial measure to the upbuilding of the village.

In 1895 Mr. Struve was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Keepmeyer, a native of Will county and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Keepmeyer, her father now living retired in Beecher. Mr. and Mrs. Struve have a daughter, Rosa. Theirs is one of the finest homes in Beecher, built in attractive style of architecture and tastefully and richly furnished, and its hospitality, too, is one of its most attractive features. Mr. Struve is a valued member of the Masonic fraternity at Crete, the Elks lodge at Kankakee and the Modern

Woodmen camp at Beecher. In his business life he has made steady progress. Keen and clear headed, moving slowly and surely in every transaction, he possesses that determination and perseverance which ultimately reaches the objective point.

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#### WILLIAM M. WARD.

William M. Ward, engaged in the grocery business in Lockport, his native city, was born December 2, 1866. His father, John Ward, came to Lockport in 1849 from Syracuse, New York, with his parents, William and Julia Ward, who came to America in 1848 from Queens county, Ireland. William Ward died soon afterward in Lockport. The son, John Ward, pursued his education in the public schools here and began providing for his own support by work as a farm hand. Later he was employed as a driver on the canal, and when his savings justified his embarkation in business on his own account he established a saloon in 1864 and afterward added a grocery, continuing in the same lines of business to the present time. He has been township collector for one term and is a member of St. Dennis Catholic church at Lockport. Mr. Ward was married in 1865, to Miss Catherine Keough, of Lockport, who is a native of Canada, and unto them were born nine children, of whom three died in infancy. Those still living are: William M.; John, Jr.; Marguerite; Catherine, the wife of William Gosseln, of Lockport; Stephen J. and Joseph F., both of this city.

At the usual age William M. Ward became a student in the public schools of Lockport and subsequently attended Niagara University at Niagara, New York, and a business college in Chicago. He then joined his father in business and added the grocery department, which he has conducted to the present time, having a good trade by reason of the fact that he carries a well selected line of staple and fancy groceries and charges reasonable prices for his goods.

On the 27th of February, 1892, occurred the marriage of William M. Ward and Miss Emma Jacklin, of Chicago, a daughter of Theodore Jacklin, a merchant. Four children grace this marriage, William J., Mildred, Kathryn and Rosamond,

and they also lost one child, Grace, at the age of eight years. Mr. Ward is a democrat and very active in politics. He has served as delegate to county and state conventions a number of times, has filled the office of city clerk for two terms and was elected supervisor in 1903 and again in 1905, so that he is the present incumbent in the latter office. He belongs to St. Dennis Catholic church, to the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Improved Order of Heptasophs and is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge. He has always lived in Lockport and his success has come to him as the result of his earnest endeavor, his diligence and unflinching application to his business.

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#### THOMAS LACEY.

Thomas Lacey, who owns and operates four hundred and eighty-five acres of well improved land in Florence township, and who is also engaged in breeding high grades of cattle and hogs, represents one of the old and prominent pioneer families of Will county. He was born in Joliet, January 1, 1859, a son of Thomas and Rosa A. (Conlin) Lacey, the former born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1812, and the latter in County Longford, in 1826, and came to America with a cousin in 1840. Mr. Lacey likewise emigrated to the new world in that year, reaching New York city on the 27th of May. He remained for about four years in Oneida county, New York, and was married in Utica, February 28, 1844, to Miss Catherine McCarty, who was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to the United States with an uncle, M. Crimmins, when she was a little maiden of four years. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lacey made their way westward, locating in Vermont, Illinois, where they kept a boarding house. They then removed to Michigan, where they lived for two years, whence they went to Chicago, living there for a similar period. While making their home in that city the father had charge of the grading of the streets for a time, and later took up his abode at Aurora, Illinois, where he had charge of the grading of the first section of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. While making his home in the western metropolis, al-

though securing a wage of but seventy-five cents per day beside providing for himself and family, he saved from his earnings a sum sufficient to invest in land, and, going to Joliet, purchased eighty acres adjoining the city limits, paying for this property ten dollars per acre. He made a permanent settlement in Will county in March, 1873, coming here from Grundy county, where he had made his home for two years. His wife died in La Salle in 1854, and her remains were laid to rest in the Joliet cemetery. At her death she left three children: Annie, who was born November 22, 1850, in New York; Nellie, who was born March 10, 1852; and John J., whose birth occurred March 12, 1854. Two years later, in 1856, Mr. Lacey wedded Miss Rosa A. Conlin, who became the mother of two sons, the brother of our subject being Jerry, who was born October 25, 1857, and now lives in Wilmington. Locating on his farm in Will county, the father was there engaged in general farming and stock-raising until 1885, when he sold his property to his sons Jerry and Thomas, after which he lived retired until his death, which occurred August 20, 1896, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a prominent pioneer farmer of this county, a man well liked by his neighbors and friends. He was a democrat in politics, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership with the Catholic church.

Thomas Lacey, the younger of the two sons born of his father's second marriage, was reared on the homestead farm, receiving practical training from his father in the best methods of carrying on a business of this character, while in the public schools he acquired his education. In 1885 his father retired from business, and upon so doing disposed of the old homestead farm to his sons Jerry and Thomas. They carried on business together for ten years, when, in 1895, the brothers dissolved partnership, since which time Thomas Lacey has carried on business alone. He has added to his original holdings from time to time until he is now in possession of four hundred and eighty-five acres of as fine farming land as can be found in Will county. He is likewise a breeder of Percheron horses and shorthorn Durham cattle. At the Will County Fair in 1901 and 1902 he exhibited a bull, on which he secured the first premium, while on his heifers he took the second premium. At the present time he has a fine drove of

full blooded Durham cattle, and his stock-raising and breeding interests characterize a very important branch of his business. He also raises pure blooded Poland China hogs.

Mr. Lacey was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Baskerville, the wedding ceremony being performed February 17, 1890. She is a native of Florence township, born April 8, 1861, a daughter of James and Jane (Fogarty) Baskerville, prominent pioneer residents of Will county, further mention of whom is made on another page of this volume. Unto our subject and his wife have been born six children: Charlotte C., who was born December 15, 1890; John J., born May 1, 1892; Margaret H., April 15, 1894; George R., September 15, 1896; Alice A., September 1, 1898; and Mary L., who was born January 3, 1903. The mother of these children was educated in the public and high schools of Will county, and prior to her marriage was engaged in teaching for about thirteen years, her first school being taught in Florence township when she was only seventeen years of age, while three years of that time was spent in the Grant and Hancock schools in Chicago. She is an accomplished and cultured lady, capably managing her household duties, and she is indeed proving a worthy companion and helpmate to her husband.

Mr. Lacey has always followed in the political footsteps of his father by giving his support to the principles of democracy, while he and family holds membership in the Catholic church. He is well known in the county as a reliable and straightforward business man, fully meriting the confidence and good will which is extended to him by his fellow citizens.

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#### CHARLES PECK.

Charles Peck, living in Peotone township, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1844. His father, Alonzo Peck, a native of Denmark, came to the United States with his parents, who settled upon a farm in Illinois. The son Alonzo received but limited educational privileges and in his youth his time was largely occupied with farm labor. Throughout his entire life he carried on general agricultural pursuits and for many

years lived upon a farm in Kendall county, where he died in 1868. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Bryant, was an earnest Christian woman, belonging to the Methodist Episcopal church, and in that faith passed away in 1869. In their family were ten children: Delilah, deceased; Charles, of this review; Mary and Albert, who have also passed away; Emily, a resident of Indiana; Henry, deceased; William, who makes his home in Indiana; James, a resident of Crawford county, Illinois; and Orson and Addie, of Indiana. Of this family Albert enlisted in Kendall county for service in the Civil war in 1862, and went to the front with a cavalry regiment.

Charles Peck was reared to farm life and attended the district schools. The occupation with which he became familiar in his youth he has always followed. He came to Will county about 1867, settling in Peotone and he now lives on section 21, where he owns and operates one hundred acres of land. Such a farm as this, free from all incumbrance, makes the owner a prosperous citizen because of the value of Illinois farming land, and in the cultivation of his fields Mr. Peck secures good harvests owing to the care and labor which he bestows upon the land.

In 1869 occurred the marriage of Charles Peck and Miss Mary Pearson, who was born in England in 1852 and came to the United States when six months old with her parents, Henry and Mary Pearson. They first located near Plainfield in 1861 and from there removed to Peotone township, where Mr. Pearson lived up to the time of his death in the year 1896. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was one of the pioneer farmers of the county. His family numbered seven children: Henry, deceased; Mary, now deceased; Mrs. Peck: Sannel; Eliza; Maria, who is living in Kansas; Sarah, also of Kansas; and George, deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Peck have been born ten children: Eliza, who is the wife of George Croxen, of Peotone township; Emma J., the wife of John Baker, of Wilton township; Lizzie, who became the wife of Henry Munger but is now deceased; William, a bridge builder of Peotone; Alonzo, who also makes his home in Peotone; Albert, who lives on the old





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES PECK.





homestead farm; Rosa, the wife of William Crocker, of Wilton township; and Walter, Myrtle and Anna, all at home.

The only interruption to Mr. Peck's farm work was his service as a soldier of the Civil war. Aroused by a spirit of patriotism he offered his services in defense of the Union and in the fall of 1861 enlisted at Geneva as a member of Company A, Fifty-second Illinois Infantry. He served for ten months and participated in the battle of Shiloh. Becoming ill with measles and typhoid fever he was rendered unfit for further field duty, his eyesight being almost ruined by the disease. He was then mustered out at Camp Douglas and returned to his home. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and thus keeps in touch with the boys in blue who defended the old flag upon southern battlefields. His political views are in accord with the principles and policy of the republican party and he and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### HENRY KRACKE.

Henry Kracke, who since 1882 has resided upon his present farm on section 19, Crete township, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1842. His father, Henry Kracke, Sr., also a native of Hanover, owned a small farm there and on disposing of his property in 1857 he came to the new world, settling in Monee township, Will county, Illinois, on forty acres of land, a part of which was covered with timber. There was a little house upon the place but otherwise it was destitute of improvements. In 1866 he bought another tract of land of eighty acres. He was a very industrious man and in the early days frequently worked at farm labor for others for thirty-five cents per day in order to get ready money to enable him to carry on his farm work. He lived upon the old homestead until called to his final rest in September, 1879, when he was seventy-four years of age, and he left to his family not only a good property but also an untarnished name and an example of industry and perseverance that is well worthy of emulation. His wife, Mrs. Mary Kracke, nee Miller, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1812, and died at the home of her son Henry in Crete town-

ship in 1903. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kracke were devoted members of the Lutheran church. In their family were five children, of whom two died in infancy in Germany. The others are: Fred, who is living with his brother Henry, who is the second of the surviving children; and Mary, the wife of Henry Elbers, a farmer of Cook county, Illinois.

Henry Kracke, of this review, was a youth of fourteen when he bade adieu to friends and native land and with his parents came to America. He well remembers the voyage across the Atlantic and the trip from New York to Will county, also the experiences of pioneer life which confronted the family in their new home. He had attended school in Germany and he continued his education in the public schools of Will county. He remained upon the home farm, working with his father to whom he rendered valuable assistance.

When twenty-nine years of age Mr. Kracke was married to Miss Minnie Kregel, who was born in Hanover, Germany, May 15, 1848, a daughter of Fred and Louise Kregel, early settlers of Cook county, Illinois, but both now deceased. The marriage of the young couple was celebrated in 1872, at which time Mr. Kracke took charge of the home farm, which he has since purchased. In 1882 he came to Crete township and purchased the farm upon which he has since resided and which then contained one hundred and sixty acres of land upon which scarcely any improvements had been made. He has since built a good house and barns, has laid many rods of tiling, thus draining the fields and making them much more productive, and has secured the latest improved machinery to facilitate the farm work. By additional purchase of one hundred and twenty acres he extended the boundaries of this place until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of rich land in Crete township. The old homestead of one hundred and twenty-four acres in Monee township is also his property and he likewise has a farm of one hundred and seventeen acres elsewhere in Monee township. His landed possessions have therefore become extensive and he is now numbered among the substantial farmers of the county.

In 1902 Mr. Kracke was called upon to mourn the death of his wife, who passed away on the 1st of July of that year. Unto them had been born six children: Louise, who was born January 17,

1873, and is now keeping house for her father; Henry, born May 7, 1875; Fred, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Ernest, born April 27, 1879; William, born February 25, 1881; and Gustaf, born April 12, 1883.

Mr. Kracke is a member of the Lutheran church, in which he has served as deacon for ten years, the work of the church receiving his hearty endorsement and co-operation. In politics he is independent, voting for the men whom he regards as best qualified for office. He is now engaged in general farming and all that he possesses he has made through hard work. He early realized that there is no royal road to wealth and followed the precept of the old Greek philosopher who said "Earn thy reward." This he has done and therefore well deserves his present condition of prosperity.

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#### ALLEN BENSON HODGE.

Allen Benson Hodge, deputy postmaster of Peotone, has been a resident of Will county since 1866, and during the forty years which have since come and gone has witnessed much of its development and progress. He was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, September 20, 1843. His paternal grandfather, David Hodge, was a member of a New Jersey regiment in the Revolutionary war and was one of Washington's bodyguards at the battle of Trenton, in which engagement he had an arm broken by a sword when in a hand to hand encounter with the enemy. John Hodge, an uncle of our subject, was a soldier of the war of 1812. His father, Levi Hodge, was a native of New Jersey and came to Illinois in 1839, settling in Sangamon county, near Mechanicsburg. He was a farmer by occupation and also conducted a meat market in Springfield for a number of years, during which time he became a warm personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, meeting the great emancipator almost daily. He finally removed to Piatt county, Illinois, where he passed away February 22, 1864, at the age of sixty-four years. He was a life long member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years served as a class-leader, while in all the departments of church work he took an active and helpful part. He

joined the republican party on its inception and was always of that political faith. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Elizabeth Maxwell, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and died March 25, 1864, at the age of fifty-three years. She was a devoted Christian woman, also holding membership with the Methodist Episcopal church. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Levi Hodge were born two sons, but the younger, Isaac Newton, was drowned in Kansas in 1871. By a previous marriage the father had four daughters: Susan and Elizabeth, both deceased; Christie Ann, the wife of S. G. W. Ely, a retired farmer living near Williamsville, Illinois; and Mary, who lives in Detatur, Illinois.

Allen B. Hodge, reared to farm life, early became familiar with the work of plowing, planting and harvesting, and in his youth he acquired a good education in the district schools, also spending one term as a student in a high school. It was his intention to continue his education there but events shaped his course otherwise, for the Civil war was inaugurated, and at the age of eighteen years he enlisted in what afterward became known as the Joliet Battery, then Company 1 of the Second Illinois Artillery. He served in this organization until the close of the war and was mustered out at Springfield, June 14, 1865. He participated in the following general engagements: Island No. 10; Corinth, Mississippi; Perryville, Kentucky; Chickamauga; and many others. He was also on the march to the sea and was present at the grand review in Washington, where the victorious army passed through the streets of the capital city amid cheering thousands who witnessed the procession. He was wounded at Blackland, Mississippi, June 4, 1862, with a fragment of shell which shattered his hip, laming him for life.

When he returned home his parents were dead and most of his friends gone, so that Mr. Hodge did not continue in the old neighborhood but in 1866 came to Will county, Illinois, and after three months spent in Plainfield, removed to Wilton township, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until 1890. He then came to Peotone, where he has been employed in furniture stores. He was also assistant jailer under Sheriff Francis for four years and has been deputy postmaster for about two years under J. C. Adams, of Peotone.

In 1876 Mr. Hodge was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Brereton, who was born in the town of Lockport, in 1855, and is a daughter of James and Martha Brereton, pioneer residents of Will county, who came from England at an early day. The father was manager of Colonel Dyer's farm while the colonel was absent in the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge have become the parents of two sons and a daughter, namely: Joseph Newton, who is a fireman on the Lake Shore Railroad, makes his home in Joliet. He served as a member of Company B, Third Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Porto Rico campaign. Raymond Herbert is first sergeant of Company M, United States Infantry, stationed at Honolulu. He was likewise a member of Company B, Third Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Porto Rico campaign. Ida, Elizabeth is the wife of James Kruger, who is engaged in the bridge works at Peotone.

The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hodge belongs to William Webb post, No. 657, G. A. R., of which he has been commander. In politics he has been a stalwart republican and in the office which he is now filling he is discharging his duties in a prompt and capable manner.

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#### EDWARD W. STEINHART.

Edward W. Steinhart is a member of the firm of Steinhart & Whitmore, conducting a hardware, plumbing, implement and vehicle business in Wilmington, and is also president of the Steinhart-Jensen Automobile Company, of Joliet. He has made steady progress in his business career, advancing from a humble position to one of affluence, and is today controlling important commercial and industrial interests.

He was born in Jackson, Ohio, January 17, 1869, but in his boyhood days was brought to Illinois and pursued his education in the schools of La Salle county, while spending his childhood and youth in the home of his parents, Charles G. and Margaret (Kesler) Steinhart, both of whom were natives of Germany. They were married in that country in 1852, and in 1854 crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling first near Jack-

son, Ohio. The father was a band leader there. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted as a member of the Seventh Regiment Ohio Cavalry and was with that command until the close of hostilities save for the period of his imprisonment. He was captured twice and was incarcerated in Libby prison, coming out of the service with impaired health, owing to the hardships which he suffered during that time. While at the front he captured a sword which he brought home with him. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. He did not long survive the close of the war, passing away in 1871, at the age of forty-four years, while his wife died in 1898, at the age of seventy years. In their family were four sons and two daughters: Louise, who is the wife of Adam Gahan, a resident of Eldorado, Kansas; George W., who resides in Wilmington; Charles G., also a resident of this city; Andrew N., who makes his home in Ransom, La Salle county; Edward W., of this review; and Margaret, the wife of W. H. Whitmore, who is engaged in business with Mr. Steinhart.

Edward W. Steinhart left home in 1882, when only thirteen years of age, and began earning his own living as an employe of the Santa Fe Railroad Company. He became eventually a brakeman, conductor and engineer and also learned and practiced telegraphy, being station agent at Lorenzo, Illinois, from 1891 until 1894. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings and embarked in merchandising at Lorenzo, where he carried on business until 1896, when he removed to Wilmington. Here he established a hardware store and the following year admitted W. H. Whitmore to a partnership. This is one of the enterprising business firms of the town and they are now enjoying a good trade, dealing in hardware, implements, vehicles and harness, and also doing a plumbing and heating business. Within a short time their trade had reached profitable proportions and has steadily grown. In 1905 Mr. Steinhart organized the Steinhart-Jensen Automobile Company, of Joliet, in which he is associated with W. H. Whitmore as treasurer and C. F. Jensen as secretary. This has also become a paying investment.

On the 12th of September, 1887, Mr. Steinhart was married to Miss Mary Garvin, who was born in Ransom, La Salle county, Illinois, September 9,

1870, and is a daughter of Michael Garvin. Their children are Jennie, Willard, Clarence and Earl.

Mr. Steinhart is a member of Wilmington lodge, No. 208, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a past master, and he belongs to Wilmington chapter, No. 142, R. A. M., and Blaney commandery, K. T., of Morris, Illinois. He likewise affiliates with Wilmington lodge, No. 615, K. P., and the Joliet lodge of Elks, No. 615. In politics he is independent. Strong and steadfast purpose has ever been one of his salient characteristics and has been an important element in his success until he rose from the ranks of the many and stands among the successful few. His business is now large and profitable and his example may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others.

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#### ABEL S. McCOWAN.

Abel S. McCowan, a farmer living in Channahon township, owns and cultivates one hundred and seventy-six acres of land on section 5. He also buys and ships stock and his business interests are carefully directed, while his farm is a well improved tract of land. He was born May 13, 1852, in the house which is still his home, and is the eldest of eight children whose parents were John and Sarah (Haynes) McCowan. His paternal grandfather was Peter McCowan, who came to this country from Dunblane, Scotland, and first settled in the east, being employed as foreman in a cotton mill at Fall River, Massachusetts, for he was a weaver by trade. Before coming west he married Arabella Tarrant and in 1835 they removed to Will county, Illinois. From the government he secured a tract of land which has since become the birthplace of three generations of the McCowan family.

The father of our subject was born in the state of New York, December 2, 1826, and is a worthy representative of one of the old and prominent pioneer families of this county, whither he came with his parents in 1835. Few settlements have been made on the prairies here and little had been done to develop the natural resources of the county. The family home was established on section 5, Channahon township, and after attaining his ma-

jority John McCowan engaged in farming on his own account on the old home place, where he carried on business successfully and continuously until 1874, when he removed to Joliet, where he still resides, now living a retired life. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 14, 1837, died in Joliet, July 3, 1897. The surviving members of their family are Mrs. Nettie E. Brockway, now living in Joliet; Mrs. Julia Stage, of Blue Island, Illinois; Mrs. L. Foster, John F., Grant, Harold and Donald, all of Joliet.

Abel S. McCowan was reared in his father's home and early became familiar with the tasks of plowing, planting and harvesting. In the winter seasons he attended the public schools and in the summer months aided in the work of the farm. He taught two terms of school in Troy township, Will county, and in Au Sable township, Grundy county.

On attaining his majority, in fact on the very day on which he celebrated his twenty-first birthday, he was married to Miss Antoinette Buell, a daughter of George W. and Sarah J. (Schermerhorn) Buell. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are yet living: Mrs. McCowan; Mrs. Emma H. Lewis, of Chicago; Rolland E. Buell, of Chicago; and George O. Buell, of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. McCowan's father was born October 4, 1826, in the state of New York, and her mother, a native of that state, was born November 15, 1831. They came to the west in 1835 with their respective families and settled in Channahon township. After their marriage they took up their abode on a farm on section 6 of the same township and there Mr. Buell carried on general agricultural pursuits for a considerable period or until 1873, when he removed to the village of Channahon, where he resided until 1894. In that year he took up his residence in Chicago, where he is now located.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McCowan have been born two sons. Floyd B., who was born March 24, 1876, and lives in Channahon township, married Miss Laura Neilsen and they have one child, Flossie E. Fred J., born June 24, 1883, is at home. Mr. McCowan owns one hundred and seventy-six acres of cultivable and richly productive land on section 5, Channahon township. He has good buildings upon it and the latest improved machinery and all the equipments of the



place are such as facilitate the work of the farm. He buys and ships much stock and as he is an excellent judge of farm animals he is enabled to make judicious purchases and profitable sales. Mr. McCowan belongs to the Woodmen camp, to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Court of Honor, and he has always supported the republican party. He is a man of genial nature, of kindly disposition and social qualities, and is therefore popular with a large circle of warm friends.

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#### AMOS M. SMITH.

Amos M. Smith is an enterprising and progressive farmer and stock-raiser, owning and operating a well improved farm of one hundred and forty-five acres on section 16, Plainfield township, while for several years he was engaged in the dairy business, selling his products in Plainfield, but he has since disposed of that interest and now gives his entire time and attention to his farming and stock-raising pursuits.

Mr. Smith was born in Plainfield township, three and a half miles from the village of Plainfield, in 1858, a son of George Y. and Magdalena (Ream) Smith. The father was born in Pennsylvania, but removed with his parents to Greensburg, Ohio, while the year 1851 witnessed his arrival in Will county, at which time he located on an unimproved farm in Plainfield township, the place being occupied at the present time by his son, George B. Smith. The father was a wagon-maker by trade, following that pursuit in the east, but after coming to Illinois he never worked at his trade. He was a supporter of republican principles in his early life but later gave his political allegiance to the prohibition party, thus indicating his views on the temperance question. His wife died on the homestead farm in the spring of 1889, when she had reached the age of seventy-one years, for her birth had occurred in 1818, in Ohio, where she was also reared and married.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Y. Smith ere their removal from Ohio to this state, while during their residence in Illinois four more children were added to the household. Six sons and one daughter still survive, while four of the number have passed away. The

family record is as follows: Sarah is the wife of Isaac Henry, a resident of Plainfield township, Will county. John R. lives in a pleasant home at No. 113 Park avenue, Joliet. W. B. Smith makes his home in Aurora. Mrs. Mary Ferner died on the old homestead in the spring of 1885. Andrew died at Kankakee, Illinois, in 1890. Conrad E. is a resident of Plainfield. George B., who resides on the old homestead farm in Plainfield township, was born November 14, 1852, and wedded Miss Emma Bucks, a native of Illinois, by whom he has two living children, Victor and Paul, both at home, while Laura died in 1899, and Joy died in 1896, at the age of three years. Adam K. Smith is a resident of Belle Plaine, Iowa. Simon, the next member of the family, died when a little lad of seven or eight years. Amos M., whose name introduces this sketch is the next in order of birth. Levi died in Ohio. After losing his first wife Mr. Smith married a second time, subsequent to which he removed to Sedalia, Missouri, and his death there occurred in 1893, when he had reached the age of eighty years.

Amos M. Smith was reared in Will county, where he acquired a good common-school education. On starting out in life on his own responsibility, he engaged in farming in Plainfield township for one year and in Lockport township for two years, after which he carried on the hardware and implement business at Manhattan for two years. During the following three years he followed farming in Plainfield township and in Lockport township for two years, and then again turned his attention to the hardware and implement business at Benson, Illinois, for two years. In 1893 he invested his money in his present farm of one hundred and forty-five acres, situated on section 16, Plainfield township, and he has continued its operation to the present time. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he likewise raises stock. For six years he was engaged in the dairy business, disposing of his products in Plainfield, but he has abandoned that pursuit and now gives his attention strictly to his farming and stock-raising interests.

In February, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Smith and Miss Carrie B. Zinser, who was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, a daughter of Solomon Zinser, one of the early settlers of this

state. Unto our subject and his wife have been born four children: Clayton T., who has a position with the Rock Island Railroad Company in Chicago; Olive L., who is the wife of John G. Anderson, a resident farmer of Kendall county, by whom she has a little daughter, Eileen, one year old; Mildred A., who is still with her parents; and Ralph, who at the age of seventeen years is attending school.

Mr. Smith is a republican with strong prohibition tendencies. He is a member of the Grange and is identified with the Evangelical church. The Smith family is an old and honored one in Will county, having been founded here fifty-five years ago, and the sons, who now represent the agricultural interests of Plainfield township, fully sustain the reputation which was borne by their father.

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#### HENRY E. MEIER.

Henry E. Meier, a farmer residing in the village of Crete, was born in Crete township, June 13, 1811. His father, John O. Meier, a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, was born January 11, 1824, his parents being Conrad and Sophia (Schweer) Meier, both of whom were natives of Germany. Conrad Meier was a miller by trade and both he and his wife died in their native country, aged respectively fifty-five and eighty-two years. The family numbered four children, all of whom are now deceased.

John O. Meier was the only one who came to the United States. He attended school until fourteen years of age and in the meantime worked in his father's mill. On leaving school he started out in life on his own account and at the age of twenty years he came to the United States as a passenger on the sailing vessel, Westphalia, from Bremerhaven. The voyage consumed forty-three days and after landing at New York city he proceeded by steamer up the Hudson to Albany, by rail to Buffalo and thence around the Great Lakes to Chicago. He began working at farm labor in Cook county on a farm now included within the corporation limits of the city. On the 18th of October, 1848, he was married in Chicago to Miss Anna Rinne, a native of Germany, who

became acquainted with Mr. Meier while they were crossing the Atlantic. She died in Crete township, April 27, 1869. Eleven children were born unto them but only four are now living: J. W., a resident of Minnesota; W. H., who lives upon the old homestead; Mrs. Sophia Wassmann and Mrs. Mary Piepenbrink, of Crete township. On the 23d of December, 1869, Mr. Meier was married to Miss Engel Scheiwe, a native of Hesse-Cassel, born November 28, 1832. She died in 1889. They became the parents of two children, but Henry E. is the only one now living.

The father and his family were members of the Lutheran church, in the work of which they took an active part, contributing liberally to its support, while John O. Meier served as a trustee for thirty years. In politics he was a republican, active in the work of the party and prominent in local affairs. He held all of the township offices, being supervisor for twenty years, and his service was recognized as most capable and efficient. He was also a good farmer, who won success in his undertakings and left an estate which comprised three hundred and eighty acres of land in Will county and considerable town property. His first purchase constituted eighty acres, which he secured from the government and on which he located in 1848. For many years thereafter he was energetically engaged in the cultivation and development of his land and as the years passed by he won a goodly measure of prosperity. He retired to the village in 1885, spending his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest and passing away on the 3d of October, 1901.

Henry E. Meier pursued his education in the public schools to the age of fourteen years, after which he attended successively Concordia College at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia College at Springfield, Illinois, thus preparing for the ministry. He later abandoned the idea of entering the priesthood and for one year was with his brother William H. on the farm. He spent three years in the county clerk's office at Joliet, after which he attended the Metropolitan Business College of Chicago for six months. He was next employed as bookkeeper for the Crete Manufacturing Company for three years, was with the Lockwood & Strickland Company of Chicago for the same length of time, and with Palmer, Fuller & Company, of



JOHN O. MEIER.



Chicago, for a similar period. While in the employ of these concerns he resided in Crete, but after his father's death returned to the farm, where he owned one hundred and ten acres of land, but has since sold forty acres to the railroad company. He now has a tract of seventy acres besides a good home in the village of Crete. His time and energies are given to the further development and improvement of his farm, from which he derives a good income.

On the 22d of September, 1895, Mr. Meier was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ruhe, a daughter of Louis Ruhe, who is living in Crete. They have two children, Henry J. L. and Marie. The parents are both consistent and faithful members of the Lutheran church, in which Mr. Meier is serving as deacon. He neither seeks nor desires public office but gives unfaltering support to the republican party, being in hearty sympathy with its principles.

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#### PHILIPP DRECHSLER.

Philipp Drechsler was for many years actively identified with agricultural interests in Will county, but since 1903 has lived retired in a comfortable home in Peotone, where he is surrounded by many friends, and his earnest toil in former years now supplies him with all the comforts of life, so that he is enabled to spend the evening of his days in honorable retirement. He is a native of Bavaria, Germany, born October 20, 1833, and is a son of Andrew and Margaret (Spriesel) Drechsler, the former a shoemaker by trade. Philipp Drechsler lost his father when a little lad of six years, after which his mother was married to a Mr. Lindermeyer, her death occurring when the son was but nine years old. His step-father was married a second time and Philipp Drechsler made his home with his step-father and step-mother until after he had attained the age of eighteen years, during which time he was given good educational advantages.

Mr. Drechsler, having heard favorable reports concerning the business advantages to be enjoyed in the new world, accordingly decided to try his fortune in America, and on the 5th of July, 1853, took passage on an old-time sailing vessel, which,

after a voyage of thirty-three days, reached the harbor of New York. Mr. Drechsler had no money upon his arrival in that city, so that immediate employment was rendered a necessity. He possessed a stout heart and courageous spirit, however, and immediately set to work to secure employment, by which he earned the money to pay his way to Illinois, where lived some friends. In 1854 he went to Lombard, Du Page county, and the following year continued his journey to Monee, Will county, where he was employed during the succeeding four years at farm labor by the month. Having saved some money he was subsequently justified in engaging in business on his own account, and for one year operated rented land in Monee township. He then drove to Kankakee county and settled on a farm in Manteno township, operating land there for eight years. In 1868 he purchased a tract of eighty acres in Will township, this being wild prairie at that time. He at once set to work to break the land and prepare the fields for the plow, and in due course of time planted his crops, which yielded rich harvests. He made all of the improvements upon the place and continued to make his home thereon until 1903, when he purchased residence property in Peotone, and, having rebuilt and remodeled the house, now has a very comfortable home, in which he expects to spend the evening of his days in well earned ease. He came to Will county during its pioneer epoch and during his residence here, which covers a period of more than a half century, he has witnessed the many wonderful changes that have been made as the work of progress and improvement has been carried on along agricultural lines, and he has borne his full share in the work that has today placed Will county in the front ranks of this great state of Illinois.

On the 18th of March, 1859, occurred the marriage of Mr. Drechsler and Miss Sophia Libke, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 20, 1840. She came to America when thirteen years of age, living with an uncle, Henry Libke, who was one of the early settlers of Monee. Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight children, namely: Mary, the wife of H. R. Meyer, a resident farmer of Manteno township, Kankakee county; John, who is married and makes his home in Chicago; Amanda, the wife of Emil Deising, also of that city; Caroline, the wife of Louis



Meyer, of Chicago; Minnie, who died at the age of two years; Hattie, the wife of Ed Helt, of Chicago; Edwin, who wedded Ida Behrens and lives on his father's farm; and Emma, who is a young lady at home.

Mr. Drechsler was reared in the faith of the German Lutheran church, but since coming to American has held membership with the Evangelical Association, in the work of which he takes a very active and helpful part, having served as trustee of the church at Peotone for many years, while for more than forty years he has acted as superintendent of the Sunday school, and his wife is a teacher in the latter organization. They are consistent Christian people and live in harmony with their professions. Mr. Drechsler is strictly temperate in his habits, has always supported the republican party, and while making his home on the farm served for fifteen years as school director. He has always been a hard working man and the rest which he is now permitted to enjoy comes as the merited reward of his former years of toil and industry. He and his estimable wife are numbered among the worthy pioneer people of Will county and can recall many incidents of the early days in this section of the state. They have a wide acquaintance in Peotone and Will township and the hospitality of their pleasant home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

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#### JOHN B. GURNEY.

John B. Gurney, a farmer and breeder and raiser of live stock, in which connection he has attained more than local reputation, was born in Jackson township, Will county, Illinois, January 18, 1866. His parents were Edward and Melissa (Buss) Gurney. The father was born in Gloucestershire, England, April 7, 1834, and died in Wilmington, July 4, 1897, while his wife, who was born September 18, 1842, still survives him. He came to this country in 1843 with his parents, the voyage being made upon a sailing vessel which was six weeks in crossing the Atlantic. The family landed at New York city and by canal and the Hudson river proceeded to Buffalo, thence by boat to Chicago and on by train to Channahon township, Will county. Edward Gurney lost his

parents, William and Ruth Gurney, soon after their arrival in the new world. They left a family of six children, three sons and three daughters. Being thus left an orphan, Edward Gurney made his home with Nial N. Osborn for a number of years and began farming for himself on section 17, Florence township. Later he purchased land in Wilton and Jackson townships. He improved his farm in Jackson township and the year in which he was married—1859—he built a frame house upon that place. With the breaking plow he turned the sod and transformed the wild land into richly cultivated fields. Wild game in those days was plenty, including deer, turkeys, geese and ducks. There were also many wolves in the district and all of the evidences of frontier life could here be seen. Mr. Gurney continued farming for a considerable period and for five or six years was engaged in the grain trade at Elwood, Illinois. Subsequently he purchased a farm in Florence township, but afterward sold the property and then purchased one hundred acres for forty dollars per acre. Later he purchased one hundred acres more at sixty dollars per acre. In 1892 he built a house in Wilmington, where his last days were passed. He was a worthy and honored pioneer settler who aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development and upbuilding of the county. He served as school director for many years, was justice of the peace and highway commissioner. His political allegiance was given to the whig party in early life and he afterward became a staunch republican. He was a man of many excellent traits of character, esteemed for his genuine personal worth. The family numbered five children, three sons and two daughters: Edgar G., who died in 1900, at the age of thirty-nine years; Frances L., the wife of Frank Althouse, a resident of Oregon, Illinois; John B., of this review; Frank W., who is living on the old homestead in Jackson township; and Ruth A., the wife of J. W. Herriott of Chicago. Mrs. Herriott is secretary of the King's Daughters in Chicago and a delegate to the convention at Wheeling, West Virginia.

John B. Gurney, whose name introduces this record, pursued his early education in the district schools and afterward had the advantage of a course in the Bloomington (Illinois) Business College. He was reared to farm life, early becoming

ing familiar with all the duties and labors incident to the development of the fields and the production of crops. When twenty-three years of age he started out upon an independent business career and has always followed farming and stock-raising, at first operating eighty acres of land, which he cultivated for two years. Later he and his brother Frank farmed two hundred acres for two years. In 1892 he was married and afterward farmed two hundred acres on his own account until 1904, when he purchased an additional tract of one hundred and sixty acres, so that he is today the owner of a valuable farming property of three hundred and sixty acres. He built an addition to the old homestead in 1897 and built a fine barn in 1905. He is a breeder of full blooded Shropshire sheep, also buys and feeds sheep, having a thousand head upon his farm at the present time. He is likewise a breeder of Percheron horses and is the joint owner of the full blooded French Percheron stallion Jasmin, register number 48414 in the French book, and in the American register number 31367. He likewise breeds full blooded Poland China hogs and also White Holland turkeys. His stock-raising interests are extensive and he is one of the well known and successful representatives of this line of business in Will county.

On the 17th of August, 1892, Mr. Gurney was married to Miss Beatrice Wayne, at old Perth, New York. She was born near that place May 28, 1868, and is a daughter of John and Angeline (Brower) Wayne. The father was born in England, January 13, 1828, and died February 17, 1896, at old Perth, Fulton county, New York. His wife, who was born September 12, 1830, died at Amsterdam, Montgomery county, New York, August 26, 1905. In their family were twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, of whom eight are now living: Elizabeth, the wife of Lewis Shipman; Anna E., the wife of G. W. Filmore; Frances, who married Eugene Simpkins; George B.; Catherine, the wife of Burnside McCord; Ida, the wife of J. W. McIntyre; Mrs. Gurney; and Grace D., the wife of Charles Fox. The father, John Wayne, was a glove manufacturer at Gloversville, New York, for a number of years, but spent his last years as a farmer. He was a lover of fine horses and owned some splendid specimens of the noble steed. He served as school director for many years and the cause of education found in him a

stalwart friend. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Baptist church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gurney have been born five children: Marjorie M., Edward B., George W., Archibald J. and Olive G. Mr. and Mrs. Gurney are prominent and faithful members of the Presbyterian church at Wilmington, with which he has been identified since 1891, while for the past twelve years he has served as elder and as one of its trustees. He is also superintendent of the Sunday school at the present time and does all in his power to promote the growth of the church and extend its influence. Mr. Gurney is strictly temperate, never having tasted liquor in his life. He is a member of River camp, No. 124, M. W. A., at Wilmington. He has served as school treasurer for a number of years and was elected school director in the spring of 1906. He is deeply interested in all that pertains to public progress and his aid and co-operation can always be counted upon to assist in measures for the public good. His life has been actuated by high and honorable principles and his business career has been characterized by laudable ambition and watchfulness of all details and indications pointing to success. In all of his dealings he has been strictly reliable, so that his is an honored name in business circles.

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#### DR. J. W. GOODRICH.

Dr. J. W. Goodrich has made his home in Peotone for the past eighteen years and has been successfully engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery, being numbered among the foremost representatives of the profession in this part of the state. He was born in Maine, March 10, 1854, a son of Noah and Julia (Wheeler) Goodrich, both natives of the Pine Tree state, where the father is still engaged in farming in Goodrich, the village having been named in his honor. Their family numbered seven children, of whom three are now deceased, while three make their home in Maine, and J. W. is the only one who ever came to the west.

Dr. Goodrich was reared to farm life, being assigned to the various duties of the fields as his

age and strength permitted. He acquired his literary education in the common schools of his native state, while at the age of nineteen years he entered the American Veterinary College, at New York city, and was a student there for two and a half years. He then located for practice at Fort Fairfield, Maine, and later spent two years in Memphis, Tennessee, from which state he came to Peotone, where he has been located for the past eighteen years as a licensed veterinary. During this time he has built up a large and lucrative practice, and although a spell of sickness has disabled him from performing the actual labors connected with the profession, he is still called upon to make professional visits to prescribe, while he leaves the work to others. He keeps in touch with the most modern methods of practice through reading and investigation and is thoroughly conversant with the most scientific principles which underlie the profession, and his success is well merited.

In 1889 occurred the marriage of Dr. Goodrich and Miss Adassa Fell, who was born in Canada, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Rainsthorp) Fell, who were natives of England, whence they emigrated to Canada and about forty years ago settled in Green Garden township, Will county, but both are now deceased. Unto the Doctor and his wife have been born two sons and two daughters, Noah, Anna Estelle, Frank and Elizabeth, all of whom are still under the parental roof.

In politics Dr. Goodrich is a socialist. The family attend and support the Methodist Episcopal church. The Doctor is a broad reader, keeping well informed not only on the progress which is continually being made in his profession, but also with the current and political events of the day. He and his family are prominent in social circles and occupy a nice home on West Corning avenue in Peotone.

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#### JOSEPH A. KELLY.

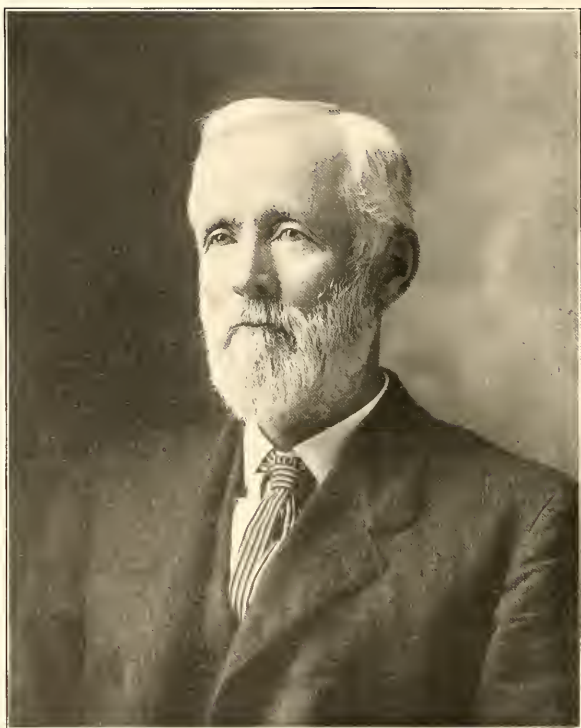
The county of Tyrone, Ireland, has contributed some eminent citizens to the American commonwealth, including A. T. Stewart, New York's merchant prince; Eugene Kelly, a banker, who established an institution facilitating honest and

legitimate trade transactions from the Empire state to California; General James Shield, the patriot and soldier senator from two states of the Union. Edward Kelly, a brother of Eugene Kelly, the New York banker, although he did not attain such national prominence, was, however, liberally endowed by nature with superior talents and his sons were equally blessed with those qualities which win success in whatever line of activity they may put forth their efforts. These sons are the Hon. Thomas J. Kelly, four times mayor of Joliet; and Joseph A. Kelly, the subject of this review, now retired from active business in the enjoyment of the reward of his years of unfaltering industry.

Joseph A. Kelly was born in Trelick, County Tyrone, Ireland, and in childhood was brought to America by his parents, Edward and Rose (Curran) Kelly, with whom he took up his abode in Jackson township, Will county, Illinois. After studying for a time in a local school his education was continued in Notre Dame University, where he remained as a student for six years, being graduated in 1863. He then embarked in the dry-goods business and for some years was in partnership with Dan Hendricks. Later, however, he bought an interest in a business owned by his brother and the enterprise was then conducted under the firm name of Kelly Brothers, their store being located on Jefferson street. They received a liberal patronage and the business prospered, Joseph A. Kelly continuing actively in its management until 1878, when he sold out to his brother and returned to the old homestead. He then gave his attention to general farming and the stock business.

In the year of 1888, John A. Kelly removed to Harper county, Kansas, where he purchased a ranch six miles from Corwin, placing four thousand acres under fence. This land is admirably adapted for stock-raising and over one thousand head of cattle are cared for on the ranch and are marketed in Kansas City. Over six hundred acres are planted in corn and other crops to provide winter feed. The buildings are especially adapted for the several purposes to which they are used and in fact the ranch is a model property of its kind, every equipment and facility being provided for the successful conduct of the business. Mr. Kelly also owns another ranch of four thousand acres one mile north of Corwin, lying along the





JOSEPH A. KELLY.





MRS. JOSEPH A. KELLY.



Little Sandy and this is also well stocked with cattle. The "K" ranches, as they are called, are the largest in Harper county. In addition to these he owns three-quarters of a section across the line in Oklahoma. In 1899 Mr. Kelly retired from active business and now makes his home at No. 111 South Center street in Joliet, where he is enjoying a well merited rest.

In early life Mr. Kelly was an active member of the Joliet fire department and for twenty-seven years he has been associated with the Joliet Sharpshooters' Association. At state and national tournaments he has frequently received the first prize and at the first United States Sharpshooters' match in Jones Woods, New York, he won one of the of the first prizes, while at the Centennial in Philadelphia in 1876 he received a medal. He is still an honored member of the association.

Mr. Kelly's marriage with Miss Maria Elizabeth Hendricks, of Rockford, Illinois, was a most happy and fortunate event in his life. She was one of a family of seven children, the eldest of whom, Miles Hendricks, was killed by the Indians when crossing the plains to California in 1849. Her brother, D. P. Hendricks, ex-city attorney of Joliet, is now engaged in the practice of law in Chicago. Thomas A. Hendricks, formerly a druggist and hospital steward of Company D, Nineteenth Illinois Infantry, during the Civil war, is now a farmer in Oklahoma. J. C. Hendricks, who was a legal practitioner of Chicago, died in that city in 1906. B. L. Hendricks, also a resident of Chicago, died the same year. Mrs. Margaret Nugent, her only sister died on the 15th of February, 1907. Mrs. Maria E. Kelly completes the family. Her father, Thomas Hendricks, was a contractor and builder who came from New York state to Illinois in 1843. Her mother, Mrs. Margaret Hendricks, was a daughter of Daniel Quigley and was born in Athlone, Ireland, in December, 1817, crossing the Atlantic in 1834, after which she became the wife of Mr. Hendricks in Syracuse, New York. Their children were reared in Joliet, save that the family spent five years in Rockford, where they were living at the time of Mrs. Kelly's birth. Mrs. Hendricks was greatly admired during her long life for her many estimable qualities, and she enjoyed excellent health up to within a few months prior to her death, which occurred early in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have become the parents of six children: Eugene and Edward have charge o. the Kansas ranches and are extensively engaged in the cattle business there. Marie and Catherine are at home. Leo, a graduate of Notre Dame University, is now a qualified physician and surgeon, who at the present time is interne in the the city hospital on Blackwell's Island, New York. This position is one of incalculable value to the ambitious young man, for in this connection he is brought in contract with the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the world in the treatment of very complicated cases, as well as in difficult operations and in important experiments. The youngest member of the Kelly family is Margaret, now the wife of Dr. Charles Romaine Curtiss, of Joliet. The Kelly home is situated on South Center street and is a beautiful residence in the midst of one of the finest districts of the city. The home is noted for its warm-hearted and gracious hospitality, their many friends receiving there a cordial welcome. Mr. Kelly has long figured as one of the most prominent residents of Joliet, being honored not alone for the splendid success he has achieved but also for the straightforward and honorable business methods that he has ever followed.

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#### PHILIP C. BORN.

Philip C. Born, who was connected with the industrial interests of Joliet from 1878 until the time of his death, was of German birth. The place of his nativity was Minsterapple, Germany, and his natal day August 16, 1836. He was only six years of age when brought to America by his parents, who located in Pennsylvania. There he resided until 1855, when he became a resident of Grand Mound, Iowa, and in 1878 he removed from that state to Illinois, after which he continued his residence in Joliet. He was here first employed in a lumberyard, of which he later became superintendent, occupying that position for fifteen years. He then engaged in business on his own account in the River block, but later suffered severe losses through fire. Subsequent to that time he worked for the Bates Machine Company,

with which he continued until his death, on the 26th of April, 1891.

While living in Grand Mound, Iowa, Mr. Born was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Eggleston, a native of Essex, New York. They became the parents of six children: Charles A., who is now in New York; Cornelia C.; Tillie M.; George R.; Mary E.; and Sarah A.

Mr. Born was identified with the Baptist denomination and was very prominent in church work, doing all in his power to promote the growth and extend the influence of the church. He also belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Modern Woodmen of America and his political allegiance was given to the republican party. His life was characterized by high and manly principles and worthy purposes, his Christian faith being manifest in his daily conduct. He was charitable in his opinions of others, reliable and trustworthy at all times and his name was honored by all who knew him.

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#### ROYAL D. CORBIN.

Royal D. Corbin, numbered among the younger representatives of agricultural interests of Will county, is operating the old Corbin homestead farm, which comprises three hundred acres of well improved land. The family was founded in Will county in August, 1854, when the paternal grandparents, Peter and Eunice Corbin, who were natives of the Green Mountain state, settled at Elwood. They made the journey on the first train which ran over the St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad, now the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis. This was a freight train, which also carried their household effects, and as yet there was no station at Elwood. The grandfather purchased eighty acres of wild and unimproved land in Florence township, to which he later added a second eighty-acre tract, and thus became one of the pioneer settlers of this portion of the state. His family numbered three sons and three daughters, of whom Peter Corbin, of Elwood, is the only surviving member.

Royal S. Corbin, the father of our subject, was a youth of twenty years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Will county, having

been born at Grand Isle, Vermont, in 1834. He assisted his father in the development of a new farm, and upon starting out upon an independent business career purchased a farm of eighty acres, to which he added from time to time as his financial resources permitted, until he became possessed of three hundred acres, this constituting the fine property which is now being operated by the son. Here the father made many substantial improvements, built a fine residence, which is surrounded by many shade trees, of his planting. He likewise set out many fruit trees, which yield rich crops in their season. He was a breeder of Durham cattle, horses, and Chester White and Duroc Jersey hogs. His wife bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Jukes, and was a native of New York state, having been born in 1844. Their marriage was celebrated in Joliet, June 21, 1860, and their union was blessed with eight children, of whom seven still survive: Mary E., the wife of George Waldron; Frederick; H., who wedded Henrietta Mosel; Ara L., who wedded Elizabeth Roderick; Grace B., the wife of Lawrence Miller; Bernice G., now the wife of Arthur D. Jackson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Royal D., the subject of this review; and Janet E., who resides on the homestead farm, and who is now acting as housekeeper for her brother. The father was a very public-spirited man and filled a number of public offices of honor and trust, serving as supervisor of his township for several years, while he also filled the office of school director. He gave his early political allegiance to the whig party, but after the organization of the new republican party supported its principles. He lived an honest and upright life, was a devoted husband and father, a kind neighbor and friend, so that his death, which occurred October 1, 1905, was the occasion of deep regret to all with whom he had been associated. He was seventy-one years of age when called from this life, while his wife, who passed away October 10, 1902, was fifty-eight.

Royal D. Corbin is a native son of Florence township, having here been born September 23, 1881. During the period of his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the operation of the old homestead farm, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the public schools. He was trained to the best methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits, so that at his father's death

he was well fitted for assuming the large responsibilities of the operation of the homestead property. His sister, Janet E., also resides on the farm and acts as her brother's housekeeper.

In addition to general agricultural pursuits, Mr. Corbin is also engaged in breeding Berkshire and Duroc Jersey hogs, and in connection with his brother-in-law, Arthur D. Jackson, breeds Norman horses, having some fine animals on his place.

Mr. Corbin has followed in the political footsteps of his father, giving his loyal support to the republican party. He belongs to Union Grange, No. 1725. Having been born on the farm which has been his home continuously to the present time, the place has become endeared to him through the associations of his boyhood and youth, as well as those of later manhood. He is well known in the community as an energetic, enterprising young man and is popular with a wide circle of friends.

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#### WILLIAM LANGEBARTELS.

William Langebartels, who is engaged successfully in general farming on section 10, Will township, was born in Crete township, this county, in 1864. His father, August Langebartels, was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States in 1858, settling in Washington township, Will county, and worked as a farm hand by the month for about four years and then bought a yoke of oxen and a plow, after which he rented a tract of land in the eastern part of Washington township and engaged in farming on his own account. Through industry and frugality he was enabled in the course of time to purchase land and after a number of years cultivated his own property in Monee township. He removed from Monee township to Will township and bought a farm on section 10, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, now owned and occupied by his son William. While in his native country he served for fifteen years in the German army, in which he attained official rank. After coming to America he supported the republican party and he held membership in the German Lutheran church. He married Sophia Willharm, who was born in Germany and died in 1891, at the age of sixty years. She came to the United States in the

'60s with a sister Mary, who married a Mr. Schroeder of Chicago. They joined a brother, Henry Willharm, who had come to America, and settled in Crete township, Will county, Illinois, in 1854. This brother lived with Mr. Langebartels until his death, March 9, 1907, at the age of eighty-nine years. The mother of our subject was also a member of the German Lutheran church. The father survived her for about three years and died in 1894, at the age of seventy-three. In their family were four children: Henry, who died in childhood; William; Sophia, the wife of Henry Rust, of Will township; and Mary, the wife of Louis Kessler, of Chicago.

William Langebartels was reared upon the home farm and attended the country schools. He early became familiar with the work that falls to the lot of the farmer and in 1891 began business on his own account, purchasing the farm on which he now lives on section 10, Will township. He has prospered in his work here and his labors have been well directed.

In 1891, Mr. Langebartels was married to Miss Lizzie Dralle, who was born in Peotone township in 1870, a daughter of Fred and Henrietta (Dencke) Dralle, who came to Illinois at an early date and settled upon a farm in Peotone township. The mother is now deceased, while the father is living retired in Peotone. Mr. and Mrs. Langebartels have become the parents of four children, namely: Clara; Fred; William; and Emil I. The father and mother are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Langebartels has been independent in politics, but has never sought office. He has served, however, as school trustee and is now school director. His life has been quietly passed in farm work and those who know him recognize his good qualities and extend to him favorable regard.

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#### GEORGE COSGROVE.

George Cosgrove, a well known citizen and prominent contractor of Peotone, was born near Kingston, Canada, in 1855, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Barnes) Cosgrove, both natives of the north of Ireland. In 1837 the father came to the United States, but after spend-



ing a short time in Chicago located near Kingston, Canada, in 1838. His last years, however, were spent in Manitoba, where he died in 1900 when in his eighty-seventh year. He was a farmer by occupation, was an Orangeman and a faithful member of the Presbyterian church, to which his wife also belonged. She also died in 1900, at the age of eighty-two years, only ten days after her husband's death.

George Cosgrove is the third son and seventh child in a family of ten children. His boyhood was passed upon a farm and his education was acquired in the country schools. At the age of fourteen years he was apprenticed to a blacksmith and spent five years in learning the trade, at which he then worked for one year in Toronto and other places. In 1879 he went to Chicago, where he spent a year working as a carriage blacksmith. During that time he contracted ague and was advised to go to the country. By the merest chance he stopped at Peotone in the fall of 1880 and after working a couple of months in the country took charge of the Peter Schlander blacksmith shop, where he remained seven years, doing the carriage iron work by the piece. During the following year he worked in the shop of Snyder & Arnold and in 1889 opened a blacksmith shop of his own, conducting it until 1901, when he was forced to abandon that occupation on account of a broken leg. On retiring from that business he began contracting and building, his first contract being the Peotone public school building, which cost fourteen thousand dollars. He has since done considerable stone work throughout the country, building twenty-seven bridges, and in 1904 erected the Immanuel church at Peotone, costing twenty-two thousand dollars. He built the public school at Monee at a cost of ten thousand dollars and in 1906 received the contract for building bridges and culverts on the Chicago Southern Electric road between Monee and Peotone at eight thousand dollars and the same year laid two thousand dollars' worth of cement walks in Monee. In addition to his other business Mr. Cosgrove fattens and ships cattle and is the owner of a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres and a fine residence adjoining the corporation limits of Peotone on the west.

In 1882 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Cosgrove and Miss Allen Frances Armstrong, who

was born near Hazeville, Canada, in 1866. Her father, who is now deceased, was a life-long resident of Canada, and her mother is still living there at the age of eighty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Cosgrove have four children, namely: Elizabeth, Ella, William and Harold.

Mr. Cosgrove is a charter member of Green Tree lodge, No. 14, M. W. A., of Peotone, and is independent in politics. He has been called upon to serve as trustee of the village and as one of the prominent and influential citizens of the community he takes an active interest in public affairs. At the early age of thirteen years he received a second class certificate which entitled him to teach school at the age of eighteen, but he never followed that profession. In business affairs he has prospered through his own capable management and untiring industry has become quite well-to-do.

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#### THOMAS F. RYAN.

Thomas F. Ryan, for forty-five years a resident of Lockport, the monuments of his business activity and skill and enterprise being seen in many of the most substantial structures here, is a native of Ireland, and in his youth learned the carpenter's trade, with which he was familiar at the time of his emigration to America, at the age of seventeen years. He arrived in Lockport in 1861, and two years later his father came to America, remaining here until his death in 1878.

Thomas F. Ryan, after living in Lockport for some time learned the boat builder's trade, and in connection with his brother John built canal boats. In 1890 he entered the field of commercial activity, under the firm name of Ryan & Sullivan, as dealer in lumber and coal, at the same time conducting an extensive contracting business, building many prominent business blocks and residences. Since 1894 Thomas F. Ryan has been alone in the same business, which has increased in each department to large and profitable proportions and from a humble and almost penniless employe he has worked his way steadily upward to a prominent place as a representative of the industrial and commercial interests of the city.



THOMAS F. RYAN.



On the 1st of January, 1872, Mr. Ryan was married to Miss Catherine O'Connor, of Chicago. They had seven children: Lawrence P., Philip C., Nellie J., Anna L., Thomas F., Marie L., and Margaret E., who died at the age of twenty-three years.

In 1886 Mr. Ryan with a number of prominent Lockport business men organized the Lockport Loan and Homestead Association, of which he was vice president until 1902, at which time he was selected as its president. He was a member of St. Denis Catholic church and his political allegiance was given to the democracy. He was for two or three terms a trustee of the village, was one time chairman of its board and also a member of the board of education at the time of his death. He came to America with but limited capital and encountered many difficulties and obstacles in his path, but a resolute purpose and unfaltering energy enabled him to overcome these, while his business interests have increased in scope as the years have gone by until he is today remembered as one of the foremost representatives of Lockport.

Thomas F. Ryan died February 15, 1907, at the age of sixty-four years. The business is continued under the name of the Ryan Lumber & Coal Company.

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#### R. J. CARRIER.

R. J. Carrier, president of the Carrier-Low Company, manufacturers of paper boxes, conducting an extensive and profitable business at Rockdale, has been a resident of Joliet since 1905. He was born in St. Johns, Michigan, in 1872, a son of Cassius M. and Addie A. (Allen) Carrier, of an old Michigan family. The father was active in politics in his county and served as sheriff and in other offices. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Reared in the place of his nativity and educated in the public schools there, R. J. Carrier afterward went to Denver, where he attended the high school. Later he was a student in night schools in Chicago, studying law for four years, after which he was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1894, but never practiced, although his knowl-

edge of the law has been of decided benefit to him in his business life. During that time he was secretary, treasurer and manager of the Howe & Davison Company, paper box manufacturers, with whom he was connected for twelve years, when he resigned his position and organized his present business in February, 1904, under the name of the Carrier-Low Company. The business was capitalized for forty thousand dollars, with R. J. Carrier as president; William Gibson, secretary; and J. W. Low, treasurer and superintendent. The firm was organized for the purpose of manufacturing folding boxes, which are made from boxboard. The factory is equipped with the latest improved machinery and they have the largest glueing department in the country. The main building is seventy-five by one hundred feet and two stories in height, built of brick. There is also a boiler and engine room forty feet square and they employ one hundred workmen in the manufacture of paper boxes for cereals, matches and other goods, which they supply by contract to the firms, their trade extending from coast to coast. This has become a very extensive and important industry, their capacity being now five hundred boxes per day. The plant was first opened at Chicago, but was removed to Rockdale a year ago. From the beginning the enterprise has proved profitable and in the three years of its existence an extensive trade has been developed.

Mr. Carrier was married to Miss Gertrude A. Howe, of Chicago, a daughter of W. B. Howe, the pioneer inventor of folding paper boxes for crackers, best known in connection with his invention of the Uneeda Biscuit boxes. He died about six years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Carrier have two children: Phylip H., six years of age; and Adelaide H., two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Carrier resided for some time at Hinsdale, but are now building a fine residence in Joliet.

Mr. Carrier gives his political support to the republican party. He has attained high rank in Masonry and now holds membership with the blue lodge, chapter, commandery and Mystic Shrine, belonging to Medinah Temple of Chicago. He is a member of the Union League Club of Joliet and of the Golf Club, and he and his wife hold membership in the Congregational church. He is recognized as a progressive business man, a valued addition to the manufacturing circles of Joliet,

and his comparatively recently established enterprise is now one of the flourishing industrial interests of the city.

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### JOHN CHARLES HOTHAN, D. D. S.

Dentistry is unique among the professions in that it demands three distinct elements for success—a mechanical skill and ingenuity, a comprehensive understanding of the principles of the science of dentistry and a business capacity equal to the management of the financial interests. In all of these qualities Dr. Hothan is well equipped and is now enjoying a good practice in Crete. He was born at St. John's, Lake county, Indiana, February 22, 1878.

His father, William Hothan, is a native of Rothenberg, Germany, and is living upon a farm in Indiana at the age of seventy-one years. He came to the United States in 1852 and was employed at farm labor by the month in the vicinity of Crete until 1858, when he invested in land, becoming owner of forty-four acres in Lake county, to which he has since added as his financial resources have permitted until his acreage has been increased to one hundred and sixty. He is an enterprising agriculturist who carefully tills his fields and has brought his place under a high state of cultivation. His industry and careful management have also added to his prosperity. He belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran church, as does his wife, and for twenty years he has been one of the church officers. His public service covers four years as a drainage commissioner and his political affiliation is with the republican party. He married Wilhelmina Schultz, who was born in Frantzburg, Germany, and died in 1899, at the age of fifty-nine years. The year 1865 witnessed her arrival in the United States, at which time she located in Crete, and in September, 1866, she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Hothan. They became parents of six children: Fred and William, both deceased; Henry, who is living on the home farm; Theodore, a carpenter of Crete; John C., of this review; and August, at home.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Dr. Hothan in his boyhood and youth. He attended the district

schools and also the high school at Crown Point, Indiana, and to prepare for his chosen profession he entered the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1896, pursuing the regular three years' course, after which he was graduated in the class of 1899. He then began the practice of his profession at Crete and has been eminently successful in his chosen vocation. He also took a special course in clinical and didactic work and he is a member of the Illinois State Dental Association, the Northern Illinois Dental Society, the Chicago Odontographic Society and the alumni association of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery.

In 1904 Dr. Hothan was married to Miss Anna Brackman, who was born in Chicago and died in 1905, at the early age of twenty-six years. The Doctor votes with the republican party, but has had no time nor inclination for public office, for his attention is fully occupied with his professional duties. He is well equipped for his chosen work and his knowledge is broad and accurate, while his skill in the work of the laboratory and of the operating room is indicated by the liberal patronage now accorded him.

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### WILBUR B. DAVIS.

Wilbur B. Davis, who follows farming in Channahon township, was born in that township, August 22, 1860, and is one of the eight children of George B. and Olive (Comstock) Davis. He has two brothers and one sister still living, namely: George H., who was born September 9, 1850, and is now a resident of Chicago; Sadie, who was born April 18, 1853, and lives in Joliet; and Oliver C., who was born April 12, 1857, and also makes his home in Joliet.

The father of this family was born in Schoharie county, New York, May 7, 1821, and on the 12th of January, 1843, was married to Miss Olive Comstock, whose birth occurred in Tompkins county, New York, January 8, 1824. For about sixteen years George B. Davis remained a resident of the Empire state and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Will county, Illinois, in 1837, settling in Channahon township, when this was still a frontier district, giving little promise of the development and progress was soon to



transform it. He was a successful farmer and for many years was closely associated with agricultural interests. He died April 7, 1901, having for a number of years survived his wife, who passed away November 12, 1891.

Upon the home farm Wilbur B. Davis was reared, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1878 he started out in life on his own account as a farmer and is today the owner of a valuable tract of two hundred and forty acres of well improved land on section 16, Channahon township. In the midst of the farm stands a fine residence and substantial barns, together with other modern equipments and improvements. Everything about the place indicates his careful supervision and progressive business methods, and he is well known as a leading agriculturist of the community.

On the 12th of October, 1882, Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Sage, who is one of the five children of Elizur W. and Sabrina (Eaton) Sage. She was also a niece of Russell Sage and was liberally remembered in the terms of his will. Her father, Elizur W. Sage, was born April 13, 1812, and died in February, 1884. He was first married September 18, 1834, to Miss Mary Willard, by whom he had several children, those still living being Mrs. Mary Jane Wignall, who was born October 16, 1837, and is now living in Vandervoort, Arkansas; Mrs. Emily Chadwick, who was born May 20, 1843, and lives in Odell, Illinois; Elizur, who was born April 28, 1849, and resides in Rensselaer, Indiana; and Mrs. Leni Schoonmaker, who was born December 22, 1851, and lives in Crete, this county. After the death of his first wife the father of this family married Sabrina Eaton, a native of Vermont, who was born November 13, 1824, and is still living with a son in Channahon. Five children blessed this union, of whom four are still living; Harriet, the wife of our subject; Mrs. Helen S. Holbrook, who was born February 25, 1862, and lives at Park Ridge, Illinois; Mrs. Fannie E. Croser, who was born June 7, 1864, and is also a resident of Park Ridge; and Olin A., who was born January 5, 1871, and makes his home in Channahon township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have become the parents of four children: H. Ina, born October 19, 1883; Bertha M., May 25, 1889; Ralph W., November

30, 1890; and Rufus O., January 21, 1895. All are yet at home. In politics Mr. Davis is a republican and has served as school director, but otherwise has neither sought nor desired office, preferring to give his attention to his business affairs, which have brought him a goodly measure of success.

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#### HON. ALBERT O. MARSHALL.

Hon. Albert O. Marshall, circuit judge, was born and bred upon a farm, his native town being New Lenox, Will county, Illinois. There he was born sixty-six years ago, his parents being George and Margaret A. (Paddock) Marshall, both of whom were natives of Onondaga county, New York. Judge Marshall is also a grandson of Chester and Pamela Marshall, and great-grandson of Josiah and Keziah Marshall, natives of Connecticut. His father went overland to California in 1849 and died on the way home in 1850. His mother is still living upon the old home farm in New Lenox, and enjoys good health for one of her age. The grandfather, Chester Marshall, was one of the pioneers of the township, to which district he removed with his family in 1833. For many years he figured as one of the most prominent and influential residents of that locality.

When Judge Marshall arrived at school age, he trudged to the old log school house and sat upon one of the rough benches while acquiring a good common-school education. At the age of nineteen years he entered Lombard University, at Galesburg, Illinois, but soon after the Civil war was inaugurated and he gave up his studies in order to become a soldier. He was one of the first to enlist in defense of his country, joining Company A, Thirty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteers—the regiment that was known as the famous Normal regiment. He carried a musket as a private soldier for more than three years, participating in several important battles and sharing in the many hardships and privations that fall to the lot of a private in the army. He received his discharge October 11, 1864.

Soon afterward Judge Marshall became a student in the law department of the old Chicago University now the Law School of Northwestern

University, from which he graduated in 1866. He has since been actively connected with the legal profession and for many years was regarded as one of the most able practitioners at the bar of Joliet, having a liberal patronage that connected him with the most important litigation tried in the courts of his district.

In 1874 Judge Marshall was elected to the state senate for a term of four years, where he served with distinguished ability, doing much active work in the committee rooms, where, as is well known, the greater part of the legislative work is accomplished. In 1884 he published in book form a complete history of his life as a soldier, under the title of "Army Life," the book having a large circulation. It is one of the most truthful and interesting stories of a private soldier's army life ever written. In 1894 he was elected judge of the county court, serving with marked ability until 1902. In the meantime he had been a member of the city school board, acting as its secretary for one year and as president for eleven years. When the township high school board was organized he was elected president of that board and superintended the building of the magnificent structure which is acknowledged as unsurpassed by any high school building in the west. Four years ago a fine large school building was erected at Sunnyside, east of the city, and was appropriately named the A. O. Marshall School.

In July, 1905, Judge Marshall was independent candidate for circuit judge to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Garnsey, and, though the district was largely republican, he defeated the regular republican candidate by a majority of over two thousand votes. He is now serving with eminent ability and giving the best of satisfaction as a judge.

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#### GEORGE W. FLAGG.

George W. Flagg, a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of Will county, was born on the 25th of July, 1836, in Plainfield township, and continues to make his home in that locality, though at one time he spent about four years in the west. He is the sixth in order of birth in a family of eleven children, whose parents were

Reuben and Betsy (Kendall) Flagg. It was in 1830 that they emigrated from Vermont to Illinois, arriving at Walkers' Grove, Will county, in June of that year, when this region was wild and unimproved, the Indians being far more numerous than the white settlers. The father took up a claim in what is now known as the Frazier woods and erected thereon a log cabin just across the river from Big Bluffs, where a part of a tribe of Pottawattamie Indians were living until the Black Hawk war, their chief being Parto. Reuben Flagg dug the mill race for Walkers' second mill, for which work he received thirty dollars, and he hauled the lumber to build the first frame houses in Chicago, doing this with ox teams. When the family received news of the Indian uprising during the Black Hawk war they and their neighbors gathered at Fort Beggs, which was situated just south of what is now the village of Plainfield, remaining there until they had built a stockade. A company of Scott's cavalry that was passing from Ottawa to Chicago then escorted those who had gathered there to Fort Dearborn. When peace was once more restored the Flagg family returned to their cabin home to find things just as they had left them, although the Indians had used the cabin in their absence. At that time the family consisted of father, mother, one son and two daughters, one of these being Samantha E., who was the first white child born in Will county. She was born September 9, 1830, and died February 25, 1872. Other children were added to the family and three are still living, namely: George W., of this review; William H., who resides on the old homestead in Plainfield township; and Mrs. Lucy N. Hedges, a resident of Bend, Oregon.

Amid frontier environments George W. Flagg grew to manhood, and he can relate many interesting incidents of those pioneer days. He acquired a good practical education in the early schools of the county, though they were much inferior to those of the present time, and as soon as old enough to be of any assistance he began to aid in the development and improvement of the farm. Throughout his active business life he has followed farming and stock-raising and has met with marked success in his undertakings, becoming the owner of six hundred and fifty acres of fine farming land in this county. He devotes considerable attention to the feeding of stock for the market and finds





MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. FLAGG.



SAMANTHA E. FLAGG.  
First white child born in Will County.





this a profitable source of income. For some years he has been the largest tax payer in Plainfield township.

In 1861, at the inauguration of the Civil war, Mr. Flagg entered the service of his country, first enlisting for three months as a member of the Plainfield Artillery and was stationed at Cairo, Illinois, assisting in blockading that place. Later he joined Company K, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, which was sent to Virginia and during the winter of 1861-2 patrolled the city of Alexandria. Mr. Flagg was made first lieutenant of his company, but was discharged in 1862 on account of ill health. In 1872 he went west and was employed as head stock foreman on ex-Governor Eaton's range in northern Colorado until 1876, when he resigned his position and returned to Plainfield.

On the 17th of September, 1861, Mr. Flagg was united in marriage to Miss Marada Colgrove, who was born in Wheatland township, May 27, 1842, and was the oldest of the five children born to Lester and Lucretia (Ingersoll) Colgrove. For over forty-five years they traveled life's journey together but the wife was called to her final rest October 27, 1905. Two sons were born to them. George K., the elder, wedded Miss Mary Needham and has three children, George, Fitzgerald and Marjorie. Jerome F. married Miss Luella Platt and they have two children, Alta and Lois. The sons now operate the farm for their father. He is connected with the Grand Army of the Republic and is a prominent member of the Will County Pioneer Association. During his long residence here he has become widely and favorably known and he stands high in public regard.

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#### C. E. WOODRUFF.

On the pages of Joliet's business history the name of C. E. Woodruff stands conspicuously forth as that of one who has been prominent in advancing commercial development in the city. He possesses the power of foresight which recognizes the resources of this region and has the executive ability and merit to marshal and put in working order the forces of progress, development and up-building as manifest in commercial and industrial

circles. Born in Watertown, New York, in 1859, he is a son of Charles T. Woodruff, whose birth occurred in Jefferson county, New York, and who lived to be eighty-two years of age. He owned a farm and in connection with agricultural interests engaged in the manufacture of brick. His brother, T. T. Woodruff, was the inventor of the Woodruff sleeping car and sold his patent to the Pullman Car Company. He was superintendent of the Pennsylvania railroads at the time he patented the car and Andrew Carnegie was telegraph operator in his office. Mr. Woodruff assisted Mr. Carnegie in securing one thousand shares of the stock in the company. The paternal grandfather was Simeon Woodruff, who married Rosa Adams, a grandniece of John Adams, the second president of the United States. The mother of C. E. Woodruff bore the maiden name of Mary A. Clark and was a native of Jefferson county, New York.

Upon the old home place in Watertown, New York, on which his father had settled in 1835, C. E. Woodruff spent the days of his boyhood and youth. Passing through consecutive grades in the public schools, he was graduated from the high school in the class of 1877. He then engaged in teaching for a time and in 1884 came to Joliet, where he engaged in the manufacture of wire, continuing in that line for seven years and afterward in other business enterprises until 1896. On the 1st of May of that year the idea of building an artificial ice plant had not been conceived but in July ice was being manufactured. The Joliet Pure Ice Company was incorporated in the former month with A. J. Bates as president; W. M. Cochran, vice president; C. E. Woodruff, secretary and manager; and Thomas H. Riley, J. J. Gaskill and James G. Hegge directors in addition to the officers. The capital stock was twenty-five thousand dollars and within the almost incredibly short space of time of less than three months the plant was in operation, owing to the enterprise and keen discernment and executive force of Mr. Woodruff. From the beginning the new venture has proved profitable and the enlargement in the business is indicated by the increase in the capital stock to one hundred thousand dollars. The present members of the company are M. F. Loughran, president; J. J. Gaskill, vice president; R. T. Kelley, treasurer; C. E. Woodruff, secretary; with H. Benjamin Smith, August Schoenstedt and T. H. Riley

as additional directors. The company was organized for the purpose of manufacturing pure ice. The capacity was originally twenty-five tons per day but this has been increased to over one hundred tons per day. The main building is three hundred by seventy feet and at the present time there is being erected a new building, three hundred by one hundred and eight feet, so that the company will have one of the most complete plants for the manufacture of artificial ice in the state. The water used is taken from a well drilled twelve hundred feet in rock and run through seven different filters before it is used. Employment is furnished to fifty men and twenty teams are utilized for hauling purposes. In 1897 the company extended the field of its operations to the coal trade and now handles from thirty to forty thousand tons each year. Mr. Woodruff is also secretary of the Joliet Printing Company, which he helped to organize three years ago, and is a director in the Joliet Warehouse & Transfer Company and in the Will County Abstract Company, which he assisted in organizing.

In 1880, in Watertown, New York, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Woodruff and Miss Jennie R. Robinson, a daughter of Dr. S. M. Robinson. They now have one son, Glenn C. Mr. Woodruff is prominent socially and was one of the organizers of the Union Club and assisted in framing its by-laws. He has been secretary and vice president of this organization and he is also a member of the Commercial Club, the Elks and Knights of Pythias lodges, the White Cross and the Modern Woodman camp. A man of unswerving integrity and business honor, having perfect appreciation of commercial ethics, he has gained and retained the confidence and respect of his fellowmen and is distinctively one of the leading residents of the thriving city of Joliet, with whose interests he has long been identified.

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#### ANDREW PATTON.

Andrew Patton is the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 28 and 33, Peotone township. He has prospered in general farming pursuits and in the raising of cattle, hogs and other stock. He is today more

than four-score years of age but still gives personal supervision to his farming interests. His birth occurred in the north of Ireland in 1825. His father, Robert Patton, was also born in the north of Ireland, and in 1841 came to the United States with his family, settling in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where for two years he followed carpentering. He then removed to Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1852, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Smith, was also born in Ireland, where their marriage was celebrated, and her death occurred in 1848, when she was seventy years of age. They were earnest Christian people, holding membership in the Presbyterian church.

Andrew Patton, the fifth in order of birth in their family of seven children, attended school in County Tyrone, Ireland, and after coming to America served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith in the Baldwin Locomotive Shops in Philadelphia for three years. Following the removal of the family to western Pennsylvania, he there aided in clearing the land and worked on the home farm for about twenty-five years, when, in 1864, he came to Illinois and took up his residence on section 33, Peotone township, Will county. Here he has since lived and is today the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, constituting an excellent farm which yields him ready response in good crops. He raises cattle and hogs and this branch of his business has also proven profitable.

Mr. Patton was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Barbara Morrison, who was born in Ireland in 1823. She came to the United States with her parents in 1833, the family settling in Pennsylvania, where she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Patton in July, 1851. Unto them were born five children: Robert, who is engaged in the real-estate business in Hartley, Iowa; William J., who is engaged in the lumber and coal business at Cleghorn, Iowa; Charles C., who is with his father on the home farm; Armour J., whose home is on section 28 of the old homestead property; and Dora, the wife of George Barton, a resident farmer of Will township. There are nine grandchildren, John having five children and Mrs. Barton four children, and there is also one great-grandchild.

Mr. and Mrs. Patton are members of the United Presbyterian church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is deeply in-

terested in matters relating to the welfare of his church and the community at large but has never sought to figure prominently in public affairs, preferring to give his attention to business interests, wherein he has met with creditable success.

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### FREDERICK A. LUTHER.

At a very early period in the colonization of the new world the Luther family was established in America. The first representative of the name of whom we have authentic record was Captain John S. Luther, a sea-faring man and commander of a merchant vessel. He was of German descent but was born in Ireland and that he established his home in the new world at a very early day is indicated by the fact that his death occurred here in 1645. He was treacherously killed by Indians while trading with them on the Delaware river. He left two sons; Samuel, born in 1630; and Hezekiah, in 1640. The elder, Samuel Luther, married and unto him and his wife Mary were born ten children. The ancestors of our subject in the succeeding generation were Samuel and Sarah Luther, natives of New England, the former born October 25, 1663. Their son, Caleb Luther, was born in 1691 and wedded Mary Cole, by whom he had six children.

The fifth in order of birth in this family was Jabez Luther, grandfather of our subject. He was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, November 26, 1776. In his boyhood he was noted for great love of learning but he had limited school privileges. He, however, obtained knowledge from every possible source and possessed a retentive memory. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade and expected to follow it as a life occupation. About this time, however, thought of marriage and the establishment of a home of his own entered his mind and his attention centered on a young lady of his acquaintance. An envious maiden, however, hinted to him that she was the recipient of attentions from other favored admirers and this led Jabez Luther to determine to follow the sea. He shipped on a merchant vessel for the West Indies, returning to his uncle's home after four years of sea-faring life. This was on the eve of Independence Day of 1805 and while assisting in the

firing of a cannon a premature discharge shattered both his hands. To many a man of less resolute spirit this would have seemed a difficulty too great to be endured but he possessed an independent spirit and determined not to let the disaster down him. After the amputation of both of his arms he made plans whereby "machines," as he called them, were manufactured and fitted on to the stumps of arms which remained. Thus equipped he took up the battle of life anew and not only learned to handle all kinds of machinery and tools but also to write. After teaching for a little while he embarked in merchandising. In 1805 he was married to his youthful and only choice, Miss Elizabeth Parkman, a daughter of Elias Parkman of North Brookfield, Massachusetts. She was born there, September 26, 1780. Her mother's name was Liscomb. Owing to her father's early death she lived for some years with a maternal aunt. To her husband she proved a most faithful companion and helpmate. She possessed rare capabilities and the atmosphere of the home life was one of great thoughtfulness and delicacy. In 1810 Jabez Luther purchased a tract of land in Berkshire, Vermont, and successfully carried on the farm work. The war of 1812 came on, bringing with it distress and hardships, and Mr. Luther, like many others, was a victim of the embargo act, which caused his financial ruin. He then removed with his family to Pittsford, Vermont. He knew no such word as fail and in order to provide for his family he taught school for several successive winters. He also again took up the work of farming. He was elected to offices of honor and trust, for a long time performing the duties of justice of the peace. Later he returned to Cornish, New Hampshire. There he began the manufacture of grain cradles and in this enterprise met with success. He was one of the world's heroes, possessing a nature that enabled him to triumph over difficulties and obstacles which would utterly have disheartened many men. He possessed much inventive genius and business ability, which found exemplification in his capable management of many interests and his adaptability to the varied conditions which time and fate wrought.

Charles Luther, son of Jabez Luther, was born in Pittsford, Rutland county, Vermont, June 30, 1819, and spent the first twelve years of his life there. He was married there in 1844 and in 1848

removed to Illinois, settling on a farm in Kankakee county. In 1865 he removed to Wilmington township. He had traveled westward by rail and the lakes to Chicago and by canal to Lockport, thence by team to Kankakee county, where he located one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land with a soldier's claim, which cost him one hundred dollars. The following year, in 1849, he returned to Vermont, for his wife and two children. In the meantime he had cut the trees and sawed the timber into lumber, with which he built a house. He broke the wild prairie with ox teams and improved the land, thus making a start in a pioneer district. He had been a school teacher in Vermont and he followed that profession in the winter months in Kankakee county. As stated, he afterward became a resident of Wilmington township, Will county, where his last days were passed, dying December 31, 1890. His wife bore the maiden name of Lucy Holland and was born July 3, 1825, in the Green Mountain state. They were there married October 22, 1844, and she is now living with our subject. Mr. Luther was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in New England and he assisted in supporting the New Jerusalem church in Wilmington. In politics he was a Douglas democrat. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Charles Luther were born three children: Julius, who was born July 7, 1846, and died May 26, 1886; Charles W., who was born December 9, 1848, and died September 2 1855, and Frederick A., of this review.

Frederick A. Luther, whose name introduces this record, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, March 28, 1855, and was therefore a lad of ten years at the time of his parents' removal to Will county. He was reared to farm work and throughout his entire life has carried on general agricultural pursuits. On the 8th of September, 1877, was celebrated his marriage to Miss Mary E. Thomas, who was born in Yorkshire England, January 10, 1856, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Lister) Thomas, who were natives of England and were there married January 14, 1847. The father, who was born March 12, 1819, died on the 22d of March, 1873. The mother, who was born December 24, 1822, is now living in Tingley, Iowa. In their family were seven children, of whom four yet survive: Robert L., who is married and lives in Wisconsin; Mrs. Luther: Annie,

who married G. Q. Immerzeel and lives in Iowa; and Lucy, the wife of Dr. L. R. Hinsdale, of Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Thomas was a farmer and blacksmith in England and in 1865 emigrated to the new world, settling in Florence township, Will county, Illinois, where he devoted his remaining days to general agricultural pursuits. Both he and his wife were members of the Church of England.

Soon after his marriage Frederick A. Luther began farming on his own account, having eighty acres of land which he cultivated and improved. He is today farming two hundred acres of rich and arable soil and has an excellent farm property, equipped with modern machinery and all the appliances of a model farm. He has upon the place a fine home and substantial barns, and the farm is conveniently and pleasantly located about a mile and a half northwest of Wilmington. At one time he was engaged in the breeding of Percheron horses, but is not connected with that line of business at the present time.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Luther have been born two children: Charles J. and John H., the former born April 4, 1879, and the latter June 18, 1884. The elder son married Blanche Magrew and they have one son, Julius Magrew, born May 17, 1905.

Frederick A. Luther and his wife are members of the New Jerusalem church. In politics he is independent, voting for men and measures rather than party. Almost his entire life has been passed in this county and throughout the entire period he has been connected with farming interests, being today a leading representative of agricultural life in this part of the state.

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#### AUGUST WILLE.

August Wille, living retired in Crete, is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of rich and productive land, from which he derives a good income. He is a native son of Crete township, having been born in 1868. His father, Philip Wille, was born in Hesse, Germany, and came to the United States in 1847. After a brief stay in Chicago, where he worked in a brickyard, he made his way to Crete township, Will county, and purchased eighty acres of wild government land, which he improved and to which he later added



a tract of seventy acres on an adjoining section and afterward purchased forty acres more, so that at the time of his death he owned one hundred and ninety acres of improved land. His first home here was a log house, but it was subsequently replaced by a frame residence. When he located in Crete township there were very few settlers there and most of the land was still in its primitive condition. He made his home upon his farm until his death, which occurred in 1896, when he was seventy-eight years of age. He was one of the men of affluence of his township, attaining a goodly measure of prosperity through his close and unremitting attention to business. He was regarded as a good neighbor, faithful and unselfish in his counsels and upright in all of his relations with his fellowmen. He voted with the republican party and held membership in the Lutheran church. During the early period of his residence in Crete township he wedded Mary Tagtmayer, also a native of Germany. She came to America in 1846, and they were married in Crete township. Her father died in Germany and her mother joined her in this country. Her brother Henry came in 1852 and settled in Chicago, where he remained for two years, after which he resided on a farm in Crete township. Other members of the family were John Tagtmayer, now in Washington township; Mary, the wife of Conrad Wilkening, of Washington township; and Engle, the wife of Henry Dunsen, of Chicago. The other member of the family, Mrs. Wille, died in 1902, at the age of seventy-seven years, having for six years survived her husband.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wille were born eight children: Sophie, the wife of John Schraeder, living in Washington township; John, a farmer at Beecher; Philip, who is living retired in Crete township; Mary, who became the wife of Henry Duensing and died in 1892; Emma and Henry, both deceased; Lena, who is living with her brother August, the youngest of the family.

Upon the home farm in Crete township August Wille was reared and attended the country schools, pursuing his education through the winter months, while in the summer seasons he aided in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting. His time and energies were largely given to farming in Crete township until 1903, when he removed to the village of Crete and now he gives

his supervision merely to his farming interests. He owns one hundred and ninety acres of land which is valuable and returns to him a good income.

On the 17th of February, 1907, Mr. Wille was united in marriage to Miss Helen Lorenze, of Crete township, who was born in Holstein, Germany. Her father, Nicholas Lorenze, was also a native of Holstein and came to the United States in 1894, making his home in Crete township, this county, until his death, which occurred in 1903, when he had reached the age of sixty-seven years and eight months. Mr. Wille is a member of the Lutheran church and in his political views is a republican.

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#### WILLIAM H. MEIER.

William H. Meier, engaged in general agricultural pursuits on section 15, Crete township, was born May 16, 1856, in the house in which he now lives, his parents being J. O. and Anne Meier, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of Henry E. Meier, on another page of this work.

William H. Meier was reared to farm labor and when not busy with the duties of the fields pursued his education in the common schools. He was early taught the value of industry and perseverance as effective factors in a business life and the lessons which he learned in youth along this line have borne fruit in his later years. When he was thirty years of age he was given two hundred and forty acres of choice land, which had been his father's old homestead. He has greatly improved the property since that time. He has built two large barns upon the place, one of which is a brick structure, and in the tilling of the soil he has brought forth rich crops. He continued to operate the homestead place until some time ago, when he sold eighty acres to the Indiana Southern Railroad, built by John R. Walsh. The remainder of the farm he cultivates and has recently purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Crete township, from J. O. Piepenbrink. He also owns two hundred and sixty acres near St. James, Minnesota, and a section of land in Assiniboia, Canada. His time and energies are devoted to general farming and in his business he

has met with gratifying success. His fields have been brought under a high state of cultivation and everything about the place is in keeping with the ideas of progressive agriculture.

In 1884 Mr. Meier was married to Miss Caroline Tatge, who was born in Crete township and is a daughter of H. H. Tatge, an early settler. Mr. and Mrs. Meier have become the parents of eight children: Otto, who is exchange clerk in the Chicago City Bank; Amelia, William T., Walter A., Emma, Linda, Edna and Paul, all yet at home.

Mr. Meier and his family are members of the Lutheran church, in the work of which he takes a helpful and active part. He has served for five years as trustee of the church and since 1897 has been treasurer of the German school in his district, while for many years he has been a director of the public schools. In politics he is an earnest and unfaltering republican, though he has never aspired to office, preferring to devote his time and attention to farming interests, in which connection he has made a creditable name for himself and has won a goodly measure of success.

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#### THOMAS TRAINER.

Among the representative and enterprising agriculturists of Custer township may be classed Thomas Trainer, who at the present time is operating one hundred and eighty-one acres of well improved land. He was born on the Isle of Man, July 18, 1842, a son of William and Margaret (Moore) Trainer. The former was born in Whittle, Scotland, while the latter was born on the Isle of Man. In 1853 the father and his family took passage from England on the sailing ship, William Tafscott. During the voyage they encountered a severe storm, and another ship, which had on board eight hundred passengers, lost her masts, so that she was unable to continue the voyage, the passengers being taken on board the William Tafscott, making in all a company of thirteen hundred. The passengers which were rescued from the second steamer were suffering from cholera, so that the disease soon became prevalent and during the voyage to New York city from seven to eight people died each day. Mrs. Trainer

died of that dread disease while on shipboard and was buried at sea in September, 1853, being at that time forty-five years of age. The father and his family of children, numbering four sons and one daughter, safely reached the harbor of New York, although they lost all their clothing, having only the garments they wore. They made their way at once to Cleveland, Ohio, where he left his children while he continued to Illinois, spending about one month in Wilmington in looking around for a permanent location. He finally purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Custer township, situated three miles from the village of Wilmington, for which he paid eight dollars per acre in English gold. He then returned to Ohio for his children and upon again arriving in Custer township settled on his farm. During his residence in the old country he was engaged in farming and in breeding horses, cattle and sheep but never engaged in the latter pursuit in this state. He was a member of the Church of England and died in Custer township in the eightieth year of his age.

Thomas Trainer was a youth of eleven years when he accompanied the family on their emigration to the new world. He assisted his father in the development and cultivation of the new farm, so that he was well trained in all the duties connected with carrying on farm work. He remained with his father until he reached man's estate, when he started out in life on his own account and established a home of his own by his marriage March 5, 1874, to Miss Elizabeth McDonald, who was born in Ireland, December 2, 1832, a daughter of John and Mary (Laven) McDonald, both of whom were likewise natives of the Emerald isle. They emigrated to the new world in the early '30s and settled in Amsterdam, New York where the father died. His widow afterward came to Will county, Illinois, and her death occurred here in 1886, when she was seventy-four years of age. Their family numbered five sons and three daughters, of whom five still survive, namely: Mrs. Trainer; Maria, the wife of Charles Shippy, a resident of Wilmington; John, a resident of Joliet; Edward, who makes his home in Lockport; and Anna, who became the wife of William Pike and is now a resident of Plainfield, Illinois. The father of this family followed farming in the east and gave his political support to the whig party.



THOMAS TRAINER.



Mr. Trainer is now operating a fine farm of one hundred and eighty-one acres in Custer township, and he was formerly engaged in breeding Clydesdale horses, South Down and Cotswold sheep and Poland China and Chester White hogs, but of late years he has abandoned his stock-breeding interests and now gives his entire time and attention to his farming. He is progressive in all that he does, keeping abreast of the most modern methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits, so that he is meeting with good success in his labors.

Mr. Trainer gives his political support to the men and measures of the republican party but has never been active as an office seeker. He is numbered among the oldest settlers of Custer township, for he has resided here continuously since his emigration to America, covering a period of fifty-three years, and he has a very wide and favorable acquaintance. Both he and his wife are a most excellent and worthy couple, having gained the confidence and good will of all with whom they have been associated.

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#### ROBERT C. MORRISON.

Robert C. Morrison, whose successful business career as president of the Joliet Bridge & Iron Company had its beginning in an apprenticeship to the stone-cutter's trade, since which time he has gradually progressed until he now stands at the head of an enterprise which figures prominently throughout the west, owes his advancement to the fact that he has thoroughly mastered every task devolving upon him, to the readiness with which he has recognized opportunity and to his adaptation of new conditions evolved in business life to the needs of his present duty.

Born in Kirkintollock, Dumbarton, Scotland, on the 23d of September, 1856, his parents were John and Mary (Sinclair) Morrison, who were also natives of that place, where they were respected as representatives of an industrious population. Both Mr. Morrison's father and grandfather were weavers and operated as manufacturers in a small way in that line until the death of the father, which occurred when his son Robert was but nine years of age, otherwise a different future might have been outlined for him than that

of bridge building. Having acquired a fair education in the common school of the locality Robert C. Morrison began learning the trade of a stone-cutter in 1872 and after spending two or three years as a journeyman he came to America in 1880, making his way direct to Joliet, where he worked at his trade, principally on bridge work. Thus he was receiving the training which qualified him for the responsibilities which have since devolved upon him in this connection.

In 1884 Mr. Morrison began taking contracts for bridge building on his own account and with the progressive strides that have been made in the iron and steel industry he began the construction of the more modern and scientific structures for which the company has gained an enviable international reputation. In 1896 he organized a company which began operating on a small scale but gradually extended the business in scope and volume until the Joliet Bridge & Iron Company is considering a leading factor in bridge construction throughout the western states, having already built some of the finest bridges and structural buildings in the Mississippi valley and the west. The officers of the company are: R. C. Morrison, president and treasurer; John A. McCann, secretary; F. C. H. Arentz, chief engineer; and John Strombeck, assistant engineer. The work is carried on along the most scientific lines, in keeping with the evolution that bridge construction has undergone, and the excellence of the work done has secured to the company many important contracts.

Mr. Morrison was married on the 20th of March, 1889, to Miss Catherine Kier, a daughter of James and Ellen Kier, of Joliet township, who were among the most esteemed and prosperous of the Will county pioneers and also came of the same nationality and religious faith as the Morrison family. Mr. Kier also made his start in life as a stone-cutter and becoming interested in the progress and extension of the Joliet Bridge Building Company, he was a substantial supporter of Mr. Morrison in this enterprise as well as a heavy stockholder. He was serving as vice president at the time of his death, which occurred on the 18th of March, 1906, an event which caused deep regret among the old settlers of the county for he was a prominent man in their midst, and friends and neighbors as well as his immediate



family deeply regretted his loss. His family numbered six children, three sons and three daughters, including Mrs. Morrison, all of whom were born on the old homestead on the Ridge road in Joliet township.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison has been blessed with three children, a son and two daughters, all of whom were born in the present family home at No. 607 Exchange street. The oldest, Raymond Kier, was born in 1890; Helen Sinclair, born in 1892; and Laurene, born in 1897. Mr. Morrison and his family are members of the First Presbyterian church and are much interested in its work and growth. Mr. Morrison is a member of the Commercial Club and the local lodge of Masons. Aside from these interests his business and his home keep him occupied, both of which bear testimony of his careful consideration, and the success which he has achieved in industrial and commercial circles is such of which he has every reason to be proud. His name is an honored one in industrial circles and he has advanced along modern lines, well meriting his prosperity.

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#### GEORGE ASBRAND.

George Asbrand who is engaged in general farming on section 23, Peotone township, was born in Germany in 1854 and both his father and his mother died in that country. They were farming people and their son was reared to the same occupation. He obtained his education in the schools of that country and in 1872, when eighteen years of age, came to the new world. He made his way at once to Illinois and worked by the month for two years in Green Garden township, Will county. He then came to Peotone township, where he worked by the month for four years. He afterward rented and farmed in the same township and continued to engage in renting for eleven years. He next bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Peotone township. He owns the creamery plant and one acre of land and he also has eighty acres in Will township. For the past eighteen years he has been a breeder of Belgium horses and handles some fine specimens of that stock. He now owns the stallion

Brilliant de Gemblox and also another Marcus De Ham. He likewise has blooded cattle and keeps twenty-seven head of cows for dairy purposes. His creamery is well conducted and is a good source of income, while the farm in all its departments is carefully conducted and is bringing him success.

Mr. Asbrand was married in 1863 to Miss Lotie Deitrich, who was born in Valparaiso, Indiana, and died December 1, 1898, at the age of forty-one years. They were the parents of three sons: Philip, who died in infancy; Otto and Fred, both at home. For his second wife, Mr. Asbrand chose Laura Wendling, who was born in Beecher township, this county, in 1866, and is a daughter of George and Catherine (Wagner) Wendling, who were pioneer farming people of Will county and are now living retired in Peotone. Mr. and Mrs. Asbrand were married in 1890.

They are well known people of the community and enjoy the friendship of many with whom they have come in contact. They belong to the Immanuel Lutheran church and Mr. Asbrand holds membership with the Modern Woodmen camp and the Grange. In politics he is independent. He has served as school director but otherwise has never sought or filled office. He is a self-made man whose success is due entirely to his own efforts. He had only three dollars when he came to Illinois the first time. After accumulating some money he went to Kansas, where he invested in land but lost all he had. He then returned to Illinois and has been successful in his farming operations here. He is now the owner of a good property and is conducting the business so that substantial success results.

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#### HENRY BUDLER.

Henry Budler is one deserving of much praise, for he came to Will county from foreign lands without capital and with no assistance from friends but he has worked his way steadily upward from a humble financial position until today he owns a valuable and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 12, Plainfield township, all of which has been acquired through his own well directed labors.

Mr. Budler was born in Prussia, May 8, 1857, a son of Michael and Catharine (Michaels) Budler, who were farming people of Germany, and both are now deceased, the former passing away in 1897, at the age of sixty-seven years, while the latter died in 1878, at the age of fifty-two. Our subject is one of seven children born of his father's family, the other being Jacob, a successful farmer of Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he owns one thousand acres of land; Peter, of White Lake, Aurora county, South Dakota, owning a farm of three hundred and twenty acres; Henry; Mrs. Elizabeth Hettinger, who resides on a farm at White Lake, South Dakota; Jacob J., a salesman for the Hammond Packing Company, making his home in Joliet; and Michael, Jr., who resides on the old homestead farm in Prussia.

Mr. Budler was reared and educated in his native land and for seven years was employed in a large greenhouse there. Crossing the Atlantic in 1880, he located in Will county, Illinois, where, with the exception of one year spent in Nebraska, he has made his home to the present time. He operated a rented farm in Troy township for five years, subsequent to which time he purchased his present farm in Plainfield township, this tract embracing one hundred and sixty acres. He has made many improvements upon the place and has brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, so that through his labor and enterprise the farm has doubled in value since coming into his possession. He is engaged in general agricultural pursuits and his labors are resulting in very gratifying results.

Mr. Budler established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Margaret Drouden, who was born and reared in the township in which she still makes her home, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Drouden. Her father is now deceased but the mother still makes her home on the farm in Plainfield township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Budler have been born four sons and two daughters, all of whom are still under the parental roof, the record being as follows: Eugene, a youth of seventeen years; Harry, fifteen years of age; Edward, thirteen years old; Elizabeth, Cecelia and Albert, aged respectively ten, seven and four years.

Mr. Budler formerly voted an independent ticket but of late years has adhered to the principles of the republican party. He is at the present

writing serving as school director. In his fraternal relations he holds membership with St. Nicholas order, No. 48, of Joliet, while he is a communicant of St. John's German Catholic church of that city.

Mr. Budler has ever displayed the industry and honesty so characteristic of the German element, and although he came to this country in limited financial circumstances he has worked his way upward until he is today the owner of one of the most productive and valuable farms of Plainfield township.

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#### J. C. CARLOSS.

J. C. Carloss, a painter and decorator at No. 509 Fourth avenue, Joliet, occupies a place in the front ranks of his profession and in the city and county are shown many evidences of his good taste in this line, in both the residence and business districts. Mr. Carloss is a native of England, having been born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, on the 1st of March, 1855. After leaving the public schools he learned the trade of painting and decorating, and also that of plumbing, under the direction of an uncle who was a successful contractor in that country. Prior to his departure for America, Mr. Carloss spent three years in Ireland following his trade chiefly on large contracts of public buildings and fine residences.

At length he determined to try his fortune in the new world, having heard very favorable reports of the greater opportunities and excellent advantages here afforded. His voyage proved to be a perilous one for he was a passenger on board the City of Washington, which was wrecked. The passengers and crew were saved, however, being picked up by another vessel and thus sent to Boston. After two months Mr. Carloss reached the American port in 1872. He first went to New York and later to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. In August, 1873, he went to Chicago and the following year came to Will county, settling in Joliet where he has since made his home. Here he has continuously been engaged in business in the line of his trade and after a brief period in the employ of others here, he began contracting on his own account as a painter and decorator. From

the beginning he has been accorded a liberal patronage for he has displayed superior skill and artistic talent and many of the best homes of the city show forth the evidence of his handiwork, while in public works his services has also been of value.

In 1882, Mr. Carlross was married to Miss Florence Cooney, of Plainfield, whose parents were among the old time respected residents of that section of the county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Carlross have been born four sons and five daughters, who are being reared in the midst of most comfortable and attractive surroundings. Their two oldest daughters were happily married in the autumn of 1906 to two young progressive and well-to-do farmers of this county, Iva becoming the wife of Neil Richards of Joliet township, and Florence the wife of King Heintzelman of Plainfield. The family home displays a good library and many evidences of the culture and refinement of the inmates, while the members of the household are greatly esteemed by many friends.

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### JAMES CRAIG.

James Craig, who since 1869 has been a resident of Will county, being now closely associated with the farming and industrial interests of his locality, was born in Straid, County Antrim, Ireland, in 1849. His parents, James and Agnes Craig, were natives of Glasgow, Scotland, although both died in Ireland. The father became an agriculturist of that country and also bought and sold stock there. Both he and his wife were members of the Moravian church. His death occurred in 1891, his wife's in 1898, and they had each reached the venerable age of four score years when called to their final rest. Only four of their twelve children are now living, as follows: James; John, who is living on the old homestead farm in Ireland; Priscilla, who is the widow of A. McDowell and resides on the Emerald isle; and Hannah, who likewise lives on one of the old homestead properties in Ireland.

James Craig spent the first ten years of his life in the land of his nativity and in September, 1869, made the voyage to the new world on the steamship Minnesota of the Cunard line. After

a week passed in Brooklyn visiting friends and relatives, he continued on his way to Joliet and spent two or three years there working at the trade of horseshoeing. He then located in Wilmington in 1872 and in 1879 removed to his farm, whereon his time and energies have since been given to the development of the fields and to the trade of horseshoeing. He is an excellent workman in that line. He also breeds Percheron horses and Poland China hogs and as a farmer and stock-raiser is doing a successful business. His place is well equipped with modern appointments and everything about the farm indicates his careful supervision by reason of its neat and thrifty appearance.

On the 9th of April, 1877, Mr. Craig was united in marriage to Miss Minerva Rockwell, who was born in Wilmington township, September 19, 1849, a daughter of Stephen and Mahala (McClure) Rockwell, both of whom were natives of Highgate, Vermont. Her father died August 16, 1886, at the age of seventy years, and his wife on the 13th of December, 1879, when fifty-seven years of age. They were married in Vermont. In 1859 Mr. Rockwell came to Illinois with horses and teams, locating in Florence township, Will county. The family had made the journey by rail. He first purchased forty acres of land and subsequently he bought land in Wilmington township, embracing a half section. He hauled the lumber from Chicago to build his first house and he hauled his wheat to Chicago to market it. He was one of the pioneer farmers and stock-raisers of his locality and aided in the development of the county along modern lines of progress and improvement. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he served as highway commissioner and as school director for many years. He also belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church and his life was an exemplification of high and honorable principles and manly conduct.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Craig have been born fourteen children, of whom eight survive: Arthur, who is engaged in buying and selling horses at Idaho Falls, Idaho; James, who was graduated as a civil engineer from the Illinois University in June, 1906, and is now employed by the state soil surveyor; George, who has been a student in the agricultural department of the State University;



MR. AND MRS. JAMES CRAIG.





David, who is studying civil engineering at Campaign, Illinois; Eunice; Alice; Marie; and Walter.

Mr. Craig is a stalwart advocate of republican principles, staunchly supporting the party. He has served as school director for twenty years or more and is filling the position at the present time. He is likewise connected with River camp, No. 94, M. W. A. He has recently returned from the old country, having spent two months with his brother and sister in Ireland. He has never had occasion, however, to regret his determination to make America his home, for in this land he has found good opportunities and, working persistently and energetically, success has attended his efforts and his labors have made him one of the substantial residents of Will county.

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#### HENRY C. WEHMHOFER.

The farm on which he now lives on section 25, Crete township, was the birth place of Henry C. Wehmhoefer and he first opened his eyes to the light of day in 1860. His father, Conrad Wehmhoefer, was a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and died in 1876, at the age of fifty-six years. He had become a resident of the United States in 1847 and worked by the month at farm labor in Homer township, Will county, at six dollars a month. In 1852 he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land on section 25, Crete township, this purchase being made possible by the result of his industry and frugality during the preceding years. He removed to this farm, taking his bride with him. The land had been entered from the government by his cousin, Phillip Juerdening. Later he added forty acres to the place and also bought ten acres of timber land. As the years passed, through careful management of his property, he became prosperous, and in addition to the tilling of the soil he also raised considerable stock. He was a member of the Lutheran church and his life was ever honorable and upright in all of its connections. He was one of the thirteen organizers of the St. John's church, liberal in its support and served for many years as one of its officers. He voted with the whig party in early manhood and after the organization of the repub-

lican party became one of its staunch advocates. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Christina Rohe, was born in Hanover, Germany, and is now living in Washington township at the age of seventy years. After losing her first husband she married Henry Hahn, a pioneer farmer of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Wehmhoefer had three children who lived to adult age, the sisters of our subject being: Sophie, the wife of William Wilkening, a merchant of South Chicago; and Anna, the wife of H. L. Bohlmann, supervisor of Washington township. By the father's former marriage, there were three children: William, now deceased; Mary, the wife of Phillip Bernhard, of Washington township; and Melissa, who is living with her sister Mary.

In taking up the personal history of H. C. Wehmhoefer, we present to our readers the life record of one who is well and favorably known in Crete township. He was reared upon the farm which he now occupies and attended the district schools. He has always followed the occupation of farming and is still associated with agricultural interests, while at the same time he is vice president of the Crete State Bank and one of its directors. He assisted in its organization and has aided in making it a substantial financial institution. In connection with his general farming interests, he operates a dairy and in 1891 joined with six others in organizing the Inter-state Creamery Company, of which he has been manager since 1900. His business interests are extensive and in all he has displayed careful management, unfaltering diligence and wise judgment.

Mr. Wehmhoefer was married in 1883 to Miss Sophia Oldendorf, who was born in Hanover township, Lake county, Indiana, in 1863, the daughter of Conrad and Christina Oldendorf, who came from Germany in an early day and settled in Lake county. Mr. and Mrs. Wehmhoefer now have seven children: Emma, William, Henry, Edwin, Louis, Lydia and Clara. Elma and Albert are deceased.

Mr. Wehmhoefer is a member of the St. John's Lutheran church, to which his wife also belongs and in the community they are highly esteemed citizens, the hospitality of their home being greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has been

a supporter of the republican party and is recognized as a leader in its local ranks. He has served as collector of his township and in 1893 was called to the office of assessor, remaining the incumbent therein for eight years. In December of 1902, when William Saller was elected county treasurer, Mr. Wehmhoefer was appointed to succeed him as supervisor and has twice been elected to that position. He has been school director for some years and is now school trustee. His official duties have ever been performed with due regard to the obligations that devolved upon him in these connections. In the community he is esteemed because of his fidelity to public trust, because of his activity and enterprise in business, and because of his geniality and deference for the opinions of others which he has always shown in social relations.

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#### MICHAEL O'CONNOR.

Michael O'Connor, deceased, was for a long period connected with the agricultural interests of Will county, having made a permanent location here in 1864, and during his residence within its borders was known as a straightforward and reliable man. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1823, a son of Nicholas and Mary (Fitzgerald) O'Connor, both of whom were likewise natives of County Limerick, where they spent their entire lives. Their family numbered three sons and three daughters.

Michael O'Connor emigrated from his native land at an early day, and upon his arrival in New York at once made his way to Schenectady, where he spent some time, and in 1864 continued his journey westward to Will county, purchasing a farm in Wesley township. He followed general agricultural pursuits for three decades, during which time he worked diligently and persistently to provide for himself and family and also acquire a comfortable competence. In 1894 he retired from active business life, and, removing to Wilmington, spent the remainder of his days in well merited rest. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, for his death occurred here two years later, or in 1896, when he had reached the age of seventy-three years. He

was a man of strong temperance principles and was honored and respected throughout the community in which he resided for he was never known to take advantage of his fellowmen in any trade transaction. He was devoted to the welfare and happiness of his wife and children and his most pleasant hours were those spent at his own fireside. He was a Jacksonian democrat but never cared to figure in political circles. He was a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church of Wilmington.

Mr. O'Connor was married in Schenectady, New York, in 1848, to Miss Bridget Kither, who was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, a daughter of Bernard and Bridget (Higgins) Kither, both of whom were born in County Roscommon. The father emigrated with his family to the new world on an old-time sailing vessel, which, after a voyage of twenty-one days on the Atlantic, reached the harbor of New York. The family made their way to Schenectady, where they lived for six years, after which they removed to Will county, Illinois, where the father was engaged in farming and also worked for others. He was a Jacksonian democrat and a communicant of the Catholic church. Of their family of three sons and four daughters, four are now living, namely: Mrs. O'Connor; Patrick, a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota; Mary, and Catherine. The father of this family died in 1862, at the age of sixty-three years, while the mother died in Braidwood, at the age of seventy.

Of the thirteen children born unto Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor, six are now living. Bridget is the wife of Thomas Moran and resides in Braidwood. John wedded Annie Foley, who died February 19, 1907, and makes his home in Wesley township. Thomas, to whom we are indebted for the material furnished for this sketch, was born in Wesley township, March 8, 1863. He was educated in the public schools of Will county and for many years followed farming on his father's old homestead but in 1905 removed to Wilmington, where he has since lived retired. He is a democrat in his political views but is not active as an office seeker. He is a communicant of St. Rosa Roman Catholic church, while fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to River camp, No. 142, at Wilmington. Sarah O'Connor became the wife of Philip Carey, but he is now deceased, his death having

occurred August 4, 1905. Hattie is the wife of Andrew Quigley and resides in Chicago. Margaret is the wife of Michael Kennedy, a resident of Florence township, Will county.

Mrs. O'Connor, a bright and active lady of eighty-two years, still enjoys good health and has many friends in Wilmington, where she now makes her home. She has eighteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren now living. The family are highly respected, having many friends in this community.

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#### HERMAN F. ROTERMUND.

The birthplace of Herman F. Rotermund was the farm on which he now resides and throughout his entire life he has been connected with the work of tilling the soil and with other agricultural interests. He lives on section 30, Crete township, and there he was born January 12, 1852,—the third of the four children of Frederick and Mary (Miller) Rotermund, natives of Hanover, Germany. The father emigrated to the United States in 1848 and making his way to Du Page county, Illinois, there worked at farm labor until 1851, when he came to Will county and purchased a Mexican land warrant, wherewith he secured one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land. It was entirely destitute of improvements and after building a little board house upon the place he began breaking the sod, planting the seed and in due course of time gathering good harvests. Conditions found upon the frontier were still prevalent here at that time. Chicago was the nearest market at that time and while on a trip there in 1854 Mr. Rotermund became ill and died at Blue Island, Illinois. He was a good man, honorable in all life's relations. He held membership in the Lutheran church and gave the land upon which St. John's Lutheran church in Crete township was built. While he had not been identified with farming interests long enough to win an estate of much value he left to his family the more valuable heritage of an untarnished name. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Rotermund became the wife of Christ Rust. She passed away in Crete township in 1885, at the age of seventy years. By her first marriage she had four children,

but the eldest died in infancy. The others are: Sophia, the wife of J. H. Schweer, living on the Indiana side of the state line; H. F., of this review; and Henry, who makes his home in the village of Crete. By the second marriage there was one daughter—Mary Rust, now the deceased wife of John Schweer, of Crete.

H. F. Rotermund was reared to farm life, remaining with his mother and step-father, while in the German schools he acquired his education. He has always engaged in general farming and the habits of industry and perseverance which he formed in his youth have since been numbered among his strongest characteristics. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead, on which are good improvements, most of which have been placed here by Mr. Rotermund.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Sophia Schweer, who gave him her hand in marriage in 1879. She was born in Lake county, Indiana, in 1854, a daughter of Christ Schweer, an early settler of Lake county, who died about a year ago. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rotermund have been born four children: Amelia, now the wife of Herman Wassman, a farmer of Ormsby, Minnesota; Fred, who will graduate from Concordia College, of St. Louis, Missouri, in June, 1907, in preparation for the ministry; Martin, at home; and Albert, a twin brother of Martin, who died at the age of six months.

In connection with the operation of his own farm Mr. Rotermund acted as manager of the Interstate Creamery from 1893 until 1902 and has been one of its directors since 1891. He it was who called the first meeting of farmers to talk over the plan of having a creamery and was also largely instrumental in putting up the plant. The enterprise has proved a decided success and has been of much benefit to the community. In his political views Mr. Rotermund is a republican and has filled a number of local offices. He was appointed postmaster of Bemis under President Cleveland and filled that position for seven years. He served as constable for one term, was justice of the peace for sixteen years, was collector for one year, and for a quarter of a century has been school director. He and his wife are members of St. John's Lutheran church, in which he has served as trustee for seven years and as treasurer for four years. The church finds in him a devoted

and helpful member and his fellow townsmen know him as one worthy of their respect and good will.

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### HENRY LEACH.

No matter in how much fantastic theorizing one may indulge as to the secrets and causation of success it will be found that earnest, persistent industry is the real basis of all advancement in the business world and the life record of Henry Leach, a lumber merchant of Joliet, is another exemplification of this fact. Born in Kendall county, Illinois, on the 13th of August, 1815, he is a son of Henry Leach, who was a native of England and who followed agricultural pursuits in Kendall county up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1850. His widow, Mrs. Sarah Leach, survived until 1878.

Henry Leach was only six years of age at the time of his father's demise. He acquired his early education in the public schools and afterward attended Fowler Institute in Newark, Kendall county, Illinois, until 1866, thus acquiring a good education, which well qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. Putting aside his text-books, he remained upon the home farm until his marriage on the 19th of January, 1869, when he settled upon a farm near Chatsworth in Livingston county, Illinois, where he resided until 1875. In that year he removed to Gardner, Grundy county, this state, where he purchased land, continuing its cultivation for fourteen years and still retaining ownership of that property. In 1887 he established a lumberyard in Gardner, where he remained for three years and in 1890 removed to Joliet, where he continued in the same line of business, being today one of the leading lumber merchants of the city with a large and gratifying patronage.

The lady whom Mr. Leach wedded in 1869 bore the maiden name of Miss Iona C. Howland, who met her husband while they were students in Fowler Institute. They traveled life's journey happily together for a quarter of a century and were then separated by the death of Mrs. Leach on the 23d of January, 1894. On the 25th of June, 1896, Mr. Leach was again married, his

second union being with Delia Baldwin of Joliet. His children are Henry C. Leach, born November 27, 1869; Howard E., April 20, 1871; Roy B., October 30, 1876; Arthur C., February 4, 1879; and Elmer S., July 28, 1884.

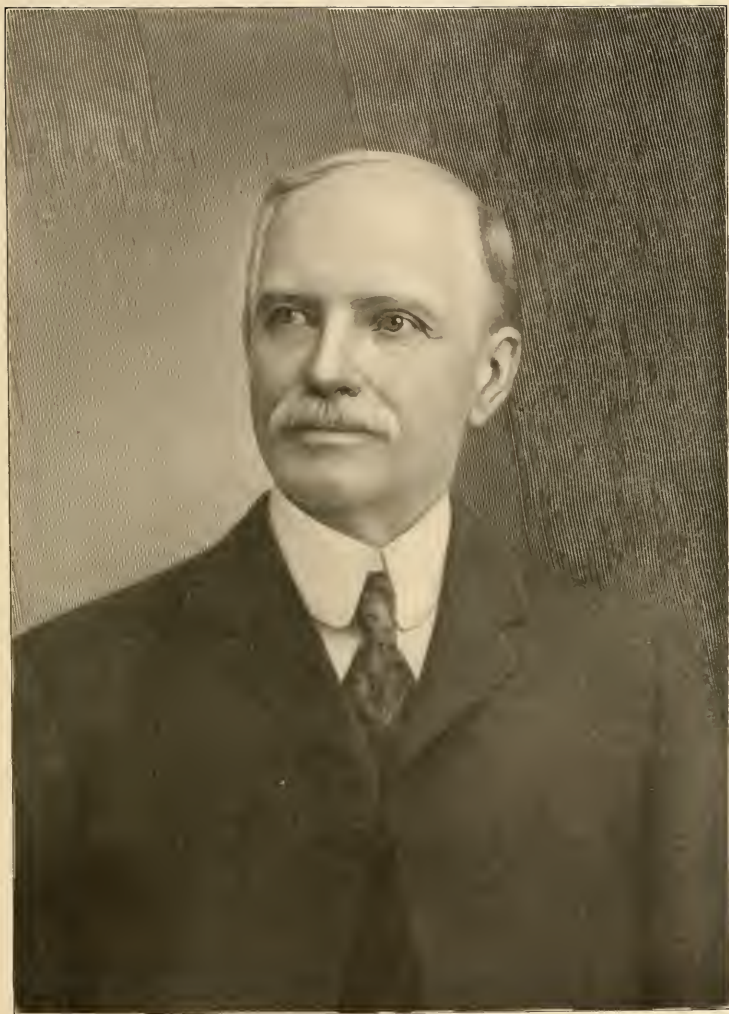
Mr. Leach is prominent in Masonic circles, belonging to Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Joliet chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; and Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T. He is likewise a member of the Commercial club. In community affairs he has been prominent and influential and his co-operation may always be counted upon to further any movement for the public good. He held the office of supervisor in Grundy county and also in Will county and has been a member of the high school board since its organization. He is now president of the Silver Cross hospital, in which connection he is ably administering the affairs of an institution which is of the utmost value to the citizens of Joliet and surrounding districts. A gentleman of broad humanitarian principles and kindly spirit, of keen insight and unflinching energy in business, in all life's relations he displays firm purpose, unflinchingly supporting his honest convictions and winning the respect of his fellowmen by his well known fidelity.

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### BENJAMIN CROXEN.

Among the venerable citizens of Will county none are more deserving of mention in this volume than Benjamin Croxen, who has reached the age of four-score years and now resides in Peotone township. He was born in Northamptonshire, England, in 1826. His father, Benjamin Croxen, was a farmer by occupation, and both he and his wife died in England. Mr. Croxen of this review had no school privileges and the success which he has won has come as the reward of his force of character and unflinching determination in business affairs. He crossed the Atlantic to the United States in 1850, locating in Joliet, and as he had no capital he earned his living by working by the month on a farm. When he had saved from his earnings a sufficient sum of money to justify his purchase of land, he bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, Peotone town-





HENRY LEACH.





ship. This was in 1854 and he has resided continuously upon the farm, covering a period of more than a half century. Throughout his entire life he has carried on general agricultural pursuits and has prospered as the years have gone by.

Mr. Croxen had four children: Ida, at home; Sallie, the wife of George Bartlett; Ira, who is operating the home farm; and John, deceased. Ira married Jennie Berry, a daughter of George and Jane Berry, and they have four children, Gerald, James Temple, Eugene and George.

Benjamin Croxen of this review votes with the republican party, having been one of its staunch advocates since its organization. His son Ira is an independent republican. Mr. Croxen has led a life of activity and usefulness, developing a character which commands respect and is worthy of emulation, and now in the evening of life he receives the esteem and veneration which should ever be accorded to those who have traveled far on life's journey.

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#### ROBERT E. HALEY.

Robert E. Haley, city attorney of Joliet, is the youngest incumbent who has ever occupied this position but his years seem to be no bar to his progress as a member of the legal fraternity and in the conduct of important cases he has displayed marked ability. Born in Joliet, March 5, 1879, he is a son of Patrick C. and Mary Anastasia (D'Arcy) Haley, the former a prominent attorney of Chicago.

In the schools of his native city Robert E. Haley acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by professional training in the University of Michigan. He studied law with his father for some time, doing much preparatory work in his office, and was graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1902. The same year he was admitted to the bar before the supreme court and entered at once upon the practice of his profession in Joliet, where he has since secured a gratifying clientage. In April, 1905, he was elected city attorney and has made a satisfactory record in the office. He is one of the youngest attorneys in Joliet and is the young-

est who has ever been elected to the position which he is now filling. Socially he is popular and he has various fraternal connections, affiliating with the Elks, the Knights of Columbus, the Eagles, the White Cross and the Commercial Club.

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#### JOHN. F. HERBERT.

John F. Herbert, who is the owner of one hundred and fifteen acres of rich and productive land in Channahon township, was born in that township, February 26, 1855, and is the only surviving member of a family of three children whose parents were Patrick and Mary (Loneragan) Herbert, both of whom were natives of County Limerick, Ireland. The father, who was born in 1826, died in the year 1858, while the mother, whose birth occurred in 1833, passed away in 1892. On coming to America they landed at Boston, Massachusetts, where the father worked for a time in a nail factory and then went to Weymouth, that state. He came to Channahon township, Will county, Illinois, in the early '40s, and began farming on section 15, where he remained until his death. In 1864 his widow became the wife of Joseph Geary, who was also connected with agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death in 1895. There was one child by that marriage, Joseph C., who is now living in Chicago.

John F. Herbert was reared upon the homestead farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and since attaining his majority he has made farming his life work. He was married January 17, 1881, to Miss Mary King, who was born September 26, 1851, in Wilmington township, and died April 19, 1903. She was the second of the three children of Henry and Mary (Gleney) King, both of whom were natives of Ireland and came to Will county at an early day. They were connected with farming interests here. One daughter, Mrs. Thomas McCormick, is now living in Parsons, Kansas. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Herbert were born six children, all of whom are living: Mary M., Gertrude E., Catherine, Thomas W., and Alice A. and Agnes H., twins.

Mr. Herbert of this review remained upon the home farm in Channahon township until 1880, when he removed to Kansas, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1895, when he returned to the old homestead, upon which he now resides. He owns one hundred and twenty-five acres of arable land, well improved, and bringing forth rich crops annually. He has served as school director for the past nine years and at the present writing is assessor, to which office he has been elected four times successively. He has always been a democrat and is a man well liked throughout the community in which he has so long made his home.

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#### GEORGE S. MILLER.

George S. Miller is one of the prominent representatives of the business life of Monee. He has varied interests there, being engaged in general merchandise, in buying and shipping grain and in banking as well, as cashier of the Eastern Will County State Bank. He was born in Mattison, Cook county, Illinois, in 1865. His father, Simon Miller, was a native of Bavaria, Germany, and came to America with his parents when a youth of fourteen years. The family settled in Chicago and he became a member of Company 6, Volunteer Fire Department, serving with Barrett and Sweeney, the latter afterward becoming chief of the Chicago fire department. After several years on the force Mr. Miller was advised to leave the city and settled at Richton and afterward at Mattison, where he turned his attention to general merchandising and the grain trade. Later he was engaged in the same line of business at Monee. He was a very successful business man and was widely known throughout the county by reason of the extent of his operations, the excellent business qualifications which he displayed and the straightforward methods which he followed in the conduct of his interests. He also figured in public life as a leader in local democratic circles. He served as supervisor for several years and was the last democratic chairman of the county board of supervisors. At one time he was the unsuccessful candidate for the state legislature. He held membership in the Reformed Lutheran church and

spent his last days in Chicago, where he died July 3, 1902, his remains then being interred in Monee.

The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Bepperling. She was born in New York, and is now living in Chicago, having accompanied her parents on their removal to that city at an early day. In fact Chicago was only a village at that time and among her playmates were the little Indian children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Simon Miller were born three sons, who died in childhood, and a daughter, who is now Mrs. Holzapfel, a resident of Alhambra, California.

George S. Miller largely spent his boyhood days in Monee, where he pursued a common-school education. He also spent six months as a student in the Metropolitan Business College in Chicago. When twenty-two years of age he began business as a general merchant and still continues in this line, having now one of the largest and most complete stocks in the village. A liberal patronage is accorded him and he makes a close and earnest study of the demands of the public, so that he is able to meet any call that may be made by the general trade. He also owns an elevator and buys and sells grain. In 1893 he was one of the organizers of the Eastern Will County State Bank and from the beginning has been its cashier, while his father-in-law, John Kolstedt, has been president of this organization. This is one of the strongest banks in Will county with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars and surplus of nine thousand dollars. A general banking business is conducted and from the beginning the enterprise has been most successful. George Sonneborn is vice president and the officers are members of the board of directors, together with John Scheidt, of Richton, Illinois; Phil Glaeser, of Richton; Fred Nagel, of Monee; Nicholas Fortmiller, of Mattison; Albert P. Lilley, of Peotone; and Henry J. Schluntz, of Joliet.

In 1891 was celebrated the marriage of George S. Miller and Miss Francieila Kolstedt, a daughter of John Kolstedt, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. They now have one son, Harold M. Their home is one of the finest residences of the village and its hospitality is most pleasing, being generous and warm hearted. Mr. Miller belongs to the Reformed Lutheran church. His political allegiance is given to the democracy and for two years he served as trustee of the village board,

while for sixteen years he has been president of the village board. In this connection he has given most capable service, being especially interested in its growth and substantial improvement and working along modern business lines for its development and growth. He endorses all those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and of civic pride and in political as well as business lines his efforts have been far-reaching and beneficial to Monee.

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#### ARTHUR D. JACKSON.

Arthur D. Jackson, an extensive farmer and stock-breeder, owns and operates a well improved tract of three hundred and fifty-six acres, and in his pastures are seen high grades of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, this constituting a very important branch of his business. He is a native son of Will county, his birth having occurred in Florence township, November 2, 1857. His paternal grandparents, Isaac and Hannah Jackson, were both natives of Nova Scotia, but were married in New York. Their union was blessed with six children but all are now deceased. They settled in Will county in the early '30s, where the grandfather took up a government claim, which he improved and in November, 1845, divided among his children. In addition to carrying on general farming he was also a pioneer minister of his locality. He gave his political support to the whig party and was a very prominent man in his day, taking an active and helpful part in the agricultural as well as moral development of this section of the state, and Jackson township was named in honor of him. After a residence of almost a half century in this county, his death occurred August 12, 1875, when he had reached the venerable age of ninety years, four months and twenty-four days. His wife died February 2, 1856, when she had reached the age of sixty-six years.

Delancy M. Jackson, son of Isaac and Hannah Jackson, was born at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, September 3, 1824, and was only a small boy when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Will county. He remained with his father during the period of his boyhood and youth, and in the division of the latter's landed possessions, a

farm on section 8, Florence township, fell to the lot of the son Delancy. He built a home on the farm and made many valuable and substantial improvements, hewing the lumber and shaving the shingles used in the construction of his house from timber which was cut on his land. This place now constitutes a portion of the farm occupied by his son, whose name introduces this review. Mr. Jackson was one of the pioneers of Florence township, aiding in the development and progress of his home locality. He prospered in his work, for he followed practical methods in the cultivation of his crops. There were many inconveniences to be borne, for Chicago was his nearest market and he had to haul his wheat and other farm products to that city, for this was prior to the era of railroad development. He became one of the large land-owners of Will county, having at the time of his death four hundred acres, which he divided among his five sons, giving to each an eighty-acre tract. He was married February 4, 1849, to Miss Harriet Gould, who was born in Syracuse, New York, December 18, 1830, and in early life removed with her parents to Ohio, whence in 1845 they removed to Will county, settling in Wesley township. Their family numbered six children, of whom three are deceased: Andrew M. and Aaron E., both of whom have passed away; Albert J., who wedded Electa Emery and makes his home in Coloma, Michigan; Arthur D., of this review; James I., who wedded Laura O. Wegnall, and resides in Grand Junction, Colorado; and Della, who died in infancy. The father of this family passed away July 19, 1879, at the age of fifty-six years, while his wife survived for many years, and died November, 1903, at the age of seventy-three. The father gave his political support to the whig party and served continuously as school director from the time of the building of the first schoolhouse until the time of his death.

Arthur D. Jackson, the fourth son and fourth child born of the marriage of Delancy M. and Harriet (Gould) Jackson, was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, early becoming familiar with the tasks and duties connected with agricultural pursuits. He acquired his education in the public schools near his father's home. He worked with his father until twenty-three years of age, when he started out upon an independent business venture, following the pursuits to which he had been

reared. In 1885 he made a trip to South Dakota, where he entered a claim of government land, which comprised one hundred and sixty acres. After two years he again returned to Will county and conducted a meat market in Wilmington during the succeeding two years, when he returned to the old homestead in Florence township and again resumed farm work. As above stated, his father deeded him eighty acres of land on section 5, and he has since continued to make this his home. He has, however, added to his original holdings until today he is the owner of three hundred and fifty-six acres of well improved land, the greater part of which is under cultivation, while a portion is devoted to pasturage, for he is an extensive breeder and raiser of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. He makes a specialty of Shropshire sheep, breeding from one to two hundred head each year, while at the present time he has a drove of seven hundred. He also feeds from one to two carloads of cattle and the same number of hogs annually, which he ships to the Chicago markets. In connection with his brother-in-law, R. D. Corbin, he breeds high-grade Norman horses, and his stock-raising interests claim much of his time and attention. In addition to his holdings in Will county and in South Dakota, he also made a trip in the spring of 1906 to Saskatchewan county, Canada, near Quill lakes, and purchased a half section of land, well adapted to the raising of wheat. He is a man of good business ability, capably managing his extensive farming and stock-raising interests, so that his labors are bringing to him very desirable and gratifying returns, thus placing him in the front ranks of the leading citizens of this part of the state.

In 1897 Mr. Jackson established a home of his own by his marriage on the 12th of October of that year, to Miss Bernice Corbin, who was born in Florence township, July 24, 1875, a daughter of Royal S. and Elizabeth (Jukes) Corbin, one of the prominent pioneer couples of Will county, further mention of whom is made in connection with the sketch of Royal D. Corbin on another page of this work. The only child of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Gladys Bernice, who was born November 30, 1899, died May 23, 1903.

Mr. Jackson's study of the current events of the day has led him to give stalwart support to the republican party, while his fraternal relations are

with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to camp No. 3318, at Elwood. The name of Jackson has been associated with the history of Will county through more than three-quarters of a century and is therefore a familiar as well as an honored one in this part of the state. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were born and reared in Florence township, where they have spent their entire lives, so that they are widely and favorably known, while the hospitality of their pleasant home is freely extended to their many friends.

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#### AUGUSTUS S. ALDERMAN.

Augustus S. Alderman, a prosperous and representative farmer of Dupage township, was born in Canada on the 4th of March, 1835, and is a son of George W. and Adeline (Sharp) Alderman. He has one sister, Mrs. Romanzo Lynn, now a resident of Downer's Grove, Illinois. When two years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Michigan City, Indiana, where the family resided for a short time and then went to Chicago, but after a brief residence in that place came to Joliet. In 1841 they settled on a small farm in Dupage township, where our subject grew to manhood, his time and attention being largely devoted to agricultural pursuits.

On the 14th of March, 1871, Mr. Alderman married Miss Eleanor Welch, who is the eldest in a family of four children, and they have become the parents of one son and two daughters, namely: George W., Eleanor Dystrup and Grace Phelps. After his marriage Mr. Alderman located on a small farm in Dupage township, which he had purchased the year previous. By industry and economy he prospered as the years went by and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his property, until today he is the owner of an excellent farming property consisting of five hundred and forty acres on sections 22, 26 and 27, Dupage township. The fields are under a high state of cultivation and the buildings upon the place are neat and substantial.

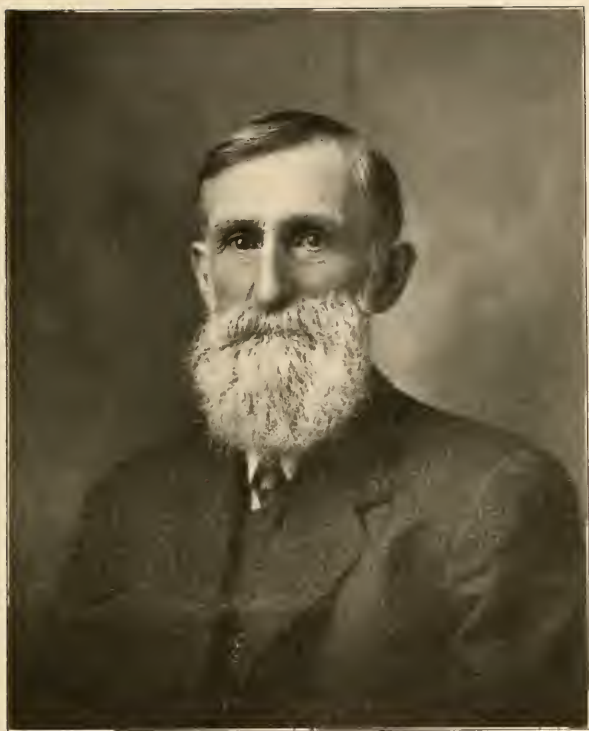
By his ballot Mr. Alderman supports the men and measures of the democratic party and never







MRS. A. S. ALDERMAN.



A. S. ALDERMAN.



withholds his aid from any measure which he believes will prove of public benefit. Fraternally he is a Mason and Odd Fellow. He is one of the self-made men of the county, having started out in life in limited circumstances, and the success that he has achieved is due entirely to his excellent business ability, sound judgment and good management as well as his industry.

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#### CHARLES H. WOODS.

Charles H. Woods, an extensive farmer of Wilmington township, operating at the present time about four hundred acres of land, was formerly a breeder of Poland China hogs and polled Durham and shorthorn cattle. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut, March 31, 1853, a son of John and Catherine (McCabe) Woods, the former a native of County Cavan, Ireland. They were married in that country, where they lived until after the birth of their eldest child, when, in 1838, they emigrated to the new world on an old-time sailing vessel, which, after a long and tedious voyage of six weeks finally reached the harbor of New York. After spending about three weeks in New York city, the family made their way to Hartford, Connecticut, where they lived for one year, subsequent to which time they removed to New Haven, where they spent some sixteen years. The father was ticket agent at the latter place for the Hartford & Springfield Railroad Company. Hoping to enjoy better business advantages in the new west, he then removed with his family to Will county, the year of their arrival here being 1855. After spending a short time in Wilmington, he removed to a farm of eighty acres which he had purchased, this being located five miles northwest of Wilmington. The land was all wild and unimproved when it came into his possession, and with the use of ox teams he soon broke the land and placed his fields under cultivation. He also erected a house, in which the family lived in true pioneer style, enduring all the hardships and privations incident to an existence upon the frontier. He prospered in his work and from time to time added to his landed possessions until at one time he owned four hundred acres in Will county. He was actively en-

gaged in farming pursuits until 1881, when he retired from agricultural life and engaged in loaning money. He was a man highly respected in the community where he lived, and was a Jacksonian democrat but never cared for public office, as his time was fully occupied with his private business affairs. He was a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church, at Wilmington. His death occurred December 13, 1893, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-three years, while his wife, surviving for only a short period, passed away October 3, 1894, when seventy-three years of age.

Of the four children born of the father's marriage, Charles H. Woods is the younger of the two surviving members, his brother being George Woods. Charles H. Woods was only two years of age when brought by his parents from his native state to Will county. He was reared to farm life, assisting his father in the operation of the homestead property, and in the common schools of Wilmington township acquired his education. He remained under the parental roof until he was married February 14, 1877, to Miss Mary E. Riley, who was born in Channahon township, Will county, August 27, 1854. Her parents, Thomas and Catherine (Carroll) Riley, were both natives of Roscommon county, Ireland, the latter a daughter of Patrick and Winnie (McGraw) Carroll, who emigrated from the old world to this country at an early day. Mr. Carroll lies buried in Vermont, while his wife was buried in Dresden Hill, Will county. He was a large landowner of Will county. His family numbered eleven sons and two daughters, including Mrs. Riley. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Riley were born four sons and three daughters, namely: Mary E., now Mrs. Woods; Margaret, who married James Martin, a resident of Channahon township; Bernard P.; Catharine; Thomas, who makes his home in Chicago; Michael, a resident of Channahon township; and James, also a resident of that township. The father emigrated to the new world on a sailing vessels when a youth of nineteen years. Arriving at Quebec, Canada, he there remained for nine years, after which he made his way to Boston, Massachusetts, where he spent two or three years, subsequent to which time he took up his abode in Vermont. Later, having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages to be



enjoyed in the new and rapidly developing west, he came to Will county in 1838, locating on a farm in Channahon township. He purchased wild land, which he broke and developed with the use of ox teams. He also erected a house, the lumber used in its construction being made from the trees which he cut on his own land. He spent his entire life as a farmer, and gave his political support to the principles of democracy, although he never cared for office for himself. He was one of the first members of the Roman Catholic church at Dresden Hill. He was married after coming to this state, the wedding being celebrated at Joliet. His death occurred in Will county, December 11, 1890, when he had reached the age of seventy-three years, while his widow survived until 1905, passing away on the 16th of March of that year, being at that time seventy-five years of age. They were honored and respected pioneer settlers of this section of the state and were numbered among Will county's best citizens.

Following his marriage Charles H. Woods began farming on his own account and at the present time is operating four hundred acres of land in Wilmington township. In former years he was also an extensive breeder of Poland China hogs, shorthorn and polled Durham cattle. In 1888 he built an elevator at Blodgett, and was engaged in the grain business until October, 1906, when he rented his elevator to William Shoemaker, who is now conducting business there, and Mr. Woods now gives his entire time and attention to his farming interests, in which he is meeting with very gratifying and desirable results, making him one of the prosperous and well-to-do farmers of Wilmington township.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight children, as follows: John, who died at the age of twenty-four years; George; Catherine; James, who died when a youth of sixteen; Charles; Mary, Margaret and Francis, all still under the parental roof.

Mr. Woods gives his political support to the men and measures of democracy and is a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church at Wilmington, while in his fraternal relations he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to River camp, No. 142, at Wilmington. While a public-spirited citizen, he has never cared for the honors and emoluments of office, prefer-

ring to concentrate his time upon his private business interests. He is wide-awake and progressive, and he and his family have a wide circle of friends, to whom the hospitality of their own pleasant home is freely and graciously accorded.

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#### GEORGE W. ADELMANN.

George W. Adelmunn, engaged in the livery and undertaking business in Lockport, was born November 25, 1861. His father, Christopher Adelmunn, a stone-mason and contractor, came from Germany to the United States in the early '30s, and for many years was a resident of Will county, dying at Lockport at the age of sixty-five. His son George was a pupil in the public schools at South Lockport, and was reared to farm life, assisting his father in the cultivation and improvement of the home farm until twenty-one years of age. He then started out in life on his own account, purchasing a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres in Homer township, which he still owns and operates. He has brought it under a high state of cultivation and the place returns him a good income and golden harvests for the care and labor bestowed upon the fields. In 1889, however, Mr. Adelmunn took up his abode in Lockport and purchased the livery business, which he is still conducting. In 1891 he built a fine two-story stone building for his livery which is a credit to Lockport and would grace many a town of larger size. In 1893 he further extended the scope of his labors by building an addition to the livery and in 1902 by opening an undertaking department. He has prospered as the years have gone by and his success is well deserved.

Mr. Adelmunn was married June 25, 1881, to Miss Catherine Schall, of Lockport, a daughter of Edward and Mary Schall, the former a boatman on the canal. They have four living children: Estella M., at home; Walter E., who is with his father in business; Marie K., a student in the high school; and Howard J., who is also in school. They likewise lost one son, William C., who died at the age of eleven years.

Mr. Adelmunn gives his political views to the democracy and for two terms has served as assistant supervisor. He belongs to St. Joseph's

Catholic church at Lockport and has membership relations with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Improved Order of Heptasophs and the North American Union.

### CARL WILHELM STEIBER.

To those who know Carl Wilhelm Steiber and recognize in him one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of Crete township, it is difficult to realize that when he landed in Chicago, on his way from Germany sixty years ago, he possessed a capital of but sixty-five cents. A life of industry has been crowned with success and his history proves that earnest toil is the best foundation upon which to build prosperity.

Mr. Steiber was born in Hesse, Germany, in March, 1827, and is therefore now eighty years of age. His parents were Henry and Mary Steiber, the former born in Hanover, and the latter in Hesse, Germany, both of whom were members of the Lutheran church and are now deceased. The father served as a soldier in the German army and made farming his life occupation. In the family were eight children, of whom Frederick came to the United States in 1844, settling at St. Louis, Missouri. He served as a soldier in the Civil war.

Carl W. Steiber and his brother Philip came to the new world in December, 1847, attracted by the favorable reports received from Frederick, and when Carl W. Steiber reached Chicago he had remaining in his pocket but sixty-five cents with which to start out in life in America. He earned his first money here by chopping timber in La Salle county for ten dollars per month, and he worked in Illinois at intervals and drove a team on the Illinois & Michigan canal. He afterward spent about nineteen years in the employ of the Illinois & Michigan Railroad Company, acting as section boss a part of that time, and later he purchased a tract of land near Whiting, Indiana, where he did truck farming, peddling his products in Chicago, to which place he hauled them with ox teams. There he remained until 1871, when he came to Will county and purchased two hundred and ten acres of land on section 21, Crete town-

ship, and began general farming. He prospered in this undertaking and later he purchased one hundred and fifty acres additional and subsequently one hundred and thirty-five acres where his son William C. now resides. His property is the visible evidence of his life of thrift—the proof of his unflinching perseverance and diligence. Starting out in this country empty-handed, he resolved to win success if he could do so through earnest and honest effort, and he is today one of the large landowners and influential farmers of the county.

Mr. Steiber was married in 1854 to Miss Ellen Heine, who was born in Hesse, Germany, December 7, 1832, and died on the 1st of August, 1894. She came to the United States, June 11, 1854, met Mr. Steiber at Whiting, and they were soon afterward married. Eight children were born of this union: Mary, who was born February 20, 1850, is the wife of Henry Wilkening, a retired farmer, and they have ten children; Sophie, born June 15, 1861, is the wife of Chris Behrens, of Crete township, and they have five children; Henry, who was born February 25, 1866, and is living on the home place, married Sophie H. Kraeft, a daughter of Frederick and Mary (Claus) Kraeft and a native of Crete township, born in 1870, while by her marriage she has six children; William C., born June 8, 1868, is living in Crete township and has six children; Augusta, born January 2, 1872, is the wife of William Schmacher, of Cissna Park, Illinois, and they have three children; Ellen M., who was born December 9, 1864, died on the 16th of the same month; John, born November 5, 1870, died two days later; and Herman, born April 6, 1875, died the following day. Mr. Steiber also has thirty grandchildren.

In his religious faith Mr. Steiber is a Lutheran and his wife was a member of the same church. He has always voted the republican ticket since the organization of the party and is loyal to the institutions and interests of his adopted land, for within its borders he found good opportunities for business advancement and the ready reward of labor. He has worked diligently and persistently but has found that labor does not go unrewarded here as it often does in a country where caste and class divisions prevail. As the years have gone by he has prospered and is now

in possession of valuable farming property, which makes him one of the prosperous residents of the county, and his life should serve to encourage and inspire others to put forth strenuous effort. He is now a venerable citizen of eighty years and as such receives the respect of his fellowmen.

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### JAMES E. MARTIN.

James E. Martin, a resident farmer of Channahon township, owning and cultivating two hundred and forty acres of land on section 34, was born April 4, 1857, in this township and is of Irish lineage. His parents, Thomas and Ellen (Kiney) Martin, were natives of County Longford, Ireland, the former born in 1820 and the latter in 1817. They were married in their native country and the father afterward left his wife in Liverpool while he came to America in 1852 in order to provide a home for his family in the new world. He worked for a short time in New Jersey and in 1853 he came to Channahon township, Will county, Illinois, and soon after sent for his family. In order to provide for the support of his wife and children he worked at farm labor for some time, when in 1868 he invested his savings in one hundred and sixty acres of land. His remaining days were devoted to agricultural pursuits and he brought his farm under a high state of cultivation. He died in the year 1886, while his wife survived until the 19th of August, 1893. They were the parents of six children, of whom James was the fifth in order of birth. Those still living are: Mrs. Mary Cruise, a resident of Wilmington; Thomas and John, who are living in Wilmington township; and Mrs. Ellen Smith, of the same township.

James E. Martin acquired a common-school education in his youth and during the periods of vacation assisted in the work of the farm. His entire life has largely been given to the work of the fields and as the years have passed he has shown himself to be a practical, energetic and prosperous farmer, managing his business interests so capably that he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich land, constituting one of the excellent farms of the township.

On the 29th of April, 1890, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Riley, of Channahon township, who was the second of the seven children of Thomas and Catherine (Carroll) Riley, both natives of County Roscommon, Ireland. The mother, who was born in June, 1833, died March 16, 1905, while the father, whose birth occurred in 1816, passed away December 10, 1890. He crossed the Atlantic to America in 1835, and for about two years remained in New York, whence he went to Canada, where he spent eight years. In 1849 he arrived in Channahon township and in 1850 he married Catherine Carroll, who had come to the United States in 1843 and to this county in 1848. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Martin are: Mrs. Mary Woods, living in Wilmington township; Bernard P., a resident of the same township; Mrs. Catherine W. Raleigh, of the city of Wilmington; Thomas G., of Chicago; Michael F., of Channahon township; and James J., of the same township.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin have five children; Mary, Thomas, Ellen, Catherine and James E., Jr. Mr. Martin supports the democratic party but has never sought or desired office, for his attention is fully occupied with his business interests. He has an excellent farm and carefully manages the work of improvement and development.

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### CONRAD BUCK.

A good farm of eighty acres on section 20, Washington township, improved with substantial appointments, is the property of Conrad Buck, one of the worthy German-American citizens of Will county. His birth occurred in Hanover, Germany, in 1840, his parents being Conrad and Marie Buck. The father was a laborer and died in Germany. The mother came to the United States after the death of her husband and lived with her son Conrad until she passed away in her sixtieth year.

Conrad Buck remained in his native land until 1857 when, at the age of seventeen years, he bade adieu to friends and country and came to the United States, living for some time with an uncle, Conrad Wehmhoefer, in Crete township. He afterward went to another uncle in Lake county, In-

diana. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil war he espoused the Union cause and on the 10th of September, 1861, offered his services to the government for active duty at the front. He joined Company D, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, at Crete, and served until the 17th of February, 1863, when he became ill and was discharged on account of disability. He then returned to Crete and when his health was improved, re-enlisted in October, 1864, becoming a corporal in Company A, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He received his final discharge at Louisville, Kentucky, July 16, 1865, after the war had been brought to a close. He was a good soldier, never faltering in the performance of any military task that devolved upon him. In 1867 he settled upon the eighty acres of land where he now lives. Upon the place he had a little board shanty and prairie stable. Today he has a nice frame dwelling and good barns, and utilizes the latest improved machinery to carry on the work of the fields.

In 1867 Mr. Buck was married to Miss Mary Wille, a native of Will county, Illinois, who died in February, 1885, at the age of thirty-five years. They became the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Sophie, the wife of William Ackerman of Minnesota; Mary, the wife of John Barry of Indiana; and Lena, the wife of William Jessen, also of Minnesota. Those who have passed away were: Fred, who died at the age of twenty-one years; and Henry, who died at the age of nineteen years. In 1886 Mr. Buck was again married, his second union being with Charlotte Waterman, who was born in Germany in 1850, the daughter of Carl and Elizabeth Waterman, who came to the United States in 1862 and settled in Crete. The second wife of Mr. Buck is still living and by this marriage there are three children: Minnie, Clara and William, all at home.

Mr. Buck has been a member of the Evangelical church since his boyhood days and has been a supporter of the republican party since he became a naturalized citizen. His allegiance to these two organizations indicates one of the strong traits of his character his unswerving loyalty to any cause which he espouses. He is numbered among the early settlers of this county, for during almost a half century he has lived within its borders. He has never had occasion to regret his determination

to seek a home in the new world for here he has found good business opportunities—which, by the way, are always open to young men—and by the improvement of the advantages which surrounded him he has become one of the substantial residents of the community. He has not sought to obtain wealth but has believed in enjoying life as the years have gone by, gaining, however, a competence sufficient to supply him with the necessities and many of the comforts of life.

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#### EDWARD BUSS.

Edward Buss, a well known citizen of Jackson township and one of the old settlers of Will county, was born on the 8th of March, 1824, in the province of Wurtemberg, Germany, and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty years of age. He then entered the German army as all able-bodied young men are compelled to serve their country a certain length of time, and he remained in the service for six years, having re-enlisted as a substitute for the son of a rich man, who paid him a bounty. One half of the sum thus received he gave to his parents and with the remainder he came to America in 1856, making the journey alone.

On landing in the United States Mr. Buss went direct to Chicago, but after spending a few days in that city he came to Will county and settled at Jackson's Grove in Jackson township, where he has since resided. For several years he worked on a farm by the month and in 1869 entered the employ of George Linebarger, who erected the first elevator in Elwood, remaining in his service for thirty-four years, when, on account of old age, he resigned his position and has since lived retired, enjoying a well earned rest.

Mr. Buss is a son of Edward and Elizabeth Buss, in whose family were nine children, but he is the only one of the number to come to the new world. On the 22d of December, 1859, he wedded Miss Mary Yonker, who was born in Switzerland, April 10, 1841, and came to America in 1856 in company with her parents, Nicholas and Mary (Miller) Yonker. They first stopped in Chicago and from there removed to Wilmington, Will county. Of the nine children in the Yonker family five



are still living, namely: Mary, wife of our subject; Mrs. Elizabeth Munger, a resident of Mokena, Illinois; Nicholas, of Peotone; Margaret Yonker; and Mrs. Emma Myers.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buss were also born nine children, of whom seven are living, namely: Mrs. Ida Sanders, a resident of Edwardsburg, Michigan; Albert, of Elwood, Illinois; Mrs. Julia Bowers, also of Edwardsburg, Michigan; Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Mrs. Sarah Barnes and Mrs. Nellie Sorenson, all residents of Joliet; and Edward, Jr., at home with his parents. The family are widely and favorably known. Mr. Buss is a member of the German Lutheran church and by his ballot always supports the men and measures of the democratic party.

#### WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

William Johnston, an honored veteran of the Civil war and for many years an enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Will county, is now living retired in Wesley township. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, June 10, 1838, his parents being John and Mary (Campbell) Johnston. The father was born in Galloway and died in Scotland in 1842, while his wife, coming to the new world, passed away in Morris, Illinois, in 1887 at the age of sixty-seven years. John Johnston followed the occupation of farming in his native country and much of the character of the man is indicated by the fact that he was an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Presbyterian church. In the family were seven children, three sons and four daughters, but only three are now living: Joseph, a resident of Wilmington; Mary, the wife of Thomas McComb, living in Rich Hill, Bates county, Missouri; and William.

In the schools of his native country William Johnston acquired his education, remaining a resident of Scotland until fifteen years of age, when in 1853 he crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel to New York city. He thence proceeded up the Hudson to Albany and by rail to Joliet, where he arrived in the month of August. He continued a resident of the city until August 5, 1862, when in response to the call of his adopted country he enlisted in Company G of the One Hundredth Illi-

nois Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at Louisville, Kentucky, being shot in the hand, and was again wounded at Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, in the right leg, after which he was in the hospital up to the time of his discharge on the 20th of June, 1865, at which time he held the rank of first sergeant of Company G of the One Hundredth Regiment. He returned home on crutches and it was some time before he had fully recovered from his injuries sustained in battle. In March, 1867, he bought eighty acres of land in Wesley township, where he now lives, and to this he added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he owned three hundred and twenty acres of finely improved land. In 1906, however, he deeded one-half of this to his son John. In 1902 he retired from active farming and has since spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of the comfort and ease which has been secured to him through untiring activity and well directed effort in former years.

On the 7th of November, 1867, Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Martha G. Hazelton, who was born in Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, August 31, 1852, a daughter of Norman and Almira (Frost) Hazelton, who are mentioned on another page of this work. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been born ten children, of whom nine are now living: Minnie, the wife of George Beckwith, a resident of Wesley township; Mattie, the wife of Dayton E. Charter, living in Essex, Kankakee county, Illinois; Ernest S., who married Edith Seroggins and is living in Emmet county, Iowa; John, who married Sadie Gray and is living in Wesley township; Jennie, the wife of A. C. Jones, of Wesley township; George L., who married Myrtle Leuser, living in Wesley township; Walter L., who is carrying on his father's farm; Mabel and Edith, both at home. Charles, the eldest son, died in January, 1901.

Mr. Johnston has been somewhat prominent in local political circles, serving as justice of the peace for twenty years or more. He has received five commissions for this office, the last dated April 24, 1901. He has also been school director for more than two decades and was commissioner of highways from 1885 until 1888. He is a member of Boyd post, No. 17, G. A. R., of Wilmington, and is a member of the committee on the Soldiers' Widows' Home at Wilmington. In politics he has





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM JOHNSTON.



been a stalwart republican since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. No native born citizen of America is more loyal to its interests and institutions than Mr. Johnston, who in his life has manifested the sterling characteristics of the Scottish race—the industry, the perseverance and the stalwart integrity.

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### BENJAMIN TIERNEY.

Benjamin Tierney, deceased, whom to know was to respect and honor, was one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of Wilmington township. He was born in the state of New York, a son of Michael and Sarah Tierney, both of whom were natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to the new world, locating in Will county, where the father died at the age of sixty-nine years. He is survived by his widow, who still makes her home on the old homestead with her son John.

Benjamin Tierney was a young lad when he located in Will county, and his education was acquired in the public schools of this county. He was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors of field and meadow, and when starting out in life on his own account he chose the occupation to which he had been reared, while in addition to carrying on general agricultural pursuits he also engaged to some extent in raising stock. His death occurred May 19, 1892, at the comparatively early age of thirty-seven years, his demise being the occasion of deep and widespread regret throughout the community in which he had spent the greater part of his life. He gave his political support to the democratic party and was a communicant of the St. Rosa Catholic church, at Wilmington. He served as school director and as road commissioner, ever discharging his public duties with the same promptness and fidelity that he displayed in the prosecution of his private interests. He was honorable in his dealings with his fellowmen and was everywhere known as a straightforward and reliable business man.

Mrs. Tierney, who still survives her husband, bore the maiden name of Mary Hayes and was born in Wilmington township, Will county, August 4, 1855, while she gave her hand in marriage to

Mr. Tierney on the 26th of November, 1882. Her parents, James and Margaret (Feeney) Hayes, were farming people of Will county. The father was born in Ireland and died when the daughter was but an infant, the other living members of the family being Sarah and Robert, while one is deceased. The mother was born in Canada and is still living in Channahon township. By her marriage Mrs. Tierney has become the mother of five children, all of whom still survive. Sarah, the eldest, who was educated in St. Mary's Academy, at Joliet, is now engaged in teaching in the district schools of Wilmington township. Michael and Agnes reside with their mother. Mary is now a student in St. Mary's Academy, while John is still under the parental roof. Mrs. Tierney still makes her home in Wilmington township, and she and her family are esteemed by all with whom they come in contact. She is an estimable lady, carefully managing her household duties, and carrying on her business interests with the aid of her sons. She possesses excellent business ability and her many sterling traits of character have endeared her to her neighbors and friends.

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### WILLIAM BELL.

William Bell, a man of upright life and high principles, who follows the occupation of farming in Channahon township, was born in the north of Ireland, on the 27th of April, 1839. He is the only one living of the four children of William Bell. His father, who was born in February, 1808, died in March, 1898, while the mother, also a native of Ireland, was born April 28, 1808, and died in January, 1900. In the year 1847 they crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Canada and after the removal of their son William to Illinois they came to Will county, where they remained for three years. They then returned to Canada, where their remaining days were passed.

William Bell was only eight years of age when he left the Emerald isle and came with his parents to America. He was reared in Canada, where he remained until 1868, when he came to this county. He was married on the 17th of January, of the

same year, the lady of his choice being Miss May Latimer, who was born in Canada, November 22, 1845, a daughter of Henry and Mary Ann Latimer, nee Loney. In their family were ten children, of whom eight are still living: Mrs. Jane Stanley, of Canada; Sander, also of Canada; George, who is living in Texas; Millie, of Canada; William, who is in Victoria, British Columbia; Fred and Fannie, also of Canada. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Bell has been blessed with ten children, of whom six are living: Fannie, who is teaching in the schools of Joliet; G. Ervin, in Chicago; Milton, who is attending college; Oliver, Leslie and Marie, at home. Although Mr. Bell received but limited educational privileges, he resolved that his children should not feel the same lack and has provided them with excellent opportunities, which they have improved.

Mr. Bell owns two hundred and thirty-eight acres of land, of which eighty acres lies in Grundy county, while the remainder is on section 18, Channahon township, Will county. His farm is well improved, and he carefully cultivates the fields, following advanced methods of farming so that the best results are secured. He owes his success to his own efforts and is now accounted one of the substantial farmers of the county. He votes the temperance ticket and favors all the interests and movements which will uplift and benefit man.

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#### CONRAD BORMS.

Conrad Borms is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 15, Peotone township, Will county, and is numbered among its representative citizens. He was born in Hanover, Germany, December 18, 1852, a son of Englehart and Elizabeth Borms, who emigrated to America in 1854, having then a family of six children. The family home was established in Du Page county, and the father, being in very limited circumstances, sought any employment that would yield him an honest living and enable him to provide for the support of his wife and children. For eight years he was employed in various ways, and often worked for fifty cents per day. He was very industrious and

economical and through his careful management and close application he was enabled in 1862 to remove to Will county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Peotone township. This was but slightly improved and the farm buildings were very poor. He, however, began the cultivation of the fields and in due time replaced the old buildings with new and substantial ones, while as the years passed and his financial resources increased, he added to his landed interests until at the time of his death he possessed four hundred acres, thus being able to give to each of his children a good farm. His success is indicated by the fact that when he arrived in Du Page county his capital consisted of but twenty-five dollars, and at his death, which occurred about nineteen years ago, when he had reached the age of seventy-seven years, he was one of the large land-owners of Will county. He was one of the organizers of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in Peotone township, and for many years served as one of its officers, while he gave his political support to the republican party. His widow survived and died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Louis Carstens, when she, too, had reached the age of seventy-seven.

Our subject is one of the five surviving members of a family of eight children, the others being: Fred, a retired farmer living in Peotone; Ernest, a resident farmer of Green Garden township; Englehart, a grain dealer of Frankfort, Illinois; and Emma, who makes her home in Frankfort. Those deceased are: one, who died in childhood; Henry, who was a farmer of Peotone township; and Mary, the deceased wife of Louis Carstens, of Peotone.

Conrad Borms was but two years of age when brought by his parents to the United States. He was reared in Du Page and Will counties and acquired his education in the common schools. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-seven years of age, at which time he came into possession of eighty acres of land from his father's estate. It was improved with fair buildings but Mr. Borms has since replaced these with modern and substantial structures, having now a fine country residence, good barns and other outbuildings. He has added to his original holdings until he now has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and through the rotation of crops and the careful

cultivation of his fields he annually adds to his financial resources, so that he is today accounted one of the leading and prosperous farmers of Peotone township.

In 1879 occurred the marriage of Mr. Borms and Miss Emilie Carstens, who was born in Will county, a daughter of John and Mary (Christophers) Carstens, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they emigrated to America in 1852, settling in Green Garden township, Will county, where the father followed the occupation of farming. Both are now deceased. The living children of Mr. and Mrs. Borms are Mary, Lydia, Englehart, Laura, Conrad and Emily, while one died in infancy.

Mr. Borms gives his political support to the men and measures of the democracy, while he holds membership with the Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he has served as trustee for the past six years. He and his family are widely and favorably known and stand high in the estimation of their neighbors and friends.

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#### CHRISTIAN KOEPKE.

Christian Koepke, living retired in Monee, was in his early business career identified with farming interests in Will county and later was successfully engaged in the conduct of a hotel in this village. He was born in Germany in 1840. His father, John Koepke, was also a native of Germany, born in 1806. After attending the common schools of that country he learned the carpenter's trade in the place of his nativity. In 1853 he came from Bentzin, Mecklenburg, bringing with him his family, and on crossing the Atlantic to the new world located in Green Garden township, Will county, Illinois, where he purchased land and turned his attention to farming. In 1869, however, he put aside active agricultural pursuits and thereafter made his home with his son Christian until his death, which occurred in 1888, when he had reached the ripe old age of eighty-two years. He was a prosperous agriculturist and a man of good business judgment. He held membership in the Evangelical church and was one of the organizers of the church in Green Garden township. His political views accorded with republican principles

but he was never an aspirant for office. In early manhood he wedded Miss Doretta Randt, who was born in Germany, in which country their marriage was celebrated. Her natal day was February 2, 1813, and all of her children were born in the fatherland. Mrs. Koepke was also a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church and died in that faith in 1870. In the family were three children: Maria, who became the wife of Chris Schlottmann, and afterward married John Block but is now deceased; Doretta, who married Henry Eisenbrandt and after his death became the wife of George Boden of Monee; and Christian.

In taking up the personal history of Christian Koepke we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Monee and the surrounding district. He came to the United States with his parents, was reared upon the home farm and acquired a common-school education. He early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist and was closely associated with farming interests until 1869, when he removed to Monee. Here he became proprietor of the German Hotel, which he conducted continuously for twenty-two years or until 1892, when he retired from active business life. He then built a home in Monee, which is the finest residence of the town, and he is here now living in comfort and ease.

Mr. Koepke was married in 1864 to Miss Mina Buethe, who was born in Germany in 1842 and died in 1904. She came from Germany in 1860 with her parents, Henry and Mina Buethe, who located on a farm in Crete township, Will county, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Koepke were born five children but Henry and Mary are now deceased. Doretta became the wife of C. A. Kolstedt and died in 1892, leaving two children, Harvey and Ruby. Lena is the wife of William Plagge, a retired merchant of Monee, and they have three children, Elma, Luella and Norma. W. J., the youngest of the family, is a merchant at Peotone.

The parents were members of the Evangelical Lutheran church and Mr. Koepke is serving as chairman of the finance committee. He votes with the republican party, has been constable in Green Garden township and in Monee has been a member of the board of trustees and president of the village. In all of these different positions he has been found notably prompt and faithful and



he stands for all that is progressive in citizenship, giving his co-operation to many plans and measures for the general good. In addition to his home property in Monee he owns four hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in Green Garden township and from this derives an excellent income. He is a self-made man, for he owes his prosperity to his earnest and indefatigable efforts, his capable management and keen discernment. As hotel proprietor he became very widely known in this section of the state and has gained wide popularity by reason of a genial manner and many sterling traits of character.

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### JOHN RITCHEY.

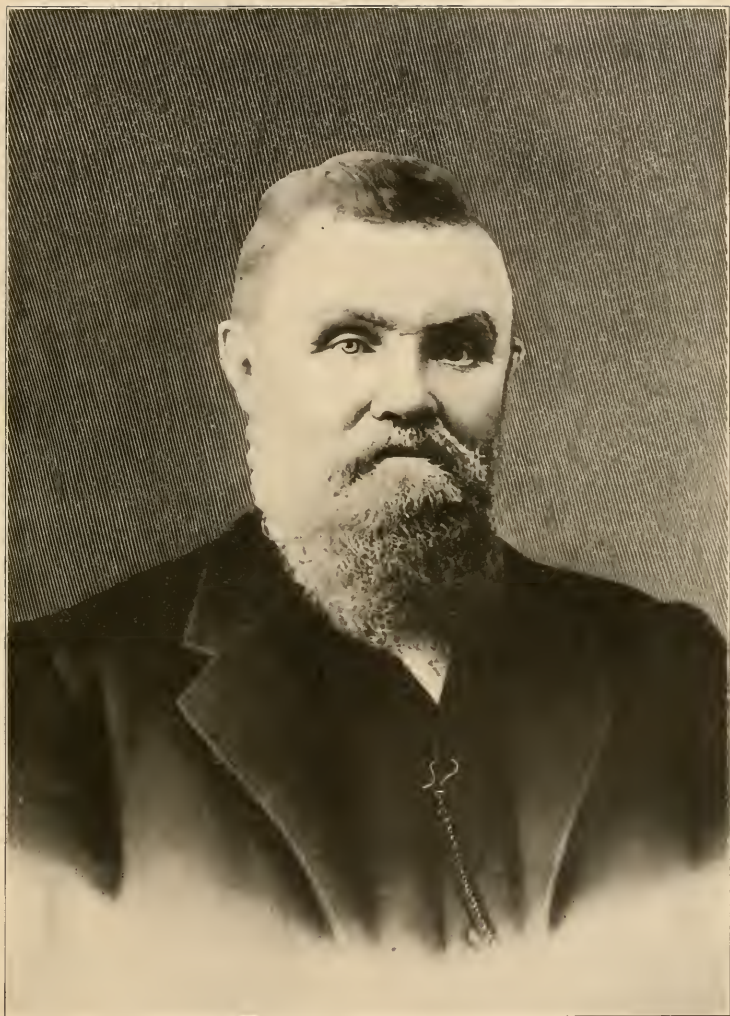
John Ritchey, deceased, was distinguished as being one of the pioneer settlers of Will county, and through a long period was an active participant in the agricultural development and progress that has here been made. Wherever known he was loved and honored, so that his death, which occurred August 12, 1892, was the occasion of deep sorrow not only to his immediate family, but also to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Ritchey was born in Ross county, Ohio, December 1, 1819, a son of Matthew and Rachel (Davis) Ritchey. The former was born in Scotland and died in the Buckeye state in 1822, at the age of sixty-five years, while the latter died in Wesley township, Will county, in June, 1862, at the very advanced age of eighty-eight years. The father emigrated from his native land to America when a young man, and on his arrival in the United States at once made his way to Ohio, where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He served as a soldier in both the Indian war and the war of 1812. Of their family of five children, all are now deceased.

John Ritchey was educated in the public schools of his native state, and was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He came with his family to Illinois in 1852 and established his home on one hundred and sixty acres of land which he entered from the government. This tract was located where the town of Ritchey now stands, the town having been

named in his honor. He erected a small frame house, in which the family took up their abode, and which was later replaced by a larger and more commodious country residence. He developed and cultivated his farm, and in due course of time brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, annually harvesting good crops, which added materially to his financial income, so that he was at length enabled to extend the boundaries of his place, until at one time he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in Wesley township, all of which was developed by him. He broke the land with ox teams and his wheat and other farm products were marketed in Chicago. The lumber used in the construction of his house was also hauled from that city. He endured many hardships and privations during those early days, for the development of new land required much hard and arduous toil, the work having to be done by the use of crude farm machinery. He, however, worked diligently and earnestly year by year and prospered in his undertakings, so that at his death he was able to leave his family in very comfortable financial circumstances.

Mr. Ritchey was married prior to his removal to this state, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha K. Jones, whom he wedded in Ohio, May 3, 1849. She was born in Ross county, that state, February 17, 1831, a daughter of John T. and Sarah (Rudesill) Jones, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They located in Illinois in 1850, where the fathered entered government land in Wesley township. His first home was a log house, which was later replaced by a cement residence, wherein he spent the greater portion of his remaining days. He was numbered among the pioneer settlers of Will county, carrying on agricultural pursuits during his active business career. Disposing of his farm to his son Thomas, he purchased a home in Kaukaee, and, removing to that city, lived retired. His wife died there in 1878, at the age of sixty-eight years, after which he made his home in Ritchey, dying at the home of his daughter in 1889, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-six. Their union was blessed with sixteen children, of whom six are now living, namely: Elizabeth, the widow of David Gay and a resident of Sheldon, Illinois; Martha K., now Mrs. Ritchey; Thomas W., a resident farmer of Wesley township; Mary, the wife of



JOHN RITCHEY.



Jeremiah Gay, residing in Fremont, Nebraska; Clara, the widow of George Umsted, a resident of Wilmington; and Charles, who is married and lives in Chicago. Mr. Jones gave his early political support to the whig party and after the organization of the new republican party joined its ranks. He was a devoted member of the Methodist church and a highly respected citizen of Will county.

Mr. Ritchey, although leading an active and busy life, yet found time for public office, serving as school director for many years, while he likewise filled the office of township supervisor and collector for a long period, and also justice of the peace for many years. He gave his early political support to the whig party and after the organization of the new republican party was a staunch advocate of its principles. He was a devoted member of the New Jerusalem church and lived a life in harmony with his professions. He possessed many sterling traits of character which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He was ever ready to lend his aid to the unfortunate ones of the earth and was likewise interested in every movement or measure that tended to advance the interests of his locality or the county. He was a companionable, entertaining and genial gentleman, winning friends wherever he went, and his death came as a personal bereavement to many citizens of Ritchey and Will county.

Mrs. Ritchey, an estimable lady, is now living in a comfortable home in Ritchey, surrounded by many friends to whom she has endeared herself by a charitable spirit and kindly disposition. Although she is now seventy-six years of age she is still an active lady and takes great pleasure in entertaining her many friends.

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#### JAMES CORNELIUS.

No richer or more productive land in Illinois can be found than is embraced in the agricultural districts of Will county, and a fine farm of two hundred and sixty acres situated in Wilmington and Channahon townships gives illustration of the thrift and energy which has characterized the life of James Cornelius in his earlier years, so that

he is now able to live in a beautiful home in Wilmington, from which place he supervises his farming interests. He is a native son of Wilmington township, his birth having occurred November 11, 1845. His parents, Charles and Catharine (Dunn) Cornelius, were both natives of the Emerald isle, the former born in County Kings, while the latter was born in County Queens. The father emigrated to the new world in June, 1836, making the voyage across the Atlantic on a sailing ship. Reaching New Orleans, he there remained for a year or two, and in 1843 he located in Wilmington, Illinois. He worked on the construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal for two or three years, during which time he carefully husbanded his resources so that he was finally enabled to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land in Channahon township. He cleared the land of the timber and prepared it for the plow, and he likewise erected a log house. He removed to his property in 1848, and throughout a long period was there engaged in general agricultural pursuits. He was married in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Miss Catharine Dunn, and their union was blessed with three daughters and two sons but only two of the number are now living, the sister of our subject being Eliza, the wife of Daniel Fisher and a resident of Joliet. The father was a Jacksonian democrat and was a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church at Wilmington. He died in Will county in August, 1896, at the age of seventy-four years, having for many years survived his wife, who died in July, 1863, at the comparatively early age of thirty-six.

James Cornelius was reared to agricultural life, assisting his father in the operation of the home place during the summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools. He began earning his own living at the early age of fourteen years, being first employed as a farm hand, receiving for his services thirty-five dollars per month. He was thus engaged until he attained his majority, when he returned home and assumed the management of the homestead property until the death of his father in 1896, subsequent to which time he began farming for himself. He is now the owner of two hundred acres of well improved land in Channahon township and sixty acres in Wilmington township, all of which has been improved and placed under a

high state of cultivation. He engaged in general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising for several years, but in 1905 he purchased four lots in the city of Wilmington, whereon he erected a beautiful residence, in which he has since lived retired, his only business connection being that of the supervision of his farming interests. His rest is well merited for from an early age he has provided for his own support and during his active connection with farming interests worked earnestly and persistently in his efforts toward success.

Mr. Cornelius was happily married, October 6, 1897, to Miss Mary A. Whalan, who was born in Wilmington township, March 17, 1857, a daughter of Michael and Mary (Ryan) Whalan, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the former born in County Queens, while the latter was born in County Tipperary. They were married in Cincinnati, Ohio, the father having come to this country in 1849, on a sailing ship, from which he landed in New Orleans on the 1st of April of that year. He remained in that city for three or four years, being in command of a steamboat which plied the Ohio river. He later followed farming in Ohio, and it was during his residence there that he was married, subsequent to which time he located in Will county, where he purchased wild prairie land in Wilmington township, on which he built a log house and made many improvements. He was a Jacksonian democrat and was a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church at Wilmington. Both the father and mother are now deceased, the latter passing away in 1887, at the age of fifty-one years, while the father survived for a long period and passed away in June, 1901, at the age of seventy-four. Of their family of thirteen children, six are now living, namely: Daniel, a resident of Flanagan, Illinois; Mrs. Cornelius; Catharine, the wife of Jacob Seston, and a resident of Will county; Nora, the wife of William McGinnis, a resident of Reddick, Illinois; Michael, who makes his home in Denver, Colorado; and Patrick, a resident of Minooka, this state.

Mr. Cornelius is a staunch advocate of democratic principles and has served as pathmaster, while for twenty-five years he filled the office of school director. He is a communicant of St. Rosa Catholic church at Wilmington. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius are honored residents of Will county and have spent their entire lives within its

borders, so that they are widely and favorably known and they now occupy one of the most beautiful modern residences of Wilmington, where they are surrounded by a host of warm personal friends.

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#### HENRY SCHWIESOW.

Henry Schwiesow is numbered among the early settlers of Will county, having come to this section of the state during the period of its pioneer development. He owns a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 2, Peotone township, where he has made his home for almost four decades. He was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, January 7, 1837, a son of Carl Schwiesow, who was a laborer, and in 1864 emigrated to America but his death occurred one year later at the home of a daughter in Mokena, Illinois. His wife, Mrs. Sophia Schwiesow, died in the fatherland previous to the emigration of the father to this country.

Henry Schwiesow is one of five children born of his father's family, and is the only one now living. One brother, Adolphus, died in Will county, while two sisters, Louisa and Dora, passed away in Cook county. In order to avoid service in the Germany army, Mr. Schwiesow emigrated to the United States when a youth of eighteen years. The trip from Hamburg to New York city was made in an old-time sailing vessel, which was thirty-two days in making the voyage, but that was considered good time at that date. From New York he made his way at once to Mokena, where lived his brother, Adolphus. His first work in this country was on the Michigan Central Railroad, which was then being built to Joliet, and he was so employed for two months, receiving for his services one dollar per day. He was afterward employed at farm labor, receiving one hundred and thirty-two dollars per year.

Desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself he then operated rented land near Mokena, during which time he carefully husbanded his resources, and in 1867 came to Peotone township and purchased forty acres of land, this constituting a part of his present home farm. His home was a little shanty, in which the family lived in true pioneer style for eighteen years, but



twenty-three years ago the pioneer dwelling was replaced by a large and commodious frame residence. There was also on the place a small stable which was covered with a thatch roof, but this, too, has been replaced by a large frame barn and there are many other outbuildings on the place, so that the farm in all of its equipments constitutes one of the valuable properties of this part of the state. For his first forty-acre tract Mr. Schwiesow paid twenty-eight dollars per acre, incurring an indebtedness on the property. He, however, prospered in his undertakings so that in course of time he was able to liquidate his obligations and add another forty-acre tract, to which he has since added until he now has two hundred and eighty acres of land, and at one time owned an additional one hundred and sixty acre farm, which he sold to his son. He has always been a hard working and industrious man, and through the careful management of his business interests is now in possession of a good farm and a comfortable competence.

Mr. Schwiesow was married in 1865, to Miss Mary Schlemann, who was born in Germany, August 31, 1844, a daughter of John and Mary (Orntz) Schlemann, who emigrated to America in 1865 and settled in Mokena, where the father worked for many years as a laborer. His death occurred eight years ago, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-four years. The mother is still living at an advanced age, and makes her home in Joliet. She has great-great-grandchildren. and Mr. and Mrs. Schwiesow now have in their possession a picture showing the five generations.

Unto our subject and his wife have been born eight children, all of whom survive, namely: Emma, the wife of Henry Waltje, a farmer of Green Garden township; Henry C., a farmer of Peotone township; John, a business man of Monee; Charles, at home; August who is engaged in business with his brother John; Alvina, the wife of Theodore Knickrehm, a resident farmer of Green Garden township; Amanda, who resides with her parents; and George M., who is operating his father's farm.

Mr. Schwiesow cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln but now gives his support to the democratic party. He has served as school director for three years. He was one of the or-

ganizers of the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church and acted as one of its trustees for six years. He and his estimable wife are numbered among the worthy pioneer settlers of Will county. When they settled here the town of Peotone contained but one little shanty and a railroad station, while the prairie grass stood as high as a man's head. The early settlers endured many hardships and privations but they also enjoyed many pleasures which are unknown at the present time. Money was scarce and clothing high. Mrs. Schwiesow can well remember when she paid as high as fifty cents per yard for calico and other articles sold in proportion. This worthy couple are hospitable people and are ever willing to lend aid to the unfortunate ones who call upon them for assistance. They are highly esteemed in the community where they have so long made their home and are numbered among Will county's best citizens.

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#### LORENZO D. BURVILLE.

Lorenzo D. Burville, who resides upon the home farm in Crete township, upon which he was reared, was born in Medina county, Ohio, January 29, 1844, but since 1855 has lived upon the old family homestead on section 16. His father, Reuben Burville, was a native of the state of New York and a son of William Burville, who came from Holland to this country and settled in the Empire state, although it was then numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. He was a farmer by occupation and at the time the colonies made the attempt to throw off the yoke of British oppression he joined the Continental Army and assisted in winning independence for the nation. His son, Reuben Burville, came to Illinois with his family in 1855. He was a soldier of the war of 1812 and followed farming in New York. Following his removal to the middle west he located on section 16, Crete township, Will county, where he secured seventy acres of land. He was an enterprising farmer and won a goodly measure of success in his business dealings. In politics he was a democrat. He married Lucretia Babcock, who was born in the state of New York in 1806, and they were married while still residents of the

east. Mr. Burville died in 1865 and his wife passed away in 1874. They were the parents of thirteen children, of whom five reached adult age: Ann Eliza, the widow of James Graham, who was a farmer of Iowa; Prudence, who is the widow of Daniel Sullivan and resides at Auburn Park, a suburb of Chicago; Laura D., who married Erasmus P. Dean, but both are now deceased; Lorenzo D. of this review; Helen, the deceased wife of Hiram Gilson; and Eurette and Frances, who died in childhood. The father of this family was twice married and by his first union had three children, of whom one is living, Catherine, the widow of Lorenzo Tillotson. Mrs. Burville was also married twice and by her first marriage had a daughter, Clarinda, who is now the widow of Ulysses Merriek.

Lorenzo D. Burville was a youth of eleven years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois and he was reared to farm life, while in the district schools he acquired his education. He has always remained on the old homestead on section 16, Crete township, and since it came into his possession he has extended its boundaries by the purchase of an additional tract of thirty-five acres. He has a comfortable home in the midst of his farm, together with good barns and out-buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and in the care and management of his property he displays practical methods that result advantageously.

On the 17th of November, 1870, Mr. Burville was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Cool, who was born in the town of Bremen, now Tinley Park, Illinois, in 1848, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Jane (Nobles) Cool, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. Alexander Nobles, grandfather of Mrs. Burville, locating at Chicago in 1835, conducted one of the few stores then in the frontier village. Mr. Cool was a farmer by occupation and owned and operated land near Blue Island. He was justice of peace in Bremen township, Cook county, for forty years. He died in 1896, at the age of seventy-six years, while his wife passed away in 1874, at the age of forty-five years. They had six children: Mrs. Burville; Nelson A., a coal merchant of Blue Island; Edwin W., who is now a guard and was formerly a bailiff in the Cook county jail and resides at Blue Island; Franklin B., a retired farmer of Blue Island; Caroline J., who

died at the age of four years; and Julia, the wife of Frederick Ferrers, a farmer of the town of Bremen.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Burville was blessed with a daughter and three sons: Annie J., now the wife of Franklin B. Minard; Benjamin R., a farmer of Oklahoma; Hiram D., a mechanic of Laporte, Indiana; and Charles, who is upon the home farm. Another member of the household is their niece, Minerva Cool, who has made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Burville since eleven months old and is now a young lady. Mr. and Mrs. Burville also have six grandchildren. Mrs. Burville belongs to the Congregational church, to the Ladies' Aid Society and the Order of the Eastern Star. In politics Mr. Burville is a democrat but has never been an aspirant for office, as he has preferred to give his undivided time and attention to his business affairs. He has lived the quiet but honorable life of a farmer and has now a valuable property which gives him a good income.

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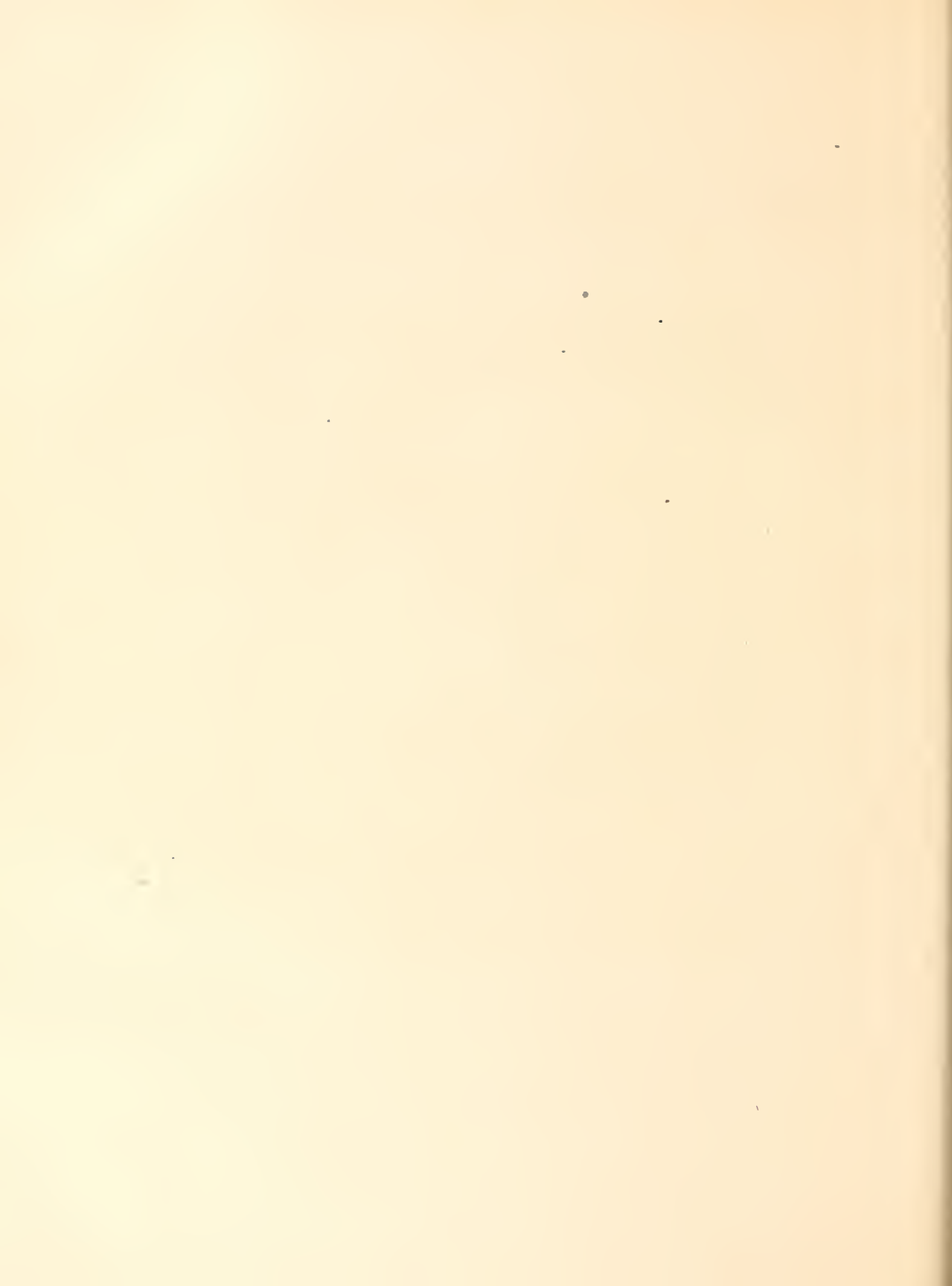
#### ALBERT PERRY LILLEY.

Albert Perry Lilley, who throughout his entire life has followed general agricultural pursuits and has also engaged in raising thoroughbred registered Hereford cattle and other stock, was born in LaSalle, Illinois, in 1851. His father, Fred P. Lilley, was born in Genesee county, New York, and is now living in Piedmont, Kansas, at the age of eighty-six years. In 1850 he came to Illinois and for about three years was a captain on a canal boat on the Illinois river. In 1854 he removed to Will county, purchasing a farm on section 3, Will township, whereon he resided until 1890, devoting his time and energies to the tilling of the soil and the care of the crops. In the year mentioned he went to Kansas, where he is now living with a son. He is of German descent and his father located in New York, where he founded the family.

Fred P. Lilley is a man of good education. He attended the common schools and has always been a great reader. He is also a farmer of ability and a man of good business judgment, who has prospered in his undertakings. He has raised



FRED P. LILLEY.  
ALBERT P. LILLEY. MRS. MABEL BARTON.  
VIOLA BARTON.



good horses, finding this a profitable branch of his business. He was one of the organizers of his township, and the first town meeting in order to consider the subject of organization was held at his home. By all who knew him Mr. Lilley was accorded prominence and respect. He was considered a good neighbor, a faithful friend and a reliable business man. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he was a member of the Union League, while during the Civil war he served as a recruiting officer. He was supervisor of Will township for eleven years and was a collector for a number of different terms. He was also justice of the peace for several years and was school director from the organization of the first school district.

Fred P. Lilley was united in marriage to Mary A. Sutter, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine, now Germany, in 1833, and is still living. She came to the United States with her parents when seven years of age. Her father, George A. Sutter, located with his family at St. Louis, Missouri, and finally removed to Chicago. He was a cabinet-maker by trade and conducted a hotel in Chicago for many years. His daughter, Mrs. Lilley, is a member of the Presbyterian church and has been a devoted and faithful wife and mother. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lilley were born five children: Albert Perry; George, who died in infancy; Charles C., who is with his parents in Kansas; Fred P., also in Kansas with his father and mother; and John H., who died in 1892 at the age of twenty-eight years.

Albert P. Lilley was reared upon the home farm and attended the country schools. He afterward engaged in teaching school for three terms and throughout his entire life has followed farming. He came to Will county with his parents in the fall of 1854 and is now located on section 10, Will township, where he has one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land. Here he raises thoroughbred registered Hereford cattle. He also has considerable other stock and in both branches of his business is meeting with gratifying success. He is also a director of the Eastern Will County State Bank, a director of the Peotone Mutual Insurance Company, and of the Eastern Will County Fair Association.

In 1874 Mr. Lilley was married to Miss Grace A. Ivers, who was born in Frankfort township

in 1853, and is a daughter of Dennis and Katherine Ivers, who were natives of Ireland and came to the United States in 1837. They located in Frankfort township after spending about two years in New York, and the father devoted his time and energies to general farming. Both he and his wife have now passed away. In their family were thirteen children, of whom Mrs. Lilley was the twelfth in order of birth, and by her marriage has become the mother of a son and daughter. The elder, Albert Edgar, born in 1875 in Will township, where he acquired his education, married Miss Lilly Cook, of Monee township, a daughter of John and Mary Cook, who were pioneer settlers of Monee township. There is one daughter of this marriage, Hazel, now two years of age. Mabel Grace Lilley is the wife of Elmer E. Barton, of Will township, and they have one child, Viola Grace, three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Lilley are members of the Presbyterian church and he belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for twenty-one years he served as township treasurer. He has also been township clerk for sixteen years and was assessor for one term, while for several years he served on the republican county central committee. His political record is creditable and free from suspicions of any unworthy practices. He has ever been loyal in the cause which he espouses and his life has been guided by high and honorable principles and characterized by a straightforward conduct.

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#### JAMES A. McKEOWN.

James A. McKeown, of the firm of Donahoe, McNaughton & McKeown, attorneys at law of Joliet, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, June 9, 1871, his parents being Hugh and Mary A. (Kavanaugh) McKeown, the former a native of Belfast, Ireland, and the latter of Queens county, Ireland. About 1840 Hugh McKeown came to the United States and settled in Kendall county, Illinois. He was also a resident of Will county for several years and followed the occupation of farming as a life work, but both he and his wife are now deceased. In their family were three



children: Mrs. Martin McCarthy, living on a farm in Kansas; John A., a lawyer of the Chicago bar; and James A.

The last named was reared upon a farm and attended the country schools. He took up the study of law in 1895 and was admitted to the bar in 1898, but prior to this time he was employed in the wire mills of Joliet and afterward learned the barber's trade. He pursued his legal studies during his leisure hours while thus providing for his own support and he began the practice of his profession in 1899. He is now a member of one of the most important law firms of this section of the state, with which he has been identified since 1903. In the same year he was elected city attorney on the democratic ticket and served for one term. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and of the White Cross.

On the 1st of January, 1900, Mr. McKeown was married to Miss Mary M. Ohlhaber, a native of Centralia, Illinois, and they had two children, Ruth and James A., but both are now deceased. Mr. McKeown is a member of the Catholic church and his wife of the German Lutheran church.

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#### HENRY E. BUSS.

Henry E. Buss is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Will county, owning two hundred and sixty-two acres of land in Florence township. He is a native son of this township, his natal day being October 29, 1869. His paternal grandfather, John Buss, was one of the pioneer farmers of Jackson's Grove, and there spent his remaining days. His father, Edgar C. Buss, was born in Ohio, whence he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, the greater part of his life being spent in Will county, where he owned and operated two hundred acres of land, situated in Florence township, and he likewise engaged in raising stock to quite an extent. He gave his political support to the republican party and during anti-slavery days was a staunch abolitionist. He was a loyal defender of the Union cause in the Civil war, serving as a member of Company C, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry. At the battle of Chickamauga he sustained wounds, from which he never fully recovered. He returned home

after three years of active service in the army, having made an honorable record. His death occurred August 4, 1887, at the comparatively early age of forty-nine years. He is still survived by his widow, who bore the maiden name of Selina Gurney. She is a sister of George F. Gurney, a resident of Joliet, and still lives on the old family homestead, which property was left her by her husband. Their family numbered six children, as follows: Jessie, who is now the wife of August Carlsen; Henry E., of this review; Frances, the wife of Jesse Young; Leslie G.; Elmer C.; and Florence.

Henry E. Buss spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, assisting his father in the work of the farm, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the public schools. At the age of twenty years he began the operation of the home farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and there made his home until February, 1903, when he removed to his present farm, having purchased one hundred acres in 1899 and one hundred and sixty acres in 1902. He has made many improvements on the property, including a nice home and many substantial out-buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. His land is under a high state of cultivation, while in his pastures are found full blooded Poland China hogs and Durham shorthorn cattle. He is practical and progressive in his farming and stock-raising interests, so that the best possible results follow.

Choosing a companion and helpmate for life's journey, he was married February 13, 1890, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Miss Alice Coop, who was born in Girardville, Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Albert and Harriet (Coopham) Coop, both natives of Beaufort, England, the former born November 12, 1848, and the latter September 30, 1854. Her father emigrated to the United States in 1869, landing in Boston on the 6th of June of that year. From that city he made his way to Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in mining for a time, and was there married on the 23d of September, 1870, after which he removed with his family to Ohio, where he spent a few years, and later he made a permanent settlement in Illinois. His first home was at Braidwood, in which city he lived during the succeeding sixteen years, and in 1895 took up

his abode on a farm in Florence township, being thus engaged for three years, when he removed to Channahon township, this county, but once more returned to Florence township, but is now operating a farm in Grundy county. He has filled a number of public offices since coming to Will county, having served for one year as assistant supervisor, while for one year he was mine inspector of Will county. In his political views he is independent, supporting the candidates whom he deems best qualified for public office, regardless of party affiliation. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while he belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge, No. 495, at Braidwood, becoming identified with the order thirty years ago, or in 1876. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Coop have been born eleven children, of whom seven still survive, namely: Alice, now Mrs. Buss; Evelyn, who was born March 7, 1875, and is now the wife of William Baskerville, a resident of Iowa; Joseph H., who was born November 13, 1879, and is now a resident of New York city; Hattie, who was born February 14, 1887; Raymond, whose birth occurred February 6, 1891; Mildred, born July 18, 1895; and Alvin, born August 1, 1897.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buss have been born five children: Lulu May; Edgar C.; Hattie I.; Albert L., who died in infancy; and Bertha A. Mr. Buss supports the men and measures of the republican party but has never been active as an office seeker, preferring to give his undivided time and attention to his private business interests, in which he is meeting with success. He and his family are highly esteemed in their home locality and are numbered among Will county's best citizens.

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#### EDWARD COLLINS.

The agricultural interests of Will county are well represented by Edward Collins who is an enterprising farmer, owning and operating three hundred acres of land on section 14, Wilmington township, and he is likewise raising good grades of horses, cattle and hogs. He was born in Creaton, Galloway, Scotland, in 1847, a son of Owen and Bridget (Gilmore) Collins. The father was

born in Ireland, while the mother was born in Galloway, Scotland, and died there in 1856. Mr. Collins was a quarryman in his native country and had he remained there would have received a pension by reason of his length of service in that connection, but his children having emigrated to the new World, in 1867 he, too, crossed the Atlantic in order that he might spend his remaining days with them. He died in Joliet in 1890, having reached the advanced age of eighty years. He was a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. His family numbered six children, of whom only three now survive; Edward, of this review; Daniel, a resident of South Dakota; and James, who makes his home in Joliet.

Edward Collins was reared and educated in his native land, there remaining until he attained his majority, when, having heard favorable reports concerning the advantages to be enjoyed in the new world, he decided to try his fortune in America, and accordingly, in 1868, took passage on a steamship bound for the United States. Reaching Boston Massachusetts, he made his way thence to Middletown, Connecticut, where he remained during the succeeding two years, subsequent to which time he continued his journey westward, settling in Wilmington township, Will county, Illinois. He was here employed in a quarry for a time, after which he engaged in agricultural pursuits, operating rented land from 1872 until 1901, during which time he had saved a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm in the latter year, when he became owner of three hundred acres, situated on section 14, Wilmington township, constituting one of the valuable and well improved farms of this section of the state. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he likewise raises good grades of cattle, horses and hogs, and this branch of his business is proving a gratifying source of income. He follows only the best methods of farming, keeping abreast with the progress of the times through reading, investigation and experiment.

Mr. Collins was married, August 1, 1881, to Miss Sarah Hayes, who was born in Wilmington in May, 1861. Her parents were James and Margaret (Feeney) Hayes, the former born in Illinois, and the latter in Canada. They were among the early pioneer settlers of Will county, the father having here developed and improved a farm of

one hundred and eighty acres and for many years was identified with agricultural interests. He died in Will county, but his wife is still living in Channahon township. The father was a Jacksonian democrat but never cared for public office. He was a communicant of the Catholic church. His family numbered three children, of whom Mrs. Collins is the eldest, the others being Robert, and Mary, the widow of Benjamin Tierney, mention of whom is made on another page of this work.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Collins has been blessed with five sons, Peter, James, Edward, Robert and Daniel, all of whom are still with their parents and are assisting their father in the operation of the home farm. Mr. Collins' study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give active and stalwart support to the democratic party. He is a communicant of the St. Rosa Catholic church at Wilmington. Mr. Collins is reliable in his business dealings with his fellowmen, so that he has won the confidence and good will of all with whom he has come in contact. He came to this country a poor man but has through his diligence, energy and perseverance gradually worked his way upward to prosperity, and he is rearing his sons to habits of thrift and economy, so that they are now proving to him able assistants in the management of his business affairs.

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#### WERDEN BUCK.

Werden Buck is today one of the extensive dealers in coal in Joliet, having a business which is at once indicative of his superior qualifications, his straightforward methods, his laudable ambition and his indefatigable energy. A native son of Will county, he was born in Manhattan, February 9, 1869, and is a son of George A. Buck, a pioneer resident of Joliet. His early youth was spent in the place of his nativity but in 1880 the family removed to Joliet and he enjoyed the advantages of a high-school education to the close of the junior year.

He then entered business life, working as collector and night operator for the Chicago Telephone Company at a salary of five dollars per

week, a position that commanded his services for twenty hours out of the twenty-four. Six months later he became an employe of the firm of Paige & Benson, dealers in groceries, coal and ice. He was at first connected with the ice department, and after a brief period Chester Paige and A. W. Hays succeeded J. D. Paige in the grocery business, while the firm of Paige & Benson continued in control of the ice and fuel trade. In 1888 Mr. Buck purchased the interest of Chester Paige, and business was then conducted under the firm style of A. W. Hays & Company, their location being in the old Opera House block on the corner of Chicago and Clinton streets. When that building was destroyed by fire in 1892 the business was removed across the street to the Auditorium block, and since that time Mr. Buck has carried on a large and profitable trade. In 1892 the firm extended the field of its operations by becoming dealers in coal and building materials on Cass street, also handling sewer pipe, drain tile and fuel. On the 9th of March, 1888, Mr. Buck purchased his partner's interest and has since been sole proprietor of the coalyards at Nos 511-513 Cass street. He has a building forty by one hundred and thirty-two feet with yards in the rear, and carries in stock all kinds of pressed brick manufactured in the United States, together with sewer pipe and drain tile, and in these lines conducts an extensive business. His methods are such as will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny and because of his success, are of interest to the commercial world. He has based his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern unswerving integrity and unflinching effort and in this lies the secret of his rise to prosperity and prominence in commercial circles.

In 1892 Mr. Buck was united in marriage in Joliet to Miss Inez Paige, a daughter of J. D. Paige, at one time mayor of the city and superintendent of the Joliet fire department. They have one son, George Paige. Mrs. Buck holds membership in the Universalist church and Mr. Buck is in hearty sympathy with many movements for the uplifting of humanity and the amelioration of the hard conditions of life for the unfortunate ones of the earth. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Joliet and gives his political allegiance to the democracy. For one term he served as township clerk but has never had aspira-

tion for public office. He is a man who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, forming a definite plan of action and accomplishing results while many others would stop to theorize.

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### EDWARD DALLINGER.

Edward Dallinger, engaged in general farming and stock-raising in Channahon township, where he owns and operates one hundred and forty-two and a half acres of land, was born in Troy township, this county, on the 25th of May, 1862, and comes of German ancestry. His father, Mathew Dallinger, was a native of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, born in 1822, and in 1848, when about twenty-six years of age, he came to the new world, stopping for a time at New Orleans. He then returned home but at the end of six months again came to the United States and this time located in Rome, New York, where he remained until 1854, when he arrived in Troy township, Will county. Here he began farming on one hundred and fifty acres of land and has since made the farm his home, bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation, so that he has annually gathered large crops. In early manhood he married Miss Teresia Schall, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1832.

They became the parents of nine children, of whom five are yet living, namely: Mrs. Peter Limacher, of Channahon; Joseph, who is living in Kendall county; Rose, a resident of Troy Grove; John who is living in Troy; and Edward, of this review.

Edward Dallinger, the third in order of birth, was born and reared on the old family homestead, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors of the fields. He assisted in the tasks of plowing, planting and harvesting, and in the winter months attended the public schools, acquiring a fair, practical English education. The occupation to which he was reared he has made his life work. He remained at home until eleven years ago, when he purchased his present farm, comprising one hundred and forty-two and a half acres in Channahon township, where he has since lived, continuing the work of development and improvement until the fields now yield golden harvests and the property

has become a paying one. In addition to tilling the fields he raises considerable stock and his business interests are carefully managed. He has a well equipped place, and neatness and thrift characterize all departments of the farm work.

Mr. Dallinger was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Blackburn, of Joliet, who was born May 8, 1870. She was one of the thirteen children of John and Alice (Turner) Blackburn, of whom five are living: William, a resident of Joliet; Mrs. Nellie Hauser, whose home is in Troy, Illinois; Mrs. Jennie Stahl, of Joliet; and Mrs. Thomas Gudgeon, who is living in South Shields, England. Mrs. Dallinger's father was born in Preston, England, April 7, 1836, and died April 13, 1900, while his wife, also a native of Preston, born February 14, 1827, died while visiting in England, September 5, 1872. They came to Joliet in 1854 and Mr. Blackburn followed the carpenter's trade until his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallinger have three children, Mathew, John and Alice, all yet under the parental roof. Mr. Dallinger is an independent voter, regarding measures rather than party and desiring always the best interests of the community. He has served as collector of Troy township and gives his support to all plans for the public good, while in agricultural circles he is known as a reliable business man.

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### HARRY HUME PORTER, D. D. S.

Dr. Harry Hume Porter is one of the younger representatives of the dental fraternity in Will county but his years seem no bar to his ability nor his success, for he is enjoying a liberal patronage in Monee. He was born in Danville, Illinois, in 1875. His father, Ozro Porter, was born in north-eastern Pennsylvania and is now living at Marengo, Illinois, being a retired passenger conductor. He was with the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad and in former years he was with the Grand Trunk, the Wabash and the Northern Pacific Railroad Companies, and he is a member of the Order of Railroad Conductors. He owns a cattle ranch of one thousand acres in North Dakota, which is a good property and returns to him a gratifying income. His political views are in harmony with



Republican principles. He married Sophia Hume, who was born in Wesleyville, Pennsylvania, and they have two sons, the younger, Jay F., being assistant yard foreman of the Illinois Steel works at South Chicago.

Harry H. Porter attended the Marengo high school and, making choice of the dental profession as a life work, he was for three years a student in a dental office at Marengo prior to entering the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1893. He was graduated from that institution with the class of 1897 and began the practice of his profession in Hampshire, where he remained for seven years. On account of illness he then retired from the profession for two years, but in June, 1905, resumed active connection therewith and has since been located in Monee, where he has already secured a very liberal patronage. He is skilled in mechanical work, thoroughly conversant with the profession in its scientific connection and, moreover, has the business ability which is so necessary to a successful professional career.

Dr. Porter was married on the 16th of December, 1899, to Miss Beulah Rowell, who was born in Hampshire, Illinois, in 1880, a daughter of Fremont Rowell, a merchant. They now have two children, Merriam and Ralph, aged respectively four and two years.

Dr. Porter was director of the choir of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hampshire for five years and possesses considerable ability in both vocal and instrumental music. He is fraternally a Woodman and an Odd Fellow and is independent in politics. In manner he is courteous and genial, affable and kindly, and these qualities, together with his deference for the opinions of others, render him a favorite in social circles.

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#### CAPTAIN CHARLES ROST.

Captain Charles Rost, whose effective public service entitles him to more than passing notice in this volume, is now superintendent of the county poor farm in Troy township. In this connection he has labored most diligently for the interests of the farm, which he has placed upon a profitable basis and at the same time has

given every possible attention to the comfort and care of the inmates, never practicing economy in administration to the point of sacrifice of the welfare of the unfortunates who are under his care.

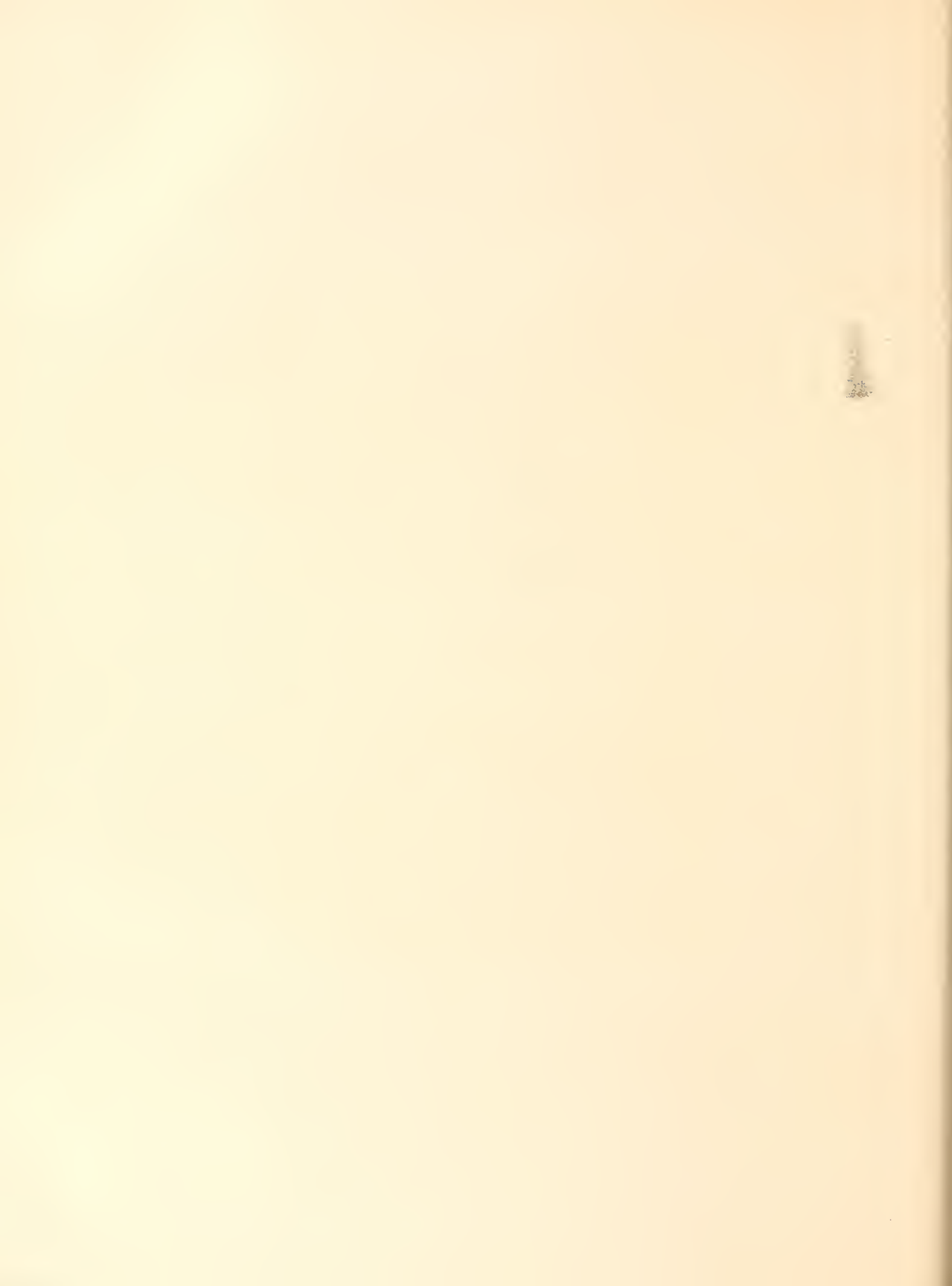
Captain Rost is a native of Kagenow, Pomerania, Prussia, born December 11, 1841. His father, Carl Rost, was a forester of Germany and came to the United States in 1862, settling upon a farm near Macomb, McDonough county, Illinois. There he carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1881. In early manhood he wedded Mary Rosz, who survived him for seventeen years, passing away in 1898. In religious faith they were Lutherans. Their family numbered seven sons, six of whom are yet living, three being residents of Macomb, Illinois, one of Denver, Colorado, another of Kokomo, Indiana, while the subject of this review maintains his residence in Will county.

Captain Rost is the eldest and when the family decided to emigrate to America he came alone ahead of the others in order to acquire a knowledge of the language and customs of the people and thus assist his family when they should establish their home in the new world amid surroundings and conditions with which they were utterly unfamiliar. It was in 1860 that Mr. Rost took passage on the old sailing vessel *Columbia*, being sixty-two days in making the voyage from Hamburg to New York. He first worked in a wire factory at Worcester, Massachusetts, but at the time of the Civil war he put aside business cares and all personal considerations that he might aid his adopted country in the efforts to preserve the Union. When the first call for three years' troops was made he offered his services and at Boston joined the boys in blue of Company B, Twentieth Massachusetts Infantry. While at the front he took part in thirty-one engagements, embracing all of the principal battles which led up to the final triumph of the Union arms. He was twice wounded at Gettysburg, after which he spent some time in the hospital at Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. He was taken prisoner at Antietam and was also captured in front of Petersburg in 1864, being incarcerated in Libby and at Belle Isle and Salisbury, North Carolina. He became sergeant, after the battle of the Wilderness was commissioned first lieutenant, and after





CHARLES ROST.



the surrender of Lee was made regimental quartermaster. He was honorably discharged in Boston on the 14th of July, 1865, when the country no longer needed his aid. He was a brave and loyal soldier, never faltering in the performance of any duty and he returned home with a most creditable military record. There were nearly two thousand regiments in the Union army, and among the five that suffered the heaviest losses in battle during the Civil war is enrolled the name of Captain Rost's regiment, the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers. Its loss is given by the departments in Washington as eighteen officers killed, thirty-seven officers wounded, two hundred and eighty-nine enlisted men killed, six hundred and forty-one enlisted men wounded and lost as prisoners of war two hundred and forty-two. These losses date from the battle of Ball's Bluff, October 21, 1861, to the surrender of Lee's army. The regiment was recruited during this time, so that when the war ended three thousand, eight hundred and sixty-four men had served in the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers.

When hostilities had ceased Captain Rost made his way from New England to Leavenworth, Kansas, and was appointed to a position in the quartermasters department to take twenty-four six-mule teams across the plains by way of the Arkansas river and the Smoky Hill route, conveying supplies to the forts. He continued in the government employ until 1867, when he joined a battalion which was raised to suppress Indian raids. He raised a company in Leavenworth, of which he was made first lieutenant, with Oklahoma Payne as captain. This company participated in a number of hard fights along the Arkansas and Smoky Hill rivers and in the fall of 1867 Captain Rost was mustered out at Fort Ellsworth. He then made his way southward and was engaged on the construction of bridges and trestles on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for six years. When work was begun on the extension from Cairo to Jackson, Tennessee, connecting with the Mississippi Central, he took a contract for constructing a portion of the line and while working in the swamps below Cairo he became ill with malaria fever. He then returned north to Macomb, Illinois, and when Major McClaughrey was appointed warden of the state penitentiary Mr. Rost accompanied him to Joliet as

steward. He occupied that position for fifteen years, giving most capable and efficient service, and on his retirement from the office he was chosen superintendent to the county poor farm, which position he has ably filled to the present time, with Mrs. Rost serving as matron since 1896. No criticism has ever been passed upon Captain Rost by those familiar with his methods of conducting the farm. In fact, he has given a most able, public-spirited and businesslike administration and has won uniform commendation. The county buildings as they now stand were erected by him in 1892, the main building being a three-story stone structure with a capacity for two hundred inmates. The farm is situated four miles west of Joliet and comprises one hundred and sixty acres. It consisted of only eighty acres when Captain Rost took charge in 1892, but two years later he purchased eighty acres more, paying for it out of the earnings. The fields are highly cultivated and the farm work is carried on along such progressive and practical lines that the fields not only provide products for the use of the inmates, but also yield a profit of between ten and fifteen hundred dollars annually. The captain is also credited as having been one of the first to advocate the state care of the incurable insane. He addressed on several occasions the state supervisors' meetings, declaring it a shame and a crime in this enlightened Christian age to compel the aged, the crippled and the various unfortunate people to spend their remaining days in the poor houses, being forced to mingle night and day with the incurable insane. The results of his efforts are well known, for the state of Illinois has today a well regulated incurable insane asylum at Bartonville, Illinois, capable of caring for two thousand, five hundred inmates, and the inmates in the poor houses enjoy once more rest and peace, for the shrieks, songs and curses of the insane are heard no more.

On the 13th of November, 1871, in Clarksville, Tennessee, was celebrated the marriage of Captain Rost and Miss Margaret O'Connor. They have become the parents of four children, of whom three are living: Alpha, the wife of Carl E. Haffner, of New York city; Lulu, the wife of Dr. J. F. Frederick, a physician of Joliet; and Carl, who was formerly with the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern railroad, but is now chief clerk in the

store department of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad at Moline, Illinois.

Captain Rost is a stalwart republican in his political views and while his official duties leave him little time for political work, he nevertheless staunchly supports the principles which constitute the platform of the organization. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church and he is identified with several fraternal organizations, including the Knights of Pythias; Matteson lodge, No. 175, A. F. & A. M.; Burlington post, No. 6, G. A. R.; and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. Captain Rost is highly esteemed in these different societies as one whose sterling qualities are in harmony with the principles of the fraternities. He is a man who in all life's relations, whether military, civic or social, has been found true to the best interests of the community at large and to every duty which devolves upon him.

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#### FREDERICK KRAEFT.

Frederick Kraeft is one of the self-made men of Will county. No fortunate family or pecuniary advantages aided him at the outset of his career. On the contrary he started out to earn his own living when but a young boy and has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources. Obstacles and difficulties have confronted him but these he has overcome by determined efforts and, as the years have advanced, he has worked his way steadily upward. A native of Schaumburg Lippe in Obernworden, Buckeburg, Germany, he was born in 1845. His father, Henry Kraeft, was a native of the same place. He pursued a common-school education and was a soldier of the German army. As a business he followed the trade of a linen manufacturer. He belonged to the Lutheran church and died in his thirty-sixth year, in 1846. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sophie Eherding, was also a native of Germany and died in 1850, at the age of thirty-nine years. She, too, was a member of the Lutheran church. After the death of her first husband she married again, but her second husband survived her only a few weeks. Her children were: Mary, who is the widow of Frederick Mensching and is now

living with her daughter in Germany; Henry, also living in Germany; and Sophie and Caroline, twins. The former is now deceased, but the latter is living. Sophie married and at the time of her death left two children, while Caroline has four children.

The other member of this family is Frederick Kraeft. He was only a year and a half old at the time of his father's death, was but four and a half years old when his mother passed away, and only a little lad of five summers when his step-father died. He then lived with an uncle for about eight years. He acquired his education in the common schools of his native town, and when fourteen years of age hired out to a farmer for five dollars a year and board. In 1866 he drove a wagon for the Prussian army, but the same year came to America, settling in Crete township, Will county, Illinois. Here he found greatly altered conditions and secured what seemed to him princely wages. After working for one year at farm labor in Germany for five dollars a year, his wages were gradually increased until at the time he came to the United States he was getting thirty dollars per year. Coming to America, he worked on a farm for John Windheim for one hundred and fifty dollars and board. He was afterward employed in Crete township for two months and then came to the village of Crete. Later he was employed in grubbing stumps in a timber district about three miles from town and in the spring returned to the village, where he worked four months for Ernst Rinne in a brickyard which had just been established. On the expiration of that period, in connection with Mr. Rinne, he purchased a threshing machine and the fall was spent by them in threshing. The following summer Mr. Kraeft again worked in the brickyard and in 1869, with the money he had saved from his earnings, he purchased a half interest in the brickyard. He also rented Mr. Rinne's farm, purchased the personal property upon the place and took up his abode thereon. For five years it remained his place of residence and all this time, in connection with general farming pursuits, he was interested in the brickyard and the threshing machine and also dug wells. In 1874 he bought the hotel property of Ernst Rinne at Crete and for six years was proprietor of the hotel. He then withdrew from that line of business and while

still living in Crete operated another farm near the village. In 1876 Mr. Kraeft purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty acres on section 27, Crete township, and for two years made it his home after which he traded the place for property in Crete where he now resides, taking the balance in cash. He bought an interest in the Crete Manufacturing Company and worked in the factory until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1895. He still owns fifty-five acres of land on section 9, Crete township, to which he gives his personal supervision. At different times he has owned several farms and has been a very prosperous man, gaining a competence through his industry and frugality. Arriving in this country when twenty-one years of age without capital and without influential friends to aid him, he went manfully to work and earned every dollar he now possesses.

On the 17th of October, 1869, Mr. Kraeft was married to Miss Mary Claus, who was born in Waldringhausen Kreis Schaumburg, Germany, October 10, 1842, daughter of Conrad and Dorothea (Wehrhahn) Claus. They came to the United States in 1867 and settled on a farm in Crete township. Two of their sons, Henry and John Claus, had preceded them about a year and are still living in Crete township. Mrs. Kraeft's father died in 1876, at the age of sixty-six years, while the mother passed away in 1872, at the age of fifty-nine years. They had five children: Mrs. Kraeft; Sophie, who is the widow of George Huffman and lives in Crete with her two children; Dorothea, who became the wife of Conrad Rohe and died in 1888, leaving four children; and John and Henry, who are residents of Crete.

Unto Mrs. and Mr. Kraeft have been born three daughters: Sophie, who is the wife of Henry Steiber and has six children; Maria, the wife of Herman Boecker, a farmer living in Crete; and Emma, who is at home. In 1900, accompanied by his wife and daughter Emma, Mr. Kraeft returned to the fatherland and spent some time also in Glasgow, Scotland, proceeding thence to Hull, England, by rail, and from that point across the North Sea to Bremen. They continued on their way to the home of his sister at Lindhorst, from which place they traveled on to different places of interest in Germany. Mr. Kraeft visited the old home place that his father had owned and ate cherries off a tree that was still standing and

had borne fruit through his absence of fifty years. The family returned by way of Liverpool and Montreal. The daughter kept a dairy while in Europe, to which the family often refer with interest, thus recalling to their minds events and incidents of their trip. Mr. Kraeft has also traveled quite extensively in his adopted country and is familiar with the western states.

Mr. and Mrs. Kraeft hold membership in the Crete Lutheran church and he is one of the directors of the German school. He is also a member of the village board and a director of the Crete Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. Those who read between the lines will learn much of his early struggle to make a living and of his determined purpose and unfaltering perseverance, which have characterized his entire life. He stands today a strong man, strong in his honor, his good name, and his success.

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#### EDWARD VAN DUSER.

Edward Van Duser, engaged in farming on section 4, New Lenox township, was born in this township in 1856. His father, George Van Duser, was a native of the state of New York, born in 1817 and his death occurred in 1898, when he was nearly eighty-one years of age. He was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit throughout the greater part of his life, although for a time he worked in the old "Red" mill. He came westward to Chicago in 1836, a year before the incorporation of the city, and was associated with the early development and progress of this part of the state. In Will county he married Miss Elmira Mellen, who was born in Vermont in 1818 and died in 1893, her parents being Nathaniel and Achsah (Wheeler) Mellen. Mr. and Mrs. Van Duser favored the Universalist church. Mr. Van Duser gave his political allegiance to the democracy but never sought or desired office. The family numbered seven children. Emily is the widow of John Widney and resides upon a farm at White Willow, Kendall county, Illinois. Adelaide is deceased. Jerome is living near Sheffield, Iowa, and follows agricultural pursuits. Ida died at the age of twelve years. Gilbert is a farmer living near Fredonia, Kansas. Edward is the next



younger. Flora is the wife of Frank Gorham, a farmer living near Dunlap, Iowa.

Edward Van Duser, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the district schools and spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, working on the farm as his age and strength increased until he became thoroughly familiar with every department of farm labor. He now lives upon the old homestead where his father located in 1840, and he is the owner of ninety-three acres of land, which is rich and productive. The farm is on section 4, New Lenox township, and there have been added to the place many modern and substantial improvements which make it an excellent property. Mr. Van Duser has been a member of the Grange and is interested in all that bears upon the subject of agricultural development. In politics he is independent, nor has he ever sought public office, for he feels that his time and energies can better be devoted to farm work.

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#### WILLIAM D. BOUGHTON.

William D. Boughton, the present supervisor of Wheatland township, owns and operates a well improved farm of three hundred and sixty acres on sections 12 and 13, Wheatland township. A portion of the farm on which he now resides has been in possession of the Boughton family through three generations, it having been settled by the paternal grandfather of our subject, Orris Boughton, who came to Will county from New York in 1842, bringing with him his family, consisting of wife, four sons and two daughters. He had traded for this property, whereon he made his home for many years, and both he and his wife died here. The only surviving member of his family is O. H. Boughton, who resides in Marion county, Illinois.

The father, Warren W. Boughton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orris Boughton, was born and reared in Genesee county, New York. He was married there to Miss Mary L. Scott, who was born in Geauga county, Ohio. They accompanied his father's family to Will county, where he built a log cabin on his farm on section 13, Wheatland township. He died in 1850 while en route for California, his death occurring at Des Moines, Iowa.

He was accompanied on the trip by three brothers, who continued their journey to the Pacific coast. His widow survived for a long period and passed away in Will county in 1899, when she had reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years, although she was bright and active almost to the last.

William D. Boughton is one of two children born of his father's marriage, his brother being Newell J., who was born in Du Page township, Will county, in 1842. He served for three and a half years in the Civil war as a member of Bolton's Battery of Chicago. After returning from the war he divided his time between Buffalo, New York, and Will county, but died in the latter place in 1876, at the early age of thirty-four years. His wife bore the maiden name of Ellen Scarlett, and was a daughter of Perry Scarlett, who was at one time sheriff of Will county and was one of its early residents. She afterward married again and now resides in Iowa.

William D. Boughton was born February 28, 1846, and reared in Wheatland township, receiving a common-school education. He has always made farming his life work, and after his father's death inherited two hundred acres of land, which had been located by the grandfather, who gave to each of his sons two hundred acres, the old homestead farm falling to the lot of Warren W. Boughton, the father of our subject, this in turn being inherited by Mr. Boughton of this review. He has since added to his possessions and now owns three hundred and sixty acres of land, all of which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Boughton was united in marriage December 22, 1869, to Miss E. J. Boardman, a daughter of Franklin Boardman. She was born in Wheatland township, and has two brothers, George B. Boardman, who resides on the old homestead farm in this township, and Wilbur W. Boardman, of California. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Boughton has been blessed with seven children: Mina L., who is now the wife of Frank W. Eaton, a resident of DuPage township, and who has become the mother of two daughters, Lois and Alice; Della M., the wife of George T. Patterson, also of DuPage township; Newell J., who is pursuing a course in mechanical engineering at Armour Institute, at Chicago; Wilbur W., who wedded Miss Florence Thompson, and resides on the home farm,

being a successful breeder of shorthorn cattle; Frank B., who is with his parents; David W., who is attending the Plainfield high school; and Reuben S., who is also attending school.

In his political views Mr. Boughton is a staunch republican and has taken a deep and active interest in local political affairs, having served as collector and road commissioner, and has also filled other township offices. In the spring of 1906 he was elected supervisor of Wheatland township and is discharging the duties in connection therewith in a most capable and efficient manner. He and his family hold membership with the Presbyterian church. The members of the family rank high in social circles and their own pleasant home is a favorite resort for their many friends.

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#### JOSEPH STEPHEN.

Joseph Stephen, whose labor has been the measure of his success, has for some years been numbered among the prosperous residents of Joliet. Years ago he established a harnessmaking business on a small scale; today it is a prosperous and thriving enterprise. He is, moreover, vice president and director of the Will County National Bank and its general manager, so that he figures prominently in financial as well as manufacturing circles.

Mr. Stephen was born in Grassendorf, Alsace, France, February 17, 1837, and was nine years of age when he came to Joliet with his parents, John and Adelia (Huet) Stephen. His father was a farmer by occupation.

In the common schools of the little village of Joliet, Joseph Stephen acquired his education and at the age of fourteen years began learning the trade of harnessmaker, at which he here worked until 1857 when he went to Texas. There he followed his trade for three years, returning to Joliet in the fall of 1860. In February, 1861, he opened a small shop on Jefferson street. Three years later this shop was destroyed by fire, together with all its contents, and he lost everything he had acquired. He possessed, however, resolute spirit and unfaltering perseverance, and after this disaster opened a small shop on South Joliet street, where he remained until he could rebuild on Jef-

erson street. When the new building was completed he returned to his old location which has since been his place of business and where he has met with marked success. His trade has developed with the growth of the city and has long since become an enterprise of importance. As the years have passed it has brought him prosperity that has enabled him to reach out to other fields of business and in financial circles he is well known as vice president, director and now manager of the Will County National Bank.

On the 12th of November, 1861, Mr. Stephen was married to Miss Antoinette Helmelt, daughter of Ignatz and Maria Helmelt, natives of Alsace, France. They now have five living children: Charlotte, wife of Charles Kaffer, of Atchison, Kansas; Oscar J.; Edmond R.; Dr. Herman E.; and Bertram H., all of Joliet.

Mr. Stephen, ever recognized as a valued citizen, has been called to many public offices. He has acted as trustee of schools for many years, has been city treasurer, assistant supervisor of his township and director of the public library. In politics he is a conservative republican and his worth in party councils is widely acknowledged, while his value in business circles and community affairs is a matter which none question.

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#### WILLIAM KEOUGH.

Lockport has every reason to feel a debt of gratitude to William Keough, who as mayor wrought along lines of practical reform and progress most beneficial to the city. He is a native son of Lockport and his life record stands in contradistinction to the old adage that "A prophet is never without honor save in his own country," for here he has so directed his labors as to win in large measure the public regard and confidence, enjoying the respect of all who care for law, order and commendable development.

Mr. Keough was born April 25, 1851, a son of Moses and Margaret Keough, and in the public schools he acquired his education. He afterward entered the employ of the Illinois and Michigan Canal Company as a laborer and has since been connected with the canal service in various capacities. From 1868 until 1871 he was foreman of

the canal from Chicago to Morris and foreman of repair work from 1871 until 1881. In the latter year he became assistant superintendent from Chicago to Cippus creek and has since acted in that capacity.

In municipal service he has also made a most creditable record. He served as mayor of Lockport for two terms, being elected in 1892, and during his administration he secured the passage of an ordinance providing that concrete sidewalks should be used throughout the city, the municipal government to meet half the expense and the property owners the other half. The passing and enforcing of this ordinance has given to Lockport the best sidewalks of any town of its size in this country. He also cleaned up the city not only physically but morally, transporting a number of characters who were objectionable to any city outside the city limits, with instructions never to appear here again—and they have not done so. He was also instrumental in furnishing a supply of excellent water to Lockport and in fact his administration was characterized by many needed improvements. He worked in a practical way on these, being a man of action rather than of theory and securing results, the benefit of which all good citizens acknowledge.

Mr. Keough was married, December 22, 1872, to Miss Mary Dougherty, of Lockport, a daughter of Daniel Dougherty. They have seven living children and have lost two. Those who still survive are: John P., a machinist of Lockport; Joseph, an electrician; May E., a stenographer at the courthouse; Michael, who is with the Illinois Steel Company; Edward, Margaret and Kate, all at home.

In politics Mr. Keough is a stalwart republican and has many times served as a delegate to county and state conventions, his opinions carrying weight in the councils of the party. He has served as alderman three terms, during which time he was one of the leading spirits in establishing the electric light system. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, the Elks lodge at Joliet, and to St. Dennis Catholic church. He is a man strong in his honest convictions and unfaltering in their support, and stands as a splendid representative of that type of manhood who labor for public progress and for righteousness in government, being opposed to misrule in municipal affairs and

standing stanchly in support of all those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and of civic pride.

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### ELMER S. GRUNDY.

Elmer S. Grundy is connected with the development of the resources that nature has provided in this section of the state, being well known as a representative of the stone trade in Joliet. A native son of the city, he was born January 7, 1862, his parents being Ebenezer and Mary Ann Grundy, the former a professor of music. The father came from Sheffield, England, to the new world in his boyhood days and the mother was a native of Pennsylvania.

Reared in the city of his nativity, Elmer S. Grundy attended the public schools of Joliet and the Indiana State Normal School at Valparaiso, Indiana, for a short period. After putting aside his text-books he went to Texas, where he was employed at clerical work in a railroad office from 1881 until 1887 and a manager of a foundry and machine shop from 1887 until 1890. He then went to Denver, Colorado, and engaged in the lumber trade until the winter of 1891, after which he returned to Joliet and became actively interested in the stone business, and he is now connected with the Joliet Pioneer Stone Company.

Mr. Grundy was married on the 3d of September, 1901, in Joliet, to Miss Martha B. Mather, and they now have a son and daughter, Eben Mather and Jessie.

Mr. Grundy is a republican in his political affiliation. He became a member of the county board of supervisors in 1901, and was elected tax collector in 1902. In 1904 he was elected a member of the city board of school inspectors for a term of three years, and in 1905 was elected assessor for the township of Joliet, which office he now holds. He has also been supreme recorder of the supreme council, Order of the White Cross, from 1904 to the present time, and is also a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He was a member of the state militia of Texas from 1884 until 1890, during which time he attained the rank of second lieutenant. In the city of his birth, where much of his life has been



ELMER S. GRUNDY.





passed, the circle of his friends is almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintance, a fact indicative of a well spent and honorable life.

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### LEON McDONALD.

Leon McDonald, editor and publisher of the Lockport Phoenix and a recognized leader in republican ranks in his home locality and county, has through these two connections exercised an influence upon the public life and progress of the community that is far-reaching and beneficial. A native son of Will county, he was born in the township of New Lenox, November 2, 1860, a son of Jonathan S. McDonald, for some years connected with the banking business in Lockport. The family comes of Scotch ancestry as is indicated by the name. The first authentic record traces the record back to Michael McDonald, a seafaring man, who, crossing the Atlantic from the country of hills and heather, made his way through Canada and began life in New England. On the 20th of June, 1766, Michael McDonald married Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, and their children were Asa and Betsey, the latter dying in early girlhood. Mr. McDonald took his family to Lockport near Syracuse, New York, and left them there while he went to sea. Tradition has it that he was drowned in Lake Ontario, and other stories concerning his whereabouts were circulated but nothing definitely was known.

After the father left, the support of the family devolved upon Asa McDonald, who, before he had attained his majority, served as drummer in a company raised to oppose the British at Niagara in the war of 1812. He afterward became prominent in the New York Militia as a captain and expert musician. His business interests were varied until 1836, when, leaving Onondaga county, New York, he removed to Joliet, Will county, Illinois, and later to Five Mile Grove, while subsequently he purchased land and improved a farm on Spring creek in New Lenox township. Thus the family became established in Will county during the earliest epoch in its history. Asa McDonald married Olive Rudd at Syracuse and reared a family of six daughters and one son, namely: Rosanna E., Jane C., Jonathan S., Clarissa C., Harriet,

Lovina and Ellen. Although ostensibly a farmer, Asa McDonald employed his energies more in the cultivation and practice of music and was a leader in many public and social enterprises. His fame as a violinist is well remembered by those who attended his dances and the social gatherings of the neighborhood. He never aspired to political distinction and died December 4, 1857, at the age of fifty-five years, his birth having occurred May 9, 1802. His wife, who was born September 23, 1805, died March 1, 1873.

Jonathan S. McDonald, their only son, was born at Liverpool, New York, April 17, 1829, and was a lad of seven summers when brought to Will county. In his youth he was largely occupied with the labor of the farm but he did not find that pursuit congenial and availed himself of the opportunity of teaching in a district school in the winter months. After the discovery of gold in California he made his way across the stretches of hot sand and through mountain passes in 1849, spending four years in the mining regions of that country, meeting with a fair measure of success in his search for the precious metal. He afterward spent two weeks as a student in the college at Oberlin, Ohio, and then relinquishing the idea of gaining further education he established a bank at Lockport, which he conducted with success until the outbreak of the Civil war. All business was rendered somewhat precarious by the events of history at that time and Mr. McDonald suffered heavy losses. He then made his way to the newly discovered gold mines at California Gulch, Colorado, but returned in the following spring. In the meantime he was married, on the 12th of December, 1857, to Miss Louisa Snoad, a daughter of Colonel George Snoad, a native of England. Following his return from Colorado, Mr. McDonald recruited a company for the Civil war, which became a part of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry and which he commanded in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and numerous skirmishes. His meritorious conduct on the field won him promotion. At Stone River he was wounded with the result that his hearing was almost entirely destroyed. Following the war he served as a cashier in connection with a railroad business in Chicago and later returned to Will county, where he was connected with newspaper publications and with political interests until his

increasing deafness forced him to retire from those fields. The Highland Scotch are noted for a tendency to mysticism and "second sight" and this faculty seems to have developed in Mr. McDonald, who is now engaged in philosophical pursuits and has become noted in occult circles as author of several books on ancient magic and esoteric philosophy.

Leon McDonald, having acquired his elementary education in the schools of Lockport, became a student in the Wisconsin State University. He mastered the printer's trade in his father's office, serving in all capacities from the humblest to that of editor, and in 1880 he accepted a position on the reportorial staff of the Joliet News, while later he was city editor of the same paper. He left the News to engage with two others in the founding and publishing of the Joliet Daily Press, which proved an extraordinarily successful venture, while the original promoters remained in charge. In 1884 Mr. McDonald sold his interest and returned to Lockport, where he assumed control of the publication of the Lockport Phoenix, which he still owns and publishes, making it an effective factor for the promotion of community interests in the city, and at the same time an element in republican politics in Will county.

Mr. McDonald has ever been a stalwart champion of republican principles and for more than two decades has been a member of the republican central committee and for a long period at the head of its executive committee. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to office, and for two terms he has been president of the village council, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many measures which have proven of direct benefit to the city. It was during his second term that Lockport's excellent system of waterworks was built. In 1897 he was appointed general superintendent of the Illinois & Michigan canal, which position he still fills, and during which period the canal passed through some of the most critical experiences of its existence. The authorities of the sanitary district of Chicago avowedly sought to destroy it and acquire valuable rights belonging to the state made under the care and control of the canal officers. The contest that ensued both from an engineering and legal standpoint was a huge one and most bitterly fought. It resulted, how-

ever, in a victory for the canal people on every point and saved to the state property and rights worth several millions of dollars. For the part he had in achieving this result, Mr. McDonald won and received much credit.

On the 21st of September, 1898, Leon McDonald was married to Clara Augusta Rudd, a daughter of Charles H. and Esther (Leonard) Rudd. She was born April 26, 1875, and is a graduate of Oberlin (Ohio) College, having formerly been a resident of that place. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have two sons and two daughters, Louise E., born July 13, 1899; Esther L., born January 11, 1901; Donald A., born October 14, 1902; and Leon E., Jr., born January 13, 1906.

The fact that Mr. McDonald is connected with one of the oldest pioneer families of the county would entitle Leon McDonald to mention in this volume even if he had not been a factor in the business and political life of Lockport and of Will county. His activity in these relations, however, have had direct bearing upon the city and county of his residence and that he acts from public-spirited and patriotic motives is indicated by the results which he has accomplished for the general good in various ways.

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#### CHARLES MANNING FISH.

Charles Manning Fish, engaged in the real-estate business in Joliet, his native city, was born August 1, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Mary V. (Manning) Fish. He is a representative of one of the oldest American families of English lineage. The ancestry can be traced back to Thomas Fish, of Warwick, Wedgenock Park, Warwickshire, England, where he was living as late as 1649. His son, Nathaniel, was born in England in 1618 and, coming to America among the earliest settlers of Massachusetts, located in Lynn. In 1637 he made a permanent location at Sandwich on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where he died in 1693. The line of descent is brought down through Thomas Fish, who was a resident of Duxbury, Massachusetts. Nathaniel Fish (two), who was born in Stonington, Connecticut, April 11, 1713; Nathaniel Fish (three), who was born in Stonington, Connecticut, February 6, 1774; Calvin B.

Fish, whose birth occurred in Norwich, Connecticut, December 15, 1779. He was the grandfather of Charles Manning Fish and was the first of the family to come to the west. In Lyme, Connecticut, he was married January 1, 1804, to Miss Clarissa Sterling, whose birth occurred in Lyme, Connecticut, July 18, 1780. She was a daughter of Captain William and Jemima (Sill) Sterling. As stated, Calvin B. Fish was the first of the family to leave New England and his death occurred in Rutland, New York, in December, 1830.

Henry Fish, father of our subject, was born in Rutland, New York, December 19, 1819, and in 1834 came to Joliet, where he was employed by his brother-in-law, Joel A. Matteson, who was afterward governor of Illinois. He was a poor, penniless boy when he came to Will county and for some time worked for Mr. Matteson, while subsequently he became an employe on the canal and afterward was captain of a canal boat plying between Joliet and Chicago. He made steady progress in his business life, owing to his close application, unfaltering perseverance and energy, and at a later date was engaged in the lumber and grain trade, in which he continued until about 1860. By this time he had accumulated a competence which he invested in government bonds, although his friends advised to the contrary, saying that they would be worthless. His keen business judgment, however, was demonstrated in this investment and, retiring from active commercial pursuits, he engaged in loaning money until 1871, when he assisted in organizing the Will County National Bank and was chosen its first president. He remained an active factor in financial circles in the county for some years and was long accounted one of the representative and successful business men. He was a delegate to the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln as chief executive of the nation and he was deeply interested in political affairs, yet was not a politician in the sense of seeking political preferment for himself. He died June 22, 1899, and was survived for four years by his wife, who passed away October 24, 1903. They were the parents of four children: George Manning, born January 27, 1855; Jennie Clara, who was born March 31, 1857, and died September 3, 1858; Charles Manning, born August 1, 1859; and Henry Manning, born February 12, 1862.

The mother was born October 19, 1829, at Brownsville, Jackson county, Illinois, and also comes of an equally remote American ancestry, for the line of descent is traced back to Samuel Manning, who was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, July 21, 1644. He served as corporal in the state militia in 1682, as sergeant in 1684 and ensign in 1699. He represented the general court of Massachusetts from 1695 to 1697 and held a number of offices in his town, becoming a prominent man of his day. On the 13th of April, 1664, he was married to Elizabeth Stearns, who was born at Watertown, Massachusetts, and died June 24, 1671. He was afterward married on the 6th of May, 1673, to Abiel Wight, who was born January 1, 1654, at Medfield, Massachusetts. Samuel Manning died February 22, 1710 or 1711.

John Manning, son of Samuel Manning, was born August 30, 1666, at Billerica, Massachusetts, and was a soldier in the expedition to Canada led by Sir William Phipps in 1690 against the French in King William's war. He married Sarah Spalding in 1670 and died February 3, 1717 or 1718. His son, Samuel Manning, was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 20, 1703, and died November 6, 1773. He was married October 21, 1728, to Elizabeth Manning, who was born March 4, 1701, and died March 7, 1770. The next in the line of direct descent is Samuel Manning (second), who was born at Townsend, Massachusetts, March 15, 1732. His name appears on the colonial rolls of Massachusetts as one of Captain John Stevens' foot company of Townsend. He was prominent and active in the Revolutionary war and in 1776, 1777 and 1778 was a member of the committee of correspondence, inspection and safety. He died January 28, 1809. His wife, Abigail Avery, was born July 14, 1731, and died at Townsend, Massachusetts, January 21, 1810. Joel Manning, son of Samuel Manning (second), was born at Townsend, Massachusetts, August 31, 1764, and died at Ludlow, Vermont, March 5, 1841. He was married at Lunenburg, Massachusetts, February 17, 1791, to Vashti Bradstreet, who was born July 2, 1761, and died May 15, 1846. Joel Manning (second), son of Joel Manning, was born in Andover, Vermont, October 9, 1793, and died at Joliet January 8, 1869, being the first representative of the family in the middle west. He married September 9, 1823, Diza Jen-

kins, who was born October 15, 1806, in Tennessee, and died November 27, 1861, in Joliet. They were the parents of Mary V. Manning, who became the wife of Henry Fish in Lockport, Illinois, February 15, 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Fish settled in Joliet and soon afterward united with the Ottawa Street Methodist Episcopal church and were active and honored members of the same for nearly fifty years, giving largely of their means to all church and charitable enterprises.

Reared in his native city, Charles Manning Fish acquired his early education in the graded schools of Joliet and afterward pursued a course of study in Chester (Pennsylvania) Military College and was graduated with the degree of civil engineer. He subsequently engaged in the manufacturing business in Joliet for several years, but for some time past has concentrated his energies upon the real-estate business.

Mr. Fish was married February 1, 1887, to Miss Louise Steel, a daughter of William A. and Frances Louise (Sanger) Steel. Mrs. Fish was born September 23, 1866, and died February 8, 1892, leaving one child, Mary Louise, born June 5, 1889. On the 18th of May, 1898, Mr. Fish wedded Helen E. Thompson, a daughter of Major J. M. and Mary J. (Davidson) Thompson. Mrs. Fish was born April 8, 1872, and there were three children by this marriage: Jennie, born February 20, 1899; Manning, November 20, 1903; and Charles Thompson, May 11, 1906. Their home is one of the fine residences of Joliet and was built by Mr. Fish's aunt, Mrs. Cornelia A. Miller, the widow of Edmund Miller, of Waterloo, Iowa. Mr. Fish is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Colonial Wars and the Society of Mayflower Descendants, and is a dimitted member of the Masonic fraternity.

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#### WILLIAM C. ADAMS.

William C. Adams is numbered among the oldest settlers of Crete, where he has made his home since 1883 but he was for many years prior to that time engaged in general agricultural pursuits and at one time owned a farm of one hundred and forty-one acres in Crete township. A portion of this tract is now included within the village

of Steger. Mr. Adams still retains possession of forty acres, which is operated by his son Byron.

Mr. Adams was born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, April 8, 1829, a son of Phineas H. and Mary P. (Clark) Adams, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of New Hampshire. The father was a wheelwright by trade. In 1836 he left his native state and removed to Vermont, while in 1845 he took up his abode in Will county, making the journey from the east by way of the Erie canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago, from which city he continued his journey to Will county, settling on a tract of forty acres of government land, situated near Crete. He was a successful farmer and at the time of his death, which occurred when he had reached the very advanced age of eighty-four years, he was the owner of one hundred acres of land. His wife, however, survived her removal to Will county for only a year, passing away here in 1846, at the comparatively early age of forty-two years. After her death the father married again, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Cutler. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a highly esteemed pioneer settler of his community.

William C. Adams is one of a family of fifteen children, and with the exception of three all still survive. Mr. Adams received only a limited education, this being pursued in the country schools. He was reared to the occupation of farming, assisting his father in his farm labor. He accompanied his parents on their various removals and was a youth of sixteen years when he arrived in Will county. He remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, when in 1850, with a party consisting of Austin Hewes, Benjamin Hewes, R. A. Mott, Asa Kyle, H. Haslett, David Orr and A. P. K. Safford, he made the overland trip to California, covering a period of four months. He remained on the Pacific coast for three years, during which time he was engaged in mining, meeting with fair success. Of this party of men, Mr. Safford later removed to Arizona, where he became governor of the territory, and with the exception of our subject, R. A. Mott, is the only surviving member, he making his home at the present time in Faribault, Minnesota.

Mr. Adams returned from the Pacific coast by way of the isthmus route. Again taking up his



abode in Will county, he purchased one hundred and forty-one acres of land in the northern part of Crete township, this land being partially improved. He at once began to further improve and develop the place and thereon made his home until 1883, in which year he retired from agricultural pursuits and removed to the village of Crete, where he has since made his home, now residing with his son Byron. He has since disposed of a portion of his landed holdings and now retains possession of forty acres, this being operated by his son.

In 1854 occurred the marriage of Mr. Adams and Miss Mary R. Wilder, who was born in Ohio, December 15, 1833. Her death occurred in Crete, November 13, 1905. She was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and by her marriage became the mother of five children, of whom four are now living, namely: Morton G., a resident of North Dakota; Byron E., who is operating his father's farm; Albert W., who makes his home in Chicago; and Harry G., who is a bookkeeper of Chicago. The eldest child, Alice, died in infancy.

Mr. Adams has always supported the men and measures of the republican party and for fourteen years he served as school director, while for thirteen years he was school trustee but aside from these offices he has never been active in local politics. He is thoroughly familiar with the pioneer conditions which here existed at the time of the removal of the family to Will county. The nearest mills were located at Wilmington and Plainfield, where the products of the farm were hauled with ox teams, and there were also many other inconveniences which had to be borne by the family during that early period. He has ever lived an upright and honest life and commands the respect and good will of all with whom he is associated.

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#### RICHARD HANCOCK.

Richard Hancock, superintendent of the pipe department of the Illinois Steel Company at the Joliet plant since 1895, was born in Cornwall, England, in 1864, and during his infancy was brought to America by his parents, who located in Jackson, Michigan. There Mr. Hancock was

reared and educated and after putting aside his text-books he learned the trade of plumbing and steamfitting under the direction of George H. Porter. Some years later he entered the employ of the firm of Davis & Rankin at Chicago, and was afterward with the Gill Manufacturing Company of Albion, Michigan, with the American Wheel Company, the Smith-Biddling Purifier Company of Jackson, Michigan, and other large institutions. He came to Joliet to accept his present position. Throughout his entire life he has been engaged in the steamfitting and plumbing business and in 1895, he came to Joliet as superintendent of the pipe department of the Illinois Steel Company, in which capacity he has charge of from forty-five to fifty men. Under his supervision all of the steamfitting and plumbing in the entire plant is done. He is an excellent workman in his chosen field of labor and his ability is manifest in the responsible position which he is now filling.

Mr. Hancock was married in Joliet to Miss Augusta Lehman, a daughter of one of the early residents of this city. She was born here and by her marriage has become the mother of four children: Mattie May, Myrtle Agnes, Richard Charles and Clarence. In his political views Mr. Hancock is a republican. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and Sons of St. George, aid he and his wife hold membership in the Episcopal church. They are located in a pleasant home at 203 Henderson avenue and have made many warm friends during their residence in Joliet.

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#### HENRY F. BOICKEN.

The agricultural interests of Will county find a worthy representative in Henry F. Boicken, who is engaged in farming on forty acres of land, situated on section 24, Will township, and he also owns eighty acres in Washington township. Mr. Boicken is a native son of this county, his birth having occurred on a farm in Monee township in 1870. His father, Charles Boicken, was born in Germany, whence he came to the United States with his parents when a little lad of four years, the family home being established in Monee township. The father was a blacksmith by trade and both he and



his wife are now deceased. Charles B. Boicken was engaged in farming in Monee township for a number of years, after which he removed to Will township, settling on a farm on section 25. He prospered in his undertakings and acquired a competence that in 1899 enabled him to retire, and he now makes his home in Beecher, at the age of fifty-nine years. He enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining a company in Monee. He is a republican in politics and has taken an active part in public affairs, having for four years served as supervisor of Will township, while for many years he served as road commissioner, school trustee and school director. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Dorothea Matthias, was likewise born in Germany, and is now living at the age of sixty-one years. Their family numbers five children: Henry F., of this review; Emma, who is now the wife of Robert Salzmann, of Washington township; William, who resides upon the old homestead in Will township; Mary, the wife of Edward Langreder, a blacksmith of Beecher; and Dorothea, the wife of August Wiechem, a resident of Peotone. The parents are devoted members of the German Lutheran church.

Henry F. Boicken, the eldest child of his father's family, was reared to the occupation of farming and during the period of his boyhood and youth he pursued his studies in the district schools and the German school. He remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage, when he started out upon his own account, having always followed the occupation with which he became familiar as a boy. He is now farming on a tract of forty acres, located on section 24, Will township, and he also owns eighty acres of land in Washington township. He is practical and progressive in his methods of farm labor and is meeting with a gratifying measure of success, each year adding materially to his financial resources.

On the 28th of October, 1894, occurred the marriage of Mr. Boicken and Miss Louisa Wiechem, who was born in Will township, in 1872, a daughter of Henry and Sophia (Engelke) Wiechem. The parents came from Hanover, Germany, to Illinois in 1853, and for a few years resided near Chicago, whence they came to Will township, Will county, where they are still living, in the enjoyment of the fruits of their former

toil. They are members of the German Lutheran church. Their family numbered eleven children: William, who is now residing on a farm of his own near Peotone; Henry, a resident of Peotone; Ernest, now farming his land, is in Will township; Fred, also a farmer in Will township; Dick, a resident of Beecher, where he is in the lumber business; Charles, who died at the age of twenty-six years; Louisa, who is the only daughter living; August, who now is a resident of Peotone; Frank, who died at the age of four years; Emma, who died in infancy; and Albert, the youngest, who died at the age of fifteen years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Boicken have been born four children: Alma, Malinda, Albert and Martha. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church, and Mr. Boicken gives his political support to the men and measures of the republican party. Both he and his wife are highly esteemed in the community where they reside, representing old and prominent families of Will county.

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#### JOHN V. STEGER.

An analyzation of the life and work of John V. Steger would doubtless lead one to arrive at the conclusion that he has been actuated at all times by a sense of duty—the duty which he owes to himself to best improve his opportunities and the duty which he owes to others, a duty which also finds joy in its doing. Laudable ambition was perhaps the first foundation stone that he laid upon which he has builded a success that seems almost phenomenal. To this he added unfaltering energy and unabating persistency of purpose, but all the time he recognized individual responsibility toward those whom he served and toward those who served him. It is this which has made Steger an ideal manufacturing town, the piano factory a veritable Eden in this work of turmoil and labor troubles, while the founder of the business and of the village is undoubtedly one of the best loved employers in America because of the just, fair and considerate treatment he gives those in his employ, thus recognizing the brotherhood of man.

John V. Steger is a splendid type of the self-made man. It is this which has probably made



John V. Steger



WRT



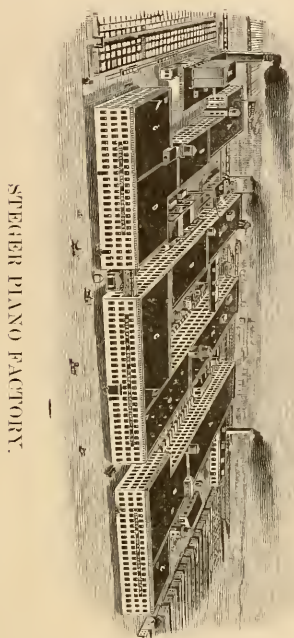
C. G. Steger



George Steger



him so fully in sympathy with his own workmen and the straightforward methods in his business career constitute the secret of an honor which is accorded him everywhere in business circles. He



was born in the little city of Ulm, Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1854. He was reared amid humble and even inauspicious surroundings, yet he was destined to set an example to the world and formulate a plan which would, when fully developed and exemplified, revolutionize and change the existing order of affairs connected with the world of labor and of industry. His father, a cabinet-maker by trade, apprenticed him to a woodworker, whom he served between the ages of fourteen and seventeen years. He then started for America, imbued with a desire to benefit his financial condition by utilization of the broader opportunities of the new world. He had no knowledge of the English language and his capital consisted of but twelve cents when he landed on American soil. This condition rendered immediate employment a

necessity, and within six hours he was at work, being employed at rough carpenter work on the reconstruction of ice houses on the Hudson river. His previous training fitted him for something better, for he was fully competent to earn more than he would receive at this work, but it was the best that he could get at the moment and he took it. He formed at that time a resolution to live within his resources and in fact to save a certain sum from all that he earned. Within two months he returned to New York city with more than half of the wages that he had received during that period. This sum he divided into two equal parts, one that was not to be expended under any circumstances, the other to supply his wants and necessities until he could again be in receipt of wages. These facts are given in detail because it gives the keynote of the success of Mr. Steger. In the city he secured employment at the cabinet-maker's trade, his yearly wage averaging ten and a half dollars per week, and of this he placed at least five dollars and a half per week with the reserve fund.

Thinking that business conditions were still more favorable in the west, Mr. Steger left the Atlantic coast for Chicago. His capital was indeed small at that time, but he was rich in determination and a fixed, unchangeable resolution to live economically, to add to his stores rather than to deplete them, and thus was made possible the creation of one of the most wonderful of all American towns and the foundation of a system of industrial economics which the world can not but admire and which would solve all labor questions if it were universally adopted. Soon after his arrival in Chicago Mr. Steger wedded Louise R. Jacobs, to whose assistance, advice and co-operation he attributes much of his success. For eight years he worked for others, saving the greater part of his earnings, until his accumulated sum amounted to thirty-nine hundred dollars. He then made his start in the piano business at No. 154 State street, Chicago. The greatly increased trade necessitated a removal to larger quarters in 1881, and within three years another change was necessitated and the business was opened at Adams street and Wabash avenue. He suffered heavy losses in the Langham hotel fire, and the succeeding four years were devoted to retrieving his lost possessions. In 1891 he removed to the present

location, at the northeast corner of Jackson boulevard and Wabash avenue, where he has established a trade second to none in the United States. These quarters and adjoining property at 233 Wabash avenue have lately been acquired by Mr. Steger on a ninety-nine year term of lease, where he will soon erect a magnificent fourteen-story building specially adapted to his business and needs. It is estimated that nothing finer will find place in Chicago. Mr. Steger contemplates to make this building a monument to perpetuate the name "Steger" and establish a home for the "Steger Piano."

In Will county is found a town bearing his name, but, more than that, bearing the impress of his individuality, his lofty purpose and his recognition of the rights of others with his own individual responsibility. All the theories that have been expounded and the plans that have been promulgated have never solved the labor question as have the practical workings of Mr. Steger in the establishment and development of the piano factory and of the town. When he announced that Columbia Heights, now Steger, a little cross-roads village out on the prairie, would be an ideal situation for a piano factory, those who knew him laughed at the idea. Former plans, however, had awakened derision from those who were less far-sighted than he, and again time has proven the merit of his ideas and plans. He built the piano factory, began the manufacture of pianos and has continuously found it necessary to enlarge the plant to meet the growing demands of the trade until today in Steger, Illinois, stands the largest exclusive piano factory in the world. This is due to two causes—his treatment of employes from whom he receives in return faithful and efficient service, and his close study and able management of the business. The equipment of the Steger factory when it was organized in 1879 was small mechanically but it had a mental equipment which made ample amends for this deficiency. Mr. Steger had given years of thought and study to the development of the pianoforte. He had a complete understanding of the needs of the instrument from the performer's standpoint and was one of the first to realize the error of striving to keep the piano in competition with the orchestra. He had also a capacity for organization and he also studied the question of economies in manufacture. Up to that time all the instruments with any pretensions as to quali-

ty were expensive. Mr. Steger at the beginning of his career was firmly convinced that the cost of manufacturing the best pianos could be materially reduced without any sacrifice of musical quality, and his judgment has been fully and continuously confirmed from the time the first Steger piano was completed. The guiding principle in the factory has always been not to merely produce a piano "as good as it could be made for the money," but to make a piano worthy of being selected purely on its merits by the most discriminating people. That is the primary purpose of the company. After that comes the arrangement of the processes of manufacture and distribution so as to eliminate all waste—all useless expense of every nature; and to secure the maximum efficiency in all departments, thus making it possible to sell an instrument of the highest possible attainment and worth at a moderate price. The product takes first rank with the finest pianos manufactured in Europe and America. The output includes the upright and grand pianos and the recent extension of the business includes the manufacture of the Steger self-player, which is an inside player and supersedes the old style of the mechanical player which is attached to the front of the piano and strikes the keys from the outside mechanically. This embodies nothing of the experimental nature but is constructed according to the best known scientific principles of pneumatics. In connection with the extensive plant at Steger, Mr. Steger has other financial interests. He is a director of the bank of Steger, Bank of Chicago Heights and Monroe National Bank of Chicago and is also one of the large stockholders of the Flanner-Steger Land & Lumber Company, owning extensive lumber interests in Wisconsin, together with a splendidly equipped sawmill, from which point logs and lumber are shipped to Steger to be used in the factory here.

While engaged in the stupendous task of establishing, developing and controlling the new organization Mr. Steger realized that an element of paramount importance to his success was the comfort and welfare of his men. He keeps in close touch with them, many of whom he knows by name, and they feel that their interests are his interests. Mr. Steger made a close study of labor problems. He saw that thousands of workmen through the country in large institutions were expending brain, brawn and muscle for their employers and that af-



ter years of such labor they had not advanced in their individual positions in life and were not better prepared for the days of old age and inability to work. This fact appealed to Mr. Steger and after much thought and planning he evolved from his fertile brain the solution of such conditions. His plans and ideas are shown in the results. Today there are about twenty-five hundred people living in Steger, mainly composed of workmen in the extensive manufacturing plant and their families, yet there are others also who are engaged in business in the city and have chosen Steger as a place of residence to enjoy the delights of suburban life. It is a noticeable fact that the employes are men. There are no women or girls and but few boys in the factory. He resolved to pay his men a good living wage, so that it would not be necessary for the feminine members of the household to engage in labor in order to eke out a living, and the workmen receive from fifteen to twenty-five dollars per week. They work eight hours a day in well ventilated and well lighted buildings and their surroundings are such as to imbue the mind with the love of the pure and the beautiful and to give a feeling of rest and repose. Mr. Steger resolved, too, that the workmen should have comfortable, pleasant homes. For this purpose he built cottages, each with its garden and lawn and the homes were sold at from eight hundred and fifty to ten hundred and fifty dollars, regardless of the constantly increasing demand which would have much advanced the value. To those who work in the factories these homes were sold on payment of ten dollars per month. Mr. Steger is reported to have said that he proceeded on the theory that when a man became a real-estate owner he appreciated the value of citizenship and that it was his observation that men became better workmen, more careful of stock and more considerate in their associations just as soon as they possessed an interest in a home. Another sentiment expressed by Mr. Steger will explain why it is that he has secured the unalloyed services, the devoted support of each man who works for him. He said, "I believe in putting my men on their honor and encouraging honesty and strength of character by trusting them and letting them know I trust them. And as to labor troubles—when a man becomes the owner of a little home and feels that he is a factor in a community he has no time

to give to walking delegates. These fellows are an unknown quantity in Steger." There are no strikes in Steger, for each employe feels that his services to the company will be justly rewarded and each year the workmen have a share in the profits of the house according to their length of service and the merit of their work.

For the benefit of the workmen, thier family and friends, Mr. Steger has given twelve acres for park purposes. The intention is to make this park as beautiful as the landscape gardener of art can suggest and unstinted outlay carry into reality. Special attention will be given to equipments for the amusement and entertainment of the children who have a warm place in the heart of Mr. Steger. He sees to it also that there are theaters, amusements and other entertainments of high class and there is probably no factory town of the size of Steger that has as little intoxication and lawlessness of any kind. The employes are not forced to patronize company stores and thus turn their earnings back into the business from which they receive them, for on the contrary the stores are not owned by Mr. Steger but by independent merchants. He is making the village a clean, healthful, enjoyable and beautiful place of residence and is doing this because of the broad humanitarian principle which is one of the most strongly marked characteristics of his life.

Mr. Steger has found able assistance given to him by his two sons, C. G. and George F. Steger, who are associated with him in business, the former having charge of the city headquarters at Wabash avenue and Jackson boulevard, while the latter is the general superintendent of all the factories. They receive practical efficiency and thorough training from their father, are thoroughly acquainted with the business and are displaying the strong traits which have made John V. Steger, the once penniless German emigrant, an American multi-millionaire.

The other members of the Steger family are: Mrs. Thomas E. Northen and Mrs. H. E. Johnson, Jr., both residing in Steger; and Miss Estella, attending school at Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Illinois.

Such in outline is the life and work of John V. Steger. He has been called a theorist but he is an idealist. He is not a dreamer but is a man of action, working toward ideals by using practical

methods whereby he secures the results he undertakes. He has come to a realization of the fact which others have preached but which few have had the courage to demonstrate, that the man who works for and with his employes serves best his own purposes and solves harmoniously the labor question which is today one of the paramount issues before the American people.

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#### ENESHIA MEERS, LL. B.

Eneshia Meers has been a member of the Joliet bar for nearly thirty years, and the favorable opinion passed upon him at the outset of his career has in no degree been changed or modified, but on the contrary has been strengthened with the passing years as he has demonstrated his ability to cope with the intricate problems of the law. For a long period he has had a distinctly representative clientele that has connected him with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of this district.

Born in Bloomsbury, New Jersey, about fifty-one years ago, Mr. Meers is a son of Dennis and Anna Meers, who were natives of Ireland, and soon after their marriage crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling first in Massachusetts. They afterward lived in other eastern states, Dennis Meers being engaged principally in railroad contracting. The greater part of his life was spent in New York city and the state of New Jersey, but in 1875 he removed westward with his family to Joliet, where he engaged in the hardware business, continuing in the same until his death in 1888. After becoming a naturalized American citizen he affiliated with the democracy and by his ballot staunchly supported its principles, but had no personal aspiration for office. He passed away at the age of seventy years, his widow still surviving him. During their early residence here they were members of St. Mary's Catholic church and after the division of the parish became communicants of the Sacred Heart church.

Eneshia Meers spent his youth in New Jersey and in New York city. He took his collegiate course at Seton Hall College, a well known educational institution at Orange, New Jersey, of which Father Corrigan, afterward archbishop of

New York, was president. Upon the removal of the family to the west he took up the study of law in the office of Egbert Phelps. Later he continued reading with Judge McRoberts, and subsequently became a student in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated in the class of 1877. Returning to Joliet, he formed a partnership with C. W. Brown, a leading lawyer of the city, the business connection between them terminating on the election of Mr. Brown to the position of state's attorney. Mr. Meers has since practised alone except a few years as a partner of John W. Downey, and has long been recognized as one of the able trial lawyers at the Will county bar, being strong and logical in argument and forceful in the presentation of his cause. He adds to his comprehensive understanding of the law a ready command of language and as occasion demands employs the wit so characteristic of people of his nationality.

Mr. Meers has been called to public office, serving from 1879 until 1883 as city attorney, and had he aspirations in that direction undoubtedly could easily secure further political honors, but while an active worker in support of democracy he prefers that his time should be more largely given to his professional duties rather than to political service. He has, however, addressed many public audiences upon the questions and issues of the day and his analytical reasoning and clear deductions often prove an influencing force upon his hearers. He belongs to various civic and social organizations, including the Commercial Club, Elks lodge and Knights of Columbus. He lives with his family in a fine home on Western avenue, where he located seven years ago.

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#### AUGUST EHRHARDT.

August Ehrhardt, county treasurer of Will county, in which position he is rendering efficient, faithful and expert service, came to the county in 1855, at which time he located in Crete. He was born in Saxony, Germany, April 3, 1840, and was a youth of fourteen years when he crossed the Atlantic to the United States with his parents, Christoph and Sophie (Werner) Ehrhardt. The family located at Blue Island, Illi-

nois, and the father followed the occupation of farming in order to provide for his family. He died in the year 1876, while his wife survived until 1882.

August Ehrhardt lived with his parents near Blue Island for some time and then came to Will county, settling at Monee, where he carried on general farming until 1865, save for the period of his service in the Civil war. He enlisted in 1862 in the Eighty-second Illinois infantry as a private and was a valorous soldier until the close of hostilities. When the country no longer needed his services he returned to Monee, and for fifteen years was engaged in business with August Schiffer. He then removed to Beecher, where he carried on general merchandising, purchasing the store of Mr. Matthias. He also assisted in locating the creamery at Beecher and still owns the business block in which it is conducted. The mercantile business of which he became proprietor had been established about ten years before. In its control he has displayed excellent business judgment and discernment and has made a creditable record in the conduct of the enterprise. He served as postmaster at Beecher under President Harrison and again under President McKinley, during which time there were established three rural routes from this office. In 1906 he was elected county treasurer of Will county and is now filling the position, the duties of which he discharges with promptness and fidelity.

Mr. Ehrhardt was married in 1865, at Blue Island, Illinois, to Miss Louise Kline, who was born in Germany, June 14, 1843, a daughter of August Kline. They became the parents of two sons: Arthur, who now has charge of his father's store; and Carl, who is cashier of the First National Bank of Beecher and who was deputy probate clerk.

Mr. Ehrhardt has always taken an active part in politics as a stalwart champion of the republican party and was committeeman of his town and township for twenty years. In all life's relations he has displayed the same fidelity to his country and her welfare that he showed when on southern battlefields he followed the old flag. Socially Mr. Ehrhardt is a member of the Masonic order at Peotone and he has been commander of Chicago Heights post, G. A. R. His religious faith is that of the Evangelical church.

At all times and under all circumstances, whether in official service, in business life, as a member of the army, or as a private citizen he has displayed fidelity to the interests of his country and her welfare and his record has been creditable.

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#### NAT J. ROWELL.

Nat J. Rowell, deceased, was a representative of one of the old and prominent families of Joliet. He was but a child when his parents removed to this city and he became one of the leading business men here, dealing at different times in gravel and sand, also conducting a real estate and insurance business, while for a short time he was editor of one of the local papers. His birth occurred in Clarkson, Monroe county, New York, June 26, 1857, his parents being Hopkins and Mary E. (Blood) Rowell, who were likewise natives of Monroe county. The father's birth occurred in Clarkson in 1809 and he continued to make his home there until 1860, when he came with his family to the west, locating in Will county. He settled on a farm near Joliet and there carried on general agricultural pursuits for twelve years, after which he removed to the city to live retired. Indolence and idleness, however, were utterly foreign to his nature and he found it impossible to entirely put aside business interests. He therefore dealt to a greater or less extent in real estate and so continued up to the time of his death. Both he and his wife passed away in Joliet.

Nat J. Rowell attended the public schools and supplemented his preliminary education by study in Joliet Academy. He afterward became a student in the University of Minnesota, where he remained for a year, and subsequently he spent four years in the Chicago University, from which he was graduated in the class of 1878. Returning to Joliet he became interested in newspaper work and for one year was city editor of the *Republic and Sun*. He then accepted a government position in the treasury department at Washington, D. C., where he remained until 1885, when he returned to Joliet and established a real estate office, buying and selling city property. He engaged in that business together with insurance until 1889, when

he began dealing in gravel. He owned several large gravel pits on East Washington street and conducted a thriving business as a dealer in gravel, cobble stones and sand. He built up an excellent trade, his sales largely increasing annually until he became one of the well-to-do business men of the city, continuing in that line until his death.

Mr. Rowell was married in 1892 to Miss Amie W. Strong, a native of Joliet and a daughter of William A. and Charlotte A. (Buell) Strong, the former a native of Waterloo, New York, and the latter of Rochester, that state. Mr. Strong was born in 1828 and was educated in the public schools of his native city, subsequent to which time he clerked in his uncle's store in Waterloo for five years. He then came west with his uncle in 1850, settling in Joliet, where they established a hardware business under the firm style of W. A. Strong & Company. This connection was continued for five years, after which the firm became Brooks & Barrett and subsequently Strong & Company. Mr. Strong continued his connection with the enterprise throughout all these years until 1865, when he withdrew from the hardware trade to become president of the Joliet Gas Company, which position he held for several years. Turning his attention to the field of real estate operation, he purchased one hundred and twenty-five acres of land adjoining Joliet and laid out the subdivision of Glenwood. In this way he contributed much to the substantial development and improvement of the city. About the same time he was elected mayor of Joliet and filled the office for one term, his administration being characterized by a spirit most business-like and beneficial. He was also a director in the First National Bank of the city and for a few years he was connected with the business of quarrying stone, but real estate chiefly claimed his time and attention during the latter part of his life and he negotiated many important realty transfers, whereby the improvement of the city was enhanced, while his individual success was also augmented. He always made Joliet his home, but his death occurred in St. Clair, Michigan, and his wife passed away in Thomasville, Georgia, March 20, 1889. Both were consistent communicants of the Episcopal church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rowell were born three children: Lilla, Robert Strong and Nat J., all

of whom are with their mother. The death of the husband and father occurred in Joliet, October 23, 1904. He was always a republican, but never an office seeker, yet in community affairs he was deeply interested and was a co-operant in many plans and measures which were based upon the needs and possibilities of the city for general development. He held membership in the Episcopal church, to which his wife yet belongs, and in its activities was greatly interested. His helpful spirit as manifest in church relations and in citizenship, his genial manner as displayed in social circles and his genuine worth of character, caused his death to be deeply regretted by many friends as well as his immediate family. Mrs. Rowell owns a beautiful stone residence at No. 523 Western avenue—the old Strong homestead—where she and her children reside, and in social circles in Joliet she is quite prominent.

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#### ELIAS BROWN.

Elias Brown, a farmer of Will county, at the present time serving as supervisor of Jackson township, is a native son of Will county, born November 12, 1851, and is a son of Ara B. and Martha (Hougham) Brown. The father came with his parents, Peter Brown and wife, from his native state, New York, to Will county in 1834. He remained with them during the period of his boyhood and youth, and when starting out in life on his own account engaged in farming on section 15, Jackson township, continuing in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred in 1865.

Elias Brown, whose name introduces this sketch, is the the fourth in order of birth in his father's family, the other living members being: Mrs. Sarah B. Sharp, a resident of Danville, Indiana; Mrs. D. F. Higgins, a resident of Joliet; Frank, a resident farmer of Jackson township; and Nancy J. and Martha M. Brown, both of whom reside in Joliet.

Elias Brown was reared to farm life in Jackson township, assisting his father in the operation of the home farm during the summer seasons, while during the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools. While private



ELIAS BROWN.





business interests have claimed much of his time and attention Mr. Brown has also found time and opportunity for public interests.

The lady whom Mr. Brown chose as a companion and helpmate bore the maiden name of Miss Mary A. Mapps, their marriage being celebrated February 28th, 1878. She was a native of Jackson township, and after a happy married life of more than twenty-seven years she was called to her final rest, her death occurring July 18, 1905. She was an estimable lady, devoted to the welfare and happiness of her family, and her death was the occasion of deep regret not only to her immediate household but to a large circle of friends. The four children who still survive are: Ara B., who wedded Miss Lauretta Myers, by whom he has one child Loretta, their home being in Jackson township; Elias A., Jarvis J. and Paul, all at home.

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#### MARCUS KRAKAR.

The utilization of the splendid stone deposits of this section of the state constitutes one of the most important industries of Will county and among her most successful men are those who are connected with the quarrying of stone at Joliet. To this class belongs Marcus Krakar, a business man of marked enterprise and keen discernment, who in the careful control of his interests has gained a place along the substantial residents of the city.

He was born in Libach, Austria, April 24, 1839, and is a son of Joseph and Agnes Krakar, who were likewise natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives. The father died in 1887 and the mother passed away in June, 1839, only six weeks after the birth of her son Marcus. Joseph Krakar was a farmer and shoemaker. He was twice married and there were two children of the first union, while three children were born of the second marriage. Four of the number are now living: Joseph and Marcus, the sons of the first union; and Katharine and Jacob, who were born of the second union.

Marcus Krakar attended the public schools of his native country for a short time and in 1857, in company with his brother Joseph, sailed for

America when in his eighteenth year. They landed at Baltimore, Maryland, after a voyage of seven weeks upon a sailing vessel and in that city, on his eighteenth birthday, Mr. Krakar drank his first glass of beer. He did not tarry long on the Atlantic coast but made his way direct to Chicago, three days being required for the train journey. On reaching the future metropolis of the west he hired out for twenty-three cents per day and his board and thus worked for nine months, during which time he saved every cent of his wages. With the money thus earned he bought a little stock of merchandise and notions and began peddling. Thus he traveled all over the state of Illinois for four years and in the new venture met with success.

Mr. Krakar was then married and in 1861 located in Joliet, where he turned his attention to the shoemaking business, which he had learned under the direction of his father in the old country. He followed this for a number of years and subsequently engaged in the manufacture of cigars in Joliet. He afterward turned his attention to stone quarrying and has since conducted this enterprise in the most successful manner, being half owner, president and general manager of the Joliet Quarry Company, which ships stone all over the United States. The output has constantly increased and the business has long since reached profitable proportions.

Mr. Krakar has also been prominent in public life in the city and has represented the fourth ward in the city council. He has also been school director and his co-operation can be counted upon to further any movement or measure for the public good, yet he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to give his undivided time and energies to furthering his business interests. He has invested in real estate in Joliet and owns a beautiful home on the west side, also a fine new six flat building with modern appointments, just completed.

Mr. Krakar was married on the 29th of October, 1861, to Miss Jakobina Gorges, a native of Prussia, Germany. They became the parents of fifteen children, of whom ten are now living: Sophia, the wife of Joseph Comp; Anna, the wife of Leo Miksche, a merchant of Minnesota; Lena, the wife of Matt Vertin; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry K. Schuster, of North Dakota; Gertrude, the wife

of William Huppeler, of North Dakota; Angeline, the wife of Joseph Zirbs, of Joliet; Myrtle, at home; Marcus J. and Jacob, also of Joliet.

Mr. Krakar is a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. John's Benevolent Society. He came to this country without a cent of capital save his railroad fare. His education after crossing the Atlantic was exceedingly limited but for a year he was a student in a private night school. He has constantly broadened his knowledge through experience and observation and has made progress in the business world until he now has a competency secured through his own industry and honesty. He is looked upon as one of Joliet's substantial and enterprising citizens and well deserves representation in this volume.

#### MRS. ELIZABETH HAYNES BURCH.

Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes Burch is one of the prominent pioneer women of Will county, having here made her home for the past forty-six years. She is the owner of large landed interests, having an excellent farm of two hundred acres situated on section 29, Homer township, which is being operated by her only son, with whom she makes her home, and from her property she derives an income which is sufficient to supply her with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, so that she is able to spend the evening of her life in the enjoyment of a well earned ease.

Mrs. Burch claims the Empire state as the place of her birth, her natal year being 1839. Her parents, Thaddeus and Elizabeth (Howe) Haynes, were likewise natives of New York, where they lived and died. The father was a farmer in the east, following that pursuit throughout his entire life, and his death occurred November 8, 1888, when he had reached the age of seventy-nine years. In his political views he was a staunch democrat. His mother bore the maiden name of Martha Wilson and was reared in New York state. The mother of Mrs. Burch passed away in 1845, at the age of forty-nine years. The daughter was then a little maiden of only six years and was the third in order of birth in a family of three daughters and one son, the other members of the family being: Mary Jane, the widow of Charles Reed, a farmer

of Wayne county, New York; William, who follows farming near Baldwinsville, that state; and Catherine, the widow of Thomas O'Brien, who makes her home on a farm near Baldwinsville. The mother of these children was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Burch, as stated, was only six years of age when she lost her mother, after which she remained with her father during the period of her girlhood, and she acquired her education in the schools of Baldwinsville. She remained with her father until eighteen years, after which she spent some time visiting with her sister Mary and an aunt. At the age of twenty-one she joined her sister in Illinois, who had preceded her a year and was employed in Will county as housekeeper by Jacob Burch, to whom Elizabeth was married January 29, 1861. He was then a widower, his first wife having been Ann Lanfear, who died in 1858. He was born in Washington county, New York, in 1817, a son of Abraham and Phoebe Burch, who were farming people of the Empire state, and there the father passed away. After his death the mother brought her family to Illinois, their home being established in Will county, where she remained for some time but finally returned to New York, where her death occurred.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Burch located on a farm on section 29, Homer township, and here he followed general agricultural pursuits for many years, and acquired a valuable property, comprising two hundred acres which is now in possession of his widow. He was a republican in his political views, but while he gave staunch support to the party he was never active as an office seeker, preferring to give his undivided time and attention to his private business interests, in which he met with gratifying success. Mr. Burch was called from this life January 29, 1896, when he had reached the age of seventy-nine years, and thus Will county lost one of its honorable and highly respected pioneer residents.

By her marriage Mrs. Burch has become the mother of four children, three of whom died in infancy. The only survivor is Henry, who resides on the home farm, which he operates. He married Hattie Garden, a native of Scotland, in which country she remained until she reached the age of eleven years, when she accompanied her parents,

Robert and Margaret Garden, to the United States. Her father was a blacksmith by trade and followed that occupation in the old country but after taking up his abode in Illinois, he established his home first in Frankfort, Will county and afterward located on a farm in Homer township, where the daughter met and married Henry Burch. Mr. Garden passed away in this county, November 13, 1884, when he had reached the age of fifty-eight years, while his widow survived until July 10, 1894, when she, too, was called to her final rest, having reached the age of sixty-six years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burch have been born three sons and three daughters, namely: Elizabeth, who graduated from the Lockport high school in June, 1906; Mary Irene, who is now in her second year in the high school at Lockport; Margaret B., Ralph H., and Harvey Reed, all of whom are students in the district schools; and Robert G.

Mrs. Burch is a devoted member of the Congregational church, in which she takes an active and helpful interest, and she is also identified with the Ladies Missionary Society, a church organization. She is an estimable lady, and although she has now reached the age of sixty-seven years, she is still active and takes a deep interest in church and social duties. She possesses many excellent traits of heart and mind, which have endeared her to a host of warm friends, among whom she is popular.

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#### GEORGE SONNEBORN.

George Sonneborn, vice president and director of the Eastern Will County State Bank at Monee, figures prominently not alone in financial circles but also as a representative and progressive citizen who has been honored by his fellow townsmen with the offices of village president and trustee. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1853. His father, George Sonneborn, was a native of Ballenborg, Germany, born in 1816, and he died in 1892 at the age of seventy-six years. He came to the United States in 1850 and located in Baltimore, Maryland. He was a tailor by trade and remained in Baltimore until 1861, when he removed with his family to Monee township, Will county, Illinois, making his home for a brief period with

his wife's people. He afterward spent six years in Cook county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade and also clerked in a store. In 1867 the family returned to Monee, where the father invested in village property. He established a clothing and tailoring business, being the pioneer in that line in Monee, and he continued in the successful management of the enterprise up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1892. He was a good business man of sound judgment who prospered in his undertakings and followed methods which commended him to the confidence and trust of all. He was conservative and made no purchase except when able to pay cash. He held membership in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, of which he was one of the trustees, and when in Baltimore he was a Redman. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and he filled the office of trustee in his village. He was a man held in the highest esteem, possessed a charitable, benevolent spirit and gave generously according to his means. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Katherine Bischel, was born in Schwarznau in the province of Westphalia, Germany, in 1823, and died in 1904. She came to Baltimore in 1851 from Germany and was married the same year, having known her husband while they were still residents of the fatherland. She was also a member of the German Evangelical church. Their family numbered two children, George, and John B., who was born in Baltimore, September 15, 1855. He is now a member of the firm of G. Sonneborn Sons. He married Emma, daughter of John and Magdalena Kolstedt, and they have one child, Leola.

The sons attended school in Monee and in 1868 George Sonneborn entered the postoffice as a clerk, there remaining until 1871. At that time he became employed in a general store in Chicago, where he continued until the fall of 1877. He then returned to Monee and took charge of his father's business, admitting E. R. Freese as a partner in the conduct of the grocery store. Mr. Freese remained in the firm for twelve years. The brother, John Sonneborn, returned from Chicago, where he had been engaged in clerking for eight years and entered the store, being still a member of the firm. Both of the sons are stockholders in the Eastern Will County State Bank, of which George Sonneborn is vice president and a director. His name is well known in commercial and finan-

cial circles and the firm of Sonneborn is doing an extensive and growing business as dealers in groceries in this place.

On the 9th of December, 1877, Mr. Sonneborn was married to Miss Charlotte Bischel, who was born in Germany in 1860 and is a daughter of Henry and Charlotte (Shilling) Bischel, who were early settlers of Monee township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sonneborn were born seven children: Lydia, the wife of Ewalt Loehr, a machinist of Milwaukee, by whom she has two children; George, Oscar and Arthur, all now deceased; Henry, who is studying for the ministry in a college at Elmhurst, Illinois; Roscoe at school; and George.

Mr. Sonneborn is a member of St. Paul's Evangelical church, as is his brother and his wife. Mr. Sonneborn is well known as a stalwart advocate of the Odd Fellows society, in which he has filled all of the chairs and has been secretary for the last twenty-five years. His political support is given to the republican party and he has been both president and trustee of the village and has been treasurer for many terms. He is also a trustee and treasurer of the church and his efforts in behalf of public progress have been far reaching and beneficial.

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### FREDERICK J. SCHROEDER.

Frederick J. Schroeder, who throughout his business career has been connected with the mercantile interests of Peotone, is now at the head of one of the leading commercial establishments as a member of the firm of Schroeder Brothers. He was born in Monee, Will county, in 1863, and comes of German lineage.

His father, Frederick Schroeder, was a native of Germany, and in 1857 came to the United States, locating at Cottage Hill, now Elmhurst, Illinois, where he remained for six months. He then removed to Monee, where he conducted a blacksmith shop until 1865, and in the following year he bought a farm in Green Garden township, residing thereon for six months, but a hailstorm ruined his crop and he removed to Peotone, where he again engaged in blacksmithing for a time. He afterward opened a mercantile establishment in which he continued for thirty years, being one of

the leading merchants of the town, his interests proving an important element in the commercial development of the village. He also built two elevators and dealt largely in grain. He was a man of good business judgment, readily recognizing and improving opportunities and so utilizing the advantages that came to him that he worked his way upward from a humble financial position to one of affluence and prosperity. He also traded quite extensively in real estate and his property negotiations materially increased his income. He was also a most liberal and open-hearted man and rendered most valuable assistance to his fellow countrymen who came to the new world. Many of the German-American citizens of this locality who are now prosperous owe their start in life to him. He was a member of the German Lutheran church for many years and in later life joined the Evangelical Association. He contributed most generously to the support of the church, served as class leader for fifteen years, and filled most of the other offices of the church. His fraternal relation was with the Masons, and in his political affiliation he was a republican. He served as supervisor of Peotone township, being elected by both democrats and republicans, and he was also a member of the village board and was appointed postmaster in 1867, under President Andrew Johnson, yet he was never an aspirant for political honors and emoluments. He died September 21, 1899, when he had reached the age of sixty-four years and in his demise Peotone lost one of its most valuable, honorable and honored citizens.

In early manhood he had wedded Elizabeth Conrad, who was also a native of Germany, and who came to the United States in 1858 with her mother, locating in Elmhurst. She is now living in Peotone, at the age of sixty-seven years, and is a member of the United Evangelical church, to which Mr. Schroeder also belonged at the time of his death. Their family numbered eleven children, eight of whom reached adult life, the eldest being Frederick J. The second son, Henry H., in partnership with his brother Frederick, has charge of their branch store at Kankakee, where they are dealing in music and musical instruments, this being one of the largest concerns in Illinois outside of Chicago. The brothers, Frederick and Henry, are also half owners of the Bank of Peotone and are heavy stockholders in





FREDERICK SCHROEDER.



the Poultry Publishing Company, of Peotone. William, the third son of the family, is traveling for a wholesale grocery house of Chicago. August M. is in the store at Peotone, being a partner in the concern. Caroline is the wife of John H. Stassen, a merchant of Peotone. Ida is the widow of Dr. John Bell Howe, who was engaged in practicing medicine and surgery in Peotone. Elizabeth is the wife of Frank Gross, manager of the Poultry Publishing Company. Josephine is the wife of Merle Taylor, a merchant at Mount Valley, Kansas.

Frederick J. Schroeder pursued his early education in the Peotone schools and his business course in Naperville Academy. When twelve years of age he entered his father's store and has since been connected with the business, acting as a clerk until twenty-four years of age, when he was admitted to a partnership and has since been a member of the firm. For some time the business was conducted under the style of Schroeder Brothers & Yung but is now Schroeder Brothers. They occupy a two-story brick building, which was erected by their father and themselves and which is one hundred and ten feet in length on second street with a frontage of fifty feet on Main street, and a floor space of sixty-two hundred and fifty square feet. They occupy the entire building, one room being utilized by the Bank of Peotone, in which they have a half interest. In the store they use the first floor for dry goods and groceries and on the second floor carry clothing, men's furnishing goods, crockery and other merchandise.

In 1887 Mr. Schroeder was married to Miss Emma Bollman, who was born in Kankakee in 1867 and is a daughter of Charles and Mary Bollman, natives of Germany. On coming to America they settled in Illinois, the father becoming a pioneer merchant of Kankakee county. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder have a comfortable home, characterized by its warm-hearted and liberal hospitality. They are members of the United Evangelical church and for twelve years Mr. Schroeder served as superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is connected with the Modern Woodmen camp, and in politics is a republican. When twenty-one years of age he served as village trustee but has never been active in political circles, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his

business affairs, in which he has met with excellent success. Tireless energy, keen perception and a genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time—these are numbered among the salient characteristics of Schroeder Brothers.

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### CHARLES W. FINCH.

Charles W. Finch, although never a resident of Lockport, was well known in business circles in northern Illinois, and his family following his death removed to this city, where Mrs. Finch still resides. Mr. Finch was born March 31, 1824, in New York, and was there educated. Removing to the middle west in 1847, he first settled at St. Charles, Illinois. He was a tailor by trade, but on account of ill health he learned the drug business and spent his life in that line. On removing from St. Charles to Batavia, Illinois, he established a drug store, which he conducted throughout his remaining days, being one of the leading merchants of that place in the middle of the nineteenth century. He was reliable and enterprising in business and made the best possible use of his opportunities. In his fraternal relations he was an Odd Fellow and both he and his wife were Universalists in religious faith.

On the 1st of December, 1850, Mr. Finch was united in marriage to Miss Hannah E. Hawley, a daughter of Lyman and Althea Hawley, of Lockport, who came to this place in 1835. The father was a farmer by occupation and died at the age of sixty-one years. The married life of Mr. and Mrs. Finch covered about seven years and was terminated by the death of the former on the 10th of November, 1857.

Soon after Mrs. Finch removed to Lockport, where she has since lived. She lost three children in infancy and has two living daughters, Annah B., who has been a teacher in the public schools of Lockport for the past quarter of a century; and Cornelia, who became the wife of Zachariah W. Lynk, a farmer, who died June 9, 1904. They were the parents of three children, Mabelie A., Howard S. and Elsa E. It was on the 25th of January, 1882, that Cornelia Finch gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Lynk, who was born in New

Lenox township, a son of Stanton and Isabel (Doig) Lynk, the former also an agriculturist. Following their marriage they removed to Belmont, Iowa, where Mr. Lynk carried on general farming until 1884, when they went to Nebraska, where he conducted a farm and general store for six years. They sold their business there in 1895 and went to Laporte, Texas, where Mr. Lynk entered the field of business, conducting the same until his death, since which time the business has been ably carried on by Mrs. Lynk and her son. Mrs. Finch is well known in Lockport, where her early girlhood was passed, and in fact where she has spent the greater part of her life, having many friends here who hold her in warm esteem.

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#### JOHN J. FENTON.

John J. Fenton, well known in railroad circles in Joliet, is well known as a representative of an intelligent, industrial population that has contributed so largely to the progress and development of the city. He was born at Bureau Junction, Bureau county, Illinois, on the 24th of August, 1863. His parents, Patrick and Margaret (Flaherty) Fenton, were among the early settlers of that county, coming to America from County Kerry, Ireland, which was the birthplace of O'Connell, the liberator. The family numbered seven sons and two daughters.

Like the other sons of his father's household John J. Fenton acquired his education in the public schools of his native county, and in 1887, when twenty-four years of age, he came to Joliet. He had already become known in railroad circles as a leader among the workers on the tracks, having been appointed foreman of the construction gang before he was twenty-one years of age. His qualifications and trustworthiness were not only known to the men working under his direction but also to the officials of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, who have shown their appreciation of his capable and loyal service by retaining him along that portion of the road where there is much traffic and where vigilant and ceaseless inspection must be maintained for safeguarding the public safety and the interests of the shippers.

On the 4th of April, 1894, Mr. Fenton was married to Miss Maria L. McCrancy, a daughter of John and Catherine McCrancy, early settlers of the county, who through honest and untiring effort succeeded in accumulating considerable real estate. They also reared a family of six sons and four daughters, who have been a credit to their name. Mr. McCrancy lost his life on the railway, but he had made good provision for his family, so that his widow was enabled to maintain the home and keep her children together, giving them good educational privileges and thus providing for their future welfare. Mr. Fenton, the father of our subject, had also done well for his family, and his widow and one of her daughters still occupies the old homestead. Recently the family have been grieved by the death of a brother, Patrick Fenton, a printer, who was not only a favorite in the family circle but also among his trade associates, who admired him for his many good qualities and faithful comradeship.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fenton have been born five children: James Patrick, twelve years of age; Esther Maria, ten years of age; Marguerite Agnes, aged eight; Raymond Joseph, a little lad of three summers; and John Daniel, who died April 26, 1902, aged five months. Mr. Fenton and his family attend the St. Mary's Catholic church, of which he is a communicant, and he is also associated with the benevolent societies connected therewith. In questions of state and national politics he is a democrat and always votes the straight ticket but he says he has no time to discuss or take part in local politics and leaves this to the local leaders, believing that they are all as deeply interested as he is in a great Joliet.

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#### JOHN THORNTON.

John Thornton, now deceased, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Will county, where he was well known for his honesty and upright dealing in all his transactions with his fellowmen. Mr. Thornton was born in Cales, Meath county, Ireland, December 23, 1816, and his death occurred in Wilmington, March 27, 1898, when he had reached the very advanced age of eighty-two years. He was reared and educated in his native

country where he also learned the trade of a stonemason, and there he remained until he had reached the age of thirty years, when, thinking to better his financial condition in the new world, in 1846 he crossed the Atlantic in a sailing ship from Liverpool, being seven weeks in making the voyage. Soon after his arrival on American shores he entered the service of the United States government at West Point, where he continued for some time. Wishing, however, to resume work at his trade, he made his way westward to Illinois in 1856, for this was at that time a new and rapidly developing country and much work was to be had in his line. He located at Wilmington, where for a time he worked at his trade of a stonemason, while later he entered the employ of the St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad Company, now the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, being thus engaged for two decades.

It was during Mr. Thornton's residence in the east that he was united in marriage to Bridget Burns. She was likewise a native of the Emerald isle, her birth having occurred in Sligo, County Rosecommon, in 1824, and it was 1847, in Cold Springs, New York, that she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Thornton. She preceded her husband to the home beyond her death having occurred in Wilmington, December 19, 1879, when she was fifty-five years of age. Their marriage was blessed with eight children, of whom six still survive, namely: Mary A., the wife of Michael Brennan a resident of Braidwood, Illinois; James, Joseph, Catherine and Margaret, all residing in Wilmington; and Nellie M., the wife of Thomas Fitzpatrick, a resident of Minnesota.

Mr. Thornton was a Jacksonian democrat, stalwart in his support of that party, while he was a communicant of the Roman Catholic church. He was a man highly honored and respected in the community and was a trusted employe of the corporation which he so long represented. As a pioneer settler of Will county he was interested in the growth and development of his home locality and gave his loyal support to every movement and measure that was calculated to advance the interests of his community.

The sons and daughters who now reside in Wilmington, occupy a beautiful home on one of the most attractive spots of this part of the state, situated on the banks of the Kankakee river.

His residence is surrounded by five acres of ground and fine oak trees, and during the summer months this is a most inviting place for people who wish to leave the city to enjoy a period of rest and recreation.

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#### CAPTAIN EDWARD McALLISTER.

Captain Edward McAllister, deceased, was one of the honored veterans of the Civil war and a prominent representative of the farming interests of Will county. Widely known and highly respected, he commanded the confidence and trust of all with whom he came in contact and he left the impress of his individuality not only upon the agricultural development of his locality but also upon political service and the work of different military organizations.

Captain McAllister was born in Salem, New York, December 24, 1828, in the house which had been built by his grandfather in 1785. He was descended from Scotch ancestry, the family having been founded in America by three brothers of the name who came from Scotland, one settling in New York another in Philadelphia and a third in Pelham, Massachusetts. The last mentioned was the Hon. Hamilton McAllister, who removed to Salem New York, in 1760, when all of Washington county was a wilderness and the surrounding country was sparsely settled. The nearest mill was at Albany, forty-five miles distant, and on more than one occasion his wife Sarah rode on horseback to the mill with a sack of wheat, returning with the flour. Hamilton McAllister was the first representative ever elected from Washington county to the state legislature. In those days the men were obliged to pay their own expenses and it was his custom to take with him to Albany enough butter to pay his board. He was one of the first sheriffs of Washington county and his political allegiance was given to the whig party.

William McAllister, the youngest son of Hamilton McAllister, was born in Salem, New York, and while engaged in lumbering he accidentally injured his foot, so that he was unable to join his two brothers in their service as soldiers in the war of 1812. He assisted in clearing the home place, which was covered with a growth of pine trees and from the stumps he built a fence which



is still seen upon the farm. In his later years he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead property and thereon he spent his remaining days, greatly improving the farm by the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. His political support was given to the democracy and he was a staunch advocate of the Scotch Presbyterian faith and for many years served as a trustee in his church. When General Burgoyne passed through on his way to Bennington he used that church edifice as a barracks and afterward burned it. On two other occasions the church was burned to the ground and each time the McAllisters assisted liberally in rebuilding. In early manhood William McAllister was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Shouder, a daughter of Andrew Shouder, a representative of one of the old Holland families of New York, while her mother was of English lineage. Five children born of this union reached adult age, namely: Archibald, now deceased, who was for years a successful farmer of Will county and spent his last days in Chicago; William K., who was a judge on the supreme bench of Illinois from 1870 until 1873 and later was judge of the circuit court of Cook county, while at the time of his death he was serving on the appellate bench; Mrs. Catherine Walker, a resident of Salem, New York; Edward, of this review; and Jesse, who engaged in the wool and commission business in Chicago and was killed in a collision on the Panhandle Railroad.

Captain McAllister in his youth was a student in the Washington Academy at Salem, which institution his grandfather had helped to build and support. His favorite recreation in boyhood was hunting and he became an expert shot. When twenty-four years of age he arrived in Illinois to become identified with the farming interests of Will county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw prairie land in Plainfield township. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made on the property but he resolutely undertook the task of bringing it under cultivation and in the course of years he placed eleven miles of tiling on it, making the entire farm tillable. At one time he was extensively engaged in raising hogs and for a long period he made dairying one of the special branches of his business. For about ten years twenty-five hundred pounds of butter were made on his place each year, for which he

received twenty-five cents per pound. Prior to 1899 he not only managed the place but did much of the active work himself. After that time his attention was merely given to the superintendence of the work.

On the 4th of June, 1860, Captain McAllister was joined in wedlock to Miss Fannie Beebe and they became the parents of two sons and three daughters but the eldest son died at the age of six years. The others are: Carrie, now the wife of Edward R. McClelland, of Plainfield township; Ada, the wife of Dr. Evans, of Spring Valley; Jessie, who was a teacher in this county and is now the wife of Fred Foss; and Clyde, who has charge of the home farm. He is engaged in buying, feeding and raising cattle and hogs.

At the opening of the Civil war Captain McAllister was among the first to offer his services to the Union. In 1856 he had assisted in organizing the militia here which was known as the Plainfield Artillery, and he was the first man in this part of the country to enlist in the Civil war. April 19, 1861, his name was enrolled for service. He was elected captain of artillery and commanded the best battery of artillery in the Army of the Tennessee. His company enlisted for three months. At the end of that time he organized a company for three years' service. He proceeded first to Cairo. In September he was sent to Fort Holt, Kentucky, which at that time was the lowest Union fort on the river. In February, 1862, he joined the Army of the Tennessee. His was the first battery to enter Fort Henry, and Captain McAllister was put in command of the fort. From there he was ordered to Fort Donelson, where his was the first shot fired by the Army of the Tennessee, Saturday morning, February 15, 1862. Finding that the enemy were preparing to break through the lines he opened on them with one of his guns without orders, thus waking all the troops around him, and this, the first gun fired in the battle, was the notification to the entire army of the opening of that memorable engagement. His own guns being disabled, he was ordered to select what he wanted from the forty-eight captured from the enemy. As his ammunition did not fit them he objected to their use, and finally secured an order to go to General Sherman at Paducah and get a new outfit of brass guns. At the battle of Shiloh he had this new and superior outfit. Having erected his battery at

the edge of a clearing across which he fought and silenced Stanford's Mississippi battery, he afterward noticed a column of infantry, the Fourth Tennessee, in columns of fours, approaching along a road. He sent three cannon to the rear and placed the fourth in the road, then opened on the enemy with cannister, killing thirty-one and wounding one hundred and sixty men according to the Confederate reports of the war. The execution of this one gun, served by nine good men, was probably the most severe on record in the war of the Rebellion. Captain McAllister helped to train the gun and only beat a hasty retreat when the enemy was within thirty paces. The nine brave men escaped by the enemy firing at the support of the battery, consisting of the Fourteenth Illinois, Twenty-fifth Indiana and Thirteenth Iowa Infantries, which lost one hundred men by the one volley fired by the enemy. Captain McAllister was for years ignorant of the real facts of the fight, until revealed to him by old comrades and Confederate soldiers. His gallant service in that engagement was the means of defeating a crack battery that had never before met with defeat. On the last day of the battle, Byrne's battery and two guns of the Washington artillery of New Orleans (the crack battery of the Confederacy), were ordered to dislodge a battery on an eminence that had stopped the advance of the entire army. Captain McAllister and James A. Borland, of Joliet, were riding at the front preparing to fire at the battery, when a shot killed their horses and General Sherman's horse, which was tied to a sapling. They secured good locations behind a rise in the ground, and carefully biding their time, were able soon to silence and dislodge the battery. Soon after the battle, owing to sickness, the Captain resigned his commission and returned home.

In 1894, during a meeting of an association formed to make a national park out of the Shiloh battle-ground, Captain McAllister met on a boat one of the members of the Fourth Tennessee Infantry, Thomas M. Page, of St. Louis, who told him that his one gun killed and wounded one hundred and ninety-one men in seven minutes, and he gave the captain great credit for the defense he had made. He stated that he was willing to erect a two thousand dollar monument on the battle-ground. Later the government planned to build one at a cost of seven hundred and fifty

dollars. The government has also appropriated two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the purpose of making a national park of the battle-field, and Captain McAllister was asked to select four pieces to mark such spots as he desired. He made four trips to Shiloh to attend meetings of Federals and Confederates.

He was a member of the Loyal Legion and Bartleson post, G. A. R., of Joliet, also the Society of the Army of the Tennessee. He likewise belonged to Plainfield lodge, No. 536, A. F. & A. M. His death occurred August 25, 1900, and was a matter of keen regret to many friends who had known and honored him. His life was characterized by many good qualities and in citizenship he was always as true and loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag on southern battle-fields. He responded to the last roll call and went to join the host of the old soldiers who, life's battles over, have been called to the home beyond.

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#### H. W. NIEMEYER.

H. W. Niemeyer, a leading and influential citizen of the village of Crete, is serving as its president, in which connection he displays a public-spirited and active interest in its welfare and substantial development. He has also figured prominently in business circles here as a contractor and builder. He was born in Hanover, Germany, October 28, 1851, a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Niemeyer, who were likewise natives of the fatherland, whence they emigrated to the new world when their son, H. W. Niemeyer, was a little lad of five summers. Mr. Niemeyer settled in Will county about four miles east of Crete. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that pursuit in connection with farming. His death occurred, however, in the village of Crete when he was seventy-three years of age.

H. W. Niemeyer, the eldest of the family of ten children, learned the carpenter's trade under the direction of his father. In 1877 he removed to Peoria, Illinois, where he followed carpentering for a few years, after which he returned to Crete and for seven years was manager of the Crete Manufacturing Company, the output of which was

sash, doors and blinds. This factory, however, was burned in 1895 and for a short time Mr. Niemeyer was salesman for a Chicago house engaged in manufacturing similar products. Three years ago the firm of Niemeyer & Luecke was formed. They did a general contracting and building business, including both frame and brick structures, and many of the finest residences and business houses in Crete and the surrounding country stand as monuments to their thrift, enterprise and handiwork. About March 1, 1907, this partnership was dissolved.

In 1874 occurred the marriage of Mr. Niemeyer and Miss Bertha Knabe, a native of Saxony, Germany, who came to Will county when a year old. Mr. and Mrs. Niemeyer have eight children, of whom six are living, Rose and Minnie being both deceased. Those who still survive are Bertha the wife of William Reckow, living in Steger, Illinois; Mrs. Anna Teifke, of Will county; Mary, the wife of Julius Reckow; Amanda, who is clerking at Chicago Heights; Clara, a teacher; and Walter, at home. The family occupy a beautiful residence on North Main street which was built by Mr. Niemeyer three years ago.

He is a member of the German Lutheran church, in which faith the family have been reared. In politics he is a stalwart republican, giving firm and unflinching support to the principles of his party. He was a member of the village board for twelve years and president one term during that time, and he is now serving for the second term as president of the village. His interest in the public welfare is manifest by his support of all those measures and movements which tend to promote general improvement here, and he has exercised his official prerogatives so that they have been an element for the good of the village.

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#### MONCENA SCHOONMAKER.

Moncena Schoonmaker owns and cultivates a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 10, Crete township, and in connection with the tilling of the soil he feeds and ships cattle and hogs on an extensive scale, being one of the leading business men of the township. He was

born in Kingston, New York, in 1849, a son of Jacob Schoonmaker, whose birth occurred in the Empire state. The grandfather was a native of the same state, but his great-grandfather came from Holland. Jacob Schoonmaker was a merchant and in 1856 came to Illinois, settling on the Kankakee river in Will county, where he bought a tract of land upon which he resided until about three months prior to his death, when he removed to Channahon township. He died in April, 1864. In the meantime his father, Peter Schoonmaker, had come to Illinois and spent his remaining days in Will county, dying in 1875, when past the age of seventy years. Jacob Schoonmaker was thirty-six years of age at the time of his demise. His brother, George Schoonmaker, was a soldier of the Civil war, enlisting in the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry, and was killed at the siege of Atlanta, Georgia.

Patience Smith Schoonmaker, the mother of our subject, was born in New York and traced her ancestry back to the celebrated Captain John Smith. She was married in the Empire state and died in 1902 at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. She held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and was a lady of strong religious convictions, who throughout her entire life was most loyal to her professions. In the family were nine children. Dora became the wife of Henry Soper, founder of and president of the Soper School of Oratory in Chicago. Before her marriage, in 1873, she was sent by the Methodist church as a missionary to Japan, where she spent four years. Rodney, the second surviving member of the family, is postmaster of Las Vegas, New Mexico, and has extensive business interests there. Wilbur, formerly a locomotive engineer, is now a farmer in Kansas. Ida became the wife of George Wignall, a contractor of Chicago, and died in 1889. Four of the children died in early life.

Moncena Schoonmaker was educated in the country schools, having but meager opportunities, however, owing to the pioneer condition that here existed and also owing to the fact that his father died when the son was but fifteen years of age, and being the eldest of the family the burden of carrying on the farm devolved upon him. With courageous spirit he took up the task and faithfully discharged his duties toward the younger members of the family. All of his life he has been



ELIZUR W. SAGE AND HOME.





largely interested in cattle and has won the greater measure of his prosperity through his dealings in live-stock. At the time of the establishment of the town of Pullman in 1886 he went there and opened a store, which he conducted until 1895. He then removed to Chicago Heights, where for five years he carried on a grocery store. On the expiration of that period he came to Crete township, where he owned a farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres on section 10. To this he has added enough to make the farm two hundred and forty acres and it is a valuable property, lacking in none of the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. He feeds and ships cattle and hogs on an extensive scale and this branch of his business is proving very profitable.

Mr. Schoonmaker was married June 13, 1870, to Miss Leni Sage, who was born in this county in 1852, a daughter of Elizur W. Sage, whose birth occurred in Oneida county, New York, in 1812 and who died in 1884. His father was Elisha Sage, of Welsh ancestry. Elizur Sage was one of seven children, including Russell Sage, the great New York financier, who was four years his junior. Elizur Sage married Miss Mary Willard, a native of New York, and they became the parents of nine children, five of whom reached years of maturity. In 1838 they removed to Illinois, settling in Channahon township, where Mr. Sage resided until his death, which occurred in 1884, when he was seventy-two years of age. He was a carpenter by trade, became well-to-do and always owned a farm, but never lived upon it, having considerable property in town, including a comfortable residence. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Schoonmaker has been blessed with six children. Mary, the eldest, is the wife of F. C. Bendle, a real-estate dealer of Chicago, and they have two children. Hattie married Charles Rheutan, a glassfitter of Pullman, and died in 1897, at the age of twenty-four years, leaving a daughter, Beatrice, who was then twenty months old and is now living with her grandparents. Dora died at the age of six years. Jennie is the wife of Walter H. Clayton, a mail clerk of St. Paul, and they have two children. Elsie is the wife of Robert J. Johnston, who is with Montgomery Ward & Company, of Chicago, and they have two children. Dale, a resident farmer of Crete township, wedded Susie

Weishaar and has one child. There are now eight grandchildren.

In his political views Mr. Schoonmaker has always been a republican, stanchly advocating the principles of the party, yet never seeking office for himself. He has lived in this part of Illinois for fifty-one years and is therefore familiar with the events which constitute its history. What to others is a matter of record is largely to him a matter of personal observation or experience, for he has witnessed the great changes that have occurred and transformed Will county from a frontier district into a region of much industrial, commercial and agricultural importance. As the years have passed he has carefully managed his business interests and is now a substantial resident of Crete township.

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#### JACOB H. WARNER.

Jacob H. Warner, now conducting a tobacco business and billiard rooms in Wilmington, is well known in this city and county having at different times been closely connected with its business interests. He was born in Pennsylvania, January 10, 1847, a son of Jonathan and Julia (Mead) Warner, in whose family were five sons and two daughters.

When only nine years of age Jacob H. Warner lost his mother and when a youth of thirteen he began learning the printer's trade under W. R. Steele, the editor of the *Wilmington Independent*. This was on the 7th of October, 1861, and he remained with that paper until 1866, when he went to live with his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Warner, his grandfather, Hezekiah Warner, having died in 1862. He continued with his grandmother until he attained his majority, when he married and removed to Pontiac, Illinois, where he spent a year. In the fall of 1869 he located at Odell, this state, where he began the publication of the *Odell Independent*, and in the fall of 1870 removed his business to Wilmington, publishing his paper under the name of the *People's Advocate*—the paper today known as the *Wilmington Advocate*. In 1872 he sold out to E. D. Conley and later worked in the office of the *Chicago Journal* and also on papers in Omaha, Nebraska, and Joliet. In April,

1906, he bought out J. W. Funk's tobacco and billiard business, which he is now conducting.

Mr. Warner was married in Wilmington, June 1, 1868, to Miss Ellen Nagle, whose birth occurred in Portland, Maine, in 1850, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Nagle, who were born, reared and married in Ireland. In their family were six children: Mary, who was born on the sea while her parents were coming to this country, and who is now deceased; Mrs. Warner: John and Thomas, both deceased; Elizabeth and Jennie, twins, deceased. The parents came by sailing ship in 1848 and in this country the father was a railroad employe. He held membership in the Roman Catholic church.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Warner were born six children: Lillian A., the wife of William Paulucci, of Kenton, Ohio, by whom she has two daughters and a son; Nellie, who became the wife of Joseph A. Hollingsworth and died in Topeka, Kansas, leaving one daughter; Adeline R., the wife of George T. Neil, of Wilmington township, by whom she has one daughter; Sara Julia, the wife of Fred Keeley, of Wilmington; Blanche, the wife of Morris T. Murphy, of Streator; and John Byron, at home.

Mr. Warner is a charter member of River camp, No. 124, M. W. A., and was its first clerk. In politics he is a republican. He is widely known in Wilmington and this part of the county, where he has many warm friends.

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#### MAJOR E. SEARLES.

Major E. Searles, a resident of Joliet from early manhood until his life's labors were ended in death, on the 22d of July, 1894, was uniformly regarded as a citizen of sterling worth because of his activity in business, his valor and loyalty in military service and his fidelity and trustworthiness in public office. Born in Tecumseh, Michigan, on the 18th of July, 1838, he became a resident of Brockport, New York, in his early youth and there spent the period of his minority, acquiring a public-school education.

On leaving the Empire state, he removed to Joliet and entered the employ of his cousin, the late S. O. Simonds, who was proprietor of a gro-

cery store. Major Searles remained in that service until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when, at the age of twenty-four years he offered his services to the government. Aroused by a spirit of patriotism he could no longer content himself to remain at home while his country's honor and stability were imperiled and enlisted on the 24th of July, 1862, as a member of Company B, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served his country for two years and nine months, participating in the battles of Stone River, Kenesaw Mountain and Missionary Ridge. At the last named he was wounded. He was with the late Colonel Bartleson when that officer was killed at Kenesaw Mountain, and in fact assisted in carrying the body off the field. Because of valor and meritorious service Mr. Searles was promoted from the ranks to first lieutenant of Company B, and he remained a faithful defender of the old flag until mustered out of service at the close of the war.

Returning to his home in Joliet, Major Searles was appointed mail agent on the Michigan Central Railroad between Joliet and Lake Station, Indiana. He filled that position for several years, and in 1870 was appointed deputy postmaster of Joliet under the late James Goodspeed, which position he filled for twelve years. He then embarked in the grocery trade, in which he continued until his death, securing a liberal patronage in recognition of his straightforward business methods, his reasonable prices and his earnest desire to please his customers.

On the 11th of February, 1864, Major Searles was united in marriage to Miss Jenny Munroe, the wedding being celebrated in the parlors of the Will county jail, while George Munroe, now deceased, an own cousin of Mrs. Searles, was sheriff of the county. In politics Major Searles was a stalwart republican, who kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day, and had firm faith in the principles of the party to which he gave earnest and effective support. He held membership in Bartleson post, G. A. R., and greatly enjoyed the meetings with his old comrades with whom he had faced danger and death on southern battle-fields. His residence in Joliet covered more than a third of a century, and while he never sought to figure prominently in public affairs he lived a life which commanded uniform confidence and respect, proving his trustworthiness in public office and in busi-

ness relations as well. He thus gained that warm personal regard which is ever an indication of true worth of character and his death was deeply regretted by many who entertained for him strong friendship.

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### JOSEPH JOHNSTON.

Joseph Johnston, of Wilmington, was born at Leadhills, Wigtonshire, Scotland, July 12, 1833, and was educated at Muirkirk, Scotland. His parents, John and Mary Campbell, were married December 31, 1825, in the parish of Minnigoff, and were members of the Church of England. Having spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native country, Joseph Johnston sought the better business opportunities of the new world, leaving his native land in the spring of 1853. As a passenger on the old sailing vessel Columbia, he left Liverpool on the 2d of June and after six weeks and three days on the ocean proceeded by boat and rail across the country to Joliet, where he arrived on the 30th of July. He lived in and near the city until 1859, when he removed to Jackson township and a year later went to Manhattan township, where he resided until 1876, farming forty acres of land, on which he built a house. He then sold that property and bought seventy-two acres in Wesley township, which he improved, adding to the place until he had one hundred and twelve acres. There he lived until 1893, when he removed to Wilmington, where he now resides.

On the 10th of November, 1859, Mr. Johnston married Miss Mary C. Miller, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 11, 1834, and died November 8, 1893. She was a daughter of Martin and Esther (Potter) Miller, who were married in Pennsylvania, December 9, 1832, and had four children, all now deceased. The father was a carpenter by trade and at an early day came to Joliet. After his death his widow married Samuel Green, who was born in the Keystone state, October 26, 1807. Mrs. Green, nee Miller, was born in Pennsylvania, October 16, 1813, and died January 21, 1879, while Mr. Green passed away in 1878.

After losing his first wife Mr. Johnston was married, December 10, 1895, to Annie Gall, who was born in Shropshire, England, March 3, 1864, a daughter of Charles and Barbara (Duxon) Gall, both natives of Cambridgeshire, England. The father, born July 5, 1832, died February 24, 1906, and the mother, born August 5, 1832, died December 3, 1874. They were married May 1, 1860, and had four children, three now living: Mrs. Johnston, Elizabeth, and Naomi, the wife of Frederick Blackhaus, of Yorkshire, England. The father was a mechanical engineer, belonged to the Masonic lodge, and spent his entire life in England.

By his first marriage Mr. Johnston had three children: Elizabeth, the wife of Willis Hazelton; Esther A., who was the wife of Thomas Cairns and died November 26, 1906; and Martin H., who married Tina Lugar and is living in Joliet, being superintendent of the Joliet & Chicago Internrbn line.

While living in Wesley township Mr. Johnston served as road commissioner for six years and has been three times elected justice of the peace in Wilmington, elected for the last time April 29, 1905. In politics he is an earnest republican, having supported each presidential candidate of the party since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln.

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### ERNEST W. BALGEMAN.

Ernest W. Balgeman is president of the Crete State Bank and has laid out and improved a subdivision to the city which has been an important element in its growth and development. A native son of Illinois, he displays the enterprise and alertness which have been special elements in the upbuilding of the state. His birth occurred in Elmhurst, DuPage county, in 1874, and he comes of German lineage. His father, Ernest Balgeman, was born in Hanover, Germany, and is now residing in Elmhurst at the age of fifty-six years. He came to the United States in 1854 in company with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Balgeman, who were pioneer farming people of DuPage county, and established their home at Elmhurst. Ernest Balgeman had common school advantages and

was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. Since 1873 he has been engaged in business as a contractor and builder with headquarters at Elmhurst and has met with gratifying success. He holds membership in the German Lutheran church, of which he is an active worker, and in which he has long served in official capacity. He has always voted the republican ticket and has been a member of the village board of Elmhurst. He married Maria Hoepfner, who was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and is now living at the age of fifty-three years. She was brought to the United States by her parents when about five years of age, the family home being established on a farm in DuPage county. She, too, holds membership in the German Lutheran church. By her marriage she has become the mother of nine children: Ernest W.; Paul, deceased; Emil, cashier of the Citizens State Bank at Elmhurst; Emma, the wife of Theodore Hied, an artisan of Elmhurst; Edwin, who is with his father in business; Emmerich, assistant cashier of the Citizens State Bank of Elmhurst; Ewald, who is with the Corn Exchange National Bank of Chicago; Ellen and Edna, at home.

While spending his boyhood days in his parents' home in Elmhurst Ernest W. Balgeman was a student in the common and high schools of that village and afterward learned carpentering. In 1899 he went to Fulda, Minnesota, where he engaged in contracting and in the real estate business, there remaining until 1903, when he removed to Chicago Heights, where he continued to operate in real estate, handling Minnesota farm lands. In 1904, in connection with William Koelling, he organized the Crete State Bank, of which he became president. He also engages in the real estate business and in the summer of 1906 he bought thirty-two acres of land adjoining Crete on the south. He then laid out a subdivision to the town, which he called the Enterprise subdivision of Crete. These lots are now being sold and the district is being well improved in a most satisfactory manner. Mr. Balgeman is also a member of the department store of H. F. Ruhe & Company, of Crete, and is the owner of the building in which the business is carried on. He is now vice president of and holds the controlling interest in the Citizens State Bank of Elmhurst and is also the

owner of farm lands in Minnesota. He thus has many and varied investments in business enterprises and shows a keen disposition for successful management.

On the 29th of January, 1900, Mr. Balgeman was married to Miss Fredericka Thurnan, who was born at Eagle Lake, in Washington township, in 1877, and is a daughter of an early settler of that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Balgeman attend the German Lutheran church. In politics he is an ardent republican, with firm faith in the principles of the party, yet has never sought or desired political preferment. The consensus of public opinion regarding him is altogether favorable and the high regard in which he is uniformly held comes as a tribute to his business and personal worth.

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#### LOUIS GULDENSOPF.

Louis Guildensopf is one of the extensive agriculturists of Will county, operating four hundred acres of land in Peotone township, where he owns two hundred and eighty acres. He is a native son of Will county, born in Green Garden township, February 17, 1861, and comes of German parentage. His father, John M. Guildensopf, was a native of Saxony, Germany, whence he emigrated to America and for a time engaged in farming in Green Garden township. Disposing of his property there he then came to Peotone township and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land, on which he made all of the improvements, and there engaged in farming until his death, which occurred twenty-nine years ago, when he was forty-four years of age. He was an enterprising and progressive farmer, numbered among Will county's highly respected pioneer settlers. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Philippina Phiel, was also born in the fatherland and first wedded Peter Sheer, by whom she had five children. After losing her first husband she was married to Mr. Guildensopf. Her death occurred in Peotone several years ago.

Louis Guildensopf, whose name introduces this review, is the only surviving member of his father's family. He was reared to the occupation of farming, and when a youth of sixteen years lost his father, after which he went to Germany, where he



made his home with his grandparents. He came into possession of one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father's estate, and, returning to America, located on his farm, where he has since been engaged in general agricultural pursuits. He has since added one hundred and twenty acres to his original holdings, so that he now owns two hundred and eighty acres in Peotone township, and he likewise leases land, operating altogether a farm of four hundred acres constituting him one of the most extensive farmers of Will county. He is meeting with very gratifying success in his undertakings, and in his work follows the most progressive and practical methods, so that his financial resources are materially enhanced each year.

On the 13th of July, 1885, occurred the marriage of Mr. Guildensopf and Miss Ellen Cunningham, who was born in this county, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cunningham, both of whom are now deceased. Their five living children are Mamie, Agnes, John, Lizzie and Mildred, all of whom are still under the parental roof, while Helen, the fourth in order of birth is deceased.

Mr. Guildensopf gives his political support to the principles of democracy but has never held office, preferring to give his time and attention to his private business affairs. He is not identified with any church organization but his wife and family are communicants of the Catholic church. Mr. Guildensopf and his family are highly esteemed in the community where they reside, and he is accounted one of the leading representatives of agricultural interests in Peotone township.

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#### HENRY C. OHLENDORF.

Henry C. Ohlendorf, a worthy representative of the German-American element in the citizenship of Will county, was born in 1864 on the old family homestead, which was the property of his father, Christof Ohlendorf, a native of Germany, who, in his seventy-fifth year, is now living retired from business cares in the home of his son Henry. He came to the United States in 1856, first settling on section 34, Crete township. His parents were Henry and Sophia Ohlendorf, who came at the same time and brought with them their seven children: Henry, now deceased; William, who is

living in Crete township on the old homestead; Conrad, deceased; Christof, father of our subject; August, who has also passed away; Sophia, wife of Henry Behrens, of Crete township; and Christina, the deceased wife of Conrad Oldendorf, a farmer of Indiana.

Christof Ohlendorf, the father of our subject, worked at farm labor for his father in Crete township for some time before going into business for himself. He attended the district schools and, after taking up farm work on his own account, became a successful agriculturist, a life of industry and activity bringing to him a well merited reward for his labors. He now owns three hundred acres of land, from which he derives a good income. In politics he has always been a republican but has never cared for public office. He married Wilhelmina Seegers, who was also a native of Germany and who is now living at the age of fifty-eight years. She came to the United States with her parents Christof and Charlotte Seegers, who located in Crete, but both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Christof Ohlendorf had the following children: Henry C.; August, who is living in Crete township; Bertha, who is the wife of William Guritz, of Washington township; Mathilda, the wife of Louis Guritz, a brother of William Guritz, living just across the line in Indiana.

In his boyhood days Henry C. Ohlendorf attended the district schools and thus prepared for life's practical and responsible duties. He was early trained to the work of field and meadow and has always remained upon the home farm, which he is still conducting. The fields are now highly cultivated and everything about the place indicates his careful, practical and progressive supervision. He is systematic in all his farm work and his methods of tilling the soil for his crops are such as to class him with the enterprising business men of the township.

In December, 1889, Mr. Ohlendorf was married to Miss Mathilda Klemme, who was born in Crete township, August 8, 1867, daughter of Christian and Sophia Klemme, who came from Germany at an early day and took up their abode in Crete township when the county was sparsely settled. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ohlendorf has been blessed with seven children, all of whom were born on the old homestead: Henry, born in 1891; Minnie, born in 1893; Emma, born in 1895; Blandena,



born in 1897; Maxine, born in 1899; Mathilda, born in 1901; and Mildred, born in 1906.

The parents are faithful and worthy members of the Evangelical Association. Mr. Ohlendorf is a republican, interested in the success and growth of the party and well informed at all times upon political issues and questions of the day. He has served as township collector for two years, and in the discharge of his duties is very prompt and faithful. He has spent his entire life in Crete township and is well known as one of the progressive young farmers.

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#### FRANK P. DENNIS.

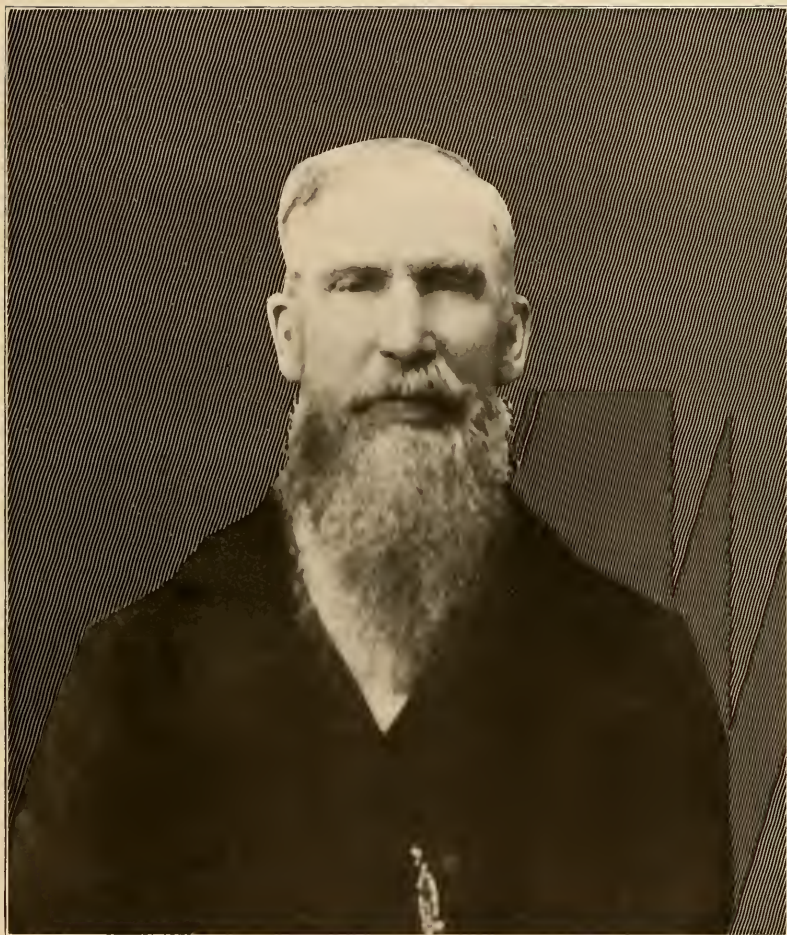
Among the enterprising and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Will county is numbered Frank P. Dennis, who owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Peotone township, all of which has been acquired through his own well directed labors. In addition to his agricultural pursuits he is also engaged in raising Poland China hogs and high grade poultry.

Mr. Dennis was born at Elmira, New York, September 17, 1854, a son of Jonathan and Mahala Jane (Decker) Dennis, the former born in New Jersey, while the latter was born in the Empire state. Both are now deceased, having passed away in Peotone, the former March 5, 1902, when he had reached the venerable age of eighty-three years, while the latter died in 1893, at the age of sixty-five. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and in 1856 came westward to Illinois, settling in Joliet, where he worked at his trade. He later invested in eighty acres of land near that city and upon disposing of that property removed to Peotone township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he operated until 1888, when, his labors having brought to him a comfortable competence, he removed to the village of Peotone, where he lived retired throughout his remaining days, his death there occurring. In his early life he held membership in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife was also a devoted member, but in later years he transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which he died. He was a democrat and held some township offices. He and his wife were

worthy Christian people who had many friends, so that their deaths were deeply regretted when they were called from this life. In the family of this honored couple were six children: William R., a resident farmer of Caruthersville, Indiana; Louisa, the wife of George Carr, a resident of Brooks, Indiana; Sylvester, who makes his home at Mason, Tennessee; Frank P., of this review; John D., who resides at Goodland, Indiana; and Anthony F., who died at the age of thirty-five years, while his widow is a resident of Peotone.

Frank P. Dennis, the fourth in order of birth in his father's family, was but two years of age when the family home was established in Illinois, so that he was practically reared in this state, while he acquired his education in the common schools of Will county. From his early youth he displayed considerable mechanical ingenuity, and at the age of nineteen years began running a threshing machine, operating this in addition to carrying on farm work. For the past twenty-five years he has been engaged more or less in the operation of farm machinery and today has a complete threshing outfit, this being owned by a company of farmers. In 1882 Mr. Dennis purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Peotone township. He has made many improvements upon the place and has one of the best tracts of land and set of farm buildings in the township. He is also engaged in raising stock, making a specialty of Poland China hogs, having a number of fine registered animals, which have taken first prize at the town fair. He also raises fancy poultry, having principally Barred Plymouth Rock and Orpington chickens, which have taken first and second prizes. At the Kankakee County Fair his Plymouth Rock chickens took third prize in an exhibit of six hundred birds. In all his work he keeps abreast with the progress of the age and is a leader among the agriculturists and stock-raisers of Peotone township.

Choosing a companion and helpmate for life's journey, Mr. Dennis was married, March 6, 1883, to Miss Martha Jane Patterson, who was born in Will township, this county, a daughter of Robert and Margaret (Neal) Patterson. The father was born in Scotland, whence he came to this country when a young man of twenty years. He was numbered among the early settlers of Will county, following farming in Will township, where



JONATHAN DENNIS.



he served as supervisor for many years. His death occurred in Merrill, Plymouth county, Iowa, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight years. The mother was born in Ireland, and is living at the age of seventy-nine. She makes her home among her children. Their family numbers six children, all of whom still survive, namely: Robert, who resides at Worthington, Minnesota; Emma, the wife of Ben Hawkins, of Hull, Iowa; Delila, the widow of Alfred Dubridge, of Momence, Illinois; Martha J., now Mrs. Dennis; Lucinda, the wife of Levi Hawkins, a resident of Reading, Minnesota; and Effie, the wife of Frank Crouch, of Hinton, Iowa.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dennis have been born two sons. George attended the mechanical department at Armour Institute, in Chicago, and is now a young man of twenty-two years, making his home with his parents. Percy, the younger son, also with his parents, pursued a course in stenography and telegraphy at Janesville, Wisconsin.

Like his father, Mr. Dennis gives his political support to the men and measures of democracy but has never been active in the local ranks of the party, for his private business interests have fully claimed his time and attention. He has been identified with the Modern Woodmen of America for the past sixteen years. He is enterprising and progressive and owes his success entirely to his close application and excellent business ability. Having spent practically his entire life in Will county he deserves prominent mention among its best citizens.

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#### FREDERICK G. CLOIDT.

Frederick G. Cloidt, who is engaged in the grain business at Beecher and also deals in live stock, is numbered among the men of enterprise whose efforts are an element in the business prosperity and growth of the village. He is also serving as treasurer of the village and is accounted one of its leading men. His birth occurred in Kankakee county, Illinois, in 1871. His father, James Cloidt, was born in Germany and is now living in Kankakee county at the age of seventy-three years. He came to the United States when eighteen years of age and worked for a year in Pennsylvania coal mines for fifty cents a day. He spent three years

in the mines and in 1857 came to the middle west, purchasing eighty acres of land in Yellowhead township, Kankakee county. In 1875 he left the farm after adding two hundred acres more to the place. He then removed to Beecher and in connection with Charles Beseke entered the grain trade, in which he met with immediate success. After three years he bought out his partner and conducted the business alone until 1897, when his son Frederick succeeded him. The father then removed to Sollitt, where he also owned an elevator. This he sold in 1902 and he is now living retired in Kankakee county, having in former years acquired a handsome competence which makes rest from further labor possible. He is the owner of four hundred and sixty-seven acres of land, of which one hundred and sixty-seven is situated a mile across the Indiana line.

Mr. Cloidt is a man of energy and indomitable perseverance and the secret of his success lies entirely in his earnest labor, for he had not a dollar when he landed on American soil. In politics he is independent. He married Louisa Klein, also a native of Germany and now living at the age of sixty-eight years. She came to the United States in 1857 and soon afterward was married. The following children graced this union: Frederick, of this review; Frank, of Grant Park, who is bookkeeper in a large store; Louise, the wife of J. B. Berg, who lives across the line in Indiana; Mary, the wife of Peter Engelland, one of the proprietors of a department store at Grant Park; Teresa, the deceased wife of Jesse Bright, a banker at Flora, Indiana; and Lizzie, at home.

Frederick G. Cloidt, reared upon the home farm, attended the district schools and also pursued his education in Beecher. He worked for his father, who had three elevators, one at Beecher, another at Sollitt and a third at Martinton. He was thus associated with the grain trade until he became his father's successor. He has since continued in this line and handles a large amount of grain at Beecher, carrying on a prosperous business. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank of this place and a stockholder of the Eagle Lake Tile Works. He likewise deals in cattle and hogs and is connected with other business enterprises, his keen discrimination and sound judgment proving important factors in their successful conduct. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to suc-



cessful completion, working toward the highest degree of perfection attainable, and in his business has gained gratifying prosperity.

Mr. Cloidt was married in 1896 to Miss Mamie Helen Bathfuhr, who was born at Grant Park, Illinois, in 1871, and is a daughter of Albert and Helen Bathfuhr, a furniture dealer, cabinet-maker and undertaker. Mr. and Mrs. Cloidt are now parents of a son and two daughters: Joseph, Katherine and Mary. They are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Cloidt holds membership relations with the Masons, the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In politics he is independent. He has served as a member of the village board for nine years and at the present time is village treasurer. In community affairs he takes an active and helpful part and his labors have been directly beneficial and far-reaching. He has made for himself an honored place in business circles and his name carries weight on commercial paper.

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#### JAMES O. GORMAN.

The late James O. Gorman, of Joliet, who passed away March 5, 1905, deserves mention among the most prominent of the city's merchants and representative residents, for during his life time he made for himself a place among the men of business enterprise in the great west. His force of character, sterling integrity and control of circumstances gained him marked success and at all times his life was manly, his actions sincere, his manner unaffected and his example well worthy of emulation.

Mr. Gorman was born in Wexford, Ireland, September 21, 1848, and coming to America with his parents when a year old, was partially reared in the state of New York. His father, James Gorman, Sr., on crossing the Atlantic, settled in the Empire state, where he engaged in business as a stationary engineer. In 1852 he brought his family to Joliet. His wife bore the maiden name of Ann Furlong and was also a native of Wexford, Ireland. In their family were seven children.

Of this number James O. Gorman was a youth of four years when the family came to Illinois and

in the Eastern avenue school in Joliet he acquired his education. From early life he manifested industry and laudable ambition and made the best use of his opportunities. In 1867 he bought a newspaper stand, which he conducted for a number of years, when the business was destroyed by fire. In the meantime he dealt not only in the papers and periodicals of the day but had also extended the field of his operations until he became a wholesale and retail dealer in fruit. He was one of the oldest merchants and one of the oldest and best buyers on South Water street. The business was established more than thirty-eight years ago and was successfully continued with comparatively few losses until 1876, when the fire occurred. He then received permission from the city aldermen and fire commissioners to occupy a small frame shack while erecting what became known as the Centennial block the same year. Immediately after the destruction of his store by the flames he resumed business, continuing his operations with little interruption. Thus he retrieved his lost possessions and in the course of years developed a trade which constantly grew in volume and importance until it was represented by a large figure. In 1887 he erected the Gorman building; in 1893 built a fine stone residence; and built a brick block of two stores on South Chicago street in 1903.

Mr. Gorman was married in Joliet to Miss Nora Misener, who was born in this city and died about a year and a half after her marriage. On the 21st of October, 1884, he was again married at Fort Wayne, Indiana, his second union being with Miss Nettie Kimball, who was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, and came west with her parents, Samuel W. and Eliza (Drew) Kimball. The father, a native of Wells, Maine, removed westward to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the '50s. He was a house builder by trade and afterward engaged in teaching music, possessing superior ability as an exponent of that art. He died December 18, 1888, and his wife passed away in 1900. She was born in Dover, New Hampshire, but they were married in Wells, Maine, removing to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in November of the same year.

Mr. Gorman continued actively in business up to the time of his death. He was the oldest out-of-town buyer known on South Water street, Chicago, and the news of his death was received with genuine regret by many of the commission mer-



chants in that busy mart who had grown to respect and honor him. He was a splendid type of a fine business man, making his own way upward from a humble position as newsboy to that of one of Joliet's most prominent and enterprising merchants. At his death Mrs. Gorman organized a stock company for the continuance of the business. She is president of the company, with I. X. Kachelhoffer as buyer and Charles Cassidy as secretary and manager. The house handles fruit, vegetables, oysters and fish, carrying both imported and domestic wares, and the trade is largely wholesale. In addition to this business Mr. Gorman was interested in mines in Colorado.

In manner he was pleasant and genial and very approachable, not hedging himself about with a reserve such as many men do who have become wealthy. When we stop to consider that he started out in life a poor boy with no capital whatever, his success seems most marvelous, yet it was the outcome of his own efforts. The spirit of self-help is the source of all genuine worth in the individual. Steadily pursuing his way, undeterred by the obstacles and difficulties in his path, he achieved a prosperity of which even he did not dream at the outset of his career. Steady application, careful study of business methods and plans to be followed, close attention to details, combined with untiring energy directed by a superior mind—these were the traits of character which brought him success and made him one of the foremost merchants of Joliet.

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#### NOBLE JONES.

Noble Jones, who makes his home in Mokena but operates on the board of trade in Chicago, has advanced from a comparatively humble position in the business world to one of considerable prominence, his name being well known in connection with the grain market of the metropolis. His business record is such as any man might be proud to possess, for it has been marked by steady advancement and has gained for him the respect of his contemporaries and the admiration of the general public. He seems to possess remarkable sagacity and keen discrimination in making his in-

vestments and as the years have passed by his success has increased.

Mr. Jones is a native of Canada. He was born in Barnstone, November 16, 1834, his parents being Wesley and Abigail (Barnes) Jones. The Jones family is of Welsh descent and the more immediate progenitors of our subject were natives of New England. His grandfather, Wesley Jones, was born in Vermont, whence he removed to Connecticut, in which state his son Wesley, the father of our subject, was born in 1800. The same year the elder Jones removed to Canada, making a settlement in Barnstone township, County Standstead. He owned and operated a large farm, and the son was reared amid rural surroundings. He learned the trade of a blacksmith, following it in Canada until 1837, when he removed to Arcadia, Wayne county, New York, and in that town continued his occupation several years. In 1844 he came to Will county, Illinois, locating in Homer township, where he sojourned but a year ere removing to Orland township, Cook county. There he purchased and improved an eighty-acre farm, upon which he resided until his death in 1880, engaged in the peaceful vocation of a farmer.

The mother of our subject was Abigail, daughter of William Barnes, and was born in Hillsboro, Massachusetts. Her father, who had previously kept a hotel in Boston, removed to Barnstone, Canada, during her early life and engaged in farming there. The homes of grandfather Jones and grandfather Barnes were but a mile apart, and when, in 1882, our subject revisited his birthplace, he was able from the description given him to locate both places. Grandfather Barnes and his wife were brought to Illinois in 1854, and both died at the home of his father. Mrs. Wesley Jones was the mother of six children, he of whom we write being the youngest. Cyrus died in New York; Wesley is now living in Wetmore, Kansas; William is farming in Frankfort township, this county; Wright lives in Portland, Oregon; Abigail, Mrs. Cross, lives in Wetmore, Kansas. The mother passed away in Mokena in 1881, at the advanced age of eighty years.

When a youth of about three years Noble Jones was taken by his parents from Canada to Arcadia, New York, and for several years thereafter he enjoyed the privilege of attending the common schools. He was a youth of ten at the time of tho

removal to Illinois but the trip is well remembered by him, including the ride on the canal to Buffalo and on a steamer to Chicago. The city which is now the scene of his labors presented an uninviting appearance when the family reached it, consisting as it did of a few unpretentious dwellings and places of business, around which stretched the low ground, which well deserved the name of mud hole. From Chicago the family came to Will county with teams but after a year spent here Cook county became the home of the Jones family, after which Noble Jones was obliged to walk three miles to school. He was a student in one of the old-time school houses with its slab benches and puncheon floor and the school was conducted on the subscription plan. When still but a young lad Mr. Jones was trained to the work of the home farm and when thirteen years of age he began driving a breaking team, consisting of seven yoke of oxen. Three years later he found work as a teamster for the Rock Island Railroad Company, which was then putting its line in Mokena. He received a dollar and a quarter per day for himself and team, a day's work being twelve hours.

In the spring of 1852, when eighteen years of age, Noble Jones and his brother Wright rigged up a mule team and started to California. Making their way to Council Bluffs, they joined eighteen others in a caravan which traveled along the north bank of the Platte river to Fort Laramie, thence along the North Platte, taking Sublet's Cut-off, and thence through the South Pass to the Golden state. Three times the train was attacked by the Pawnees, who were very hostile at that time, and all considered it wonderful that they escaped being massacred. At Loupe Fork and the two following camping places only the bold front they presented to the savages prevented so dire a catastrophe. As their own animals were wild, and gunshots would have stampeded them, they did not dare to shoot, but depended upon their appearance of preparation and fearlessness, which fortunately proved sufficient to save their lives. The only weapon possessed by our subject during these trying scenes was a long range rifle.

The train arrived in Sacramento seventy-three days after leaving Council Bluffs, and Mr. Jones found work upon a farm, beginning his labors at seventy-five dollars per month and receiving one hundred and twenty-five dollars before he aban-

doned them. His only experience in mining was during three days, when he was visiting in the mountains. After remaining on the slope two years Mr. Jones returned by way of the Nicaragua route, the steamer "Sierra Nevada" carrying him from San Francisco to the isthmus, and the "Star of the West" being his home during the Atlantic voyage. The last named vessel was the first boat fired at Charleston during the late war. Mr. Jones was working on a farm six miles from Sacramento when that city was burned and also when it was "drowned" by the overflow of the Sacramento river.

Mr. Jones completed his journey from New York to Mokena by rail, the road to the latter place having been finished in his absence. For a short time he carried on his father's place, then bought eighty acres of raw land in Frankfort township, upon which he broke ground, made various improvements and settled down to farming. He devoted himself to that vocation two years, meeting with an ordinary degree of success, and he then built a steam mill in Mokena, and for two years engaged in flour and saw milling as a member of the firm of Cross & Jones. This venture did not prove successful, but on the contrary swallowed up all the previous earnings of Mr. Jones, and he therefore abandoned it for another field of labor.

In 1858 Mr. C. Rowley engaged our subject to go with him to Pike's Peak, Colorado, to start and carry on a sawmill, agreeing to pay him fifty dollars per month for his services. When the two arrived at Atchison, Kansas, Mr. Rowley concluded to start the business on the Missouri river at that point instead of going to the destination which they had had in view. Mr. Jones therefore became superintendent of the sawmill at Atchison, having charge of the sawing and rafting of logs and every other detail of the business. He was joined by his wife and child, and continued to reside in the Garden state until 1863, when he returned to Illinois. For twelve months he carried on his father's farm and then, taking up his abode in Mokena, he began buying grain and shipping it to Chicago. During the next two years he was fairly successful, and he then opened an establishment for the sale of agricultural implements.

The new venture of Mr. Jones proved to be one in which his good judgment and business tact found room, and during the next twelve years he

made money. He closed out his large trade at the right time, in 1878, and, going to Chicago, engaged in the commission business and secured a membership on the board of trade. So successful have been his operations that his name has become well known to all who are interested in the working of the board. His son and son-in-law are with him as assistants, and six other men are employed by him in his office. He has an attractive and commodious home in Mokena, which in its furnishings indicates the cultured taste of the inmates and presents many evidences of wealth and refinement.

On the 25th of July, 1855, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Clarissa B. Farley, who was born in Solon, New York, January 13, 1833. Her father, Benjamin Farley, was an early settler of Lockport, Illinois, where he followed the carpenter's trade. Mrs. Jones was early left an orphan and provided for her own support by teaching. She was educated in Indiana and in that state began her married life as a resident of the town of West Creek. Forty-eight years she traveled life's journey with Mr. Jones and was then called to her final rest on the anniversary of her wedding, July 25, 1903. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, took great interest in its work and was a most estimable lady, her efforts proving an element in the growth and advancement of the organization with which she was connected.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jones were born six children. Edward S., who is in the commission grain business in Chicago with his father, married Carrie Knapp, a daughter of Christian Knapp, of Mokena, and unto them were born five children: Walter V., Edward S., Edna B., Hazel and Carrie. Emma is the wife of Walter Metcalf, a resident of Normal Park, Cook county, and they have two children, Edward Noble and Jerome. Belle is the wife of Jerome P. Stevens, a retired money loaner of Mokena, and they have two children, Mary and Arthur. Bertha is the wife of Fred W. Phelps, of the Joliet Stove Works, and they have one son, Norman. Charles H., the first born of the family, died in 1877 at the age of twenty years. The other member of the family is also deceased.

Mr. Jones was president of the board of trustees at Mokena for three years and then resigned the office. In 1856 he cast a presidential ballot for John C. Fremont and since that date has been an active supporter of the republican party. He pos-

sesses agreeable manners, a jovial and friendly nature and is one of those fortunate men who when business hours are over can thoroughly enjoy the comforts and luxuries by which they are surrounded and the many pleasures which their abundant means can procure.

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#### JOHN KIRMAN.

The rich agricultural resources of Illinois have afforded to John Kirman the opportunities which he sought in the new world, for, coming from England, his native land, when a youth of eighteen years he has worked his way steadily upward from a poor boy to a position which ranks him among the leading agriculturists of Will county, owning a fine farm of three hundred acres in Lockport township.

Mr. Kirman was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1855, and was there educated. In 1873 he emigrated for the new world, taking passage on the steamer, Calabria, which was bound for New York. He was accompanied on the voyage by his parents, Thomas and Jane (Towsen) Kirman, who were likewise natives of England, the former born in 1830, while the latter was born in 1824. The father followed farming throughout the period of his residence in the new world. He was a republican in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in DuPage township in 1904, while his widow still survives, and their daughter, Mrs. Lynn, is now living upon the old homestead in DuPage township.

Upon his arrival in New York, John Kirman immediately made his way to Joliet, Illinois, and after stopping there for a brief period, made his way to Wheatland township, near Plainfield, where lived an uncle, William Day, by whom he was employed at farm labor during the succeeding year. He afterward worked in Wheatland and DuPage townships, being employed for one year at twenty dollars per month. His father having rented land in Will county, the son then returned home and assisted in the operation of the home farm for a time, after which he started out upon an independent business career by renting a farm known as the old Colt place. That he has pros-

pered in his venture is indicated by the fact that he today owns a valuable farm of three hundred acres, situated in Lockport township, the property being improved with good buildings and a nice home, which is supplied with all modern conveniences and accessories. He is carrying on general farming, following the most practical and progressive methods in the cultivation of his fields, so that he is meeting with very gratifying success. In addition to his home farm he likewise owns a section of land in Montana. Mr. Kirman conducts a dairy and now milks thirty-five cows, having for the past two years sold milk in Joliet.

In 1887 occurred the marriage of Mr. Kirman and Miss Lillie Coby, a daughter of Chris Coby, now deceased, but who was a farmer of Lemont township, Cook county. Mrs. Kirman is a native of New York, born in 1861, and by her marriage has become the mother of nine children, Arthur, Martha, John, Zela, Frank, William, Thomas, Albert and Gertrude. Mr. Kirman holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Kirman may truly be termed a self-made man for started out in life in a strange country without capital, but through his industry and economy has steadily advanced as the years have gone by until he is numbered among the leading and influential citizens of Will county. He and his family are well known and highly respected people, having a wide circle of warm friends.

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#### ALANSON GOODING.

Alanson Gooding, carrying on farming operations in Wesley township, where he owns and controls an excellent farm of two hundred and forty-six acres of rich land, was born in Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York, April 13, 1835. His paternal grandparents were George and Nancy (Wilder) Gooding. The grandfather was a farmer by occupation and served as a soldier of the war of 1812. His son, George Gooding, was born in Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York, October 18, 1802, and was reared to general agricultural pursuits. Throughout his entire life he carried on farming and stock-raising

and in this business accumulated a fortune of seventy-five thousand dollars, but through his kindness to others, for whom he went security, he lost all. He was a prominent man in New York and was honored with various public offices. In 1856 he came west and with borrowed capital invested in land. He first purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land at twenty dollars per acre on section 6, Wesley township. He began farming and stock-raising upon this tract and was again very prosperous, making judicious investments in property until he had extensive holdings, embracing nine hundred acres. All of this land was wild prairie and timber which he improved, converting it into richly tilled fields. He was seldom, if ever, at error in matters of business judgment, quickly noted and utilized an opportunity for judicious investment, and as the years passed by met with a measure of prosperity that placed him among the substantial residents of the county. He belonged to the Universalist church and in politics was known as a war democrat, believing in the prosecution of the war while upholding the principles of democracy.

On the 25th of January, 1826, in Canandaigua, New York, George Gooding was united in marriage to Miss Aehsah Reed, who was born in Hartland, Connecticut, July 31, 1801. They traveled life's journey for more than a half century as man and wife, being separated by the death of Mr. Gooding November 23, 1883, while his wife died on Christmas day of 1884. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are now living: Lucretia, the widow of Scott Case and a resident of Nebraska; Ovanda, the wife of M. Adams, who is living in Alta, Iowa; Alanson, of this review; Jeanette, the widow of Charles Jukes and a resident of Kankakee, Illinois; and George, who is living in Wesley township.

Alanson Gooding remained a resident of the east through the period of his minority and when twenty-one years of age came with his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Wesley township. For many years he was extensively and successfully engaged in buying and shipping stock to the Chicago market, so continuing until 1891, when he withdrew from that department of business and concentrated his energies upon general farming. He had purchased two hundred and forty-six acres of land,





ALANSON GOODING.





which he is cultivating today with hired help, and his farm is a well improved and valuable property, giving every evidence of careful supervision and an intimate and correct knowledge of the best methods of conducting farm work.

Mr. Gooding has been married twice. On the 20th of February, 1865, he wedded Miss Jenet Thompson, who was born in Wilmington in 1844 and died August 25, 1892. She was a daughter of Samuel and Christina Thompson, natives of Scotland, who came to Wilmington at an early date, her father being a pioneer blacksmith here. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gooding was born one son, George S., who married Lillian Wise and is now living in Idaho.

On the 14th of March, 1895, Mr. Gooding wedded Miss Nettie Smith, who was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, November 13, 1865, a daughter of James and Jeanette (Cossar) Smith, who were natives of Greenock-on-the-Clyde. Her father was a farmer in Scotland and on coming to the new world followed the same occupation in Ontario, Canada. He held membership in the Presbyterian church and died April 25, 1906, at the age of sixty-five years, having for more than a decade survived his wife, who passed away in October, 1895. They had become residents of Ontario, Canada, in 1889. They were the parents of nine children: Robert, who married Helen Chambers and is living in Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Gooding; James, who wedded Mary Black and lives in Ontario, Canada; Mary, the wife of John Cooper, also of Ontario; Jessie, the wife of Oscar Case, who is living in Nebraska; Isabelle, a resident of St. Catharines, Canada; John, whose home is at Calgary, Alberta province, Canada; Thomas; and William. Unto the second marriage of Mr. Gooding was born one son, Edward W., March 29, 1899.

The public service of Alanson Gooding has been of a helpful character and community interests have been advanced thereby. He was supervisor of Wilmington township from 1881 until 1890 and while holding that office served on the building committee at the time of the erection of the new courthouse at Joliet and was also instrumental in getting the appropriation for the soldiers' monument. He was mayor of the city of Wilmington for four years during the same period. He exercises his official preroga-

tives in support of every movement or measure that tended to promote reform, progress and improvement and has always been the champion of local advancement. Fraternally he is connected with Wilmington lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Wilmington chapter, No. 142, R. A. M., while his church association connects him with the Presbyterian denomination. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and in all life's relations he stands for those things which work for upright manhood, for loyalty in citizenship and fidelity in friendship.

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#### JAMES B. SPEER.

James B. Speer, who for many years figured prominently in connection with the business history of Joliet, belonging to that class of representative American men who, in promoting individual success, also contribute to the general prosperity, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. His parents were Dr. William Russell and Nancy (Denniston) Speer, the latter a native of Westmoreland and the former of Mercer county, that state. Dr. Speer acquired his education in the county of his nativity and subsequently took up the study of medicine, continuing his preparation for the profession as a student in the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated, receiving his certificate to practice. He then located in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1869, when he removed to Joliet, where his son James was already living. On account of ill health Dr. Speer never resumed the active practice of medicine in Joliet but lived retired here until his death, which occurred in June, 1881. His wife survived him for about four years and passed away in August, 1885. Of the children born unto Dr. and Mrs. Speer three are now living. James B., Harriet S. and Nannie L. The elder daughter is the widow of Dr. Milton Foster Hand, of Utica, New York, who was graduated from a dental college in the east and on coming to Illinois settled in Joliet, where he engaged in the practice of dentistry for many years. In 1888 on account of illness he withdrew from the profession

and lived retired until called to his final rest. He passed away in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1891, and is still survived by Mrs. Hand, who now makes her home in Joliet, her sister Nannie residing with her at No. 112 Richards street.

James B. Speer at the usual age entered the public schools of his native county, where he continued his studies to the age of sixteen and he came to the middle west with his uncle. They settled in St. Louis, Missouri, and Mr. Speer accepted a position as clerk in a dry-goods store. After a brief period thus passed he secured a better position as a clerk in a bank in that city, where he remained for a few years. In 1868 he took a contract for work on the Michigan Central canal and came direct to Joliet, that business occupying his time and energies for a few years. After completing his work according to the terms of the contract he turned his attention to the business of quarrying stone and later embarked in the grain trade in partnership with the firm of Carpenter & Marsh. They engaged in buying and shipping grain for several years, after which Mr. Speer became a member of the Chicago board of trade, with which he was identified for twelve years, making daily trips to the city and operating on the grain exchanges of the metropolis. At the same time he was interested in the bicycle manufacturing business on Railroad street in Joliet. He established the enterprise but placed the management in the hands of others although he continued financially interested in the same for several years. Later he established the Joliet Novelty Works, in which he was interested for some time. In all his business undertakings he strove to attain the highest degree of perfection possible and made substantial advancement along financial lines.

Mr. Speer was married in Joliet to Miss Sallie Worrell, a daughter of Charles Worrell, a pioneer merchant of this city, who was born in the south and came to Joliet in 1858. For a long period he conducted a dry-goods store on Jefferson street, retiring after twenty-five years' connection with commercial interests. Both he and his wife died in Joliet and in their demise the community lost two of its representative people who in public regard and social life occupied an enviable position. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Speer have been born two children: Mrs. George A. Barr,

whose husband is one of the prominent druggists of Joliet; and Genevieve, who is with her mother.

For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Speer spent the winter months in the south, and eight years ago in a runaway accident Mr. Speer was thrown from the carriage and badly injured by the fall. He then returned to Will county and located upon a farm two miles south of Joliet, where they resided for a short time but the injuries which he has sustained had undermined his health and as he grew no better on the farm they returned to Joliet.

Mr. Speer is a republican in politics. He was quite successful in business life and owned much property here, for as his financial resources increased he made judicious investments in property. He possessed excellent executive ability and the happy faculty of judging men, and the causes which led to his success were to be found along the lines of well tried and old-time maxims. Honesty, fair dealing, perseverance and fidelity—all these he strictly enforced and adhered to, not only on his own part but also required the same qualities from his employees. Mrs. Speer and her daughter and also Mr. and Mrs. Barr reside at a beautiful home at No. 215 Sherman street and are prominent socially in the city.

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#### WILLIAM C. HARTMAN.

William C. Hartman, the owner of a good farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 25, Crete township, is numbered among the native sons of Will county, his birth occurring in this township on the 13th of April, 1857. He is of German lineage, both his parents, John and Ellen Sophia (Behrens) Hartman, having been natives of Germany. In the year 1850, the father came to the United States and settled in Cook county, Illinois, where he remained for a short time prior to coming to Crete township, Will county, Illinois. He bought land on section 25 and began the development of the farm, which he continued to make his home until his death. He was industrious and frugal and in his undertakings met with a measure of success such as always rewards the labors of one who is persistent and energetic and

\* whose efforts are guided by sound judgment. He was an active member of the Crete Lutheran church and one of the organizers of St. John's church in Crete township. In the community he was known as a good neighbor and in his family circle was a devoted husband and father, doing everything in his power to promote the welfare and happiness of his wife and children. His early political allegiance was given the whig party and upon its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new republican party in 1856 and remained one of its faithful supporters until his death, which occurred in 1871 in his sixtieth year. His wife passed away in 1900 in her sixty-sixth year. She came from Germany with her brothers, Conrad and Otto Behrens, who settled in Crete township, and her sister, Sophie Behrens, who afterward became the wife of Henry Wiebruk, who settled in Monee township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hartman were born the following children: Henry, who is now a merchant in Chicago Heights; John, a farmer in Iroquois county; William C.; August, a farmer in Crete township; Marian, the wife of Henry W. Ohlendorf, who follows farming in Crete township; and Sophia, the wife of T. C. Tatge, of Crete township.

William C. Hartman was reared upon his father's farm in Crete township and attended the district schools in the days of his boyhood and youth. He remained upon the old homestead and assisted in its further development and improvement until 1885, when he opened a general store in Bemis, in which business he is now engaged. He carries a good line of general merchandise and has a liberal patronage. In 1901 he was appointed postmaster of Bemis and filled that position until 1907, when the office was discontinued and the rural route system was established to cover that territory. In connection with his mercantile interests Mr. Hartman owns a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres on section 25, Crete township, and this property yields to him a desirable revenue.

In 1885 Mr. Hartman was married to Miss Mary Saller, daughter of Conrad and Sophia Saller, natives of Germany who cast in their lot with the early residents of Crete township, where their daughter Mrs. Hartman was born in 1864. By her marriage she has become the mother of six children: Alice, wife of William Behrens, of Crete

township; Frank and Fred, who are attending school; Helen, LeRoy and Raymond, who are all at home.

The parents are members of St. John's Lutheran church and Mr. Hartman exercises his right of franchise in support of the republican party. He has been town collector and justice of the peace, and the duties of these offices have been promptly and faithfully discharged. He is known as a man of good business qualifications, honorable principles and throughout his entire life has been a resident of Will county and one who has ever enjoyed the confidence and respect of his fellowmen.

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#### FERRIS EDWIN GAINES.

Ferris Edwin Gaines, who is carrying on agricultural pursuits and also conducts an abstract business, was born in Crete, in 1873, and still makes his home in that town. His father, Horatio N. Gaines, was born in Vermont and on removing to the west settled in Crete township. He first worked by the day and in 1877 purchased the Henry Hauer farm, adjoining the village of Crete, on sections 8-9, Crete township. The place comprised one hundred and seven acres and is now the residence of Ferris Edwin Gaines. The father carefully conducted his farming interests and also engaged quite extensively in the raising and sale of stock and was a breeder of thoroughbred trotting horses, making a specialty of Hambletonians. He was a lover of fine horses and was seldom, if ever, at error in his judgment of one. He became well-to-do and his business life was at all times strictly honorable and upright. Though he did not belong to any church he regularly attended services and contributed to the support thereof. In politics he was an earnest republican. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Martha Ann Adams, was born in Illinois, and they became the parents of two children of whom Walter Lee, now pursuing an agricultural course in the State University at Champaign, is the younger. The father died in 1887, at the age of forty-seven years, but the mother is still living at the age of sixty-two years, making her home with her older son, Ferris E. Gaines.

Upon the home farm on which he now lives and which adjoins the village of Crete, Mr. F. E. Gaines was reared and still continues in the occupation of farming, with which he became familiar after practical experience in his boyhood days. In the management of the property he displays good discernment and unfaltering energy and the farm is bringing to him goodly returns in bounteous harvests. Also he has a knowledge of abstracting titles of estates, having served for one year in the O'Connor abstract office in Joliet. He makes a business of making abstracts of titles and also does an insurance business and general conveyancing. He is likewise a notary public and places many loans, his efforts thus extending into the abstract, loan and insurance business as well as engaged in agricultural lines.

On the 20th of June, 1906, Mr. Gaines was married to Lillie D. Cook, who was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, in July, 1880, daughter of Thomas and Margaret E. Cook, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York. Her father and mother came with their respective parents to Illinois, the Cook family establishing their home in Crete, while the mother's people settled in Plainfield. Mrs. Gaines is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Gaines is a republican and in 1906 was elected township clerk. He is a young man possessing a spirit of enterprise and laudable ambition which prompts him to greater success and larger achievements.

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#### GEORGE F. S. BAKER.

George F. S. Baker, deceased, was for many years a resident of Will county and was classed with its most progressive and prominent farmers and stock-raisers. In 1879 he introduced into this part of the state the first pure bred Hereford cattle and in the conduct of his business interests he did much to improve the grade of stock raised, thus contributing directly to the material prosperity of the county. Moreover, in all his business transactions his methods were so honorable and his principles so straightforward that he commanded the confidence and esteem of all, and in business as well as in social relations he won many friends.

A native son of Will county, Mr. Baker was born February 6, 1858. His father, George Baker, was a native of Watertown, New York, and when a young man came to Illinois, which was then a frontier district. He first settled in Monee township, Will county, where he lived until 1857, when he removed to Crete township, where he purchased a farm, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1861. On the 25th of December, 1849, he married Jeannette Goodenow, a member of one of the early pioneer families of Crete township. Following her husband's demise she removed to Galesburg, Illinois, where she lived for several years, and her death occurred in Crete April 16, 1891.

George F. S. Baker was one of a family of four children, but the others all died in infancy. His boyhood days were spent in Galesburg and he was provided with liberal educational advantages, being a graduate of Knox College and of Lombard University, of that city. After completing his education he returned to the farm with his mother and engaged in the tilling of the soil, making the place a splendidly improved property, to which he added all modern equipments and accessories, such as are found upon model farms of the present day. He gave considerable attention to stock-raising and in 1879 introduced into this part of the state the first pure bred Hereford cattle. Soon after this he admitted H. J. Fluck, a native of Herefordshire, England, and an expert in raising Hereford cattle, to a partnership in the business and the connection was continued until the death of Mr. Baker, since which time Mr. Fluck has remained in charge of the business.

On the 24th of November, 1886, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Minnie E. Hewes, a native of Crete, Illinois, and a daughter of Daniel Hewes. Theirs was a most happy married life and their union was blessed with two children: George W., a young man of nineteen years, who has spent two years in the high school at Chicago Heights and a short term at Valparaiso, Indiana, and is now contemplating entering college; and Alice, who will graduate from the Chicago Heights high school in June, 1907. Mrs. Baker and her children reside upon the farm, which is also the home of Mr. Fluck, who manages the business interests. The place is known as the Oakland Stock farm





GEORGE F. S. BAKER.



and shows yet many evidences of the care and supervision of Mr. Baker, who died April 10, 1891. Few men in this part of the state have done as much to improve the stock-raising interests and his herd of Herefords became famous. Aside from business, he was widely and favorably known in the county of his nativity as a man of genuine personal worth, highly esteemed by many friends, while in his family he was a most devoted husband and father.

Mrs. Baker still resides upon the home farm and has valuable real-estate and stock-raising interests. She has spent her entire life in this county and the hospitality of her beautiful home is greatly enjoyed by her many friends.

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#### HENRY JOHN FLUCK.

Henry John Fluck, bearing an international reputation as a fine stock producer and exhibitor, is a native of Hereford, England, born May 21, 1862, his parents being John and Emily (Gardiner) Fluck. The father was, with one exception, the youngest son in a family of eighteen children. His father, Thomas Fluck, was one of the most prominent cattle breeders and fine stock-raisers in England, excelling in the breeding of Hereford cattle and Shire horses. He died at the age of sixty-three years, while his wife survived to the advanced age of eighty-five years. Their son, John Fluck, was a merchant of Hereford, England. His wife, Mrs. Emily Fluck, died when their son Henry J. was between five and six years of age.

Henry J. Fluck acquired a grammar-school education in Hereford, England. He was reared upon a farm by his uncle and aunt and his tastes naturally drifted into agricultural lines. When his school days were over and he had arrived at the age when boys naturally think of the future, he was on a sunny afternoon pondering the question as to what he should do and where he should make his home, and before the sun had gone down he decided to leave England and come to America.

Accordingly, on the 6th of September, 1880, he left Liverpool and in due course of time reached Illinois. He obtained a position with a very prominent Chicago business man to manage his

fine herd of Hereford cattle, which he did with great success both for his employer and himself. He won many coveted prizes in exhibiting the fine stock against the strongest competition in the country in all the leading shows. After a period of three or four years he entered into a more lucrative position with another Chicago merchant, and later, severing the connection with him, Mr. Fluck allied his interests, in 1891, with G. F. Baker, of the Oakland Stock farm, at Goodenow, Illinois. His connection with the breeding, raising, importing and exhibiting of pedigreed cattle is unsurpassed and has won him world-wide fame. To mention the numerous champion prizes over all breeds of cattle that he has won at the leading expositions and state fairs would make a book in itself. The Oakland Stock farm has been the nursery of many recent champions, including the last year's grand champion at the International Exhibit at Chicago and the World's Fair champion at both the World's Columbian Exposition and the Pan-American Exposition.

Mr. Fluck takes no active part in politics. He is in favor of electing the best qualified candidates and abhors machine politics. He is also opposed to anything like misrule in municipal affairs and stands at all times for a good, clean government.

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#### LEVI B. WHIPPLE.

Levi B. Whipple, now retired from active business life, was for seventeen years engaged in the grain, coal and lumber trade at Plainfield and in all commercial relations sustained an unassailable reputation. He wrought along modern business lines, never overreaching another in any trade transaction but so conducting his interests that his perseverance, energy and enterprise brought to him a large measure of prosperity. He was born near Morris in Grundy county, Illinois, in 1846. His father, William Whipple, who died about six years ago at the age of eighty-one, came to Illinois in 1832 from Watertown, Jefferson county, New York. He was a pioneer settler of this state and purchased canal land. He followed merchandising for about twelve years and then turned his attention to farming in 1844. His wife, who bore the

maiden name of Miss Gibson, was a native of Vermont and in the early '30s came to Illinois, probably about 1834, at which time she became a resident of Grundy county. She died at the age of forty-five years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whipple were born two daughters, one of whom has passed away, Mrs. Henry Decker, who died about two years ago at her home near Morris, Illinois. The other is Mrs. Thomas Turner, of Ford county.

Levi B. Whipple was reared in Grundy county, Illinois, attended the common schools and for a time was engaged in the lumber business at Morris in this state. In fact he remained a resident of Grundy county until 1890, when he removed to Plainfield, where until a very recent date he was extensively engaged in the grain business. For seventeen years he was the senior partner of the firm of Whipple & Barr but recently sold out to Mr. Barr, who is still conducting the business. The firm dealt in grain, coal and lumber and built three elevators—one at Plainfield, one at Caton Farm and one at Frontenac, Illinois. The business of the house constantly increased and in course of years reached an extensive figure. By judicious use of his capital Mr. Whipple became a prosperous business man and is now enabled to rest from further commercial cares and responsibilities.

Mr. Whipple married Miss H. A. Stone, of Grundy county, Illinois, formerly of Rochester, Monroe county, New York. She came with her parents, Charles and Amanda Stone, to Illinois in 1860 when thirteen years of age. They took up their abode in Grundy county, where the father was extensively engaged in raising, feeding and shipping stock, making extensive shipments to the eastern markets. He was a very successful stockman and was widely known in business circles. He died in California at the age of fifty-nine years, passing away in 1879, while his wife survived until 1883 and died at the age of sixty-four years. Mrs. Whipple was one of their family of ten daughters, of whom five are now living, namely: Mrs. C. V. Barr, of Will county; Mrs. Whipple; and three who reside elsewhere in Illinois. Unto our subject and his wife have been born three children but Winnie died in 1905 at the age of thirty-three years. The sons are: Lester, who is engaged in the hardware business at Plainfield; and Chester, who for five years was

connected with the grain business in Plainfield and is still with Mr. Barr.

Politically Mr. Whipple has always been a stalwart republican and stanchly endorses the principles of the party. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias of Plainfield, having been the organizer of the lodge in 1894. He served as one of its officers for years and has been representative to the grand lodge. He is likewise connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks of Plainfield, while in his religious views he is liberal. In business life he has made a most creditable record, his history standing in exemplification of the fact that success is not a matter of genius, as held by many, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment and experience supplemented by unfaltering industry.

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#### WILLIAM JONES.

Among the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Florence township, is numbered William Jones, who owns and operates a well improved and valuable farm on section 1, his postoffice being Manhattan. He is one of the worthy citizens that England has furnished to Will county, his birth having occurred in Yorkshire, June 10, 1860. His parents, John and Anna (Hall) Jones, were likewise natives of the fatherland, where the father engaged in farming until 1870, when, with his family, he took passage on a sailing vessel bound for the United States, hoping in this country to better provide for the support of his wife and children. Landing in America, he at once made his way direct to Wilton township, Will county, Illinois, there purchasing a farm on which he located and made many valuable and substantial improvements. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were married in Yorkshire in 1855, and their union was blessed with three sons, all yet living: John, a retired farmer living in Joliet; Joseph, who is living retired in Peotone, Illinois; and William, of this review. The father lived and died on his farm in Will county, passing to his final reward in February, 1891, at the advanced age of seventy-five years, while his widow survived for about five years, and passed away in 1896.

William Jones, the youngest member of his father's family, was but a little lad when the family emigrated to the new world. He was reared in the usual manner of farm lads of the period, assisting in the work of the farm during the summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools near his father's home. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account by engaging in the occupation to which he had been reared, and now owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 1, Florence township, on which are found all modern and substantial improvements. He has given close application to his farming and stock-raising interests, and annually feeds and ships a carload each of cattle and hogs for the city markets.

Mr. Jones has been three times married. He was first wedded to Miss Emma Holmes, their marriage being celebrated in Wilton township, Will county, March 30, 1880. She survived her marriage for less than a year, being called to her final rest December 28, 1880. For his second wife Mr. Jones chose Emma Geiss, whom he wedded on the 15th of November, 1884. She was born in Jackson township, June 30, 1865, a daughter of Hiram E. and Malinda E. (Whitman) Geiss, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Illinois, respectively, but both died many years ago. After the death of his second wife Mr. Jones was again married, this union being with Grace M. Cooney. She was born in Kendall county, Illinois, July 23, 1870, a daughter of George and Susan (Byron) Cooney, the former a native of the Keystone state, and the latter of Sheffield, England. They were married in Kendall county and became the parents of seven children, of whom six still survive, namely: Florence, Sarah, Ruby, Eugene, Mrs. Jones and Clara. Mr. Cooney passed away in 1888, when he had reached the age of sixty years, while his wife survived until February 11, 1896, when she, too, was called to her final rest, at the age of fifty-six.\* Mr. Jones has the following children: John H., Florence A., Floyd E., Jane, Daniel, Alice, Grace P., Harold G., Howard W., Eva V. and Lester L.

Mr. Jones gives his political support to the republican party, while he and his wife hold membership with the Methodist Episcopal church. In his fraternal relations he is identified with the

Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Wilton camp, No. 4338, lodge No. 1, Knights of the Globe, at Freeport, and the Court of Honor, at Wilton. Mr. Jones takes a deep and helpful interest in the cause of education and has served for one term as school director.

As a farmer and stock-raiser Mr. Jones exercises excellent ability in the management of his affairs and has thereby acquired a competence that enables him to provide a good living for himself and family. He is ever known to be reliable in all trade transactions so that he has won the confidence and good will of his fellowmen.

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#### JOHN T. DONAHOE.

Will county can boast of many members of the bar who have won distinction in their profession but among this number there are few who carry their honors with a more quiet dignity than John T. Donahoe, who is no less respected by the community than by the clients whose interests he protects.

Mr. Donahoe is a native son of Will county, having been born in Joliet in 1855. His parents, Timothy and Mary Donahoe, were married in their native county—Tipperary, Ireland,—and came to America in 1850, making their way direct to Joliet, where they continued to reside until called to their final rest. Their son, John T. Donahoe, acquired his education in the public schools and took up the study of law in this city, where after thorough preliminary reading he was admitted to the bar in 1885. He then entered upon active practice of his profession and in 1890 he formed a partnership with Coll McNaughton, which relation still exists. In 1890 J. A. McKeown, a talented young lawyer, was taken into the firm, which has an immense clientage, transacting business in all of the courts and maintaining a large real-estate department as well. Their practice is of a very important character, connecting them with intricate and involved litigated interests. The offices of the firm are located in the Barber building.

Mr. Donahoe was happily married in 1876 to Miss Mary E. Dyer, a daughter of George Dyer, of Braceville, Illinois, an early pioneer of that section of the state. Unto the parents were born



seven children, five of whom are living, while two have passed away. Theresa, the eldest, is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy at Joliet. Loretta and Cecelia were also educated in St. Mary's Academy and completed their studies in the Visitation Convent at Evanston, Illinois. Lillian and John are now pupils in St. Patrick's parochial school.

Mr. Donahoe has not only figured prominently in professional circles but is one of the recognized leaders of democracy in Will county and for three years filled the office of county treasurer. He was likewise city alderman for four years and has been a member of the public library board. His palatial home is located on Western avenue in the midst of one of the most beautiful residence districts of the city. Mr. Donahoe is a member of the Knights of Columbus and other fraternal organizations and, associated with his wife and daughters, is continually aiding in worthy and benevolent enterprises, in which they are of service to their fellowmen.

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#### TIMOTHY KELLY.

Among the pioneers of Will county none have left more lasting monuments to their memory than Timothy Kelly, builder and contractor. St. Patrick's church and other public buildings familiar to Joliet citizens are evidences of his life of activity and enterprise. He erected St. Patrick's church in 1839 and later constructed many other stone buildings that are landmarks of that early period.

Mr. Kelly was born in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, on the 17th of March, 1800, and came to Joliet in 1835. He had already gained an excellent knowledge of the builder's trade and in the embryonic city he began operations as a contractor and builder. Joliet had advanced but a slight way on the road to its present growth and improvement. Large sections of the county were still unsettled and this city was but a little town, giving small promise of future industrial or commercial progress. The Catholics of the county, desiring a substantial home for church worship, erected St. Patrick's church in 1839, awarding the contract to Mr. Kelly, and he soon afterward secured contracts for the construction of many other im-

portant buildings and for bridge work with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, the Michigan Central Railway, on the line then known as the Cut-off, and the Illinois and Michigan canal, having completed several contracts for each to the satisfaction of all concerned. As superintendent of streets for the city of Joliet his duties were performed with an efficiency that was recognized by all interested. As alderman his experience and practical knowledge proved an element in the work accomplished by the city council, and he labored earnestly, indefatigably and effectively for the welfare of Joliet along lines of substantial progress and improvement. He carefully and intelligently studied and protected the needs, desires and possibilities of the city and over the record of his public career and his private life there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

In 1851 Timothy Kelly was united in marriage to Miss Ann Kelly, who was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in the year 1834, and became a resident of Joliet in 1850. She still survives her husband and lives at the old home with her son, Robert T. The husband and father died on the 16th of May, 1874, and in his demise the county mourned the loss of one of its prominent and representative men. He lived in the county at a time when it was possible to know almost every citizen within its borders and his activity in business and his prominence in political circles made him not only one of the best known but also one of the most respected residents of Will county. He was among those who aided in laying broad and deep the foundation for the present development and progress of this portion of the state and his name will long be honored as one of its founders and promoters.

Robert T. Kelly, the son of this early pioneer, was born in Joliet in 1856. In 1879 he was elected town clerk and in 1880 was chosen city clerk, holding both offices and discharging the duties of the joint position so efficiently that he was continued in that service by re-election for more than a decade. Soon after retiring from the offices he helped to organize the Joliet National Bank, one of the most successful and flourishing financial institutions in the state, of which he is now cashier. He has studied closely the questions of finance and banking and in his present position has won the respect and confidence of the entire community as

well as the patrons of the institution. He is associated with the leading benevolent organizations of the city and in all movements for the public good is to be found in the front ranks. His name is synonymous with advancement, and progress may well be termed the keynote of his character. He is a worthy successor of his father, who was one of the earliest among the pioneers of Will county.

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#### ARDIE B. SHINABARGER.

Ardie B. Shinabarger, engaged in general merchandising at Custer Park, was born in Valparaiso, Porter county, Indiana, July 25, 1871, and acquired his education there while spending his boyhood days in the home of his parents, Jacob and Sophronia (Bailey) Shinabarger. The father was born in Ohio and died March 22, 1893, at the age of sixty-two years, while his wife was born near Plymouth, Marshall county, Indiana, and passed away November 14, 1906, at the age of sixty-three years. Her last days were spent in the vicinity of her birth place, while Mr. Shinabarger departed this life near Westfield, Indiana. For many years he followed agricultural pursuits in Porter county, that state. His political support was given to the republican party and his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. In the family were eleven children, of whom the following are now living: Reuben, who married Tillie Veckhuss; Emma, the wife of Robert Forbes; Carrie, the wife of Frank Smith; Owen; Jennie, the wife of Burt Adams; Ardie B.; Jacob H., who married Grace Phillips; Arthur G.; and Ambrose W.

After spending his boyhood days in his parents' home Mr. Shinabarger entered upon his business career as an electrical engineer. He was first employed by the Postal Telegraph Company in 1889, working at different times in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. He was with the Kenosha (Wisconsin) Gas & Electric Company from 1893 until 1897 and then removed to Chicago, after which he became an employe of the Chicago Commonwealth Electric Company. He was with this company until 1904, when he removed to Custer Park, Will county, and established his general mer-

cantile store, which he is now conducting, carrying a well selected line of goods and thus meeting the demands of a general trade. His earnest desire to please his customers and his reasonable prices are strong elements in the success which has attended him in his mercantile venture.

Mr. Shinabarger was married on the 18th of April, 1898, to Miss Etta Senger, who was born in Madison, Wisconsin, July 15, 1878, and is a daughter of John H. and Hannah (Lamp) Senger. The father was born in Louisville, Kentucky, November 18, 1853, and was a paper-hanger by trade. He held membership in the German Lutheran church and died in that faith January 22, 1898. His wife, who was born in Watertown Wisconsin, March 13, 1853, still survives and is now living in Madison Wisconsin. Of their family of six children five are now living, namely: Mrs. Shinabarger; Helen, the wife of Arthur Utter, of Madison, Wisconsin; Eugene; Isabelle; and Irene. The second child, Theodore, died at the age of twenty-one years.

Mr. Shinabarger exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and in the spring of 1906 was elected supervisor of Custer township, which position he is now filling. He belongs to Princeton lodge, No. 464, K. P., of Chicago. He is a young man of enterprise and strong determination and realizing that genuine and honorable success is always built upon the foundation of earnest, persistent labor, he is seeking his prosperity in that way.

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#### HENRY G. SCHUESSLER, M. D.

Dr. Henry G. Schuessler is numbered among the younger representatives of the medical fraternity in Joliet but his years have seemed no bar to his progress. He was born in Ellisville, Missouri, March 2, 1875, and is a son of the Rev. August Schuessler, a minister of the German Lutheran church, well known in this city. His mother bore the maiden name of Geneva Williams and is now living in Joliet.

Dr. Schuessler was a student in the German parochial school in Joliet and in the Lutheran Seminary of Fort Wayne, Indiana, preparatory to entering upon the active work of the ministry.

He served as a clergyman from 1888 until 1892 and for two years thereafter was connected with the drug business in Joliet. From 1894 until 1898 he was a student in the University of Illinois, being connected with its medical department, which is located in Chicago. Following his graduation in the latter year he returned to Joliet, where he has since actively engaged in practice. His patronage has constantly grown and he remains a student of the profession, keeping in touch with the advancement of modern thought in the line of medical and surgical practice through the perusal of leading medical journals.

Dr. Schuessler was married in this city, December 27, 1899, to Miss Minnie Wunderlich and they have two children, Leona and Ruth.

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#### JOHN KILLEY.

John Killey is numbered among the retired farmers of Wesley township, Will county, owning a well improved tract of one hundred and ninety acres, from which he derives an income sufficient to provide himself and wife with all the comforts of life, so that they are now enabled to spend the evening of their days in honorable retirement.

Mr. Killey is a native of England, having been born on the Isle of Man, April 2, 1825, and when two years of age he was brought to this country by his parents, William and Mary (Conley) Killey, both of whom were born on the Isle of Man, the former in March, 1793, and the latter in 1795. In 1827 they took passage on an old-time sailing vessel bound for the United States, and after a voyage covering eight weeks finally landed at New York city, whence the father made his way with his family to a farm near Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained until 1839, when he came to Will county, Illinois, and bought three forty-acre tracts of land on section 6, Wesley township. There was still much government land near his farm which had as yet never been placed upon the market, few settlements having been made in this county at the time of his arrival, and deer and other wild game were still to be seen roaming over the prairies and through the forests. The father gave his political support to the whig party, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Methodist

Episcopal church. Both the father and mother passed away in Wesley township many years ago, the former in 1872, when he was in his seventy-ninth year. Of their family of five children three still survive, as follows: William, a resident of Missouri; Margaret, the widow of Hiram Rich, also residing in that state; and John, of this review.

As above stated, Mr. Killey was only two years of age when he was brought by his parents to the new world, and was a youth of fourteen when the family home was established in Will county, and here he has continued to reside to the present time, covering a period of almost seven decades. He was reared in the usual manner of farm lads of that early period, being assigned to the various duties of the fields as his age and strength permitted. He gave his father the benefit of his services on the home farm until he attained his majority, when he started out in life on his own account on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he entered from the government. He has since added to his original holdings until he is now in possession of a tract of one hundred and ninety acres, which has been brought under a high state of cultivation. He has placed all of the improvements which are here seen, including a fine home which he erected in 1884, and which is surrounded by many fine shade trees of his own planting. There are also many substantial outbuildings on the farm and everything is kept in a neat and attractive appearance, so that his farm constitutes one of the valuable and productive properties of this section of the state. Mr. Killey was actively identified with agricultural interests until 1899, when, having accumulated a goodly competence, he retired from the more arduous duties of a business career and his place is being operated by his son, although he still gives personal supervision to his business affairs and retains his residence on the farm.

Mr. Killey has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Jane Schoonmaker, who was born in the state of New York. By this union there is one son, George W., who is operating the home farm in Wesley township. Mr. Killey was married a second time to Mrs. Maria Singleton, nee Butler, their marriage being celebrated December 28, 1870. She was born March 13, 1834, at Danby, Tompkins county, New York, a daughter of Harry and Fannie (Huntington) Butler, the



MR. AND MRS. JOHN KILLEY.





former born in Cherry Valley of the Empire state, and the latter in Greene county, that state. Removing from their native state they located in Wilmington township, Will county, Illinois, the year of their arrival being 1851. Mr. Butler followed farming both in the east and subsequent to his removal to this county, and both passed away here, the father's death occurring July 6, 1875, when he had reached the age of seventy-eight, while the mother died at the age of fifty-nine years. The family numbered nine children but only two are now living, the brother of Mrs. Killey being John, a resident of Braidwood, Illinois. The father gave his political support to the whig party, and both he and his wife held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Killey was John Huntington, who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, while his brother Samuel was one of the signers of the constitution of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Killey have one daughter, Mary, the wife of Charles M. Linton, a resident of Joliet. Mrs. Killey was first married in 1861 to John Singleton, a native of England, and that union was blessed with two children but both are now deceased.

Mr. Killey is a stalwart advocate of republican principles and for a number of years he served as school director, but aside from this he has never held public office. For a long period he was connected with agricultural interests in Wesley township but his diligence in former years now enables him to live in well earned ease. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and he and his wife are prominent and highly respected old settlers of this portions of the state.

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#### JAMES SMITH.

For over a quarter of a century the name of James Smith has been synonymous in Joliet with high class work in contracting and for the faithful performance of every duty that devolves upon him in this connection. Mr. Smith came to America in 1880 from county Durham, England, where he learned the trade of a bricklayer and mason and was skilled in all branches of the builder's art when he came to the new world. His labors need

no further encomiums than are indicated in the splendid structures which he has erected, including the American Wire works, the Joliet & Rockdale buildings and various other important structures throughout the city. The Refractory works at Rockdale, one of the largest brick buildings of modern times, is numbered among his recent mammoth achievements. The new building of the Joliet Pure Ice Company was completed by Mr. Smith in March of the present year (1907) in addition to the industrial plants in Joliet and its suburbs, together with various public buildings which he has erected and which are splendid evidences of his genius and skillful workmanship. They stand as monuments to his labor and enterprise, at once placing him with the foremost contractors of this part of the state.

Mr. Smith possesses a beautiful home at No. 201 Raynor boulevard, where with his wife and youngest daughter, Ivan Lillian, he enjoys all the comforts of an ideal home. His two sons, like the father, are practical tradesmen and assist him in superintending the many and varied contracts entrusted to his care. Fred W. Smith, the elder son, was married seven years ago to Miss Nellie Ball, a popular young lady of this city, and has two children: Gladys C. Smith, six years of age; and Maurice Gilbert Smith, now four years of age. They own a brick business block on John street adjoining the boulevard, where the wife in his absence superintends a grocery and meat market business. Walter Smith, the second son, who owns a nice home at No. 102 Raynor avenue, is also happily married, his union being with Miss Alice Leopold. The eldest daughter of the family, Miss Pearl Smith, was married three years ago to Charles Limbacher, superintendent of the Joliet Stove works, and unto them has been born a son, Raymond Charles. The younger daughter, Ivan Lillian Smith, is an entertaining and popular young lady, who aids her parents in extending the hospitality of their attractive home to their many friends and neighbors.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith spend the winter months at Los Angeles, California, their interests being supervised and safeguarded by the family during their absence. For the year 1907 Mr. Smith has a number of important contracts in connection with railroads and the building of factories. He is justly accounted one of the foremost builders of

Joliet and his business has long since become very extensive and profitable. There is no contractor or employer of labor who is held in higher esteem by his workmen, for Mr. Smith is always solicitous as to the welfare of those in his employ, pays good living wages and is consequently respected and honored by all branches of organized labor. Of social nature, he is a leading member of the Commercial Club and a member of several friendly and benevolent organizations.

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#### ROBERT L. ALLEN.

Robert L. Allen, who died at his home in Joliet, January 12, 1901, was for many years one of Joliet's most prominent citizens. He was a son of Edmund and Elizabeth (Shoemaker) Allen and was born in Joliet, December 14, 1847. His father was a native of Broome county, New York, where his birth occurred May 21, 1814. He acquired an excellent education in the schools of his native county and in 1835, on attaining his majority, made his way westward to Joliet, then a little village of but small commercial or industrial importance. He, however, took his place as a prominent business man in the town and for many years figured in connection with its public interests. In 1842 he married Miss Elizabeth Shoemaker, a native of New York, and in 1844 they removed to Wilmington, which was thereafter their home. Mrs. Allen died October 20, 1854, and Mr. Allen on the 10th of January, 1892.

Robert L. Allen was educated in the schools of Wilmington and upon arriving at years of maturity he entered into partnership with his father in the lumber trade, in which he continued for ten years. In 1878 he removed to Joliet and embarked in the ice business, thus becoming a factor in commercial circles in the county seat. For several years he was engaged in the crockery trade, meeting with good success in that venture.

In the fall of 1869 Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Adelaide G. McDougal, the daughter of James T. McDougal, for many years one of the most prominent and substantial citizens of Joliet, who was postmaster of the town during the administration of Presidents Taylor and Fillmore. When the old Merchants & Drovers

Bank was organized in 1850 Mr. McDougal was elected its cashier, a position which he ably filled with the utmost fidelity until his death, which occurred on the 19th of May, 1862.

Mr. Allen was well known and prominent in political circles as a stalwart advocate of democratic principles. In 1884, when Mr. Cleveland was elected president, he was appointed postmaster of Joliet, a position which he held for four years, and in 1892, when John P. Altgeld was elected governor of the state, Mr. Allen was appointed warden of the penitentiary, an office he also filled for four years, when he retired, while later he received the appointment of general manager of the Economy Light & Power Company, retaining that position up to the time of his death.

At his demise Mr. Allen left beside his wife two children: Edmund L., of Joliet; and James, a teller in a Decatur bank. He was also survived by his brother, Edmund A. Allen, of the E. A. Allen Lumber Company of Chicago, and a sister, Miss Elizabeth Allen, of Wilmington. Robert L. Allen was prominent both in political and business circles in Joliet for many years. He was an active leader in the democratic party and a most excellent manager in all he undertook. A man of the strictest honor and fidelity, he retained in an eminent degree the confidence and esteem of all. His management of the penitentiary was highly approved by all the officials, while his service in the many years in which he controlled the interests of the Economy Light & Power Company can hardly be equaled for efficiency, capability and faithfulness.

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#### MICHAEL NICKEL.

Michael Nickel, a farmer, born April 28, 1880, in Channahon township, within whose borders he still carries on agricultural pursuits, is the youngest of the three children of Henry Nickel. One son, Joseph Nickel, is now living in Troy township. The father was born in Germany, January 13, 1821, and spent the days of his boyhood and youth in that country, coming to America about 1850. He settled in Channahon township, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred in 1899, when he was seventy-eight years of age. His

wife is still living on the old homestead, at the age of eighty-six years, her birth having occurred on the 3d of January, 1821.

Michael Nickel was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, early beginning work in the fields and aiding more and more largely in the cultivation of the crops and the care of the stock as his years and strength increased. He acquired his education in the common schools, and after putting aside his text-books gave his entire attention to the farm work. As the years have passed he has prospered in his undertakings and is now the owner of one hundred and eighty and a half acres of land on section 1, Channahon township. It is a good property, well cultivated and supplied with the modern machinery which facilitates farm work.

On the 16th of April, 1894, Mr. Nickel was married to Miss Caroline Brookman, who was the youngest of the nine children of Frederick and Mary (Soukey) Brookman, both of whom were born in Germany. They came to America in 1872 and the father began farming in Channahon township, where he continued the work of tilling the soil until his death, which occurred on the 4th of January, 1906. His widow is still living on the farm in Troy township. Mrs. Nickel's brothers and sisters are: Henry, who resides in Manhattan township; William, Mrs. Mary Nickel, Herman and Fred, all living in Troy township.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nickel have been born seven children, of whom six are living: Lewis, Albert, Ervin, Linda, Fred and Edna, all with their parents on the family homestead, which is situated on section 1, Channahon township. Mr. Nickel gives his political support to the democracy, but does not seek or desire office, preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests, where-with he is providing a good living for his family.

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#### JAMES BRUCE.

On the pages of Will county's history James Bruce deserves especial mention, for he was the pioneer stone quarryman of this part of the state and instituted an industry which has been of untold importance and value to Will county. In fact, it has been the chief source of revenue to the

county and Mr. Bruce deserves much credit for what he accomplished in the way of developing the natural resources of the county in this line.

A native of Aberdower, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, he was born on the 11th of October, 1823. His early life was devoted to the millwright business in his native town and, attracted by the opportunities of the new world, he came to America in 1844, landing at Quebec, Canada, on the 10th of October of that year. It was his determination, however, to make his home in the United States and a few days later he arrived in Joliet, where he secured employment with the firm of Norton & Company, of Lockport, as a millwright. He remained with that house for a short time and afterward was employed on the Illinois and Michigan canal, which was then being constructed. For two years he served as foreman in that connection and subsequently embarked in the business of quarrying stone, being one of the first to become cognizant of the fact that this district contained rich deposits of stone. He at once began the development of a quarry and continued in the business up to the time of his death. In fact he was conducting two quarries at that time, one being at Romeo and the other at Drummond. He wrought along modern business lines and in the growth of the industry with which he was connected displayed a spirit of enterprise and sound judgment that proved a strong element in his success. He owned a large stone quarry just east of the penitentiary, which is now owned by his estate and operated by his son, Robert C. Bruce. He was also the owner of the land upon which the penitentiary has been built and sold the site for that purpose.

James Bruce was twice married. On the 12th of July, 1852, in Homer, Illinois, he wedded Miss Jane Stephen, and they became the parents of three children: William J., a contractor living in Joliet; Belle, the wife of George Stephens of Milburn, Illinois; and Margaret, the wife of John A. Jamieson, of Marseilles. The mother died early in the '60s and later Mr. Bruce was married, on the 12th of December, 1868, in Joliet, to Miss Jane Stephen, a cousin of his former wife. There were three sons of this marriage: Eben S., who is engaged in the wholesale ice business in Joliet; James E., who is a grain and coal merchant at Marseilles, Illinois; and Robert C., a coal and

stone merchant at Joliet, now managing the coal interests and quarries connected with the estate.

As the years passed by the father prospered in his business undertakings. He possessed unabating energy and unfaltering diligence and steadily he worked his way upward to success, carefully utilizing the opportunities and the means at hand. He would never accept political honors, content to do public service as a private citizen. On the contrary he wished to devote his attention to his business affairs and in this way he acquired handsome industrial and commercial interests that enabled him to leave his family in very comfortable circumstances. He died December 13, 1898, respected by all who knew him, for in every relation of life his actions were manly and sincere. He was reliable in business, progressive in citizenship and faithful in his friendships, and his memory is yet revered by many with whom he came in contact.

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#### MRS. ALICE BROWN.

Mrs. Alice Brown was born in Newark, Kendall county, Illinois, January 17, 1856. Her father, Patrick Dawson, was a native of County Limerick, Ireland, born in 1809, and passed away in this state in 1865. He was a stone-mason by trade, but in later years took up farm work and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. Mrs. Brown's mother was Bridget (Wexted) Dawson, who was born in County Limerick, Ireland, where she was married. Coming to the new world, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson settled first in Ottawa, Illinois, where he worked at the stone-mason's trade for five years. He then removed with his family to Newark, Illinois. He had nine children, namely: John, Mary, Margaret, Edward, Henry, Michael, Bridget and Alice, and lost one child in infancy.

Their daughter Alice was the youngest and under the parental roof the days of her girlhood were passed. She gave her hand in marriage to Edward Brown, who was born in New York, in 1852. Their home was blessed with the presence of seven children: Nellie, who was born February 14, 1874; James, born October 29, 1876; Edward, born March 14, 1879; Joseph, who was born No-

vember 28, 1881; Harry, February 2, 1889; Grace, October 12, 1892; and Leo, who was born August 10, 1894. All are yet living at home with their mother. Joseph is a cooper by trade and Harry is a switchman in the steel mills. Nellie is at home, while Grace and Leo are attending St. Patrick's school. Mrs. Brown is a member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church, and is one of its devout followers. She has spent her entire life in this part of Illinois and is well known in Joliet, where she has many friends who esteem her highly for her genuine worth and many good traits of character.

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#### ARCHIBALD S. LECKIE.

Archibald S. Leckie, whose name is by no means unknown in journalistic circles and who as editor of the Joliet Herald has done much to raise the standard of newspaper publication in Joliet, was born in Chicago, April 7, 1864. He entered newspaper work in 1884, when twenty years of age, on the Chicago Daily News, acting successively as reporter, telegraph editor and city editor. His education and training in this direction was received under Melville E. Stone, with whom he was in close and intimate relations for four years. He left the News in 1888 to enter upon business connections with the City Press Association of Chicago, being made general manager of this concern in 1890, a position he held until 1901, when he purchased an interest in the Rockford (Illinois) Register Gazette. For more than two years he was an active factor in politics in northern Illinois in connection with his position as editor of the Register Gazette, which became one of the leading papers of the state. In 1904 he sold his interest in Rockford and went to Philadelphia, where he was offered the position of night managing editor of the Public Ledger, but he did not accept the position as life in the middle west was more congenial and he returned to Chicago, becoming city editor of the Chronicle. There he remained until he assumed charge of the Joliet Herald, which has prospered under his management and is one of the leading papers of the state outside of the great Chicago dailies.



Mr. Leckie was married in 1888 to Miss Jennie McKay, a daughter of Captain C. P. McKay, of Chicago, and has one son, Archibald Verner, born in 1903. Mr. Leckie belongs to the Episcopal church, to the Masonic fraternity and to the Elks lodge. He is now one of the oldest members of the Chicago Press Club and was most active in its affairs for several years. He is also a member of the Union League and the Joliet Commercial Clubs. He is a journalist whose recognized ability was well established before he assumed charge of the editorial department of the Herald and the business management of the Joliet Printing Company. He has been successful in elevating the standard of journalism in Joliet and in creating a healthier and more progressive spirit in the business community. The Joliet Herald under his management does honor to Will county as well as to the guiding spirit of Mr. Leckie and those who are his associates on this successful daily paper.

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#### JAMES E. NEWKIRK.

James E. Newkirk is superintendent of the Keltie Stone Company, with which he has been connected since its incorporation in 1891. In this connection he is a prominent representative of industrial interests in Joliet and the success of the company is largely attributable to his effective labors and enterprise. Mr. Newkirk is a native son of Joliet, born September 17, 1861, his parents being Richard and Charlotte (Nokes) Newkirk, who came from Kentucky and England, respectively. The mother arrived in Lockport, Illinois, with her parents in 1837. Her father was a veterinarian and also handled fine horses, making his home in Lockport until his death. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Richard Newkirk removed to the "Yankee settlement," where he followed farming, devoting practically all of his active life to agricultural pursuits. They attended the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Newkirk was a devoted and faithful member. She died in 1882, at the age of fifty-eight years, while Mr. Newkirk passed away in 1897, at the age of seventy-seven years while on a visit in Kentucky at the place where he was born. In 1895 a reunion of the Newkirk family was held in Kentucky in cele-

bration of the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of their ancestors in Jefferson county, that state. James E. Newkirk is one of a family of ten children, of whom five daughter and two sons are yet living. His brother resides at Fort Madison, Iowa, and one sister is also living in that state, while the others are residents of Will county.

James E. Newkirk was reared in his native county and pursued his education in the public schools. In the latter '70s he became an employe of the old Joliet Stone Company and in 1885 he entered the service of the Joliet & Chicago Stone Company, with which he continued until 1891, when he joined the Keltie Stone Company on its organization. This company has of recent years been engaged largely in outside contract work, including bridge building, and has done practically all of the bridge work for the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad, often employing large gangs of men. Their offices are in the Barber building and the business is constantly growing in volume and importance. Mr. Newkirk has been connected with this line since he entered business life and is well qualified for the onerous duties which devolve upon him in this connection, for he is familiar with the stone trade in every detail.

Mr. Newkirk wedded Miss Mary Engmann, a native of Switzerland, who in childhood came to the United States with her parents, John and Elizabeth Engmann. The latter still resides at Joliet but the father, who for years was connected with the old Joliet Stone Company, died in 1886. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Newkirk have been born three sons and two daughters: George James, who is now a fireman on the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad; Ralph Henry, at home; Franklin Howard; Florence Jessie; and Frieda Elizabeth. The family residence is at No. 1215 South Richards street.

Politically Mr. Newkirk is a republican, having always stanchly supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. Socially he is connected with the Masonic fraternity, having taken the degrees of the lodge, chapter and commandery at Joliet, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He likewise belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and the Knights of Pythias fraternity, and his wife is a member of the English Lutheran church. In the city where his entire life has been passed Mr. Newkirk has a wide and favorable acquaintance and the kindly regard in



which he is uniformly held is at once an indication of his business honor and his genuine personal worth, his warmest friends being those who have known him from his boyhood days to the present.

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HON. HOWARD M. SNAPP.

While the disposition to do honor to those who have served well their race or their nation is prevalent among all enlightened people and is of great value everywhere and among all forms of government, it is particularly appropriate to and to be fostered in this country, where no man is born to public office or public honor or comes to either by inheritance, but where all men are equal before the law and where the race for distinction is over the road of public usefulness and is open to every one who chooses to enter. To bear an illustrious name is often to invite the shafts of jealousy and envy. As a western editor has expressed it: "If any scion of a house still honored arises to greatness, he will have achieved it. He will not be born to it or find it thrust upon him and he must be great indeed to overcome the disadvantage of standing in the shadow of the colossal dead." We are led to this train of reflection in taking up the personal history of Hon. Howard M. Snapp who has worthily maintained the high reputation of an honored name as borne by his distinguished father, Hon. Henry Snapp, one of Will county's pioneers. His own individual prominence has come to him, however, not because of his father's record but because of his personal worth and ability and his recent re-election to the United States congress is in itself evidence of faithful service rendered and an indication of the confidence reposed in him by those who are willing to place their legislative interests in his hands.

Mr. Snapp was born in Joliet, September 27, 1855. His father, as stated above, was Hon. Henry Snapp, whose splendid record as state senator and member of congress is well known throughout Illinois as well as in Will county. He was born on the 30th of June, 1822, in Livingston county, New York, and came with his parents to Illinois, in 1833, when only eleven years of age. From that time forward he was identified with the

history of Will county and gained a position of leadership in public thought and action, leaving the impress of his individuality for good upon the interests of the county. He died, deeply regretted, in Joliet, November 26, 1895, when seventy-three years of age. He had married Mary Adeline Broadie, who was born in Delaware and came to Illinois about the same time as her future husband. She died in 1884, leaving the following children, namely: Sarah M., who is the wife of Judge Dorrance Dibell, of Joliet; Elizabeth, who married George M. Campbell, also of Joliet; Henry Douglas and Howard M., both of this city; and Charles D., of Chicago.

Howard M. Snapp obtained his education in the local schools and in the Chicago University. At the close of the junior year he left the University and took up the study of law in the office of Hill & Dibell, continuing to read with that firm until he was admitted to the bar at Ottawa in 1878. From that time until 1888 he was with his father and Mr. Breckenridge and later with his father formed the law firm of Snapp & Snapp, which was maintained until the retirement of the senior member in 1890. Howard M. Snapp then continued to practice alone and in addition to attending to the duties of his private practice, held the office of master in chancery from 1884, until elected to congress. Mr. Snapp is now associated in the practice of law with W. D. Heise, states attorney, and Charles Dorrance Dibell, son of Judge Dibell of the circuit court, under the firm name of Snapp, Heise & Dibell. Their offices are located in the Cutting building on Jefferson street, opposite the courthouse, thus very conveniently situated.

Mr. Snapp has not only figured prominently in local circles but has for some years been recognized as one of the most influential and prominent members of the republican party which has given evidence of confidence in his ability by electing and re-electing him twice to the United States congress. No public representative is more conversant with the legislative requirements of the state and nation as well as of his own district, than Mr. Snapp, and none are more capable to devise ways and means to secure necessary legislation. Notwithstanding his loyalty to the principles and policy of the republican party there are few public men more highly esteemed by their opponents than

he is and the fact is largely due to his co-operation at all times in every progressive movement beneficial to his district or the country, regardless of party ties. In 1884 Mr. Snapp was elected secretary of the republican county central committee and because of his efficient service in that capacity he was rewarded by promotion to the chairmanship, a position which he has held with honor longer than any previous incumbent. In 1896 he was chosen a delegate to the republican convention at St. Louis when William McKinley was nominated for the presidency and since that date has invariably been selected as a delegate to all conventions of any importance.

By energy, perseverance and ability Mr. Snapp has gained his present position and honors. His labors in recent years have become part of the history of his county. He has a beautiful home at the northwest corner of Richards street and Fourth avenue and it is justly celebrated for its gracious hospitality. His marriage in Kansas City, Kansas, united him with Miss Alice Halsey, who was born in Henrietta, New York, a member of a prominent old family of Monroe county, that state. They now have three children: Dorrance, Helen and Howard M., Jr.

Mr. Snapp is a member of Matteson lodge, A. F. & A. M., also of chapter and council and of Mount Joliet commandery, No. 4, K. T. He affiliates likewise with Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine in Chicago and is a member of the Commercial Club, while at all times he is found in the front in every movement for progress and a greater Joliet.

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#### HON. RICHARD J. BARR.

Hon. Richard J. Barr, mayor of Joliet, was born in Manhattan township, Will county, Illinois, November 28, 1865. He attended the country schools and the Joliet high school and subsequently engaged in teaching in the Milton Center and Manhattan schools in Will county for three years. He spent four years as a student in the University of Illinois and two years as a student in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, being graduated from the latter institution with the degree of Bachelor of Law on the 27th of

June, 1895. He at once entered upon law practice in the office of Flanders & Shutts at Joliet. He practiced for a time as a partner of Eueshia Meers and is now a member of the firm of Barr Brothers.

Mr. Barr has served for one term as city attorney of Joliet and for two terms as mayor, being the incumbent in the latter position at the present time. He is a prominent republican in politics and is now serving his second term as state senator, representing the forty-first district, which comprise Will and DuPage counties. He was married to Miss Mary C. Dougall, November 20, 1906.

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#### MONAHAN BROTHERS.

The firm of Monahan Brothers, located on North Joliet and Crowley streets, represents that spirit of enterprise, energy and progressiveness that has placed Joliet in the front rank of the cities of Illinois for manufacturing and commercial pre-eminence. The members of the firm are Dave D. and Frank J. Monahan, who were born and reared in Joliet, where they were afforded liberal educational privileges. Their parents were John B. and Bridget (Reynolds) Monahan, who were among the early settlers of this section of the state and shared in the efforts made to develop and improve the district. The father was a contractor in plastering and two of his sons, James P. and Edward, learned the trade under him and are now successful contractors in that line in the city of Chicago. Another son, John B. Monahan, assists in the machine shop owned by the firm of Monahan Brothers. Elizabeth Monahan, a daughter of the family, is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy and superintends a well equipped and complete grocery store in the Monahan Block at the corner of Iowa avenue and Washington street. The family were all provided with excellent school privileges.

On leaving school Dave Monahan, as he is familiarly known among his associates and many friends, was appointed city clerk, which position he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents from 1889 until 1893. In 1897

he entered the list of bidders for city contracts and became so successful in handling the men and in executing the work entrusted to him that his brother, Frank J. Monahan, who was foreman over the machine shop of the Illinois Steel Company, was induced to become his partner. In so doing they established a plant which gives them many advantages in carrying on contract work. In their machine shop they manufacture hydraulic valves and other equipments essential to water and gas plants, besides doing general repair work. They have not only the necessary machinery for doing all kinds of repair work, but also for excavating and sewer construction, including a trenching machine that can accomplish more work than one hundred men digging by the old time method with pick and shovel. Their up-to-date equipment and intelligent conception of the work to be performed, their justice and consideration to the men in their employ and their straightforward dealing at all times gives them a legitimate monopoly of the city contracts and their work never fails to prove satisfactory to the engineering department and to all those having an interest therein.

The Monahan Brothers have also erected a fine business block in the city—a handsome brick structure with marble trimmings—which is a monument to their good taste as well as their industry and successful business management. D. D. Monahan makes him home in this building with his wife and two children. He wedded Miss Emma L. Stephen, a daughter of Sebastian and Annie (Ryan) Stephen, who were old settlers of Will county. The marriage of the young couple was celebrated in 1899 and they now have two children, John B. and Frank A., aged seven and two years respectively.

The Monahan brothers are active members of the democratic party and are stalwart supporters of all public movements that tend to develop and upbuild the city. They are strict adherents of St. Mary's Catholic church and they stand for all that is upright and beneficial in the city, being champions of every movement for the material, intellectual, social and moral progress of Joliet, where their entire lives have been passed and where they have made an excellent record in business circles.

## GEORGE W. REED.

George W. Reed was born in Parke county, Indiana, March 2, 1824, and in 1827 accompanied his parents on their removal to Fountain county, that state. It was in the spring of 1829 that they came to Will county and settled in what was afterward known as Reeds Grove in Jackson township. The father built his cabin of logs taken from the grove and there they lived until the spring of 1832, when the Black Hawk war broke out and they returned to Indiana. The same fall, however, they again came to this county, and locating at what is now Joliet, the father built a log cabin on the west side of the river, back where the National Hotel now stands. That was the first cabin built on the present site of the city.

Mr. Reed's parents, Charles and Cloah Olive Reed, were of Scotch-Irish descent and were early settlers west of the mountains in Virginia. They had a family of six children, five sons and one daughter, namely: Charles, William, George W., Edward, Elias and Olive. Soon after their marriage they removed to Parke county, Indiana, where our subject first saw the light of day. At the age of five he came to Will county, Illinois, and here grew to manhood, receiving a very limited education in the schools of this locality.

In 1848 Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Mary Strader, by whom he had a son, Frank. Mrs. Reed died in 1852 and he then removed to Stark county, Illinois, which has since been his home. In 1855 he married a Miss Webster, of that county, who died in 1862, leaving a son George. In the latter year he enlisted as a private soldier in the cause of the Union and served faithfully for three years, receiving his discharge in June, 1865. Soon after his return home from the army he married Mrs. Jane Montieth Hunter, whose husband had been killed in the battle of Stone River. To them have been born five children, two of whom died in infancy, those still living being Zenobia, Edward and William.

Mr. Reed had but limited educational advantages in his youth as the schools were few in number at that time and the sessions lasted only a few months in each year. He was called to fields of labor at an early age. The pioneers in those early days made boots and shoes, often tanning the leather and making the pegs and lasts. They



GEORGE W. REED





manufactured their own brooms and tools used in farming, including plows and ox yokes. They raised their own wool and flax and the women of the household spun and wove them into cloth for clothing for the family.

Mr. Reed is still healthy and vigorous notwithstanding his eighty-three years of active and laborious life. He is now a prosperous merchant of Bradford, Illinois, and bids fair to be an active business man for many long years to come.

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